

Parcial (Mid-term test) C1

Section A - Writing

Write a composition of about 300 words on ONE of the following topics:

1. ***What are the advantages and disadvantages of teaching children to be competitive?***
2. ***Describe the qualities of a good teacher.***
3. ***Instead of bringing people closer together, the internet has actually isolated people more than ever before. Discuss.***
4. ***Bottled water is an unnecessary luxury. Discuss.***

Title:

Section B - Reading

Read the passage about a talented family. Six sentences have been removed from the text. Choose from the extracts A - H, the one which fits each gap. There are two extracts you do not need to use. One of them has been done for you as an example.

- _____ A - Clearly they all feed each other's enthusiasm.
- B - The discipline required to excel in music results in skills which are transferable to many other areas of life.
- C - It was a fun experience, definitely something worthwhile.
- D - It's a delicate balance.
- E - These sacrifices, however, have certainly proved worthwhile.
- F - Having come from a musical family, he was always destined to be a great musician.
- G - However, they are keen to acknowledge the dangers of focusing on music at an early age.
- H - In contrast, she insists that her children's successes are down to the hours spent practising.

A Talented Family

When cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason won the title of BBC Young Musician of the Year 2016, his winning performance received a standing ovation. This was particularly pleasing for everyone who wants to see greater diversity in classical music, as he doesn't attend a private school, nor come from a wealthy background, unlike the majority of classical music professionals. In fact, Sheku is one of seven children, all of them talented musicians from the same family, who attend the local comprehensive school. Their father Stuart is a business manager and their mother, Kadie, gave up her job as a teacher when her third child was born. As every penny of their money goes on music, there is nothing left for home improvements, new cars, fashionable clothes or holidays. 1. _____ The family certainly don't feel as if they are missing out at all and believe there are far more rewarding things in life than mere possessions.

Clearly, the roots of the Kanneh-Masons' success have more to do with their upbringing than money. Their parents have raised all seven children with music as an integral part of their lives and all of them are now not only outstanding musicians, playing various instruments including the cello, piano and violin, but also very successful in a wide range of academic subjects. Of course, this shouldn't come as a surprise. [2.] One of these is their excellent ability to focus and concentrate. Their mother believes, 'Playing an instrument teaches them self-belief and the importance of hard work. It gives them confidence.'

Inevitably, the children are often called 'prodigies' but their mother is dismissive of the prodigy theory on the basis that it suggests an innate talent that doesn't have to be worked at. [3.] They do at least two hours a day, more if they are preparing for an exam or performance. When they were young, one of the parents would go and sit with them. As Kadie says, 'It was a bit lonely for them just to go off alone and play the violin,' so she used to move around the house as the children practised, sitting with each for half an hour and doling out much appreciated one-to-one attention and praise. These days, it's different though. Because they are all equally involved in music and play duets, trios and quartets together, there's plenty of fun to be had on a typical evening at home. [example 4. A]

All this hard work, however, leads to a further accusation of "hothousing", which again is refuted by Kadie and Stuart. They say the children were never forced to play and have done so for pure enjoyment. The children are equally quick to point out that their parents don't push them. [5.] Playing an instrument and having a musical career that starts in your teens can be a mental and emotional rollercoaster, with the danger of you missing out on a normal childhood, trapped in a bubble and lacking the maturity to deal with inevitable setbacks. Sheku realises that other teenagers think he is missing out, but he ensures that he has time for football and other extra-curricular activities, as well as schoolwork, because he knows that his life needs to be rounded, even though he does have to try to limit the number of distractions that come his way. [6.] It's not always easy to get it quite right and sometimes the balance can be upset, but Sheku is quick to point out that the pros outweigh the cons. Above all, he wants people to know that classical music can be cool. 'It's a shame that classical music has the image of being very serious. Of course we don't smile much while we're playing, but that's because we're concentrating. Playing well is the best feeling in the world.'

Section C - Use of English

Choose the correct answer in each sentence and write it on the line.

