

For questions 1–12, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Holidays in South Carolina

Roaring across the bay in a motorised rubber boat, we were told by the captain to (0) our eyes open. With the engine turned off, it wasn't long before half a dozen dolphins came swimming around us. Eventually, two came up (1) beside the boat and popped their heads out of the water to give us a wide grin.

Dolphin watching is just one of the many unexpected attractions of a holiday in South Carolina, in the USA. The state has long been popular with golfers and, with dozens of (2) in the area, it is (3) a golfer's paradise. But even the keenest golfer needs other diversions and we soon found the resorts had plenty to (4)

In fact, Charleston, which is midway along the (5) , is one of the most interesting cities in the USA. and is where the first shots in the Civil War were (6) Taking a guided horse and carriage tour through the quiet back streets you get a real (7) of the city's past. Strict regulations (8) to buildings so that original (9) are preserved.

South of Charleston lies Hilton Head, an island resort about 18 km long and (10) like a foot. It has a fantastic sandy beach (11) the length of the island and this is perfect for all manner of water sports. Alternatively, if you feel like doing nothing, (12) a chair and umbrella, head for an open space and just sit back and watch the pelicans diving for fish.

1 A direct	B right	C precise	D exact
2 A courses	B pitches	C grounds	D courts
3 A fully	B truly	C honestly	D purely
4 A show	B provide	C offer	D supply
5 A beach	B coast	C sea	D shore
6 A thrown	B aimed	C pulled	D fired
7 A significance	B meaning	C sense	D comprehension
8 A apply	B happen	C agree	D occur
9 A points	B characters	C factors	D features
10 A formed	B shaped	C made	D moulded
11 A lying	B running	C going	D following
12 A charge	B lend	C hire	D loan

Blackbird language school

Part 2

For questions 13–27, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Write your answers IN CAPITAL LETTERS on the separate answer sheet.

Example: 0 M O S T _____

The Sahara marathon

One of the (0) amazing marathon races in the world is the Marathon of the Sands. It takes place every April in the Sahara Desert in the south of Morocco, a part of the world (13) temperatures can reach fifty degrees centigrade. The standard length of a marathon is 42.5 kilometres but (14) one is 240 kilometres long and takes seven days to complete. It began in 1986 and now attracts about two hundred runners, the majority of (15) ages range from seventeen to forty-seven. About half of (16) come from France and the rest from all over the world. From Britain it costs £2,500 to enter, (17) includes return air fares. The race is rapidly (18) more and more popular (19) , or perhaps because of, the harsh conditions that runners must endure. They have to carry food and (20) else they need (21) seven days in a rucksack weighing no more than twelve kilograms. In (22) to this, they are given a litre and a half of water every ten kilometres. Incredibly, nearly (23) the runners finish the course. (24) man, Ibrahim El Joual, took part in every race from 1986 to 2004. Runners do suffer terrible physical hardships. Sometimes they lose toenails and skin peels (25) their feet. However, doctors are always on hand to deal (26) minor injuries and to make sure that runners do not push (27) too far.

Part 3

For questions 28–37, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Write your answers IN CAPITAL LETTERS on the separate answer sheet.

Example: 0 A R C H A E O L O G I S T

Thor Heyerdahl and the *Kon-Tiki* expedition

The Norwegian explorer and (0) , Thor Heyerdahl, accomplished many things during his life but his name has become (28) linked with the *Kon-Tiki* voyage. In 1937, while doing research in the western Pacific, Heyerdahl became (29) interested in how the Polynesian islands had become populated. He made the observation that ocean currents flowed across the Pacific from east to west. Since there were cultural (30) to be found on either side of this ocean, he was convinced that South Americans had sailed westwards to populate these islands before the eleventh century.

ARCHAEOLOGY

SEPARABLE

INCREASE

SIMILAR

The (31) argument against Heyerdahl's theory was lack of evidence that, at that time, boats existed with the (32) to cross such an (33) of ocean. So a determined Heyerdahl built a primitive raft of balsa wood, named it *Kon-Tiki*, and on April 28th, 1947, left Peru with a crew of five. Moved along by the ocean currents, the fragile raft *Kon-Tiki* sailed a steady 70 kilometres a day.

CENTRE

CAPABLE

EXPAND

Despite heavy storms, failure never crossed the crew's minds. After 97 days, they caught (34) of one of the islands. However, due to unusually high winds they could not land and, realising that a reef presented an (35) obstacle, they prepared for the inevitable (36) Amazingly, they all survived the crash, and Heyerdahl had his (37)

SEE

AVOID

COLLIDE

PROVE