You are going to read an article about an English poet, William Wordsworth. For questions **31–36**, 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**.

Daffodils everywhere

Two hundred years ago the English poet William Wordsworth wrote 'I wander'd lonely as a cloud', a poem that expresses a basic spirit of early English Romanticism. It was Thursday, 15 April 1802. William and Dorothy Wordsworth, the poet's devoted, journal-writing sister, were walking home to Dove Cottage in the Lake District. The wind was fierce, but the Wordsworth siblings were used to striding long distances in foul weather. They were in the woods close to the water side when they first clapped eyes on a field of daffodils 'fluttering and dancing in the breeze'.

What makes this poem an example of Romantic thinking? It isn't just that Wordsworth chooses to write about a natural scene: it is the way he describes the scene as if it had human emotions. For him, nature is not merely a neutral mixture of scenery, colours, plants, rocks, soil, water and air. It is a living force that feels joy and sadness, shares human pain and even tries to educate us human beings by showing us the beauty of life.

Wordsworth's home, Dove Cottage, is now one of the most popular destinations in the Lake District. You can go on a tour of the garden which William planted with wild flowers and which survived in his backyard even after they disappeared from the area. 'He always said that if he hadn't been a poet, he would have been a terrific landscape gardener,' says Allan King of the Wordsworth Trust, the organisation that looks after the cottage and gardens.

The Lake District in the north-west of England becomes particularly crowded during the summer months with tourists and ramblers eager to enjoy the region's majestic valleys, hills and sparkling
line 19 lakes. Wordsworth himself was far from keen on tourists, which was quite apparent. He wanted outsiders to admire the local sights he enjoyed so much, but was afraid the district might be 'damaged' by too many visitors. He opposed the coming of the trains, and campaigned in the 1840s against a plan to link the towns in the area – Kendal, Windermere and Keswick – by rail.

The place near Ullswater, where Wordsworth saw the daffodils, is at the southernmost end of the lake. The lake is wide and calm at this turning point. There's a bay where the trees have had their soil eroded by lake water so that their roots are shockingly exposed. You walk along from tree to tree, hardly daring to breathe, because you are walking in the footprints of William and Dorothy from two centuries ago. The first clumps of daffodils appear, but they aren't tall yellow trumpets proudly swaying in the breeze. They're tiny wild daffodils, most of them still green and unopened, in clumps of six or seven. They're grouped around individual trees rather than collecting together.

But as you look north, from beside a huge ancient oak, you realise this is what delighted the Wordsworths: clump after clump of the things, spread out to left and right but coming together in your vision so that they form a beautiful, pale-yellow carpet. What you're seeing at last is nature transformed by human sight and imagination. For a second, you share that revelation of Dorothy and William Wordsworth's, the glimpse of pantheism, the central mystery of English Romanticism.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

31 According to the article, Wordsworth's poem

- **A** started the Romantic movement.
- **B** was based on actual experience.
- **C** was written while he was visiting his sister.
- **D** was written after he had been lonely.

32 What was Wordsworth's attitude to nature?

- **A** He believed nature had a character of its own.
- **B** He felt nature was human.
- **C** He thought nature could talk to people.
- **D** He believed that we could influence nature.

33 We are told that Dove Cottage

- **A** has gardens designed by a landscape gardener.
- **B** has a wide range of flowers in its garden.
- **C** receives a lot of visitors.
- **D** has a very large garden.

34 What does 'which' in line 19 refer to?

- **A** the number of tourists who come to the Lake District
- **B** Wordsworth's desire for outsiders to admire the local sights
- **C** the fact that Wordsworth was keen on tourists from far away
- **D** Wordsworth's dislike of tourists

35 In what way is the scene different from what Wordsworth described?

- **A** All the daffodils are green and small.
- **B** There are no daffodils by the lake.
- **C** The daffodils are fewer and smaller.
- **D** There are no daffodils around trees.

36 The writer implies that the poem describes

- **A** exactly what Wordsworth saw in detail.
- **B** the effect the daffodils had on Wordsworth.
- **C** what Wordsworth saw around an ancient oak.
- **D** clumps of daffodils on the left and on the right.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

You are going to read a newspaper article about the benefits of playing computer games. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences **A–G** the one which fits each gap (**37–42**). There is one extra sentence, which you do not need to use.

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

Computer games: not just for kids!

More people than ever are turning to computer games for fun and health benefits

Susie Bullen lines up, swings her arm back, and releases another perfect throw for yet another strike. When the game is over, the 94-year-old has rolled a personal best of 220. But Bullen isn't hanging out in the local bowling alley – she's playing on a popular interactive gaming system that has gained immense popularity with people of all ages.

Bullen, who once competed in leagues but hasn't bowled in nearly 70 years, said the interactive sports games give her the opportunity to reconnect to many of the activities she enjoyed in her formative years. 'I try to play as much as I can,' says Bullen, resident of a peaceful retirement community in Ontario, Canada. 37 Bullen regularly competes against her great-granddaughter, 16-year-old Melanie, on her gaming console.

