

TEST 2 PAPER 1: READING

Part 1 (questions 1-8)

Part 1

You are going to read an extract from a novel. For questions 1-8 choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

Emily woke up before her alarm went off and knew instantly something wasn't quite right in the house. Bailey, her chocolate-coloured pet Labrador, should have been there at the bedroom door demanding food but there was no sound of him. She decided to get up and go and see where he was. It felt cold in the hall but she knew she had left the heating on last night. As she walked down the stairs she heard a noise in the kitchen; the strange feeling that something was wrong was getting stronger. What was going on? She got to the bottom of the stairs and opened the door to the living room, which led to the kitchen. Why was the door closed? She always left it open. Bailey was nowhere to be seen and his toys, which were usually all over the living room floor, were in a neat pile in the corner next to his basket. Had they been there when she had gone to bed last night? She couldn't remember. She walked into the kitchen and turned the light on, it didn't work, nothing happened. She stood very still and listened, nothing. There wasn't a sound. That was really strange; she lived in the middle of a busy city, there were always people around. She woke up to the sound of traffic, car horns, police cars, her neighbours shouting in the house next door, how could there be silence at 8 o'clock on a Friday morning? She went back into the living room and turned the TV on, but again nothing happened. She went back into the kitchen and looked out of the window; it was a bright clear day. The back door was shut but when she tried the handle she realised it was unlocked. She walked out into the tiny back garden and opened the back gate; still nothing, not a sound and no sign of Bailey. She called him but he didn't come. She went back into the house and did what she realised she should have done as soon as she got up and called her mother. But there was no answer. She called her boyfriend but his mobile was switched off and she got the answer phone message. She tried a couple of other numbers but with equal success. She sat down on the sofa and thought about what she could do. She couldn't decide if she should stay at home or go out and find someone. Just as she decided the best thing would be to stay at home and wait, there was a loud banging on the front door. She jumped up and ran to the door. 'Who is it?' she shouted through the door. 'It's me,' came the reply. But she had no idea who 'me' was. She didn't want to open the door until she was sure she knew who it was, not with all the other strange things that were happening this morning, and she didn't want to shout through the thick front door, so she walked back into the living room and tried to look through the front window to see who was standing at the front door. It was a man but she couldn't make out who he was; he didn't look familiar. He was tall and was wearing a big coat with a hood over his head. Just as she was thinking of running out the back door she saw that the man had Bailey with him, and Bailey seemed quite happy, which meant that the man had to be someone she knew and liked; he would have been barking otherwise. She still wasn't taking any chances though; she put the safety latch on the door and opened it just enough to see who was there. She was instantly relieved; it was her brother, who lived just a few streets away. She opened the door all the way and let him in. As he walked through the door he was almost knocked over by Bailey jumping up and looking more pleased than ever to see her. 'So what's going on?' she asked her brother. He looked at her as if she was stupid. 'Haven't you heard?'

line 35

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- 1 How did Emily know there was something wrong?
 - A Her alarm clock didn't go off.
 - B Her dog wasn't outside the bedroom door.
 - C Her dog was quieter than usual.
 - D She had woken up very early.

- 2 How did she feel when she opened the living room door?
 - A confused
 - B excited
 - C annoyed
 - D strong

- 3 What could she hear when she stood in the kitchen?
 - A traffic and everyday noises of the city
 - B silence
 - C the television
 - D something in the garden

- 4 Why did she go into the garden?
 - A to see what the weather was like
 - B to talk to her neighbours
 - C to look for Bailey
 - D to make a phone call

- 5 Who did she speak to on the telephone?
 - A her mother
 - B her boyfriend
 - C two friends
 - D no one

- 6 Why did she return to the living room after someone knocked on the front door?
 - A Because she didn't want to leave the house.
 - B Because she wanted to try and see who was at the front door.
 - C Because she didn't want to talk to the person at the front door.
 - D Because she wanted to sit down and think about what to do.

