AACI
ASOCIACIÓN ARGENTINA DE CULTURA INGLESA

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Sections	1st	2nd	3rd
A			
B			
C			
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Total			
Corrector			

NAME: _____ SURNAME: _____

Paper 1

SENIOR SIX FINAL EXAM Time allowed: 2hrs.

SECTION A: Reading Comprehension

Read the text and choose the correct option, true (T) or false (F).

The Miracle of Medellin

In July of this year, my friends and I, all urban planning students, went to visit Medellin, the second-biggest city in Colombia. We were amazed by what we found.

Medellin was once known as the world capital of violence. Innocent people were constantly caught in the crossfire between the drug gangs that ruled the *comunas*, or slum neighbourhoods, where not even the police dared to set foot. Today, however, the murder rate has fallen by 80%, and like the residents and other visitors, we could freely enjoy the area's parks and cafes. Surprisingly, an escalator is one of the main reasons for this miraculous change.

The *comunas*, built on mountainsides too steep for buses or cars, were cut off from the centre of the city. Residents had to climb the equivalent of a 28-storey building to return home, making it impossible for many to commute. Now, however, they can take a giant outdoor escalator up the mountain that in a six-minute journey is at the top. And the best part is that it is free of charge. Built in 2011, it has turned an exhausting trek into an effortless ride.

The escalator wasn't the first innovative transport in Medellin. In 2004, a cable car system was built, connecting parts of the slums areas to the city centre. These amazing gondolas transport tens of thousands of residents each day. The windows all around let in stunning views of the narrow, winding roads and colourful roofs beneath.

But how can changes in urban planning make such a difference? Innovative mayors and city planners realised that the isolation of the slums was causing great social inequality. Lack of access to the city centers and its jobs and facilities, such as shops and clinics, was making life impossibly difficult. "Now," says María, a *comuna* resident we spoke to, "we feel we are equal citizens. We can commute to work and enjoy the city, just like everyone else. They should have done this years ago!"

As part of Medellin's urban renewal, community centres have been built and schools have been renovated. Narrow alleys have been cleared to make space for parks, playgrounds, gardens and a walkway providing spectacular views of the city and mountains. Without the escalator and cable car, which provide access for builders, workers and teachers, this would not have been possible.

As we sat with residents in a local café, we could see that they were proud that the *comunas* attract tourists. They're also a model for successful urban change, which brings city planners from all over the world. Not everything is perfect, though. Crime rates are down, but levels of poverty and unemployment remain high, and violence still exists. "Sure, there are many problems that we must solve, but I wouldn't want to live anywhere else," says María. This trip made us realise the importance of urban planning. If done wisely, it can really make a significant difference to people's lives.

Glossary: escalator 

Adapted from Advantage Bachillerato. Burlington Books

1. One of the main reasons for the decrease in violent crime in Medellin was the implementation of an innovative transport system. T F
2. The *comunas* in Medellin were isolated from the city centre because the residents could only access it by climbing a 28-storey building. T F
3. Residents do not have to pay to ride the escalator. T F
4. The escalator and cable car systems in Medellin have improved the lives of the residents only by allowing them to enjoy the scenic views of the city and mountains. T F
5. The *comunas* in Medellin have always been places where its residents feel like the rest of the citizens in Medellin. T F
6. The escalator and cable car systems in Medellin made it easier for builders, workers, and teachers to access the comunas and make the change possible. T F
7. The comunas have become a tourist destination. T F
8. City planners from around the world take the changes in Medellin to be a successful example to follow. T F
9. Despite the urban changes one of the challenges that Medellin still faces is the high levels of pollution. T F
10. The writer was not fully aware of the importance of urban planning before visiting Medellin. T F

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

SECTION B: Language in Use

I. Read the passage below. Choose the correct option for each gap and write it in the box.

DANGER IN THE DARK

Animals have escaped from captivity many times over the years. (1) ___, a few years ago in San Diego, USA, there was a mass escape of wild animals. The state police described it as the (2) ___ event they had ever encountered. They had all (3) ___ hoping for a quiet night when the first calls came into the office.

Many (4) ___ reported seeing bears, big cats such as cheetahs and lions, and (5) ___ dangerous beasts (6) ___ were running loose along the highway! At first the police did not know whether to believe the stories (7) ___, but when they visited the wild animals preserve they saw that the fence (8) ___ by the beasts and the cages were empty. It took (9) ___ time to bring the animals together –big cats were hiding up trees in the dark, so the situation was extremely dangerous! People had to stay indoors, and schools were (10) ___ for several days. A free holiday then, but what a scary reason to get off class!

