B1 READING & VOCABULARY PRACTICE

TOPICS: LIFE STORIES AND SCIENTISTS

Name: ..... **Class:** ..... **Date:** .....

Target vocabulary: graduate, forgive, passion, ambitious, achieve, challenge, adversity, prestige, mindset, contribute, influence, professional, courageous, background.

PART A. READING – CHOOSE WORDS TO FILL IN THE GAPS

Exercise 1. A Life of Determination

When Maria was young, she came from a poor (1) _____. Her family could not afford many books, but she had a strong (2) _____ for learning. She was very (3) _____ and dreamed of becoming a doctor. At school, she faced many (4) _____, but she did not give up. She believed that a positive (5) _____ could help her overcome difficulties. After years of hard work, she managed to (6) _____ her goal and became a respected medical (7) _____.

Word bank: background | passion | ambitious | challenges | mindset | achieve | professional

Exercise 2. A Scientist Who Changed the World

Dr. James Carter was a (1) _____ scientist whose research helped improve clean-water systems. He worked hard to make a useful (2) _____ to society. His discoveries (3) _____ the way many engineers designed water filters. Although he experienced serious (4) _____ during his early career, he remained (5) _____ and continued his research. Today, his work is respected for its scientific (6) _____ and its positive effect on millions of people.

Word bank: courageous | contribution | influenced | adversity | ambitious | prestige

Exercise 3. Learning from Mistakes

After graduating from university, Linh started her first job in a research laboratory. At first, she found the work difficult because every experiment was a new (1) _____. When a colleague made a mistake, Linh chose to (2) _____ him and helped him correct it. She understood that a successful team needs patience and a growth (3) _____. Over time, their teamwork helped them (4) _____ important results. Linh later became a leading (5) _____ in her field and encouraged young people to follow their (6) _____.

Word bank: challenge | forgive | mindset | achieve | professional | passion

PART B. MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

Choose the best answer A, B, C, or D.

Exercise 4. Life Stories

1. My sister is very _____. She has set a goal of becoming a successful engineer.
   A. ambitious B. ordinary C. careless D. nervous

2. Although he faced many difficulties, he had the courage to continue. The word “adversity” is closest in meaning to _____.
   A. success B. hardship C. advice D. opportunity

3. After four years at university, she hopes to _____ with a degree in biology.
   A. forgive B. influence C. graduate D. contribute

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4. A positive _____ helps people learn from failure instead of giving up.
A. mindset B. background C. prestige D. passion

5. The young athlete worked hard to _____ her dream of competing internationally.
A. achieve B. forgive C. influence D. graduate

Exercise 5. Scientists and Their Contributions

1. Marie Curie made an important _____ to science through her research on radioactivity.
A. contribution B. challenge C. background D. mindset

2. A scientist's discoveries can _____ how people understand the natural world.
A. forgive B. influence C. graduate D. achieve

3. The award brought great _____ to the university and its research team.
A. adversity B. passion C. prestige D. challenge

4. It was _____ of the young researcher to speak up about a problem in the laboratory.
A. courageous B. ordinary C. careless D. impatient

5. Many scientists have a strong _____ for discovering how things work.
A. passion B. background C. prestige D. forgiveness

READING 1. MARIE CURIE – A COURAGEOUS SCIENTIST

Marie Curie was born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1867. Her family valued education, but life was not easy. At that time, women had limited opportunities to study at universities in Poland. Marie was ambitious and had a strong passion for science, so she moved to Paris to continue her education. She studied physics and mathematics at the Sorbonne. There, she met Pierre Curie, a scientist who later became her husband and research partner. Together, they investigated radioactivity and discovered two new elements: polonium and radium. Their work made an important contribution to science. Marie became the first woman to win a Nobel Prize and the first person to win Nobel Prizes in two different scientific fields. Despite many challenges, she continued her research with a determined mindset. Her life story shows how courage and hard work can help people achieve great goals.