Bullen is amongst a growing number of older people participating in this kind of pastime, which is helping to bring generations together in a shared activity. 'It's great fun playing against my great-grandma', says Melanie. 38

According to recent research in the entertainment software sector, the percentage of people over 50 playing computer games has more than doubled since the year 2000, and the number is expected to increase as the popularity and visibility of current computer game platforms continue to grow. 39

Interactive games have been linked to providing increased mental and physical well-being across the age groups. In addition to boosting mood, playing an 'exer-game' for around half an hour, three times a week, improves balance and leaves players feeling refreshed and energised. 40 Just like traditional forms of exercise, interactive gaming promotes better mental sharpness and hand-eye coordination. And one study has shown that there are some characteristics of gaming that promote visual learning, too – that is, acquiring skills through associating ideas and concepts with images and techniques.

So, what is it that has attracted older people to join in the gaming world? 41 Not only are the most successful platforms those with user-friendly controls, but the best games for the whole family to get involved in together are those which aren't overly-complicated, but still offer plenty in terms of stimulus.

42 A ten-pin bowling game, for example, requires users to swing their arms in the same motion as a bowler, while holding down a button on the controller. When the player is ready to release the ball, he or she simply releases the button. And as he or she does so, the feel-good factor is released along with it!

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A In a market flooded with thousands and thousands of games, finding the right fit can be challenging.

B And as computer game usage amongst older people has risen, researchers have conducted studies that have concluded that computer games provide much more than simple entertainment value.

C 'I've always been sports-minded and like watching sports. Playing computer games is a bit of fun and it's great to see how you can do, as well as providing some much-needed exercise.'

D Games which mimic the movements of the sports they represent are particularly popular amongst gamers who not only want to have fun, but want to incorporate a bit of heart-pumping action into their free-time activities as well.

E This includes balance boards that record movements and give feedback on performance. Activities include yoga poses, push-ups, strength, balance and aerobic exercises.

F 'She's a real pro and it's hard for me to keep up! She's a fantastic opponent and we have a lot of laughs.'

G Active game-playing helps people of all ages recognise that exercise can be fun and socially enjoyable, and isn't just about hitting the treadmill at the gym.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

You are going to read a magazine article about people who work from home. For questions **43–52**, choose from the people (**A–D**). The people may be chosen more than once.

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

Which person

is aware of the importance of conforming to industry requirements? **43** ☐

understands the health implications of certain types of work? **44** ☐

compares two different places of work? **45** ☐

mentions a natural phenomenon that helps her concentrate? **46** ☐

doesn't think she would take as much pleasure in her work in a different place? **47** ☐

appreciates the need to feel mentally and physically prepared for work? **48** ☐

recognises that her current workplace benefits others as well as herself? **49** ☐

has improved her efficiency by adapting her workplace to her needs? **50** ☐

has observed a particular effect of where she works on what she creates? **51** ☐

is grateful that she is able to leave work behind when she's finished for the day? **52** ☐

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Working from home

A Petra Rosso

I'm a student, which means I have to have peace and solitude when I'm trying to get my assignments done for college. There's a great attic room at home which I've been working in. I'm studying creative writing and it's important not only to get into the right frame of mind, but the right surroundings, too, in order for the ideas to flow. The room's flooded with light which helps me stay really focused when I'm writing, and the view from the window is inspiring. In fact, I've done some of my best work since I've been using the room for study purposes. The benefits extend beyond the walls of the room too – once the door's closed, it means I can totally switch off and spend time with my family without the thought of college work interfering.

B Jade Pickett

I share a large apartment with some other young professionals like myself. We get on well together and tend to congregate in the kitchen, which is large and spacious. I like to keep it clean and tidy as I run a catering business from home and it's imperative that I stick to certain standards of cleanliness. I'm always experimenting with new dishes and often prepare meals for my flatmates and our friends who come over. What could be more fun than chilling out with good company and food? I like the sociable atmosphere that cooking can create and without such a lovely space to try things out in, I doubt I'd enjoy what I do even half as much.

C Kara Francis

As an artist, it's vital to have the right working environment. I do have a room at home designated for the purpose, though it's undergoing a bit of renovation work at the moment, so I'm working in the living room for the time being. It's a light, airy space and there are some huge glass doors leading out onto the back of the house, which looks over the fields. It's almost like the countryside spills into the house. I paint portraits and the light there makes it almost as good as working in my studio. The people who sit for me can look out at the greenery while I'm studying them, and it's fascinating what a calming effect this seems to have on them. I've noticed recently that the portraits I've produced lately have a real air of serenity about them.

D Tina Tyford

I work from home and have a home office, which is the ideal place to get my head down and run my business. When I first started working from home, I undertook some research into what makes the best environment for home-workers and that included buying some ergonomic furniture which I had specially designed to suit my needs. Yes, the financial outlay was significant, but it's really increased my performance and output. I know that having a sedentary job can cause physical problems, so making sure I have the right chair to support my back and so on makes an enormous difference. My office is also well lit and all necessary equipment is within easy reach of my desk. It was definitely worth the effort I put in to make the room suitable for my requirements.

LIVEWORKSHEETS