Colegio Helvetia

CLASS: 9th GRADE
DIAGNOSTIC TEST - ENGLISH AREA
READING SECTION

Part 1
Questions 1-5
Look at the text in each question.
What does it say? Mark the correct answer **A**, **B** or **C**.

Example:

0



A Do not leave your bicycle touching the window.

B Broken glass may damage your bicycle tyres.

C Your bicycle may not be safe here.

Answer: 0 **A** **B** **C**

1

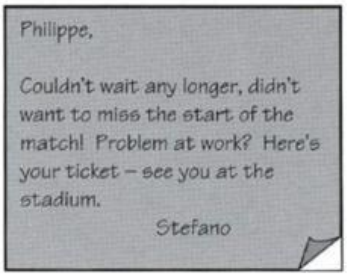


A This shop will sell customers' watches within twelve months.

B This shop will keep customers' watches for up to twelve months.

C This shop will look after customers' watches for more than twelve months.

2



A Philippe and Stefano missed each other at the stadium.

B Stefano had to leave without Philippe to get to work.

C Stefano has given up waiting for Philippe to arrive.

3



A Parents must return forms this week if their child is going on Friday's trip.

B Parents cannot go on next month's trip unless they return their forms by Friday.

C The last day for returning completed forms for the trip is Friday.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4

From:	Gabi
To:	Jo
I'll be in town on business on Wednesday, so could we meet for dinner then, instead of on Thursday as usual?	

Gabi wants Jo to

A change an arrangement.

B cancel a regular event.

C come to a business meeting.

5



A It is not possible to use the lift above the ground floor today.

B The lift will not be going to the basement today.

C The stairs between the basement and the ground floor are closed today.

PART 2

The teenagers below all want to find a website to help them with their hobby, making and flying kites. There are descriptions of eight websites about kites on the next page.

Decide which website (A-H) matches the interests of the teenagers (1-5.)

1



James wants a website that sells kits that he can put together to make a kite. He'd like to find a kite-flying club in his area, and discover good places locally for kite flying.

2



Benjamin wants to know what materials and tools are needed to make his first kite by himself. He'd like information about how kites fly to help him build one that works.

3



Sarah has made many kites, and now needs some designs to use. She'd also like to learn about the history of kite flying for a school project she has been working on for one month.

4



Daniella wants to know where to buy a kite in her town. She'd like to learn about good weather conditions for kite flying, and to read about other people's kite-flying experiences.

5



Anthony is an experienced boy with kites, and now wants one that can do tricks. He also wants to take photos with his kite, and give advice to other guys who are beginning to fly kites.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

WEBSITES

A Have you ever wondered how kites stay off the ground? Find out with **Stargazer's** clear diagrams. You'll also find recommended shops for buying kites that are ready to fly, or kits for building one, and information about how you can even take photos from the air, using your kite!

B **Flyby** shows you how to study the clouds and wind direction to check if it's a good kite-flying day! There are also reviews of hobby stores selling kites – find one in your area! Flyby can also put kite fans in touch with each other, to see how they're getting on with this fantastic hobby!

C Learn all about the incredible history of kites, from ancient China to the present day, on **Nebula**. Kits are available for you to make kites of all shapes, sizes and designs, suitable for you to fly in any location, from your garden to the local park.

D You'll find everything on **Wings** about kite building, including what to use, what paper and wood to choose, and what you'll need for cutting out designs. Discover, too, just what keeps a kite in the air – valuable information if you want to get your design right. And why not join one of the clubs on the site?

E Want to do more with your kite? Then **Jumping Jacks** is the website for you. See how to make your kite do amazing dives and turns, and even how to attach a camera for aerial pictures! And you can share your tips with other kite fans, especially those just starting out.

F **Zoom** sells boxes that contain everything you need to make a kite. You can also find out about kite groups near where you live. Get to know people who share your interest and find out the best outdoor locations for your new hobby, whatever the weather!

G **Skyhigh** supplies the latest in more advanced kites that do amazing things in the air in the right weather conditions – and if you're skilled at flying them! And if you want to make your own kite, there's advice on design, plus the materials and tools you'll need.

H For anyone with experience of making kites but who has run out of ideas, **Arial** has detailed instructions for 20 different kite designs to copy. Many are based on ancient kites from around the world, and there's also excellent information about how kites were first made many years ago.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

PART 3

Read the text and questions below fully. For each question, mark the correct letter **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**.



My home is a windmill

by Josh Summers, aged 14

My home's different from where my friends live because I live in a 19th century windmill! My parents saw it one day, and bought it. It was in poor condition, but it was repaired and now it's fantastic!

The windmill was once used to make flour from corn. The corn store used to be downstairs, where our kitchen is now, and horses came there to deliver the corn. The enormous 20-metre sails are still on the front, but they don't turn in the wind like they used to because it's too dangerous, so birds live in them instead. There's always a ladder up the side of the windmill so that dad can paint it and keep it a nice cream colour. He also cleans the windows, although a company comes to do the top ones as the ladder's too short.

Inside it's like a tent with six sides, and it becomes more pointed towards the top, so the rooms get smaller. My room's under the roof and I get a fantastic view – it's like looking out of an aeroplane window. There are some other houses around now, and a new main road, but I can relax and make a noise when I play my guitar up there and no one can hear me! I can hear everything, though, like the birds when it's quiet, which is really calming, or the very loud storms, which I can see coming towards us. And I actually find it easier to concentrate on my school work up there, as my brothers and sisters don't want to climb up all the stairs, so they don't disturb me! I can't imagine living anywhere else!

