

Part 3**Questions 11-15**

For each question, choose the correct answer.

Decluttering*13-year-old Tom Trent tell us about his new habits*

When Tom Trent started his school project on environmental issues, he had no idea environmental pollution depends on the fact that we all own a lot of things which end up turning into rubbish. Although we don't need many of the things we own, most of us still waste a lot of money on more clothes, devices and objects we could easily live without. This is why he soon decided to make a change and start decluttering his room, which meant getting rid of all the things he hardly used.

He first made a list of all the stuff he never used: he wrote down the clothes which were never worn, and then added his old phones, MP3 players, old notebooks, and a lot of other old things he kept in his drawers and shelves. He also asked his family to do the same and then he started posting pictures of their things online: some of them were for sale, but he gave most of them away for free. It was a great way to avoid producing more rubbish!

Tom now realises that decluttering can help you achieve more than one goal: if you give your things away you will not only help people who can't afford to buy them, but you will also help the environment. In fact, the people using your things won't have to buy new ones. At home, the greatest benefit will be having a lot of extra room. You will find out that when your house is tidier it will take longer for it to become messy again since there are fewer things around. Of course, you must try to avoid buying new things or you'll quickly fill the empty space with stuff again!

Exam tips

First, read the text quickly to find out its general topic. Then read it again carefully and study all the options for each question before choosing the correct one.

Remember that while the first four questions follow the order of the text, the last one is about its global meaning.

Guidance for candidates

In this part candidates need to know the meaning of several adverbs, linking words and idiomatic phrases. Here are a few which appear in the text. Which of the two synonyms on the right is the closest to their meanings?

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| • although (line 3) | unless / even if |
| • own (line 3) | to have / to want |
| • get rid of (line 5) | eliminate / to clean |
| • hardly (line 5) | almost no / difficult |
| • give away (line 9) | throw out / offer as a gift |
| • for free (line 9) | not working / without a payment |
| • afford (line 12) | have enough money / have no interest in |
| • extra room (line 14) | one more room / more space |

11 The first paragraph says that

- A people need a lot of clothes and devices to live well.
- B living in today's world is very expensive because you need a lot of things.
- C most of the stuff we have is hardly necessary to live a comfortable life.
- D many people want to have more than they can afford.

12 What is 'decluttering'?

- A giving old things to poor people
- B cleaning and tidying up your home
- C making a list of all the things you rarely use
- D removing things you don't need from your home

13 How did Tom manage to clear most of the things from his home?

- A He sold them to people online.
- B He offered them as gifts.
- C He threw them away.
- D He moved them into an extra room.

14 Which advantage has Tom noticed at home after decluttering?

- A He doesn't have to clean it so often as before.
- B The home is always tidy.
- C It is faster to do the cleaning.
- D There are more rooms in his house.

15 What other benefit might come from decluttering?

- A
- By selling all the extra things in your home you can earn something and help others save money, too.

- C
- Decluttering might increase pollution because you throw away a lot of old things when you clear your home.

- B
- If you remove all the things you don't need from your home you will help both people and the planet.

- D
- When you get rid of your old things you will have more space to fill with all the new things you will buy.