4 course. Family and relationships. *SURNAME NAME GROUP*

Task 1. Read the text and decide if the statements are true or false.

Imagination Breaks

Almost everyone spends time imagining different situations while awake. We might close our eyes and think about things that could happen in the future or imagine how past events might have gone differently. These mental moments are usually enjoyable. We often picture ourselves doing something exciting or being in someone else's shoes-perhaps more successful, admired, or happier than we are in real life.

Unlike dreams that happen during sleep, these moments of imagination happen while we're fully awake. Also, we can usually choose the content of these thoughts, which is not something we can do while sleeping. Often, we know that what we imagine probably won't come true, or if it does, it won't be quite as we imagined. Still, some of our thoughts are based on realistic goals. In these cases, daydreaming helps us make decisions, explore possibilities, or plan how to succeed in real life. So, this type of imagination can actually be useful.

Creative thinking often starts with such moments. Artists, authors, musicians, and even scientists or mathematicians often come up with new ideas while letting their minds wander. Albert Einstein even believed that imagination was more powerful than knowledge, as it has no limits.

In the 1980s, research showed that many people daydream about simple, everyday matters. It also revealed that people in jobs with lots of repetition—like truck drivers or night guards—daydream a lot to make their tasks more bearable. More recent brain studies, including MRI scans, have confirmed that imagination boosts activity in brain regions responsible for problem-solving. In this way, thinking creatively while awake helps the brain just like dreaming does during sleep.

Despite the clear benefits, some cultures have viewed daydreaming negatively. For example, during the 1800s, people were often labeled as lazy if they spent too much time imagining instead of working. This idea became even stronger during the rise of factory work, where employees had to repeat the same task again and again without room for imagination or creativity.

Some people argue that spending too much time in an imagined world can be unhealthy. Escapists, for example, avoid real-life challenges by picturing a perfect life instead of facing problems. Research suggests that people who daydream too often may struggle with social connections, and they tend to have fewer—or sometimes no—close friends.

1. People usually daydream when they are walking around.
2. Some people can daydream when they are asleep.
3. Some daydreams help us to be more successful in our lives.

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4. Most lorry drivers daydream in their jobs to make them more interesting.
5. Factory workers daydream more than lorry drivers.
6. Daydreaming helps people to be creative.
7. Old people daydream more than young people.
8. Escapist people are generally very happy.

Task 2. Read the texts below. Match choices (A–H) to (1–6). There are two extra statements you do not need to use.

1. A Ritual That Anchors the Generations In a quiet suburb of Atlanta, the Johnsons preserve a multigenerational tradition that transcends time: the Sunday gathering. Every week, their extended family—spanning grandparents to toddlers—comes together to share a home-cooked meal and reflect on life's events. The act of preparing and enjoying food in each other's company strengthens emotional bonds and reinforces the sense of belonging that might otherwise be lost in today's fast-paced world.	**2. Home, Until Life Demands Otherwise** In many Japanese households, adult children remain with their parents well into their 30s, not due to dependency but out of cultural reverence. This intergenerational cohabitation, while practical, reflects deeply rooted values of filial responsibility. Parents provide stability and support, while children contribute to the household, often delaying independence until marriage or major career shifts prompt a change.	**3. Collective Upbringing in Rural Communities** Among various East African tribes, the upbringing of children is seen as a shared responsibility. In these tight-knit communities, neighbours, siblings, and even unrelated elders step in to assist when parents are occupied. This informal support network not only eases daily burdens but instills a strong sense of interdependence and duty from an early age.
4. A Symbolic Gesture of Lifelong Devotion In South Asia, the annual festival of Raksha Bandhan celebrates the profound relationship between siblings. During the ceremony, sisters tie a decorative thread around their brothers' wrists, symbolizing protection and affection. In return, brothers offer heartfelt gifts and vows of lifelong support. Even modern urban families, separated by distance, strive to uphold this emotional custom via mail or virtual calls.	**5. Mealtimes That Strengthen Bonds** Across Italian towns and cities, the evening meal remains sacred, not for its menu but for the shared moments it creates. Despite evolving lifestyles and work schedules, families prioritise dinner together as a daily ritual. These long, conversation-filled meals offer more than nourishment-they're a daily reconnection with loved ones, filled with laughter, storytelling, and mutual care.	**6. Finding Kinship Beyond Bloodlines** In fast-paced metropolitan areas like New York or London, young professionals often form chosen families-close-knit circles of friends who celebrate birthdays, holidays, and milestones together. These friendships go beyond convenience; they reflect deep emotional reliance and shared values. Especially for those living far from their relatives, these chosen connections become a substitute for traditional family structures.

