

Reading

Task 1

Read the texts below. Match choices (A-H) to (1-5). There are three choices you do not need to use.



Where can you _____?

- A. get delicious breakfast daily
- B. get something for free
- C. buy some food on a particular day
- D. offers take away
- E. get something at half price
- F. get a drink 24/7
- G. buy a seasonal drink
- H. get any drink for fixed price

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								

Task 2

Read the texts below. For questions (6 -10) choose the correct answers (A, B, C or D).

Binge-watching has become a popular way of consuming television and movie content, with streaming services making it easier than ever to marathon entire seasons or movie franchises in a single sitting. With the growing number of original series and the convenience of on-demand viewing, binge-watching has transformed how we watch television and has become a ubiquitous part of popular culture.

This week, we wanted to provide a unique look into the different experiences and perspectives on binge-watching within families. So, we talked to various members of the Evans family to discuss their habits and attitudes towards this trend.

13-year-old Amelia admits to being a huge binge-watcher. She says, 'For me, it's an important part of fitting in. My friend Denise isn't allowed to watch loads of television at home, and that makes joining in conversations really hard'. So now, Denise comes to the Evans house to binge-watch. Amelia admits that she doesn't do much besides watching films and series. Once keen on ballet, she gave that up years ago and hasn't picked up anything else since. However, Amelia knows that her grades at school are crucial in determining her ability to continue her TV-viewing habits.

Her mother, Karen, realises that Amelia is getting into a bad habit, but hasn't done anything about it. 'If I stopped her, then I would have to cut down on the amount that I watch to set a good example, and to be honest, I don't want to,' she says. 'After a hard day doing work and chores, who doesn't love chilling out for a few hours with some episodes of a good drama? Besides, it's not like I could do anything else instead, like join an evening class. I rarely get a chance to sit down before eight o'clock'.

Kyle, aged 17, usually has a video playing in his room. 'I wouldn't call myself a binge-watcher, though,' he says. 'I'm not one of those people who watch all the latest series as soon as they are released. For me, it's just background noise while I'm getting on with my hobbies. I just let it play whatever comes up next. I've seen all sorts of interesting stuff that I'd never choose for myself. I once saw a guy teaching how to cut up different fish. That was really cool.'

Father, Rob, sees it in financial terms. 'The monthly fee for streaming services is quite expensive, but in terms of the amount of entertainment we get, it's good value. And the more you watch, the cheaper it gets. It's much less than going out to the cinema, and everyone can watch whatever they like. Plus, even though movies or series are

often bad, you can just switch to something else. Some of my friends have stopped paying for streaming services recently, saying they're too expensive. That's their loss'.

Rob's mother, Gill, is less enthusiastic, despite once enjoying watching back-to-back episodes of her favourite classic drama while bedridden due to illness. 'I remember having to wait a whole week for the next episode of that series to come out,' she says. 'And months for the next series. You got the excitement of wondering what was going to happen next. Nowadays, you get everything as soon as you want it, not like old-fashioned TV, and I think you lose something as a result'.

Meanwhile, Karen's brother Kevin is interested in the intelligent design of streaming platforms. 'They make recommendations based on what you've enjoyed, and often the recommendations are right up your street, so I guess that encourages binge-watching. Some people say that this limits what you watch. I'm not sure I agree, though. As a sci-fi fan, live-streaming services have introduced me to some great foreign and low-budget movies and series that I wouldn't have known about. I'm sure that up-and-coming filmmakers worldwide are benefiting from that promotion.'

6. Which of the following has resulted from Amelia's binge-watching habit?

- A** She has poor conversation skills.
- B** She does not have any hobbies.
- C** She has problems fitting in.
- D** She has improved her grades at school.

7. What is Karen's attitude to watching series on television?

- A** She'll try to watch less television, to set a good example.
- B** She watches television before eight.
- C** She watches a lot of television as a way to relax.
- D** She plans to do an evening class to reduce television time.

