

Listening Comprehension (15 minutes)

Part 1. You will hear an interview with someone who is involved in the music business. For questions 1-7, choose the best answer (A, B or C).

1. What does James say about the radio station he started?
 - A. Its name was very appropriate.
 - B. It was more popular than he had expected.
 - C. It was not very expensive to run.
2. What does James say about people's attitudes towards his age?
 - A. They were nicer to him when he was 12 than when he was 16.
 - B. They were more jealous of him when he was 12 than when he was 16.
 - C. They expected more of him when he was 16 than when he was 12.
3. James says that his career in music has included
 - A. taking over a local radio station.
 - B. making advertisements.
 - C. setting up new festivals.
4. What do we learn about advertising on James's TV channel?
 - A. There isn't any of it.
 - B. It always includes music.
 - C. It doesn't interrupt the programmes.
5. What does James say about the people interviewed on the channel?
 - A. They have to say something interesting.
 - B. They enjoy being interviewed.
 - C. They often say unexpected things.
6. What does James say about his ideas?
 - A. Some of them are not very realistic.
 - B. He expects to have good ones all the time.
 - C. He makes sure that he doesn't forget them.
7. James's advice to listeners who might want to go into business is to
 - A. forget about past problems.
 - B. learn from past mistakes.
 - C. take big risks.

Transfer your answers to the answer sheet.

Part 2. Listen to the summary of a world weather forecast and decide whether the statements 8-17 are true (T) or false (F).

8.	Tropical storm Hector is turning into a hurricane.	
9.	Hector is moving slowly towards Mexico.	
10.	Hurricane Alberto is calming down.	
11.	Alberto is approaching land at ninety miles per hour.	

- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| 12. | Tropical storm Ewiniar is heading out to sea. | |
| 13. | Ewiniar is gaining its strength. | |
| 14. | Rain in Australia is expected to last all week. | |
| 15. | It will be mainly hot and dry in the Northern Alps. | |
| 16. | Scattered showers are expected in Great Britain. | |
| 17. | Florence is Europe's hottest spot. | |

Transfer your answers to the answer sheet.

Reading Comprehension (20 minutes)

You are going to read a newspaper article about an adventure centre. For questions 1-8, choose the answer A, B, C or D which you think fits best according to the text.

I'm focused. Completely terrified, but focused. I've got a tiny area to stand on and beneath me is a 10-metre drop. To make things worth, the totem pole that I'm trying to climb onto is shaking. With one knee bent on the top of the pole and the other foot next to it, I slowly stand up with my arms outstretched for balance. Once upright, my legs are still wobbling but an enormous smile has spread across my face. I shuffle my toes over the edge. And then I jump. Back on the ground, my knees won't stop quaking. But for the boys at Head 4 Heights, an aerial adventure centre in Cirencester, it's all in a day's work.

Head 4 Heights, one of the tallest climbing centres in Britain, opened two years ago. It's the only UK climbing centre open to the public year-round (the only days it closes are when winds exceed 70 mph, almost enough to blow you off a totem pole and into one of the lakes). The course was set up by Rod Baber, adventurer extraordinaire and holder of the world record for scaling the highest peak of every country in Europe in the shortest time. Rod's latest plan is to snag the record for North and South America as well, but in between he starts every day with a clamber round the Cirencester course. His favourite is the 'Trapeze' challenge: 'It still gets me every time. Eyes dilate, mouth goes dry and adrenalin goes everywhere.'

Although the course is only roughly the size of a tennis court, it packs a lot into a small space. There are four totem poles (of varying degrees of difficulty according to the holds attached to them), a stairway to heaven (a giant ladder with an increasing distance between the rungs), two freefall platforms and a trapeze jump. Plans for a new 30-metre pole are presently under way. All can be made easier or harder, according to ability, and incorporated into different challenges, which is why the course has proved a success with families, corporate days out and the armed forces. More than half who visit return for more and the centre now averages about 1,500 visitors a month.

