

# Insight Upper-intermediate Progress Test

## A Grammar

Read the sentence and choose the correct answer.

- 1 Cathy \_\_\_ something, when Henry came through the door.  
A  was to say  
B  would say  
C  was about to say
- 2 Anna spent \_\_\_ money on her exercise bike. It was really expensive.  
A  hardly any  
B  far too much  
C  no
- 3 Ed is a determined child. \_\_\_ once he's started something.  
A  He's never giving up  
B  He never gave up  
C  He'll never give up
- 4 Be honest with me, how \_\_\_ students have finished the homework?  
A  many  
B  much  
C  some
- 5 My neighbour \_\_\_ the drums. It's incredibly annoying.  
A  is forever playing  
B  forever plays  
C  would forever play
- 6 The inventor didn't predict how their invention \_\_\_ people 100 years later.  
A  were about to affect  
B  would affect  
C  were to affect

## B Grammar

Complete the sentence with the correct form of the word in brackets.

- 1 'I'm going to make you \_\_\_\_\_ (sweat),' shouted the fitness instructor.
- 2 We've got maths four times \_\_\_\_\_ (article or -) week.
- 3 I \_\_\_\_\_ (not / used to / have) my tea without sugar. I prefer it sweet.
- 4 Ajay, when you were younger, \_\_\_\_\_ (used to / visit) your grandparents often?
- 5 Anjali tried \_\_\_\_\_ (beat) her opponent, but in the end couldn't achieve it.
- 6 Some people enjoy writing \_\_\_\_\_ (article or -) journals.

## C Vocabulary

Complete the sentence with the correct form of the word in brackets.

- 1 Piotr made a \_\_\_\_\_ (commit) to help his friend with his studies.
- 2 Cathy showed \_\_\_\_\_ (determine) to finish her tennis match even though she was tired.
- 3 It was a \_\_\_\_\_ (disappoint) to Tom to not get tickets for the rugby match.
- 4 The invention of the fridge was an \_\_\_\_\_ (innovate) way to store food.
- 5 Anna showed \_\_\_\_\_ (control) when she said goodbye to her family at the airport.
- 6 Rainfall increased by \_\_\_\_\_ (increment) amounts, rising by one centimetre each day.

## D Vocabulary

Read the sentence and choose the correct answer.

- 1 Since we were having a great conversation, I didn't \_\_\_ that it had started to rain.  
A  mind  
B  screen  
C  cause
- 2 Some people suffer from \_\_\_ during periods where there is little sunshine.  
A  depression  
B  imperfection  
C  addiction
- 3 He ordered a salad, but decided to \_\_\_ and have a sandwich instead.  
A  be in two minds  
B  give a piece of his mind  
C  change his mind
- 4 I bought a larger computer \_\_\_ so that I can play games more easily.  
A  engineer  
B  screen  
C  mind
- 5 Ed suffers from \_\_\_, which means he can't see things that are far away.  
A  disability  
B  aggression  
C  short-sightedness
- 6 Priya has \_\_\_ to visit her cousins in Malaysia next year.  
A  made up her mind  
B  taken her mind off  
C  given a piece of her mind

## E Reading

Read the article about method acting and choose the correct answer for each question.

### Method acting

You may have heard this term before, or you may not. For the latter, method acting is where actors try to get inside the minds and lives of the characters they're playing on screen. Pre-filming, they recommend spending time considering how their character might behave in different situations, in order to 'become' them. They may even live like their character as they get ready for filming. Method isn't the most popular technique because of the preparation required, but some believe the effort is worthwhile.

Method acting has been around for ages yet it hasn't become the most adopted approach. Some say this is due to the demands it puts on an actor to master it (not that this puts some off it), and the effect it has in real life long after filming has stopped must be considerable. I think this is outweighed by the fact that, in general, working with method actors is more challenging, which limits opportunities. A number of directors have complained about losing control when working with method actors.

