CAM 19 - TEST 2 - DICTATION

WORKING AS A LIFEBOAT VOLUNTEER

I never really planned to be a lifeboat **1.** _____ when I came to live in Northsea. I'd been working in London as a website **2.** _____, but although that was **3.** _____, I didn't like **4.** _____ life. I'd been really keen on **5.** _____ as a **6.** _____, and I thought if I went to live by the **7.** _____, I might be able to **8.** _____ that a bit more in my **9.** _____ time. Then I found that the Lifeboat Institution was looking for volunteers, so I decided to **10.** _____.

The Lifeboat Institution building here in Northsea's hard to miss; it's one of the **11.** _____ in the country. It was built 15 years ago with **12.** _____ provided by a **13.** _____ member of the public, who'd lived here all her **14.** _____. As the Lifeboat Institution is a **15.** _____ that relies on that kind of **16.** _____, **17.** _____ than funding provided by the **18.** _____, that kind of help is much needed.

When I applied, I had to **19.** _____ a health assessment. The doctors were particularly interested in my **20.** _____. I used to be short-sighted, so I'd had to wear **21.** _____, but I'd had **22.** _____ surgery two years earlier so that was OK. They gave me tests for colour blindness and they thought I might have a problem there, but it turned out I was OK.

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When the **23.** _____ gets an **24.** _____, all the volunteers are contacted and **25.** _____ to the lifeboat **26.** _____. Our target's to get there in **27.** _____ minutes, then we try to get the boat **28.** _____ the dock and out to sea in another six to eight minutes. Our team's **29.** _____ that we usually achieve that – the **30.** _____ time across the country's **31.** _____ and a **32.** _____ minutes.

I've recently **33.** _____ as what's called a 'helmsman', which means I have the ultimate responsibility for the lifeboat. I have to check that the **34.** _____ we use is in **35.** _____ order – the **36.** _____ have special life jackets that can support up to **37.** _____ people in the water. And it's ultimately my **38.** _____ whether it's safe to **39.** _____ the boat. But it's very **40.** _____ not to launch it, even in the **41.** _____ weather.

As well as going out on the lifeboat, my work involves other things too. A lot of people **42.** _____ how **43.** _____ conditions can change at sea, so I speak to youth groups and sailing clubs in the area about the **44.** _____ of problems that **45.** _____ and **46.** _____ can have if the weather suddenly gets **47.** _____. We also have a lot of volunteers who **48.** _____ activities to **49.** _____ money for us, and we couldn't **50.** _____ without them.

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The **51.** _____ we get is a **52.** _____ process, focusing on technical **53.** _____ and safe handling techniques, and it's given me the **54.** _____ to deal with **55.** _____ situations without **56.** _____. We had to do a fire and sea **57.** _____ test first, and that's a big help with the **58.** _____ care activities we do. We've done a lot on how to deal with **59.** _____ and tie **60.** _____ – that's an **61.** _____ skill. After a year, I did a one-week residential **62.** _____, led by **63.** _____. There's a wave-tank where we could **64.** _____ an **65.** _____ lifeboat scenario – so we could get **66.** _____ at what to do if the boat turned over in a **67.** _____ at night, for example.

Since I started, I've had to deal with a range of **68.** _____ situations.

But the work's hugely **69.** _____. It's not just about saving **70.** _____ – I've learned a lot about the **71.** _____ involved. My **72.** _____ in IT's been **73.** _____ here, and I can use my **74.** _____ to help other volunteers. They're a great group – we're like a **75.** _____ really, which helps when you're **76.** _____ yourself out of bed on a cold **77.** _____ night. But actually, it's the **78.** _____ months that can be the most **79.** _____ time. That's when the **80.** _____ tend to be more **81.** _____, and you **82.** _____ that you can make a huge **83.** _____ to the outcome.

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