

SECTION A: Reading Comprehension

Time allowed: 20 mins

Read the text and choose the correct option, true (T) or false (F).

The Bucket List **The Adventure of Royd and Mike Tolkien**

Royd and Mike Tolkien were two brothers who lived in a small town. They were always close, sharing many interests, but as they got older, they started thinking about the things they wanted to do before it was too late. One day, they decided to make a bucket list, a list of things they wanted to experience together.

First on their list was skydiving. Royd had always been afraid of heights, but Mike encouraged him, saying that they should face their fears together. They signed up for a skydiving class and, after some practice, jumped out of a plane at 10,000 feet. Royd was scared at first, but as he felt the wind rushing past him, he started to enjoy it. When they landed, Royd said it was the most exciting thing he had ever done. Next, they wanted to travel to New Zealand. They had always dreamed of visiting the place where some of their favourite movies were filmed. When they arrived, they were amazed by the beautiful landscapes and friendly people. They spent two weeks exploring the country, visiting famous movie locations, and even trying bungee jumping. Another item on their list was to learn how to play the guitar. Royd and Mike were both music lovers, but they had never learned to play an instrument. They decided to take guitar lessons together. It wasn't easy at first, but they practised every day. After a few months, they could play a few songs, and even performed for their friends and family.

One of the most important things on their bucket list was to help others. Royd and Mike decided to volunteer at a local charity. They spent weekends helping out at a food bank, and it made them feel good to give back to their community. They met many new people and made some lifelong friends. The last thing on their list was to run a marathon. Neither of them was very athletic, but they trained hard for months. When the day of the marathon came, they were nervous, but they supported each other throughout the race. Crossing the finish line together was a moment they would never forget.

Royd and Mike completed everything on their bucket list, and along the way, they strengthened their bond as brothers. They realized that life is about making memories and spending time with the people you love.

Adapted from Gateway Intermediate

- | | | |
|--|-------|---|
| 1. Royd felt confident when they were about to jump out of the plane. | T / F | |
| 2. The brothers chose to visit New Zealand because of their love for nature. | T / F | 1 |
| 3. Playing the guitar was something Royd and Mike hadn't done before making their bucket list. | T / F | 2 |
| 4. Helping others allowed them to make friends. | T / F | 3 |
| 5. Completing the marathon was a simple task for Royd and Mike. | T / F | |

SECTION B: Language in Use

I. Choose the most suitable alternative

Last weekend, I finally had the chance to catch up with my best friend, Sarah. We hadn't seen each other in a while, so we decided to spend the day together and talk about everything that's been going on in our lives.

It's been 1) _____ a long time since I last saw Sarah. We used to meet up all the time, but work has kept us busy lately. 2) _____ Sarah has been working really hard, she deserves to take a break. She is really looking forward 3) _____ her holidays because it's been a tough year for her.

Last week, she finally joined a photography class she had wanted to take 4) _____ a long time. She was really 5) _____ about it, and now she can't stop talking about how much she loves it! But today, she said, "I don't feel like studying today. Let's just relax and do something fun instead!"

1	a) that	b) so	c) such
2	a) Although	b) However	c) Despite
3	a) to start	b) starting	c) to starting
4	a) for	b) since	c) in
5	a) excite	b) excited	c) exciting

II. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use modals if necessary.

Christo and Jeanne-Claude

You may not know of the artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude, but if you are interested in 1) _____ (learn) about unusual art in some of the most famous places in the world, then you 2) _____ (find out) about them.

Their real names were Christo Vladimirov Javacheff and Jeanne-Claude Denat de Guillebon. They were born in Bulgaria and Morocco, but both of them 3) _____ (live) in Paris when they 4) _____ (get) married in 1962. They 5) _____ (know) all over the world for creating huge pieces of art, using some unusual and original ideas. Since a lot of their art was extremely large and often involved famous buildings, their projects usually 6) _____ (take) a long time.

One of their famous installations was called *L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped* and involved covering the famous building in Paris in thousands of metres of polypropylene. Before that, they 7) _____ (make) other installations which were popular in New York. Unfortunately, they both died before *L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped* 8) _____ (complete).

Christo and Jeanne-Claude had one son named Cyril in 1960. He 9) _____ (work) as a writer and a wildlife photographer his whole life. He 10) _____ (share) his most recent work in many famous galleries all over the world in 2025.

III. Complete each of the following sentences using the word in **CAPITALS** so that it means the same as the original sentence.

- | |
|------------|
| AACI
on |
| 1st |
| 2nd |
| 3rd |
| R |
1. He left the office when the meeting finished. **UNTIL**
He _____ the meeting finished.
 2. 'How did you get to school so fast?', my sister asked. **ASKED**
My sister _____ to school so fast.
 3. It was an amazing concert and everyone enjoyed it. **SUCH**
It _____ everyone enjoyed it.
 4. I can't participate in the school Olympics next week because I have a doctor's appointment. **WOULD**
If I _____ in the school Olympics next week.
 5. Some of my toys look new. I will donate them to the church. **WHICH**
I will donate some of _____ to the church.
 6. A professional is decorating our house. **BY**
Our house _____.
 7. When I was a child, I never played outside every evening. **USE**
When I was a child _____ outside every evening.
 8. There's a big chance she will pass the test. **LIKELY**
She _____ the test.
 9. Our current employer lets us work from home. **ALLOWED**
We _____ from home.
 10. She was tired, but she finished all her work **EVEN**
_____ all her work.

Choose **one** of the following tasks. Write between 100 - 120 words.

1. Your favourite ice cream shop has just introduced a new flavour, and they want people who have tried it to give feedback by posting an online **review**.

Write your **review**.

2. The local newspaper has organised a writing contest which you have decided to enter. Write an **essay** discussing this statement: "The benefits of making mistakes: should we change our opinions on mistakes?" Do you agree or disagree?

Write your **essay**.