All ages over five are welcome, but children are the most enthusiastic and 'far easier to teach than the bankers,' says Rod. Parents are usually more reluctant to join in. 'We hear all sorts of excuses,' says Rod. 'Everything from bad knees to "I haven't trimmed my toenails".' The oldest customer was a 78-year-old who arrived with his son and grandson. When the younger two decided to give it a miss, the grandfather set off to show them how it was done.

For the most part, though, people start off nervous and only gain confidence as they progress. 'Everything is kept very positive. We always tell people to look up not down and to take their time,' says Rod. 'We want to push people outside their comfort zone and into the adventure zone, but we don't want people to be pushed into the panic zone, which can be mentally damaging.'

Also reassuring is the 100 per cent safety record. The course was designed and built by Nick Moriarty, an expert in his field who has constructed 450 courses in 16 countries and trained 2,700 instructors. Key to the design is the safety-rope system, which ensures that if you do lose your balance or grip, your full-body harness will guarantee that you float, not fall, back to earth.

What isn't guaranteed, though, is family harmony. 'The Leap of Love' is usually left as the final challenge and involves two (similarly sized) people squeezing themselves onto a 'bird table' at the top of a totem pole, before jumping in tandem to grab a trapeze. Not everything always goes according to plan. Aside from not arguing, both people need to be careful not to unbalance each other and must jump at exactly the same time. 'We do have some people who have refused to speak to each other afterwards,' says Rod, 'but if you can both make it together, it's such a buzz.'

1. One problem the writer describes in the first paragraph is that
 - A. she keeps falling off the totem pole.
 - B. she is trying to stand on top of a moving object.
 - C. she cannot get her arms into the right position.
 - D. she is too nervous to complete the climb.
2. What do we learn about Head 4 Heights in the second paragraph?
 - A. It remains open even in quite windy conditions.
 - B. Rod Baber got the idea for it while climbing mountains.
 - C. It did not initially stay open throughout the year.
 - D. It is aimed at people who don't have the chance to climb mountains.
3. What does Rod Baber say about the 'Trapeze' challenge?
 - A. He does it more often than anything else on the course.
 - B. He always fails to compete it.
 - C. He continues to find it difficult.
 - D. He takes a long time to recover after doing it.
4. The writer says that the main reason for the course's popularity is that
 - A. the challenges it offers cannot be found anywhere else.
 - B. new challenges are constantly being added.
 - C. it can be completed in a fairly short time.
 - D. it can be adapted for different people.
5. The people who 'decided to give it a miss' (column 2) are examples of people who
 - A. find it difficult to do the course.
 - B. are unwilling to do the course.
 - C. are easily taught how to do the course.
 - D. give up while they are doing the course.

6. Rod says that the intention of the course is that people taking part
 - A. learn how to deal with extreme fear.
 - B. progress as quickly as possible.
 - C. take risks they might not initially want to take.
 - D. increase in confidence after repeated visits.
7. The writer uses the phrase 'Also reassuring' (paragraph 6) to emphasize
 - A. That people benefit from doing the course.
 - B. How carefully the course has been constructed.
 - C. That people should not be afraid to do the course.
 - D. How enthusiastic Rod is about the course.
8. What is said about 'The Leap of Love'?
 - A. Most people fail to do it successfully.
 - B. It can cause people to fall out with each other.
 - C. It is the hardest challenge on the course.
 - D. Some people don't try hard enough to do it.

Transfer your answers to the answer sheet.

Use of English (45 minutes)

Part 1. For items 1-10 use one word to fill in a gap in the following proverbs.

1. Too many cooks spoil the _____.
2. A bad _____ blames his tools.
3. Where there is a _____, there is a way.
4. A _____ in hand is worth two in the bush.
5. Absence makes the _____ grow fonder.
6. _____ speak louder than words.
7. All that glitters is not _____.
8. An _____ a day keeps the doctor away.
9. A rolling stone gathers no _____.
10. A _____ in time saves nine.

Part 2. For questions 11-25 you will have to decide which heading (A-S) from the following list you would look under for what you need. Use each heading once only. There are two extra headings.

11. One of your pipes is leaking.
12. You want to sell your house.
13. You need to have funerals arranged.
14. There are rats in your house.
15. Your father wants to have a new suit made.
16. You have some rubbish you want taken away.
17. You want to buy a dictating machine.
18. You want to install a new heating system.
19. Someone has threatened to take you to court.
20. You want to trace your ancestors.

