19 POINTS OF VIEW

VOCABULARY Opinions and beliefs

1 **Match the words and phrases to the meanings.**

1 firmly believe in .....
2 there is no doubt .....
3 hard to deny .....
4 be convinced by .....
5 as far as X is concerned .....
6 bear in mind .....
7 go along with .....
8 keep an open mind .....
9 to my mind .....
10 be totally against .....
11 suspect .....
12 your view on .....

a be willing to consider new ideas or opinions
b be confident that something is good
c be persuaded by
d remember or consider something
e in my opinion
f it is certain
g in X's opinion
h think that something is probably true
i disagree entirely with
j your opinion of
k difficult to disprove / disagree with
l agree with

2 **Complete the sentences with the words in Exercise 1.**

1 He wasn't _____ by my arguments.
2 That, _____, is not a practical suggestion.
3 I hope his age _____ totally _____ him in the election.
4 What's _____ the government's youth policy?
5 We don't often agree, but I'd _____ you there!
6 There _____ that Simon has worked very hard on this project.
7 _____ concerned, you can do what you want.
8 I always try to _____ about new ideas.
9 It's _____ that this job is going to take longer than expected.
10 When I'm arguing with somebody, I always try to _____ that I might be wrong.
11 He _____ democracy, and I _____ that he always will.

3 **Complete the sentences so that they are true for you.**

1 I firmly believe in _____
2 I am totally against _____
3 I'm keeping an open mind about _____

READING



1 **Read the title of the article and the first paragraph quickly. Where do you think the article is from?**

a a textbook
b a newspaper
c a magazine

PREPARE FOR THE EXAM

Reading and Use of English Part 6

2 **You are going to read an article about two systems of thought. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A–G the one which fits each gap (1–6). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.**

A However, it is *system 2* which actually plays more of a secondary role in our lives.

B This phenomenon can also lead to the common mistaken idea that your successful decisions demonstrate your skill and talent.

C Every year businesses pay billions of dollars to try to answer these questions.

D In one study, volunteers were monitored with brain-scanning equipment.

E This has led some scientists to claim that we have no control over our own mind.

F It's a slow thought process that requires us to pay attention and concentrate.

G Nowadays, we still have the ability to react rapidly and naturally to situations.

EXAM TIPS

- Read the text and the sentences A–G for their general meaning.
- Look for links in the sentences before and after each gap in the text.
- Underline the important words and phrases in the sentences A–G and look for linking words.
- Read through the whole text with your answers in place to check it makes sense.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

TWO SYSTEMS OF THOUGHT

How good are we at predicting what people will do – what magazine they will buy, what music they will download or what shoes they will choose for a party? [1] But we are still not very good at it. When it comes to human behaviour, the brain has been shown to have two different approaches to thinking. It doesn't matter how old you are or how confident you're feeling, it's all about what system your brain is using at the time.

The most common thought process is the automatic and fast approach which helps us to react quickly in dangerous situations. This is known as *system 1*, and dates back to the times of our prehistoric ancestors, who lived with a natural awareness of the dangers around them – bad weather, falling rocks and trees, and threatening animals. [2] Often it can feel like you're not thinking at all. Have you ever found yourself giving in to temptation and unable to say 'no' to buying that new jacket in the window? This is because *system 1* is in control – a human characteristic which the world of advertising tries to exploit!