8. What does Kyle enjoy watching?

- A** Series, although not the most recent ones.
- B** Instructional videos related to his hobbies and interests.
- C** Videos that he didn't pick himself.
- D** Programmes that his friends have recommended.

9. What does Rob think about streaming services?

- A** They are well worth the money if you are a binge-watcher.
- B** They aren't as enjoyable as going out to the cinema.
- C** They aren't worth it because the movies and series are often bad.
- D** He may stop paying for them soon because they are too expensive.

10. Gill thinks that binge-watching

- A** is good entertainment for people with long-term illnesses.
- B** is better, as you don't have to wait to find out what happens.
- C** results in people wasting a lot of their time.
- D** prevents people from enjoying a sense of expectation.

Task 3

Read the texts below. Match choices (A-H) to (11 - 15). There are three choices you do not need to use.

11. Chocolate consultant

If you love chocolate, becoming a chocolate consultant could be an exciting job. There are various types of chocolate consultants, so you can follow the best career path for you. You could work full-time with well-known brands or focus on smaller brands that specialise in specific types of chocolate.

To be successful in this job, you must have a passion for chocolate and an interest in understanding the many varieties of cocoa. For this reason, you need a lot of knowledge in certain subjects. Chemistry and food-based subjects are particularly useful. Although you could work for companies that produce chocolate-based products, you could also be in charge of your career, advising chocolate buyers on which products to buy or running chocolate-tasting events.

12. LEGO sculptor

Many of us have enjoyed building things with LEGO blocks as children, but for some people, this childhood activity can turn into a career. LEGO has temporary jobs and long-term positions for certified professionals who create models and sets for the company. These LEGO sculptors work within specific themes and are based in Legoland Discovery Centres around the world.

Becoming a LEGO sculptor is quite challenging. There are usually only between nine and 30 jobs available worldwide. To be hired, you need to successfully complete different tasks, including building difficult LEGO models.

13. Island caretaker

This role is often described as the best job in the world, and it's easy to see why! In 2009, the Queensland Tourism Board created a position to promote the Islands of the Great Barrier Reef. The lucky employee from the UK – chosen among thousands of applicants – earned £73,400 on a temporary job for six months, living on an island in the Great Barrier Reef. His job involved swimming, exploring underwater, and having fun while filming and blogging about his experiences. At the end of his contract, the British island caretaker was promoted to a new job as a Global Tourism Ambassador, representing Queensland tourism around the world.

14. Shark tank cleaner

Cleaning windows might not sound thrilling, but what if you did it in the water surrounded by sharks? That would be a different story, surely! Shark tank cleaners have to swim with sharks to make the tank's glass clean and shiny

while visitors watch the whole process. This job requires a person who is not only brave but also a strong swimmer and experienced diver. Of course, if you're afraid of sharks, it might be safer to look for other opportunities!

15. Professional sleeper

If you love sleeping and can't get enough of it, why not turn that passion

into a career? Professional sleepers often participate in sleep studies, but there are also more unusual opportunities. For example, in 2009, women were hired for a temporary job where they were paid to sleep as part of a 'living art' exhibit at The New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York while tourists visited the museum.

Which job _____?

- A. requires you to be among the best in the world?
- B. requires a medical education?
- C. turns a boring task into excitement?
- D. is useful for research?
- E. starts as a hobby for babies?
- F. gives you an opportunity to be your own boss?
- G. requires you to do different activities in water?
- H. is planned to be a type of artistic performance?

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								

Task 4

Read the text below. Choose from (A-H) the one which best fits each space (16 - 20). There are three choices you do not need to use.

Throughout history, new and unfamiliar technologies have always divided public opinion. Every major innovation, from the printing press to the internet, has caused both excitement and fear. (16) AI boomers are those who view AI as a useful tool with the power to improve industries and solve some of people's greatest challenges. On the other hand, AI doomers believe that AI should be kept under control to avoid dangers to humans.

