1 Exam Skills Trainer

Reading

Exam Strategy
When matching headings to paragraphs, you will need to look for both general clues and specific information. Look at the topic of the sentence, key words and use of tenses.

1 Read the strategy above. Then read the paragraph below and headings A–D. Choose the heading which best matches the paragraph.

The older generation seem to have chosen to forget so much about their past. It is obvious to a teenager that their parents must have made some mistakes in their youth, disagreed with their parents, listened to the 'wrong' music, or made the 'wrong' friends. But it is rare to find a parent who admits to it.

A Parents expect too much perfection from teens.
B Teens are unable to see a parent's point of view.
C Parents frustrate teens by denying their past.
D Teens should admit their mistakes to their parents.

2 Read the text about staying young. Match the headings (A–G) with the paragraphs (1–5). There are two extra headings.

1 ___ As people grow older, they often think back to the days of their youth. They remember the great friends of those days, great times together, and how bright the future looked. Of course, not everything was perfect – but it can look that way as we get older. And this can make people feel pessimistic and bitter.

2 ___ It doesn't need to be that way. There are many secrets to staying young in spirit well into old age. Why put up with feeling miserable when you can be enthusiastic instead? Here are some tips to keep you young at heart as you grow older.

3 ___ Relationships are extremely important. Family gives you comfort and support, and catching up with old friends can help older people to feel young. Making new friends is important too – but make sure they are optimistic, enthusiastic people.

4 ___ Bad things happen to all of us. We split up with a boyfriend or girlfriend, and later we may have to do a boring job for years. But don't think too much about negative things. Deal with them, and get on with your life.

5 ___ Always keep special things around you, like family photos or favourite possessions – and be grateful that you can enjoy them. Thank your loved ones daily for sharing your life too. When you see the pleasure on their faces, you will never feel old – even in your eighties!

A The importance of people in your life
B Ageing can be a positive experience
C You can choose to stay young
D Appreciate the things and people in your life
E Looking back can make old people feel bad
F Getting over the negatives and moving on
G Even pessimists can have friends

Listening

Exam Strategy
Incorrect options often contain language that is similar to words in the text, so it is important to listen carefully to the whole text, and not just match words or phrases that the speaker uses to the options.

3 Read the strategy above. Then read the short extract and the question below it. Choose the correct answer (A–C). What makes the other options incorrect?

I used to think my childhood was great because both my parents were in the army and we were travelling around all the time. It was fantastic to see so many cool places, but now I realise that I missed out on getting to know my family back home in America.

The speaker says that the way she grew up ...
A brought her closer to friends and family.
B was fantastic in every way.
C caused problems that she did not see at the time.

4 1.17 You will hear six short extracts. There is one question for each extract. Choose the best answer (A–C).

1 What does Cara say about the incident that happened when she was two?
A She remembers it clearly.
B It still affects her today.
C She blames her parents for it.

2 What point does the speaker make?
A That young people are not reliable friends.
B That making friends is easier for young people than for adults.
C That young people end friendships more quickly than adults.

3 Who is the speaker?
A a hairdresser
B a customer at a hairdresser's
C a fashion reporter

4 How does the woman explain why she likes audio books?
A Her father records them.
B They bring back a good feeling.
C They helped her learn to read.

5 What does the woman say about the sport she liked at school?
A Her children are better at it than she was.
B She was never very good at it.
C She has stopped playing it.

6 Where is the speaker?
A in a classroom
B at a job training centre
C in a library

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1 Exam Skills Trainer

Use of English

Exam Strategy
If you are not sure of an answer, first eliminate all of the options that you know to be incorrect. Then read all of the choices in context. Decide which option sounds best in the context.

5 Read the strategy above. Then choose the correct option (A–C) to complete the text.

People's interests change and develop *over* time and they often like different activities [1]___ different stages of their lives. Children and teenagers, for example, often enjoy doing activities that they find exciting, like rollerblading or skateboarding. When people settle down and start [2]___ family, they may prefer relaxing activities, such as reading magazines or listening to music. Many people who [3]___ playing computer games as children later lose interest. But what about those who [4]___ stop playing them? What [5]___ some people stick with certain activities throughout their lives? Perhaps [6]___ people simply choose not to grow up. But it's more likely that if a child [7]___ an activity which helps them to relax in difficult times, they will carry on doing it. All of us have different ways of relaxing, and playing computer games can be [8]___ as good as meeting friends or playing sports for some people.

1 A in	B at	C while
2 A –	B a	C the
3 A have started	B started	C start
4 A since	B ever	C never
5 A makes	B does	C brings
6 A some	B more	C much
7 A is finding	B finds	C find
8 A exactly	B like	C just

Speaking

Exam Strategy
During the role-play conversation task, you need to lead the conversation. To help you with this, use your preparation time to think of ideas for each topic and phrases that you could use when speaking. Think about ways you can introduce the next topic into the conversation.

6 Read the strategy above. Then read the task below. Think of one or two ideas for each topic. Make notes.

Your local sports centre has several different sport clubs for students. Your friend is trying to decide which sport club to join. Help him / her to choose a sport and give him / her some advice on the following:

- Why it is a good sport for him / her.
- How often he / she should do the sport.
- What clothes and equipment he / she needs.

7 Complete the sentences using the words below. There are two extra words you don't need.

about advice better don't idea ought should to

1 You _____ to start playing football.
2 What do you think I _____ do?
3 I _____ think you should play ice hockey.
4 I'd really like some _____ on what sport to play.
5 Do you think I ought _____ buy some new trainers?
6 Thinking _____ the equipment, it would be better to borrow a racket.

8 Work in pairs. Imagine the following situation. Your friend from another town is coming to stay with your family for two weeks over the summer holidays. Give him / her some advice. Discuss the following points:

- What he / she should pack for the visit.
- Activities you could do together.
- Advice on staying with your family.
- What sports he / she can do in your town.

Swap roles and repeat the Speaking activity.

Writing

Exam Strategy
When writing a message, use an informal writing style, and keep the writing text short.

9 Read the strategy above. Then read sentences 1–3 below. Choose the option (A–C) that is the *least* suitable style for a message.

1 _____ left my mobile in your bag.
A Sorry, but I
B I am writing to tell you that I
C I'm afraid I accidentally

2 _____ my mum calls me on it.
A I'd like to get it back soon as
B I need it back soon because
C I'd be grateful to get it back soon since

3 _____ collect it, please?
A When can I
B Could you kindly let me know when I can
C When is a good time to

10 Imagine the following situation. You were visiting a friend at the weekend and you left a book at their house. Write a message to him / her where you ask him / her to return the book to you. Include the following information:

- What kind of book it is.
- Why the book is important to you.
- Where in his / her house you left it.
- Where and when you want to meet him / her.

LIVEWORKSHEETS