Reading Module

UNIMINUTO
Corporación Universitaria Minuto de Dios
Bachelor Program in Foreign Languages Teaching

Name and Date

Reading Part 1

1 Read the text message and choose the correct answer (**A**, **B**, or **C**).

Leila. Sorry to hear your heating isn't working. As you said, it'll get very cold later this week so you really should get it fixed. Let me know if I can help. Akram.

Why did Akram send Leila a text message?

- ☐ to apologize about something
- ☐ to encourage her to do something
- ☐ to warn her about something

2 Read the advert and choose the correct answer (**A**, **B**, or **C**).

Southside Fitness Club

Join before next Friday and enjoy free club membership until 1st September. Full range of gym equipment and fitness classes available. Click here for more details.

What does the advert say?

- ☐ You can't become a member of this club before 1st September.
- ☐ You don't need to become a member to use some of the club's facilities.
- ☐ You don't have to pay anything to become a club member at the moment.

3 Read the email and choose the correct answer (**A**, **B**, or **C**).

FROM: **Anna**
TO: **Roberto**

Could you come round later today? I've just bought a new printer and I'm having problems installing it. I can't really follow the instructions and I'm a bit worried about damaging it.

Why is Anna writing to Roberto?

- ☐ She has lost the instructions for the printer.
- ☐ She wants help with the printer.
- ☐ She has broken the printer.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 Read the note and choose the correct answer (**A**, **B**, or **C**).

Miguel

Amir rang. He said he was sorry for not answering your email. He'd like a meeting about the project. Perhaps you could ring him back when it's convenient.

Kristina

What does Kristina say Miguel should do?

- ☐ return Amir's phone call
- ☐ attend a meeting with Amir
- ☐ reply to the email Amir sent

5 Read the notice and choose the correct answer (**A**, **B**, or **C**).

Lost Property

There are a number of items of lost property still available for collection from the school office. If any of these items belong to you, you must collect them by the end of next week.

What does the notice say?

- ☐ The lost property office will be closed next week.
- ☐ There is a limited time to pick up any lost property.
- ☐ Students should take lost property to the school office.

6 Read the blog entry and choose the correct answer (**A**, **B**, or **C**).

I saw Bounce play yesterday. No, they haven't split up and there's nothing else like them. We couldn't always hear the voices – equipment issues – but that didn't bother the fans. They went crazy as usual. That's what Bounce are all about.

What does the blogger say was wrong with the concert?

- ☐ the performance of the band
- ☐ the attitude of the audience
- ☐ the quality of the sound

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Reading Part 2

The people below are looking for a working holiday. Read the information about the people and the holidays, and choose the best holiday (A, B, C, or D) for each person.

Working Holidays

A Nairobi
This two-week project in Nairobi, Kenya, is specially designed for families, although couples are also welcome. The work includes walking and driving through the area as you try to spot individual rhinos, record the movement of giraffes, and study the behaviour of elephants. It could transform your family from computer addicts into active environmentalists. Simple accommodation and food is provided, but not flights.

B Liverpool
In this one-week working holiday for adults, you will be clearing the banks of the river Mersey in Liverpool, England. Plants here are growing out of control and causing problems for both wildlife and boats, so you will be digging them up and burning them on the beach nearby. If you are interested, you can also join beach-cleaning parties run by local women and take part in a sea-bird survey. Meals and good quality accommodation are included.

C Languedoc
Organic World is a project that brings volunteers and producers of organic food together. The idea is simple: you provide the hard work and your English-speaking host provides meals and basic accommodation. The farm is in Languedoc, France and is situated in the mountains, not far from the sea. You will help to grow organic vegetables, carry out general repairs on equipment, and feed the sheep and chickens. Volunteers are welcome to stay as long as they like.

D Maissade
The Family Centre in the town of Maissade, Haiti, provides daycare for children. This means that their mothers can work on local farms to support their families. The project is open all year round and the Centre only takes volunteers for a minimum of three weeks. Beginners' conversation classes are organized so that volunteers are able to talk to the children they are working with, and the accommodation provided is with families in the town. Weekend trips to the surrounding countryside are also available – a great opportunity to see the interesting wildlife of Haiti.

1
Anna, who is taking a break from her job, would like to work on an environmental project. She wants to stay somewhere comfortable, preferably near the seaside. ____

2
Bindu is a college student and she would like to go on a working holiday for a month. She is keen to get involved in something to make other people's lives better. She has done babysitting in the past but would like to gain more experience. ____

3
Helen would love to work on a wildlife project with her husband, Andrew. They want to take a fortnight's break from their jobs to learn something interesting. ____

4
William is a student at agricultural college and would like to take part in a project that will offer practical experience related to his studies. He wants to stay for a month and would like to try a variety of jobs. ____

5
Jola would like to be involved in a project helping other women. She's interested in learning a new language and would prefer to stay with local people. ____

6
Paul wants a working holiday for himself and his fourteen-year-old daughter Caroline, who would like to train as a vet when she leaves school. They are looking for a scientific outdoor project that will be of value in Caroline's future studies. ____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Reading Part 3

Six sentences are missing from this text. Choose the correct sentence (A–G) for each gap (1–6). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Balloon adventures

Sandy Thompson looks at the history of cluster ballooning.

The first ever balloon flight carrying passengers was made in 1783 by the Montgolfier brothers. They used hot air to float the balloon over 1000m into the sky. Now, the latest ballooning sport is called 'cluster ballooning'; instead of hot air, helium gas is used, and instead of one big balloon, hundreds of small balloons are used.

One cluster balloon enthusiast is James Ede. In one of his recent adventures, James flew his cluster balloons across the largest area of mountains in Europe, the Alps. This was not his first flight, though. .....[1] Now, his greatest love is to go on cluster ballooning adventures.

According to James, there is no better way to fly. "Cluster ballooning is spectacular and is quite different from the first balloon flights. .....[2] As a result, it's possible to hear things that are many kilometres away".

Today, cluster ballooning is a safe way to travel, but that wasn't the case for the first ever cluster balloon flight. The first person to do it was a truck driver called Larry Walters. Larry had wanted to fly from a very early age and he was just a boy when he first thought of using balloons to do this. .....[3]

One day, Larry decided to do an experiment. He wanted to try to fly a few metres above his garden, so he bought forty-five balloons, filled them with helium gas and tied them to a garden chair. He sat in the chair and cut the rope holding it to the ground. .....[4] Instead of only rising a few metres, the chair – with Larry sitting in it – floated over 3km into the sky.

Larry floated above the clouds for hours, with no control over the balloons. Although he had a bottle of water with him, unluckily for him he wasn't wearing a coat. .....[5] Larry realized that he might freeze if he didn't do something soon.

The wind was strong and Larry began to float towards the sea. Things were getting dangerous, but suddenly the wind changed. .....[6] Soon the balloons were back safely on the ground. It had been an amazing adventure and the story of the flight soon became big news. The sport of cluster ballooning was born.

A As the temperature dropped, the situation became more serious.

B But there was an unexpected problem.

C It started to blow him towards the local airport.

D Old-fashioned hot-air balloons made a terrible noise, but cluster balloons tend to be totally silent.

E In fact, it was the most incredible thing he'd ever done.

F He'd always been interested in flying and gained his pilot's licence many years ago.

G However, it took almost twenty years for the dream to finally come true.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Reading Part 4

Read the article about television. For each question (**1–4**), choose the correct answer (**A**, **B**, or **C**).

Is television a good thing?

Graham Astley investigates the effects of television.

Last month, high school teacher Charles Tandy gave away his television. "I'm not the sort of person who thinks that television is a complete waste of time – some programmes can actually be quite educational," he says. "I just wanted to be able to have more conversations with my friends and family, and TV prevents you doing that." He is not alone in worrying about television. Many parents, for example, feel that a lot of programmes aren't suitable for their children.

But some experts are now arguing that television is making the world a better place. Paul Wood, an Australian psychologist, has studied the effect of TV in many different countries. He says that educational programmes don't bring many benefits. However, popular dramas about everyday life are helping to improve people's lives in various ways. He says, for example, that such programmes increase understanding about the sorts of problems that teenagers have, particularly ones that damage their education.

Lucan Hobbs, professor of media studies, says that the issues that surround TV may be even wider. "In some countries, popular music competitions and reality shows have made many people believe that anyone can be famous, even though this may not be true. This is having a big effect on the way young people see society and could continue to do so in the future," he says.

There may be one final reason why people see TV differently. Over the last 50 or 60 years, the world has learned to deal with TV. We realize that it can bring a few benefits and we are no longer afraid of it. But now there is something else to consider – the internet. By comparison, the gentle television set in the corner of every sitting room seems almost friendly.

1 Why did Charles Tandy get rid of his television?
- ☐ He thought television was bad for his children.
- ☐ He preferred to spend his time talking to people.
- ☐ He was disappointed with the quality of programmes.

2 What does Paul Wood say about TV?
- ☐ Its effects are different from country to country.
- ☐ It should be used more widely by school teachers.
- ☐ It can bring a range of benefits to society.

3 Lucan Hobbs thinks that television …
- ☐ is changing the way young people think.
- ☐ is becoming more popular with young people.
- ☐ is making a lot of young people famous.

4 What is the writer's main point in the last paragraph?
- ☐ The internet reaches a lot more people than TV.
- ☐ The internet will change the way people watch TV.
- ☐ The internet may bring more problems for people than TV.

LIVEWORKSHEETS