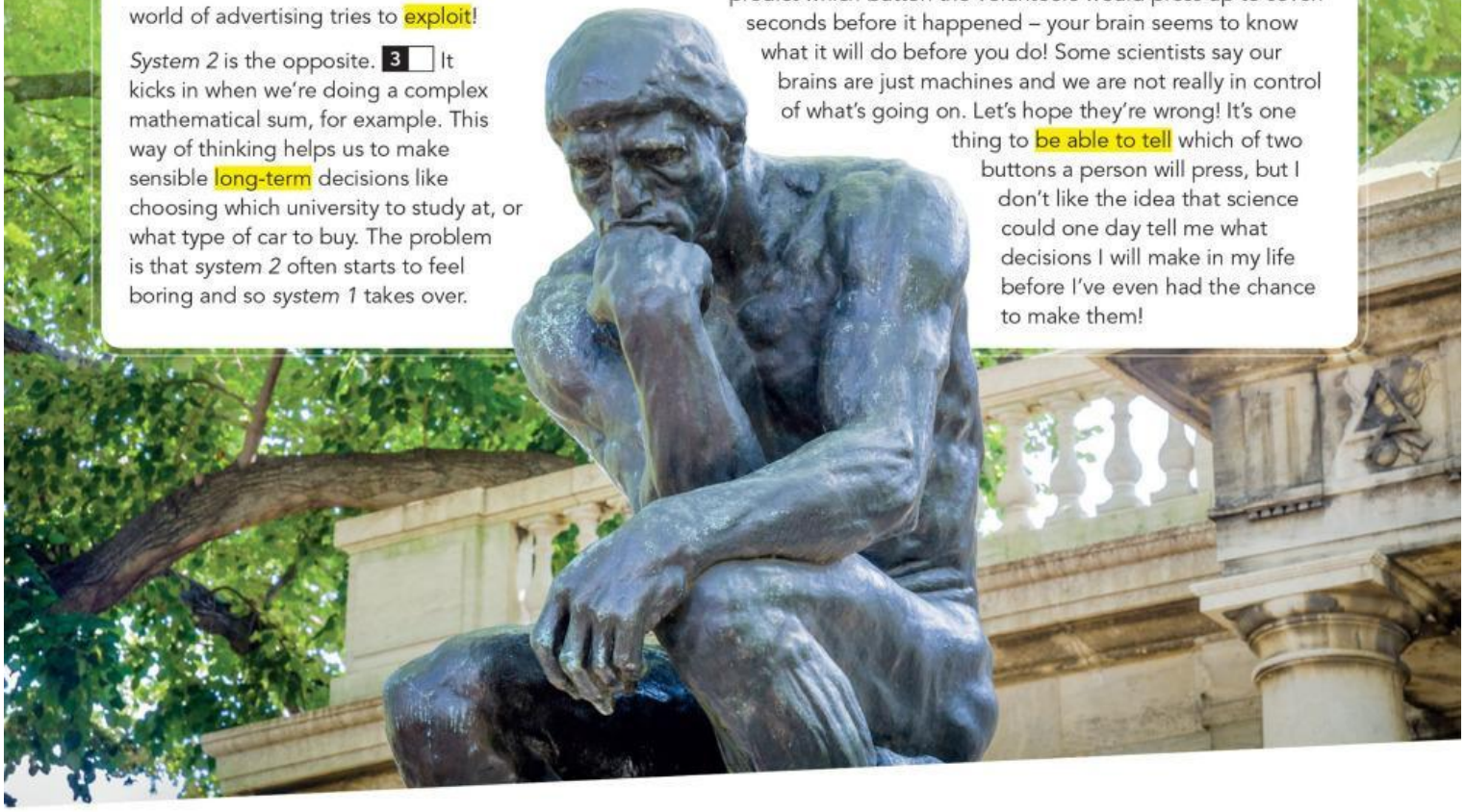
System 2 is the opposite. [3] It kicks in when we're doing a complex mathematical sum, for example. This way of thinking helps us to make sensible long-term decisions like choosing which university to study at, or what type of car to buy. The problem is that *system 2* often starts to feel boring and so *system 1* takes over.

How often have you put down your homework or put off doing important jobs to go on social media or watch a TV soap?

We like to think that we go through life mainly using *system 2*. As individuals, we believe we are in control, always taking sensible and logical decisions. *System 1* type thoughts are reserved for special occasions when we can afford to relax a little – on holiday perhaps. [4] It behaves a bit like a supporting actor in a film who believes himself to be the leading character – but actually has little idea of what's going on!

Sometimes it's *system 1* that makes the right decision and *system 2* that gets it wrong. For example, professional sports teams put a lot of effort into a game plan, but often it's the unconscious human wish to do something differently that leads to a spectacular goal. [5] In actual fact, they are often just luck.

Perhaps one day scientists will be able to predict what decisions people will make by measuring neural activity. [6] They were asked to press either a left or a right button whenever they wanted. The researchers found they could predict which button the volunteers would press up to seven seconds before it happened – your brain seems to know what it will do before you do! Some scientists say our brains are just machines and we are not really in control of what's going on. Let's hope they're wrong! It's one thing to be able to tell which of two buttons a person will press, but I don't like the idea that science could one day tell me what decisions I will make in my life before I've even had the chance to make them!



3 **Match the highlighted words in the article to the meanings.**

1 know or recognise something from what you hear, see, etc. .....
2 ways of doing something .....
3 continuing a considerable time into the future .....
4 very important or most important .....
5 use or develop something to your advantage .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS