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.

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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?

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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.

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