Read Evan's blog about beekeeping.

Answer the questions below.

Being with Bees

It's a warm afternoon in late August, and I am standing in a beautiful garden which is full of scent and colour. My grandad is walking towards me wearing overalls, knee-high boots and long gloves. A round frame of net surrounds his head. Against the sunshine, the shape he makes reminds me of a character from a scary science fiction film.

In fact, the odd outfits that both of us are wearing are simply necessary protection against bee stings while we harvest honey from his three beehives, where his bees live.

I have loved watching Grandad look after his hives ever since I was a young child. Now I want to become his beekeeping apprentice. I am keen to take up this hobby since I have now finished my maths degree and have started working full-time for a bank. I am already saving up to buy my first hive.

This will be our second, and final, harvest of the year. Our previous one, a few weeks ago, produced 15 jars of honey. Grandad expects to get even more this time. When we harvest honey, we only take the extra honey that the bees have made. We need to leave plenty behind for the bees to feed on over winter. Knowing the best window of time for harvesting is essential. If we harvest too early, we will miss out on lots of delicious fresh honey, but if we harvest too late, the bees may not have time to make enough honey to survive the winter.

In addition to our outfits, we have made other preparations to reduce the risk of being attacked. We've come in the hottest part of the day while the majority of bees are busy in the nearby fields, we move slowly and carefully, and we use smoke to make the remaining bees sleepy.

We create the smoke in a special can called a smoker, which looks like a watering can. I fill it with pieces of cotton and dried herbs and set them on fire. Through trial and error, Grandad discovered that this combination works best for him, although dried grass and wood shavings also work well. It's important that whatever you use is natural and creates a cool, gentle smoke which won't harm the bees. Synthetic materials and chemicals give out toxic fumes, and newspapers, when burned on their own without another natural substance, create dangerous amounts of ash.

I hope you're beginning to get the idea that although most people love the purity and simplicity of honey itself, I find that the same cannot be said for the process of collecting it! And this is just the start!

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

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11 Answer the questions below.

Put a cross ☒ in the correct box for each question.

(a) What is the main purpose of paragraph 1?

(1)

☒	**A**	to talk about his grandfather's attractive garden
☒	**B**	to describe his grandfather's unusual clothing
☒	**C**	to say why he is frightened of his grandfather

(b) Which of these statements about Evan is true?

(1)

☒	**A**	He is employed by his grandfather.
☒	**B**	He learned about bees at university.
☒	**C**	He recently started a new career.

(c) What is the most important aim for Evan and his grandfather?

(1)

☒	**A**	to take all the honey that is ready in the hive
☒	**B**	to harvest at least 15 jars of honey this time
☒	**C**	to leave enough honey for the bees to eat

(Total for Question 11 = 3 marks)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

12 Answer the questions below.

Put a cross ☒ in the correct box for each question.

(a) Which word has the closest meaning to the phrase 'window of time' in paragraph 4?

(1)

☒	**A** opportunity
☒	**B** escape
☒	**C** viewpoint

(b) Evan and his grandfather harvest honey in the middle of the day because…

(1)

☒	**A** a lot of the bees are sleepy at that time.
☒	**B** the bees do not fly quickly when it's hot.
☒	**C** most of the bees are away from the hive.

(Total for Question 12 = 2 marks)

13 Answer the following questions about the article.

You do not need to write in full sentences.

(a) What phrase in paragraph 6 tells us that Evan's grandfather has taken some time to understand what is best to put inside the smoker?

(1)

(b) When burning newspapers, how can beekeepers prevent harm to the bees?

(1)

(c) What does the final paragraph suggest about the writer's opinion of harvesting honey?

(1)

(Total for Question 13 = 3 marks)

TOTAL FOR PAPER = 50 MARKS

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