

Section 3

BETH: Oh good morning. You must be James. I'm Beth Cartwright - please call me Beth.

JAMES: Thank you.

BETH: Now as this is your first (1), I'd like to find out something about you. Why did you decide to take this course?

JAMES: Well, my mother is Danish, and although we always lived in England, she used to talk about her home a lot, and that made me want to visit Denmark. We hardly ever did, though - my mother usually went on her own. But whenever her relations or friends were in England they always came to see us.

BETH: I see. (2) one of the languages you'll be studying.

JAMES: I can get by when I talk to people, though I'm not terribly accurate.

BETH: Now you probably know that you'll spend the third year of the course abroad. Have you had any thoughts about that?

JAMES: I'm really looking forward to it. And although Denmark (3), I'd love to spend the time in Iceland.

BETH: Oh, I'm sure it can be arranged. Do you have any plans for when you graduate? A lot of students go on to take a master's degree.

JAMES: I think the (4) I'm interested in journalism, and I quite like the idea of moving to Scandinavia and writing for magazines. I'd find that more creative than translating, which I suppose most graduates do.

BETH: OK. Now how are you finding the courses you're taking this term, James?

JAMES: Well, I'm really enjoying the one on Swedish cinema.

BETH: That'll continue next term, but the one on Scandinavian literature that's running at the moment (5) Oh, and by the way, if you're interested in watching Danish television programmes ~ there's going to be a course on that the term after next.

JAMES: That sounds good.

BETH: Have you started thinking about the literature paper that you have to write in the next few weeks?

JAMES: Yes, my first choice would be to do something on the Icelandic sagas.

BETH: Hmm. The trouble with that is that a lot of people choose that topic, and it can be difficult to get hold of the books you'll need. Why not leave that for another time?

JAMES: Right.

BETH: You might (6)

JAMES: I've read or seen several plays in translation, so that would be a good idea.

BETH: Fine. I'll put you down for that topic.

JAMES: Right. So what would you advise me to aim at in the paper?

BETH: First I suggest you avoid (7) That approach certainly has its place. but I think you first need to get an understanding of the literature in the context of the society in which it was produced - who it was written for. how it was published, and so on. I also think that's more (8)

JAMES: OK, that sounds reasonable.

JAMES: Could I ask for some advice about writing the paper I'm working on about the Vikings? I have to do that this week, and I'm a bit stuck.

BETH: Of course. Have you decided yet what to write about?

JAMES: No, I haven't. There's so much that seems interesting ~ Viking settlement in other countries, trade, mythology...

BETH: Well, what I suggest is that you read an assignment a student wrote last year, which is kept in the library. It's short and well-focused, and I'm sure you'll find it helpful. I'll give you the details in a moment. Textbooks usually cover so many topics, it can be very difficult to choose just one.

JAMES: OK. I've got a DVD of the film about the Vikings that came out earlier this year. Should I watch that again?

BETH: If it's the one I am thinking of, hmm, I'd ignore it - it's more fantasy than reality. But I've got a recording of a documentary that you should watch. (9).....

which I think will help you to focus your topic.

JAMES: Right.

JAMES: So then should I work out an outline?

BETH Yes. Just headings for different sections, at this stage. And then you should (10) and take notes which you organise according to those headings.

JAMES: I see.

BETH: Then (11) under each heading. Make sure that this skeleton (12)

JAMES: OK. Thanks, that's very helpful.