**Part 4**

**Questions 16-20**

Five sentences have been removed from the text below.
For each space, choose the correct answer.
There are three extra sentences which you do not need to use.

## How the violin changed my life

*by Sam Reynolds, 26*

I was born into a family of doctors, so my parents were really surprised when I told them I wanted to be a violinist. At first, they thought it was just a temporary thing, since children often dream to do unusual jobs but they quickly change their mind when they grow up. **16** ☐

Learning the violin is not a piece of cake: it means practising for hours every day, pain in your fingertips and neck, and a lot of disappointment. Most of the time, especially at the beginning, it sounds bad. **17** ☐

Anyway, I kept taking classes and practising, until I joined an ensemble and that's when the fun started. **18** ☐ When you eventually perform in front of an audience, the joy you give to others with your music will make the whole effort worthwhile.

When I teach my students I always tell them I remember what it feels like when you can't join in with your friends because you have to practise, so I often tell them about my childhood years. **19** ☐

I have never regretted being a musician. **20** ☐ She often jokes that I would be a terrible doctor, but in the end my job is not so different to hers: she cures people's bodies, but I cure their souls.

**Guidance for candidates**
This part of the reading paper is to test candidates' ability to follow the narrative of a text and understand its structure. In particular, candidates need to:

- refer to the sentences both before and after the gap
- make sure that the sentence they select matches grammatically
- then check that the whole text surrounding the selected sentence make sense.



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**A** I realised playing with other musicians is one of the most thrilling experiences you can have.

**B** My sister, who is a doctor, agrees that it was the best choice.

**C** So after a few years I stopped taking lessons and took up the guitar.

**D** This is why, during the first few years, I thought of giving up.

**E** She doesn't understand why I chose this job instead of being a doctor.

**F** The violin is not as difficult to learn as you may think, though.

**G** When I told them again three years later, however, they realised I was serious about my decision.

**H** I also tell them I know what it takes to fight against those 4 strings and make them sound pleasant.

**Exam tips**
Once you've chosen the right option, ask yourself why the other ones aren't acceptable.
For example, try and answer questions such as:

- Does any part of the text mention a thrilling experience?
- Does the text mention the writer's sister in any paragraph?
- Is there any further information about guitar lessons?
- Are there any negative words suggesting the writer was unhappy about his results?
- Focus on the tense of the verb: does it fit in with the rest of any paragraph?
- Does the writer explain why the violin isn't very difficult in any paragraph?
- Do the pronouns 'them' and 'they' refer to anyone in particular?
- Does the writer say anything else about what he has learnt from his experience?



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