To AI boomers, the possibilities of Artificial Intelligence are nearly limitless, with advancements in autonomous vehicles, personalised medicine, and intelligent automation promising to create a society that can produce more and better. They see AI as a powerful tool for driving economic growth, improving healthcare and education, and dealing successfully with global issues like climate change. (17) However, they believe it is possible to manage the situation and keep it under control if the people involved work together to create and apply strict rules. They argue that it

is crucial not to let fear stop progress. For AI boomers, the focus should be on taking advantage of AI's abilities, making sure that its benefits are available to the wider population, not just to the people at the top.

In contrast, AI doomers are concerned about the possible dangers and existential risks that AI could bring, especially as it becomes more advanced. AI doomers worry about situations where AI systems develop a higher level of intelligence, becoming uncontrollable and possibly putting people's lives at risk. **(18)** The main worry is that people might lose their jobs to AI, which might be able to perform faster, better and at a cheaper cost. **(19)** AI collects a lot of personal data, like browsing history and health records, which worries people about who controls it. Furthermore, AI-powered tools, like facial recognition, can track and monitor people without their permission.

Like in every situation, there are advantages and disadvantages. The only way to make good use of AI is to find a balanced way of using it that recognises its benefits as well as its risks. **(20)** They also stress the need for transparency, meaning that AI systems should be open and clear so people understand how they work and what they do. All this, however, wouldn't be enough without holding someone accountable for the outcomes when using AI.

- A.** Other concerns are linked to loss of privacy.
- B.** Even though a world ruled by AI is hard to believe, there are valid concerns related to more immediate issues.
- C.** It's necessary to know who is responsible for the effects of AI, both good and bad.
- D.** Unlike other technological advances, the use of AI is spreading fast across all sectors of the global population.
- E.** Today, artificial intelligence (AI) is the latest stage in this long-term discussion, splitting opinions.
- F.** To make this happen, both AI boomers and doomers focus on the importance of ethics - doing what's right and fair when creating and using AI.
- G.** This group of AI supporters doesn't disagree with the possibility of risks.
- H.** If governments, technologists, and society work together for the greater good.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								

Use of English

Task 5

Read the text below. For questions (21-26) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

Genealogy is a branch of history. It concerns family history, (21) than the national or world history studied at school. It doesn't merely involve drawing a family tree, however – tracing your family history can also (22) in learning about your roots and your identity. The internet enables millions of people worldwide to (23) information about their family history, without great (24)

People who research their family history often (25) that it's a fascinating hobby which (26) a lot about where they come from and whether they have famous ancestors. According to a survey involving 900 people who had researched their family history, the chances of discovering a celebrity in your past are one in ten. The survey also concluded that the further back you follow your family line, the more likely you are to find a relation who was much wealthier than you are. However, the vast majority of people who participated in the survey discovered they were better off than their ancestors.

	A	B	C	D
21	instead	rather	except	sooner
22	cause	mean	result	lead
23	accomplish	access	approach	admit
24	fee	price	charge	expense
25	describe	define	remark	regard
26	reveals	opens	begins	arises

Task 6

Read the text below. For questions (27-32) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

If any among you still doubt that David Beckham is an exceedingly smart cookie, members of the jury, (27) me to submit the clinching evidence. A few weeks ago, the Daily Mirror recently (28), he withdrew as an investor in his chum Gordon Ramsay's Union Street Cafe, which opened in Southwark on Monday. The Mirror did not explain why, (29) only that the two men 'wanted different things'. We could speculate for hours about what that means, but let me posit this theory: Beckham wanted a really good restaurant and Ramsay wanted something else. This is not to suggest he wanted a really bad restaurant. Eccentric (30) his psycho shtick may make him appear, he is not clinically insane, and

this newbie, his 10th in Britain, is **(31)** from atrocious. It would be more endearing, or at least more memorable if it were. What makes it so irksome is the so-what-ishness of this **(32)** brand-new restaurant.

	A	B	C	D
27	to allow	allow	allowing	allows
28	reports	reporting	reported	have reported
29	revealing	to reveal	reveals	revealed
30	like	as	so	that
31	farther	far	further	fars
32	would rather	to rather	rathers	rather