- 7 Why did she think she must know the man at the door?
 - A She recognised the clothes he was wearing.
 - B Bailey was barking at him.
 - C Bailey seemed relaxed with him.
 - D She recognised his voice.

- 8 What does the author mean in line 35 when it says that 'she still wasn't taking any chances though'?
 - A She wasn't feeling lucky.
 - B She was going to take advantage of the situation.
 - C She wasn't going to waste the opportunity.
 - D She wasn't going to take any risks.

Part 2

You are going to read an interview with a couple who own a holiday home in the French Pyrenees. Seven sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences **A-H** the one which fits each gap (9-15). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

Why did you decide to buy a holiday home here?

We have always loved travelling and spending time in different countries on holidays. It made sense to us to have somewhere which was our own, where we could go back to again and again whenever we liked. **9** It has everything we were looking for: mountains, beautiful scenery, good countryside for walking and there are towns and a major city nearby. We looked at some very remote places but decided we wanted to be in a town. We enjoy being able to walk down to the shops in the morning to get fresh bread and walk to a restaurant for dinner in the evening. It was important to us that it was easy to get to for short holidays too so the fact that there is an airport nearby was a key factor. **10** We love both of our houses even though they are very different in style and in very different places.

How did you find this particular property?

We did some research into the area we liked and we looked at adverts on the Internet, which gave us an idea of what was available. Then we went to an agency which specialised in property in the area where we were looking. They were really helpful and in three days they took us to a number of different houses as well as some empty plots of land with potential for building a new property. **11** We spent time talking to the couple who were selling it and looking around the garden as well as the house. It's not a big house; there are only two bedrooms, but it is exactly what we were looking for. It has a fantastic terrace with views of the mountains and because it is high up we can see right over the town too. It's very picturesque. It has a wonderful big fireplace too so is nice and warm in winter. In

fact it is a beautiful place to have a holiday at any time of the year.

What do you like most about owning a second home?

12 We spend lots of holidays here ourselves and sometimes friends and family join us, but we also let friends and family stay in it by themselves if they want to. It means the house is occupied more, and the more it is used the better. It would be a shame if it were empty a lot of the time. We also like that we have met some good friends here. **13** It means we don't feel like strangers when we're here. Another thing we like is that there is always somewhere new to visit and explore as well as favourite places to go back to.

Have you ever had any problems with the house?

Fortunately no, nothing serious but it is always a worry when it is empty for long periods of time and we are so far away. We are lucky to have helpful neighbours and friends who live nearby who can keep an eye on the house for us. In the very cold weather last winter the pipe to the outside tap froze and split but the postman noticed and sealed it for us. We had a problem with the hot water tank once too. We arrived one time and turned it on and suddenly water started pouring down the stairs. **14** We were able to get a plumber to come and look at it and then arranged for a new one to be fitted so it wasn't too bad. One advantage of not always being here is that we have been able to have both the bathrooms redecorated. Some friends of ours did all the work for us and it worked out really well.

TEST 8 PAPER 1: READING Part 2 (questions 9-15)

Would you like to move and live here permanently?

No. We have too much that we would miss back home: good friends and family. **15** We might come for a month or more at a time instead of a week or two as we do now. But we

bought it as a holiday home or second home not somewhere to live all the time. We like having both our homes and don't want to give up either of them. We are very lucky that we can enjoy spending time in two lovely houses.

A We visited this area a couple of times and we really liked it.	E The house we now own was actually the last one we saw and we instantly knew it was perfect.
B That wasn't a very good start to our holiday but it is lucky it happened to us and not friends of ours.	F The weather is usually better than what we're used to at home with lots of blue sky and sunshine, even in winter.
C Next year we will both retire and then we will be able to spend much more time here.	G It is so nice each time we come out to have a group of people to spend time with and social events to go to.
D And finally we were looking for somewhere in contrast to where we live the rest of the year.	H We love that we can share it with our friends and family.