If he _____ the tiger, he would have run faster.

- A had seen B would see C has seen D was seeing

The painting _____ be an original. The colours are too bright.

- A mustn't B ought not C can't D shan't

He's tired. He _____ in the garden since 9 am.

- A would work B was worked C is working D has been working

Please give my best wishes to Paz when she _____.

- A arrives B will arrive C arrived D would arrive

My mother avoids _____ coffee after 7 pm.

- A drinks B drinking C have drunk D to drink

The meeting should _____. Nobody can come.

- A postpone B to postpone C be postponed D postponed

It's high time Sally _____ her room. It's such a mess.

- A is tidying B will tidy C tidies D tidied

Didn't she use to _____ short hair?

- A having B have C had D has

I'd better _____ the plumber. There's water everywhere.

- A call B to call C calling D have called

It will take an hour to _____ all this washing up.

- A have B make C do D take

Section D

Rewrite the sentences to give the same meaning as the original. Use the word given.

Perhaps Ella forgot to take her phone with her. (might)

You really should have that old tree cut down. (high time)

I didn't recognise Jake until he came over to talk to me. (Only when)

We went for a walk on the beach even though the weather was bad. (Despite)

They were putting out the fire when we arrived. (being)

I only read that book because you recommended it. (If)

'I'm really sorry I missed your party, Marie,' said Paul. (apologised to)

Now she regrets leaving school at the age of 16. (wishes)

Someone's coming to decorate our kitchen next week. (having)

I served fish because I didn't know you were allergic to it. (Had)

Section E

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in brackets.

All his songs are the same! I prefer a bit of _____ . (vary)

The film has a really _____ ending. (drama)

We'll have to _____ that door if we don't want to get burgled.

(strong)

If you want me to understand those instructions, I'm afraid you'll have to _____ them!

(simple)

My graduation was one of the most _____ days in my life.

(memory)

I'm looking for another job. _____, I've had enough!

(base)

Owen is certainly the strongest _____ in the race.

(compete)

It can be very _____ to sell your second hand clothes online.

(profit)

I was very grateful for your quick _____.

(respond)

Passing her driving test has _____ Jo to be much more independent.

(able)

Section F

Tenses

1. When we _____ to see them last night, they were playing cards. (GO)
2. I am sorry that I _____ to leave the party so early last night, because I _____ myself. (HAVE, ENJOY)
3. The boys were playing cards while their father _____ on the sofa. (SLEEP)
4. The train _____ when two late passengers arrived at the station. (ALREADY LEAVE)
5. These workers are never satisfied. They _____ always _____. (COMPLAIN)
6. I _____ this book about a man who left his family during the war and went to live on a Pacific island. I can't wait to know what happened next. (READ)
7. This time next week, I _____ through the Nile! (TRAVEL)
8. Do you believe everything that the newspapers say? -
No, I think France _____ any more world cups. (NOT/WIN)

Section F - Listening

You will hear a guide giving a boat tour to visitors of Loch Ness, a famous lake in Scotland. For questions one to five, listen to the recording and click the correct box. For questions six to ten, fill in the missing information.

1. Where will the boat trip finish?
 - A The Falls of Foyers
 - B The Caledonian Canal
 - C Fort Augustus
2. The area around Urquhart Castle has been inhabited since
 - A the 500s.
 - B the 700s.
 - C the 1200s.
3. Urquhart Castle is ruined because
 - A so much time has passed.
 - B it was blown up.
 - C it has been neglected.
4. What is on the boat to see underwater wildlife?
 - A scuba-diving equipment
 - B a glass-bottom to see through
 - C sonar equipment
5. What might the visitors see on Cherry Island?
 - A nesting golden eagles
 - B otters looking for food
 - C woodland deer
6. Cakes and drinks are served in the afternoon at the _____.
7. Go to the _____ to watch a short film about the Loch Ness monster.
8. The _____ is free of charge.
9. There are several viewing platforms, popular with _____.
10. Speak to an attendant about _____.