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Which statement best matches each text?

A. People reinforce emotional closeness through habitual gatherings.

B. A cultural tradition highlights sibling affection and protective roles.

C. Childcare is commonly handled through shared responsibility among community members.

D. Weekly sporting events structure family time and routines.

E. Shared routines at the end of the day offer space for emotional recovery and meaningful dialogue.

F. Strong friendships evolve into dependable, long-term social units.

G. Prolonged residence with parents reflects mutual support and respect.

H. Restaurants are favoured over home-cooked meals due to convenience.

Task 3. Read the text. Some parts of the sentences are inserted. Choose from the options A-J the one which best fits each gap (1-8).There are 2 options you needn't used.

Family Reunion

Each summer, as the warm breeze begins to rustle the trees, our entire family gathers at our grandparents' house in the countryside. The spacious, timeworn home is rich with ***1)_____.*** Surrounded by a vibrant garden in full bloom, it offers the perfect setting for our annual get-together. Our grandparents, now in their seventies, remain the heart and soul of our family and eagerly await our arrival every year.

As our car rolls up the gravel path, we're welcomed with open arms by aunts, uncles, and cousins. Uncle George, ever the entertainer despite his recent divorce, brings energy and laughter, ***2) _____.*** Aunt Maria, George's sister, is a gentle and devoted teacher, and her husband Mark, a warm-hearted lawyer, arrives with their three energetic kids ***3)_____.*** My Aunt Sophia and her husband bring along their adopted son and eagerly share stories of their latest adventures abroad.

Inside, delicious aromas drift from the kitchen where Grandma and Grandpa are putting the final touches on a lavish meal. Our parents help arrange the beautifully set table. The rooms come alive with conversation, laughter, and the occasional clinking of glasses. Old memories are brought back to life and ***4)_____***. As evening approaches, the younger cousins gather around a crackling bonfire, telling ghost stories and

A. while his teenage children challenge us to a lively game of football

B. our in-laws, once newcomers, have become an inseparable part of our family's story

C. we carry from these gatherings sustain us until the following summer

D. who quickly vanish into a game of hide-and-seek among the flowers

E. when cousins rediscover old toys tucked away in the attic, sparking childhood memories

F. our cars disappear into the night, their silhouettes etched in our hearts

G. shared memories and comfortably fits our large extended family

H. as stories from past reunions echo through the house, strengthening our shared history

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roasting marshmallows. The older family members relax on the porch, sipping tea and exchanging both light-hearted jokes and heartfelt reflections. ***5)_____***, offering their own anecdotes and laughter to the mix. When darkness settles and stars appear overhead, a guitar emerges and the air fills with singing. Both old favorites and modern tunes bring us together, ***6)_____***. As the night winds down, we exchange farewells, tired but filled with joy. Our grandparents remain at the doorway, waving until ***7)_____***. Moments like these remind us why family matters so deeply. No matter how different our lives have become, these reunions rekindle our bond. The memories ***8)_____***, when we once again return to the warmth and comfort of home.	***I. weaving a musical thread between young and old*** ***J. plans for the future are exchanged, creating a bridge across generations.***

Task 4. Complete the sentences with the correct idiom a-i.

1. They had a serious argument last weekend, but after talking things through, they managed to _____ and move forward. 2. After being together for more than five years, they decided to _____ because their goals in life had started to drift apart. 3. We _____, which is probably why we understand each other so well, even when we disagree. 4. Ever since she was a child, she's _____ her older cousin, who has always been a source of advice and support. 5. She never expected to _____ in love, but after spending just a week with him, she knew her feelings were real. 6. Their relationship has had its _____, especially during stressful times, but they've always managed to work through the problems together. 7. It's quite obvious that he _____ her, but he's been trying to hide it because they work in the same department. 8. They finally agreed to _____ after chatting online for several months and realizing how much they had in common. 9. Although he was only joking, some people thought he was trying to _____ with her during the meeting. 10. Although they respect each other, they don't always _____ when it comes to financial decisions or long-term plans.	***a) fancy*** ***b) not see eye to eye*** ***c) split up*** ***d) flirt*** ***e) go back years*** ***f) make up*** ***g) fall head over heels*** ***h) look up to*** ***i) go on a date*** ***j) have ups and downs***

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