What do actors say about method acting? A handful of famous faces are well known for following the approach and have at times had fun made of themselves because of it. But others say they aren't method actors, they've found it exhausting when they've attempted it, and they prefer to fall back on more general acting techniques that don't require 'taking the character home' and making them part of their lives. Their methods are no less effective, they say.

Some actors appear to take method acting too far. One such actor got rid of almost everything he owned to better perform the role of a poverty-struck musician. This, he said, enabled him to feel what his character might have felt, and helped him give the performance of a lifetime. Clearly, this actor felt it necessary to take things to extremes, but is going to such lengths for acting really worth it? Can audiences tell the difference? Probably not.

We rarely even notice good acting, but we might notice when things don't go so well. This could be the plot, the dialogue, the acting itself. It's not that we don't appreciate a good piece of acting, but we wouldn't necessarily know the difference between an actor who's looked inside himself to find the necessary skills, and one who's lived unwashed in a caravan for weeks as his character has. The only time we may notice method acting is when an actor is playing a historical figure, or celebrity. Then, we can appreciate the similarity and understand the efforts the actor must have gone to, to speak and move like the person they're playing.

A few actors have started to speak out against method acting. 'If you're playing a killer, you can't go round preparing for that,' says one. 'It's ridiculous,' says another, 'Just act!' Some report that not only is method acting potentially dangerous (on occasion, actors have even made themselves ill by following strange diets or extreme sports during preparations), it can also disrupt the filming process on set. 'If an actor refuses to step out of the role during breaks, you may have to deal with a bit of an idiot ...' says one actor.

- 1 What is the main purpose of the introduction?  
A  To explain why a well-known technique is used in filming  
B  To recommend a well-known technique  
C  To provide a definition of a well-known technique
- 2 What is the main reason that the writer feels that method acting isn't more common?  
A  There are fewer acting roles for those who like method acting.  
B  It is very difficult to maintain the role after filming has stopped.  
C  Method acting takes much longer to become really good at.
- 3 What does the writer suggest in the third paragraph?  
A  Some well-known actors say they really enjoy method acting.  
B  Method acting can have a negative impact on actors' personal lives.  
C  Other acting techniques are not as successful as method acting.

- 4 What does the writer say about one famous method actor?
- A  He believed his preparations would enable him to do well in a role.  
B  His preparations for the role were fairly typical of method acting.  
C  He needn't have prepared for this particular role so thoroughly.
- 5 What does the writer say about audiences?
- A  They particularly enjoy seeing movies where actors play well-known people.  
B  They have difficulty distinguishing between method and ordinary acting.  
C  They tend to focus too much on the poorer aspects of a performance.
- 6 Why does the writer include quotes from actors in the final paragraph?
- A  To highlight the kinds of things that often go wrong in preparations  
B  To support the argument that method acting is unnecessary  
C  To explain why the majority of actors now refuse to do method acting

## F Listening

 Listen to a man called Max who is talking about his visit to South America. Choose the correct answer for each question.

- 1 Max decided to travel abroad in order to \_\_\_\_.
- A  achieve an ambition of his  
B  learn more about himself  
C  test out a popular theory
- 2 Max chose where to start his journey by \_\_\_\_.
- A  thinking about the countries he did not want to miss  
B  considering the time he had available  
C  finding out where he could fly to from his home
- 3 Max was keen to avoid simply being a tourist because \_\_\_\_.
- A  he hoped to learn about the people in the places he went to  
B  he wanted to improve his language skills by talking to locals  
C  he was unsure about how interesting tourist sites would be
- 4 When Max arrived in Colombia, he initially felt \_\_\_\_.
- A  nervous about the situation in which he found himself  
B  surprised by how familiar the surroundings seemed  
C  confident that he would soon meet other travellers
- 5 Max says that using public transport \_\_\_\_.
- A  usually went according to plan  
B  led to some unexpected adventures  
C  was the only way he could afford to travel
- 6 Max says that his trip was challenging and \_\_\_\_.
- A  he didn't have much time to think about things  
B  he didn't learn as much as had expected to  
C  he didn't enjoy spending so much time alone