1. Where was Marie Curie born?
A. Paris B. Warsaw C. London D. Rome

2. Why did Marie move to Paris?
A. To meet Pierre B. To find a job C. To continue her education D. To visit her family

3. What did Marie and Pierre Curie discover?
A. Two new elements B. A new planet C. A vaccine D. A new machine

4. What was special about Marie Curie's Nobel Prizes?
A. She won one in literature B. She was the youngest winner C. She won them with her husband
D. She won in two scientific fields

5. What is the main message of the passage?
A. Science is only for men B. Hard work and courage help people reach goals C. Moving abroad is always easy D. Scientists never face difficulties

READING 2. ALBERT EINSTEIN – A CREATIVE MIND

Albert Einstein was born in Ulm, Germany, in 1879. As a child, he was curious about the world and enjoyed asking questions. He did not always do well in every school subject, but he had a special interest in mathematics and physics. After studying in Switzerland, he worked at a patent office. In his free time, he continued thinking about scientific problems. In 1905, often called his “miracle year”, he published several

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important scientific papers, including one about the special theory of relativity. His ideas later influenced modern physics and changed the way people understand space, time, and energy. Einstein received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1921 for his explanation of the photoelectric effect. He also spoke out for peace and encouraged people to use knowledge responsibly. Although he became a world-famous scientist, he remained interested in learning throughout his life. His story reminds us that curiosity, patience, and a positive mindset are important for achievement.

1. Where was Albert Einstein born?
   A. Switzerland B. Germany C. France D. Austria

2. Where did Einstein work after studying?
   A. At a hospital B. At a school C. At a patent office D. At a newspaper

3. What happened in 1905?
   A. He published several important scientific papers B. He won the Nobel Prize C. He moved to the United States D. He became a teacher

4. Why did Einstein receive the Nobel Prize in Physics?
   A. For the theory of relativity B. For discovering radium C. For his work on electricity D. For explaining the photoelectric effect

5. What does the passage suggest is important for achievement?
   A. Being famous B. Having many friends C. Curiosity and patience D. Avoiding difficult questions

READ AND CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER :

1

From: Sofia
To: David
Hi from Oslo! I'm having such fun skiing in the mountains. Here are some photos I took.
See you on Saturday!

A Sofia is writing to tell David when she will see him.
B Sofia is writing to send David some pictures.
C Sofia is writing to tell David where she is going on holiday.

2

To: Paula
From: Ian
Call me this evening after your biology class. My mobile phone isn't working, so here's my landline: 067123456.

A Ian wants Paula to call him at home.
B Ian wants Paula to call him on his mobile.
C Ian wants Paula to call him after his biology class.

3

Customers can apply to become gym members online.
Please collect ID cards from the gym.

A People can get their gym ID cards online.
B People can apply to become members only on the internet.
C People can only apply for membership at the gym.

4

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Hi George,
The new technology centre is opening this weekend. I wonder if it will have cool things.
Let me know before Friday.
Kelly

What does George need to do?

A visit the technology centre at the weekend
B tell Kelly if the technology centre is open this weekend
C tell Kelly if he can go to the technology centre this weekend

5

Sports store
All trainers half price!
New season football kit in!
New sports equipment!

A You pay less for all clothes at the store.
B You can only buy trainers at the store.
C You can find clothes for different seasons at the store

6

Weekly meeting
Change of day and time: Tuesday, not Monday.
Be there at 9.30 a.m.!

A The meeting is on Monday at 9.30 a.m.
B The meeting doesn't usually start at 9.30 a.m.
C There is a meeting every Tuesday morning.

7

Hi Jon,
Sorry to hear you can't make today's meeting. Shall we try for tomorrow? What about after the business lunch at 3.00 p.m.?
Hank

A Hank is inviting Jon to a business lunch.
B Hank is busy today and wants to change the meeting time.
C Hank is suggesting a new time for the meeting.

8 DO NOT ENTER!
Staff and business visitors only.
No customers past this sign.

A Nobody can enter here.
B Some people can enter here.
C Customers can go past this sign.

9. **To**: Janet
From: Tina
Dear Janet,
Michaers sick. Could you take notes at the meeting? I know you're busy, so it's OK to say no.

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Regards,
Tina

A Janet is busy and cannot take notes at the meeting.
B Michael is sick and cannot take notes at the meeting.
C Tina thinks Janet can take notes at the meeting.

10.

FOR SALE: PIANO
Perfect working order
Beautiful sound
Some small marks
Call: 0777654321

A The piano is nearly as good as new.
B The piano is as beautiful as a new one.
C Someone will deliver the piano if you call this number.

11

Hi Sissie,
Guess what! Cindy's coming back to town!
She's arriving at 5 and then we're getting something to eat. Want to join us?
Tracy

A Cindy is coming to town for the first time.
B Tracy and Sissie are getting something to eat at five.
C Tracy is inviting Sissie for a meal.

12.

ZOO
Under 14s have to be with an adult. School groups must take guided tour.

A A fourteen-year-old cannot go to the zoo without an adult.
B A school group cannot visit the zoo with a guide.
C A school group can only visit the zoo if they have a tour.

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