Questions

1 What is Josh trying to do in the text?
- **A** compare his home with his friends' homes
- **B** explain why his family chose to live in their current home
- **C** tell readers about the advantages of living where he does
- **D** suggest how his home could be improved

2 What does Josh say about the outside of the windmill?
- **A** Wild creatures have made their homes there.
- **B** It's covered in dark paint.
- **C** There's a ladder that goes right to the top.
- **D** The windows frequently need cleaning.

3 Josh says that his room
- **A** is a bit like an aeroplane inside.
- **B** is a good place for practising a musical instrument.
- **C** is the largest one in the windmill.
- **D** is better for relaxing in than doing school work.

4 What does Josh say about the different sounds he hears in the windmill?
- **A** He dislikes the noise of the sails in the wind.
- **B** He enjoys listening to all the birds.
- **C** He feels nervous when a loud storm comes along.
- **D** He's pleased that he's not disturbed by any noise.

5 What would a visitor from the 19th century say if they saw the windmill now?
- **A** It's great that they've kept the corn store as it was. The horses used to love coming there.
- **B** The sails are a lot smaller than they used to be. I suppose that's for safety reasons.
- **C** It's still in the same condition as before. The owners never looked after it then, either.
- **D** You can still see the windmill from miles away. Of course, there weren't all these buildings around it then, or a busy road going past.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Part 4

Read the text and decide if the statements below are **TRUE**, **FALSE** or **NOT MENTIONED**.

Hindu Marriage Rituals

According to Hindu Sastra there are four stages of life, of which Grahastha Ashram or married life signifies the second stage. It begins, when a man and a woman come together and marry. In India, marriage is treated as an institution, which teaches the actual values of life. Every stage in life has its own charm and a married life is no exception. In India, a marriage is usually arranged by the respective parents of the bride and the groom and follows various steps. Marriage among Hindus is not only considered a union of two souls, but of two families.

Hindu Marriage Rituals & Customs



A Hindu wedding not only involves the bride and groom but the entire community, friends, family and relatives as everybody participates in their coming together of the to-be couple. The first and the foremost step is the selection of the bride and the bridegroom. While in love marriages, a boy and a girl themselves select their life partner, it is crucial when it comes to arranged marriages. Talking about arranged marriages in the Hindu custom, the parents select the prospective bride/groom for their son/daughter.

After the selection procedure is over, the family members of both the girl and boy ask the priest to suggest an *auspicious* date for the engagement of the two also known as misri or ring ceremony. Since India boasts of diverse cultures and traditions, the engagement ceremony rituals differ from region to region and community to community. However, the basic of all the rituals, mentioned here, form an indispensable part of Hindu wedding. In the *betrothal ceremony*, the to-be bride and the groom exchange wedding rings among each other. Sweets and garlands are also exchanged among the couple.

After the festive spirit of engagement, the next important ritual is the mehndi party. It is believed that the color of mehndi signifies the essence of love in a marriage, so it is put on bride's hand to strengthen that bond of love. The bride's family and friends mainly celebrate this ceremony. The female friends and family members of the bride *rejoice* and celebrate this occasion, as henna gets painted on her hands and feet. Apart from the bride, the family members also get their hands painted with henna. Singing traditional songs and dancing to the beat of music forms a major part of this ritual.

Among the other important rituals is the Sangeet party, wherein all the family members and friends of the bride and groom celebrate, by singing and dancing the night away. Along with song and dance there are arrangements for food and drink. A large affair, Sangeet party is most popular among Punjabis, Marwaris and Gujaratis, although most of the regions today also practice this ritual. Ghari puja is also another important religious ceremony, which is performed on the eve of the wedding day at the groom and bride's place separately.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

On the morning of the wedding day, Pithi or Haldi, the cleansing ceremony is practiced during which the bride and bridegroom are pasted with turmeric powder in their respective homes, as a part of their *beautification* process. Talking about the actual marriage ceremonies, the Hindu wedding mostly takes place in a mandap or a tent, which is beautifully decorated with flowers. The main Hindu wedding ceremony is a long and elaborate affair, which lasts for several hours and is attended by a large number of relatives, friends, acquaintances and so on.

One of the most significant rituals the bride and the groom perform is the Saptapadi or Saat Phere around a scared fire and light, which is symbolic to God. While the bride and the groom take the seven circles, the priest or purohit recites the mantras and speak of the real essence and significance of marriage. It is also during this time that the groom fills vermillion or Sindoor in the center parting of the bride and puts Mangalsutra around her neck. Both Sindoor and Mangalsutra have strong religious implications and are sacred symbols of a married woman. These were some of the rituals and customs, which were generally followed in all the Hindu marriages. **Taken from:** http://weddings.iloveindia.com/indian-weddings/hindu-marriage/hindu-marriage-rituals.html

	TRUE	FALSE	NOT MENTIONED
1. According to Hindu Sastra there are seven stages of life.			
2. Marriage among Hindus is considered a union of two families.			
3. The bride and the groom choose a date for engagement.			
4. The engagement ceremony rituals involve the four elements: water, fire, air and earth.			
5. In the engagement ceremony, the couple exchanges sweets, garlands and the rings.			
6. Dark colors are not used in mehndi party.			
7. Hindu wedding mostly takes place in a parish, which is beautifully decorated with flowers.			

LIVEWORKSHEETS