Adapted from Gold Experience

1 ___	A. Despite	B. Although	C. However	D. In spite of
2 ___	A. worse	B. unfortunate	C. bad	D worst
3 ___	A. being	B. been	C. be	D. bin
4 ___	A. callers	B. caller	C. called	D. calling
5 ___	A. other	B. another	C. others	D. a
6 ___	A. what	B. whose	C. which	D. when
7 ___	A. but not	B. or not	C. for not	D. and not
8 ___	A. broke	B. had been broken	C. had broken	D. broken
9 ___	A. several	B. few	C. a long	D. lot of
10 ___	A. close	B. closes	C. closing	D. closed

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II. Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form. Use modals if necessary.

A Scary Experience

Last Saturday, as I was walking down the street, I heard someone calling my name excitedly, and turned to see who it was. It was my friend Peter who rushed over saying that he 1) _____ (win) a prize, a trip to the US. "And there are four tickets," he said. "My mum and dad are going. Do you want to come with us?"

I didn't hesitate to say yes. And that was how I found myself on a flight to Florida. At the airport, we 2) _____(pick up) a hire car and Peter's dad drove us to the hotel. Peter and I ran rapidly to the swimming pool where we spent a couple of hours there since we are both fond of 3) _____(swim).

Then we headed off to a theme park, where we tried most of the rides, including one very scary rollercoaster which made us both scream when it reached full speed. But then, right at the highest point, it suddenly stopped. All the electricity had gone off.

"Oh no!," said Peter "I 4) _____ (never be) so scared in my whole life. Do you think they 5) _____(take) long to get us out of here?" I didn't know what to say. Peter suffers from anxiety, and I wanted to help him relax. "Peter, by the time you count to a hundred, the rescue party 6) _____(arrive)."

It was very hot sitting in the sun, but there was nothing we 7) _____ (do) except wait patiently. After what seemed to be hours, we 8) _____ (rescue) by a fire brigade. I think that if we 9) _____(stay) longer in the sun, we would have been rushed to hospital. It was a real scorcher that day and I am sure many people 10) _____ (suffer) from sunstroke.

Fortunately, nothing else went wrong during the rest of the holiday!

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Adapted from *Compact First for Schools*. Teacher's

AACI SAMPLE TEST

LIVEWORKSHEETS

III. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. You must use the **WORD GIVEN** and cannot change it. Use between two and five words, including the word given.

1. The book will probably arrive next month. **LIKELY**

The book _____ next month.

2. I'm sure we're too late for the plane. **MISSED**

We _____ the plane.

3. Tom, be quiet! said the teacher. **ORDERED**

The teacher _____ quiet.

4. Driving on the left seems strange to me. **USED**

I _____ on the left.

5. I played snooker all evening and I am really tired today. **SO**

If I hadn't played snooker all evening, I _____ today.

6. I've just read about a king. His children joined in a rebellion against him. **THE**

I've just read about _____ joined in a rebellion against him.

7. I got someone to update my laptop last week. **HAD**

I _____ last week.

8. "When will you get your camera back?" mum asked me. **I**

Mum wanted to know _____ camera back.

9.The final rehearsal was better than the first performance. **AS**

The first performance _____ the final rehearsal.

10. "I'll give you the doll if you stop crying." **LONG**

My mother said she would give me the doll _____ crying.

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AACI SAMPLE TEST

SECTION C: Writing

Choose **ONE** of the following options. You must write between **180 and 230** words

Option A: You have decided to enter a short story competition. The rules say that the narrative must ***end*** with the following words:

"What an amazing day!" Max whispered to himself as he got into bed that night and thought about all the things that he and his family had done."

Write your **story**.

Option B: Your teacher has asked you to write an **essay** giving your opinion on the following:

Should kindergarten students be taught foreign languages? Can it be helpful for children to learn a second language at such young age or is it a case of too much, too soon?

Write your **essay**, giving your reasons for your point of view. Include examples if necessary.

Option C:

Here is part of an **email** you have received from Mara, an English-speaking friend.

> Hi!
> I'm writing to ask for a favour. I have just heard that my bother has been accepted to Juilliard in New York. It's his dream come true. He wants to be a musician. I want to throw him a leaving party next month. You are great with these things. What type of party could I have? How should I organize the food? Who should I invite? What time would be best?
>
> Hope to hear from you soon!
>
> Mara

Write your **email** in response to Mara's.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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LIVEWORKSHEETS