

Optimise B1+

Student name _____

Group/Class _____

Date _____ Score _____

GRAMMAR

1 Complete the conversation with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

Polly: Hi Mina, how are you?

Mina: I'm a bit stressed. I (1) _____ (*study*) for an exam next week.

Polly: What subject is it?

Mina: Maths. I (2) _____ (*not hate*) it but I do find it challenging!

Polly: Oh really? I thought you were good at it. You (3) _____ (*not seem*) to have any problems with maths at school.

Mina: That's true but I'm really worried about this exam. Anyway, I need a break. What (4) _____ (*do*) at the moment?

Polly: Nothing really. (5) _____ (*want*) to come round to my house?

Mina: That sounds great. See you in 20 minutes.

Score: /5

2 Complete the text with the correct form (-ing or infinitive) of the words in the box. There are two words which you don't need to use.

do go join look show spend take

My best friend wants me (1) _____ a new online game with him. It's a multiplayer adventure game which you play with different people around the world. He's really excited about it and he's offered (2) _____ me how to play it. The thing is, I don't really fancy (3) _____ even more time on the internet. It already feels like everything I do is online and I miss (4) _____ normal things with my friends. I think I'd rather (5) _____ to a café or the park.

Score: /5

3 Complete the text with correct form (past simple or past continuous) of the words in the box.

do drive get go want

When I was 13 I went to an English summer camp in Oxford. I was very nervous and (1) _____ to go at first. In fact, when my mum (2) _____ me to the airport, I asked her to stop the car and take me home again! Of course, she (3) _____ that and when we got to the airport I met some other children who (4) _____ to the camp as well. We (5) _____ on really well at the camp. We didn't speak much English but we had a fantastic time.

Score: /5

- 4 Complete the text with the words in the box. Use the correct form of *used to*, *be used to* or *would*. Where *used to* or *would* are possibilities, use *would*. There are two extra words which you don't need to use.

(not) be come go live (not) return spend take

I live in London now but I (1) _____ in the countryside. The change has been difficult because life was so relaxing there. I (2) _____ my free time in the fields and woods around our house, that was normal to me, and we (3) _____ on some amazing adventures, building treehouses and looking for snakes. We would leave the house in the morning and we (4) _____ until the evening. Now, if I want to go out in London, I have to tell my mum exactly where I'm going and most of the time she doesn't want me to go out. We've been here for three months but even now I (5) _____ indoors this much.

Score: / 5

VOCABULARY

- 5 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the collocations in the box.

come to an agreement do (sb) a favour do (sb's) best make a decision take (sb's) advice

- 1 I know you're busy but could you _____ and help me with my homework?
- 2 We need to _____. We can't keep disagreeing with each other.
- 3 I said he should see a doctor about his illness so I'm pleased he's _____.
- 4 We can see that you've been _____. We really admire your hard work.
- 5 It's a difficult choice but I've _____. I've decided to go to France.

Score: / 5

- 6 Complete the text with the correct form of the words in the box. There are two words which you don't need.

gadget internet online post repair switch upload

I've recently had a problem with my computer. A couple of weeks ago I was watching a programme on the (1) _____ and suddenly the picture froze. A message appeared on the screen saying, 'We have detected some problems,' and then the computer just (2) _____ itself off. I was going to take it to a shop to see if they could (3) _____ it but then I decided to do it myself. I used my mobile, I (4) _____ a request for help (5) _____ and I immediately got several replies. I managed to fix the problem and it's working fine now.

Score: / 5

- 7 Complete the text with the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

I think it's (1) _____ how much time some people spend on their phones. My sister has her phone in her hand from morning to night. She's always chatting with her friends or sharing photographs. She just can't stop herself. This morning she was (2) _____ pictures of her breakfast to her Facebook page! When I saw that, I suggested (3) _____ her phone off for a few hours a day. I explained that the experts say it's (4) _____ to disconnect from time to time. She said that she takes my (5) _____ but she doesn't want to miss out on what's going on in the world!

- | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1 A unfashionable | B unbelievable | C believable | D fashionable |
| 2 A making | B posting | C taking | D mending |
| 3 A doing | B taking | C turning | D making |
| 4 A reversible | B sensible | C terrible | D accessible |
| 5 A decision | B favour | C agreement | D point |

Score: /5

8 Complete the sentences with one word.

- After waiting for several hours, we finally m_____ to see the doctor.
- She worked very hard so she was surprised to f_____ the exam.
- Do you think he's going to c_____ first in the race? He's running very fast.
- I think England will b_____ Wales. I am sure they will win.
- Peter says that he's finally o_____ his fear of spiders.

Score: /5

9 Complete the sentences with a word in each gap.

- How should we go _____ choosing a campsite? Have you got any ideas?
- I don't know how you put _____ with him. He's always complaining.
- We eventually built _____ enough courage to look inside the box.
- I'm glad he's finally getting _____ with his homework. I thought he'd never start it!
- I'm afraid I didn't go to the supermarket so we'll have to do _____ dessert tonight.

Score: /5

READING

Alternative schools – a different approach

If you ask teenagers around the world to tell you about their educational experience, they will probably describe something similar; classrooms with 30 or more students, rows of tables and chairs and a teacher at the front. They study eight or nine subjects when the timetable tells them to. However, some children will describe a different type of education. These children have experienced alternative schools.

Alternative and traditional schools are different in a number of ways. (1) _____. This means that the children are responsible for deciding what they need to learn and the teacher is there to help them achieve their learning goals. 'I was always interested in geology, the study of rocks, but you can't usually study it at school,' says Tyler, 14. 'Here we can choose what we study so when I told my teacher I was interested in rocks, she helped me start a project and showed me how to get the information I needed. It's fantastic being able to study something that interests me.'

Most traditional schools are only interested in students learning from books and not teaching them practical skills.

(2) _____ Abigail, 13, explains, 'I was always quite intelligent and I loved maths problems but I wasn't very good at physical activities. My teachers noticed that and they encouraged me to spend more time climbing trees and riding bikes. I think that really helped me because now I'm much more confident doing those things.' In most schools, the rules and responsibilities are decided by the teachers. However, in these alternative schools, it is both the students and teachers who decide. (3) _____ Students and teachers usually decide the rules together in regular meetings where they also talk about why it is important to have certain rules. These meetings are usually attended by the whole school and anyone is free to speak, which also helps students develop their communication skills.

Another reason some people choose alternative schools is because the teachers help the students develop their talents. In large schools, teachers have limited time for each student and they may not notice any hidden talents.

(4) _____ 'I've always liked drawing,' says Esther, 16. 'My teachers let me draw as much as I wanted and now I'm pretty good. In fact, I recently came second in a national art competition. Their support and encouragement helped me achieve that.'

It is important for us not to forget that traditional schools do important work and that there are disadvantages to alternative schools. (5) _____ Some parents may also worry that their children won't make enough academic progress. However, children who go to alternative schools seem confident and grown-up and the schools themselves seem calm and productive. Perhaps they have some useful lessons for the more traditional schools.

10 Read the article. Choose which sentence A–G fits each gap. There are two extra sentences you do not need.

- A The reason is that if the students decide the rules, they will understand them better and be more responsible for their own behaviour. _____
- B For example, they tend to be private schools, so many families cannot afford them. _____
- C One is the belief that education should be learner-centred. _____
- D She thinks it's important to have clear rules and instructions. _____
- E However, alternative schools often have fewer students so it is easier for teachers to see what their students are good at. _____
- F They believe that there are many more advantages than disadvantages. _____
- G However, alternative schools try to help students develop physically and emotionally and learn things that are useful for life in general. _____

Score: /5

USE OF ENGLISH

11 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given.

- 1 Sebastian doesn't want to learn to program a computer.
Sebastian _____ to program a computer. **INTERESTED**
- 2 They'd be very pleased if you gave them a call.
They _____ a call from you. **APPRECIATE**
- 3 You should stop exercising if you feel ill.
You _____ exercising if you feel ill. **CARRY**

- 4 'Why don't we go to the technology conference this weekend?' said Sophie.

Sophie _____ to the technology conference
this weekend.

GOING

- 5 I don't like to watch more than an hour of TV a day.

I _____ more than an hour of TV a day.

PREFER

Score: /5