Reading-"Mystery Novel"

Read an extract from a novel; then do the multiple-choice questions.

It would be simple enough to follow him. Roger was a man of habits, and even when his hours of work were irregular he would still take his mid-day meal, whenever he did take it, at Percy's. Miss Temple found an antique bookshop across the street where, as she was obliged to purchase something for standing so long watching through its window, she on impulse selected a complete four-volume *Illustrated Lives of Sea Martyrs*. The books were detailed enough for her to spend the time in the window, apparently examining the books, while actually watching Roger first center and then, after an hour, exit alone, from the heavy doors across the street.

He walked straight back to his office in the Ministry courtyard. Miss Temple arranged for her purchase to be delivered to the Boniface, and walked back into the street, feeling like a fool. She had re-crossed the square before she convinced herself that she was not so much a fool as an inexperienced observer. It was pointless to watch from *outside* the restaurant because only inside could she have discovered whether or not Roger dined alone or with others, or with which particular others – all important information.

She had a pretty good feeling that the crime she believed he had committed wasn't to benefit his work, which meant she was likely to learn nothing from observing his working day. It was after work that any real information would be gathered. Abruptly she entered a store whose windows were thick with all shapes of luggage, hampers, oilskins, lanterns, telescopes and a large assortment of walking sticks. She left wearing a ladies' black travelling cloak, with a deep hood and several well hidden pickets, opera glasses, a leather-bound notebook and an all-weather pencil. Miss Temple then took her tea.

Between cups of tea and two cakes, she made entries in the notebook, summarizing her plan and then describing the day's work so far. That she now had a kind of uniform and a set of tools made everything that much easier and much less about her particular feelings, for tasks requiring clothes and supporting equipment seemed somehow more objective, even scientific, in nature. In keeping with this, she made a point to write her entries in a kind of code, replacing proper names and places with synonyms or word-play that hopefully would not be understood by anyone but herself.

Miss Temple left the tea shop at four o'clock, knowing Roger to leave usually at five, and hired a carriage. She instructed her driver in a low, direct tone of voice, after assuring him he would be well paid for his time, that they would be following a gentleman, most likely in another carriage, and that she would knock on the roof of the coach to indicate the man when he appeared. The driver nodded, but said nothing else. She took his silence to mean that **this** was a usual enough thing, and felt all the more sure of herself. When Roger appeared, some forty minutes later, she nearly missed him, amusing herself for the moment by peering through the opera glasses into nearby open windows, but a sudden feeling caused her to glance back at the courtyard gates just in time to see Roger, standing in the road with an air of confidence and purpose that took her breath away, flag down a coach of his own. Miss Temple knocked sharply on the roof of the coach and they were off.

The thrill of the case, complicated by the nervousness of seeing Roger, was quickly lost when, after the first few turns, it became obvious that Roger's destination was nowhere more interesting than his own home.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1 Miss Temple thought it would be easy to follow Roger because

A he always took a break at the same time.
B his work schedule never changed.
C he always ate lunch at a particular location.
D she already knew the schedule of his working day.

2 Miss Temple bought a book a the bookshop because

A she suddenly felt like buying something.
B she was forced to by the shop owner.
C she wanted a way to pass the time.
D she needed an excuse to stay there.

3 What mistake did Miss Temple soon realize she had made?

A She had waited for Roger in the wrong place.
B She needn't have made a purchase at the book shop.
C She should have followed Roger back to the Ministry when she had had the chance.
D She had re-crossed the square at the wrong place.

4 Miss Temple decided to.follow Roger after work because

A she believed that was the time she could find out what she wanted to know.
B She couldn't see what he was doing inside his office.
C She didn't want to risk him seeing her outside his office
D She had other, more important things to do during the working day.

5 How did Miss Temple's purchases make her feel about what she was doing?

A more determined
B less personally involved
C better prepared
D less confused.

6 The word "this" in paragraph 5 refers to

A the driver's silence
B banging on the hood of the carriage
C being asked to follow someone
D paying drivers well for their time.

7 When Roger left his office at about five o'clock, Miss Temple

A watched him through her new opera glasses
B saw him just before he got into a carriage
C had a sudden feeling of breathlessness.
D pretended to be looking into an open window

8 Miss Temple's excitement at following Roger

A increased each time she caught sigh of him.
B turned into boredom after a while
C ended when her carriage started following him.
D disappeared when she realized where he was going.

LIVEWORKSHEETS