21. Your lawn mower has broken.
22. You want to go to church.
23. Your horse needs new shoes.
24. You're trying to give up smoking.
25. A filling has come out of one of your teeth.

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| A. BLACKSMITHS | G. GENEALOGISTS | M. PLUMBERS |
| B. WELDERS | H. HYPNOTHERAPISTS | N. PLACES OF WORSHIP |
| C. DENTAL SURGEONS | I. LEGAL SERVICES | O. UNDERTAKERS |
| D. WEAVERS | J. CANVASSERS | P. TOOL REPAIRS |
| E. ESTATE AGENTS | K. OFFICE SUPPLIES | Q. WASTE DISPOSAL |
| F. TAILORS | L. PEST CONTROL | |

Part 3. For questions 26-35, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only ONE WORD in each space.

Russian schools are probably a topic you want to know (26)___ if you are considering a move (27)___ Russia for a job and have a family. Fortunately, Russia has a very good primary education system. In (28)___, you might even be surprised that Russia's education system is really of a high level. (29)___ to US News & World Report, the Russian education system is rated number 21 in the world. The World Bank also reports Russia's literacy (30)___ to be practically 100%, which is among the very highest in the world.

During the Soviet era, the general education system was objectively (31)___ of the best in the world. It produced some of the 20th century's greatest minds. That being said, while Russia invests heavily in its education system, it has (32)___ difficulties since the fall of the Soviet Union. Most teachers are drastically underpaid, especially outside of major Russian cities.

The public Russian school system is also complemented by strong private schools, (33)___ are popping up around larger Russian cities and provide a fantastic education but at a cost. Generally, Russian schools, when (34)___ to the rest of the world, provide great overall education and it is free for all. Universities are a mixed bag and you need to (35)___ sure that the Russian university is well ranked globally.

Part 4. For questions 36-45, read the text below and decide which answer A, B, C or D best fits each gap.

While 1950s British parents would have thought discussing whether or not to celebrate Christmas at schools a rather absurd notion, it is (36) ___ a question which gives great pause to many today. Post-WWII Britain has (37) ___ several waves of immigration from the 1950s Caribbean, India and Pakistan immigrants under the British Nationality Act of 1948 to Irish immigrants throughout the century looking for employment, to Eastern refugees (38) ___ Communist regimes to even some German prisoners of war.

This has given rise to the increasing amount of ethnic (39) __ in most metropolitan areas and even in many rural districts. While Protestant Britain remains the (40) __, the UK Ministry of Education has set up guidelines to encourage greater tolerance of different religions. The goal (41) __ to teach students about the world's religions and religious festivities in the hopes that this will (42) __ understanding in today's mixed communities. So today, December and January become a (43) __ point for classroom discussion about the world's many religions.

The Christian holiday of Christmas can be (44) __ alongside the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, the Hindu holiday of Makar Sankrant, the Sikh celebration of the birthday of Guru Gobind Singh, the Muslim celebration of Eid-Ul-Adhs and many others. So rather than celebrating one point of view to the exclusion of some students, everyone gets (45) __ a potluck of different world views.

36	A unwillingly	B legally	C not actually	D in fact
37	A shown	B dealt	C experienced	D included
38	A escaping	B running	C evading	D confronting
39	A divergence	B diversity	C dissimilarity	D distinction
40	A most	B majority	C opposition	D superiority
41	A has	B is	C should be	D was
42	A foster	B make	C pacify	D educate
43	A focus	B focal	C pin	D setting
44	A discussed	B conversed	C talked	D spoken
45	A to enjoy	B enjoying	C join	D to join

Writing (40 minutes)

Book Review

Your school produces a regular English language magazine and invites readers to contribute reviews of books. Choose a book you have read recently and write a review for the magazine. Explain what the book is about, what you consider to be its strengths and weaknesses and why you enjoyed (or did not enjoy) it.

You should write 200-220 words.

Use the following words in the review:

- sophisticated
- plot
- handled
- skillful
- convince