

SECTION A: READING COMPREHENSION

Example 1.

Fill gaps (1-9) in the following text using the words in the bank below. There are **THREE** words you do not need to use. 0 is the example.

THE BENEFITS OF MUSIC

Music has proven benefits for health, well-being and social cohesion and should have a 0 **prime** (**Example**) place in the school curriculum, argues a new study from the Institute of Education.

So it is ___1___ that teachers round the world find they have to battle to incorporate it into the classroom. Professor Hallam says: "Music exerts a powerful impact on our lives and is as important as reading, writing and maths. Learning to play an instrument has a demonstrable ___2___ on intelligence and, when children play music together, it teaches them about co-operation."

Music helps concentration, aids relaxation and can influence ___3___ and emotions. It can calm or arouse and help overcome anger, despair and other powerful emotions.

"Music should play an important part in early years' education, not least because making and listening to music is ___4___ for children as well as adults," says Professor Hallam.

Music can help older people avoid feelings of isolation and loneliness and serve ___5___ a source of support for troubled teenagers. Singing in groups enhances the immune ___6___ and there are lower mortality rates in people who ___7___ cultural events or make music.

A relevant study, *Music Psychology in Education*, presents interesting tips for teachers based on the development of technical instrumental and vocal skills, composition and improvisation. ___8___ written for teachers, it has useful hints for parents on developing musical ability in their children. It gives advice on parental supervision of practice and the importance of support and encouragement. It also warns parents ___9___ forcing teenage musicians to practice because it may lead the most talented children to give up playing.

Adapted from *Institute of Education*, 30 -1- 2006.

| | | | | |
|---------|-----------|--------------|-----------|----------|
| AGAINST | ATTEND | EFFECT | REWARDING | THOUGH |
| AS | CONCERNED | MOODS | SYSTEM | WORRYING |
| ASSIST | DESPITE | PRIME | | |

Example 2.

Match each paragraph with the most suitable title. There are two titles you do not need to use. 0 is the example.

ANECDOTES

- a. A GPS SYSTEM FOR DRIVING
- b. A SILLY BURGLAR
- c. FUNNY COMPLAINTS
- d. JUST A MISTAKE
- e. KEEPING AN EYE ON HONESTY
- f. RECOMMENDATION TO CRIMINALS
- g. THE GARBAGE GANGSTER
- h. TOO LONG TO COMPLAIN
- i. WANT TO STEAL A MOTORBIKE?

0. When 18-year-old Max Foster from Somerset saw two youths stealing his motorcycle, he called the police. However, they told him that they couldn't pursue the thieves because the youngsters weren't wearing crash-helmets and also they might get sued if the kids fell off and hurt themselves. **i (Example)**
1. Police in the USA are celebrating the hip-hop fashion for wearing pants that are too big. They are reporting that it has become much easier to catch young male suspects because they tend to trip over their own trousers. A policeman from Connecticut even offers some friendly advice to hip-hoppers, "When I catch them I tell them they'd do much better if they had pants that fit".
2. Brian Capps returned home from a vacation to discover a bizarre robbery. Somebody had stolen his luxury wall-to-wall carpeting but had left his 60-inch TV and other appliances untouched. Where his carpet had been there was another carpet that he had not seen before. After reporting the robbery to the police, it turned out that there had been an error at a local flooring company.
3. Michael Reeves has been fined £300 by Swansea Council for putting a single sheet of paper in a recycling bag designated for glass and tins. It is not the first time that Mr Reeves has infringed the recycling rules. Back in April 2006 Michael put his rubbish out a day early because he was going on holiday. That earned him a warning from the municipal authorities. The last incident also means that now he has a criminal record.
4. Some psychologists carried out an experiment in an office. They placed an 'honesty box' in the staff room into which everyone was expected to pay each time they had a drink. At the same time they put one of two posters on the wall: one with a bunch of flowers and the other with a pair of eyes. They found that the days when the pair of eyes was displayed, the amount of money went up significantly. Conclusion: at a subconscious level we are more honest when we think we are being watched.
5. The travel agent's, *Airtours*, have been revealing some of the complaints that they have received from UK tourists recently. A customer complained, "I'm never flying to Jamaica with *Airtours* again. It took us nine hours to get there but it only took the Americans three hours". Another British tourist warned, "I had a wonderful holiday in Kenya but I think I should tell you that the animals were not fenced in".
6. Coventry County Council recently built the roundabout from hell. The new roundabout's construction, which cost £1.5 million, had 'no left turn' signs at every exit meaning that once you entered it you were condemned to eternity on the roundabout, unless you ignored the signs. The roundabout caused traffic chaos but it took five weeks for anyone to complain about it.

Adapted from *Think in English*

Example 3.

Fit the sentences below into the gaps of the text. There are three sentences that do not belong to the text. Match the gap numbers with the letters. 0 is the example. Circle the correct answer on your answer sheet.

DIVAN INTERVENTION

A girl of 15 had an amazing escape when a gas blast blew her clean out of her house still sleeping in her bed.

Kelly Marpals woke up with a bump and a few cuts and bruises when the bed, remaining in one piece, landed in the road outside her house. ___0___d. Her mother Tracey had woken up and gone into the kitchen of their home in Leeds to put on the kettle when the explosion happened.

It is thought gas from a leak had built up overnight and ignited with a spark from the electricity. ___1___. Fire station officer Mark Hamilton said: "The house is a back-to-back in a block of eight and there was damage to the surrounding properties. The whole front of the house and roof were blown out into the street. There were a lot of people running around and a lot of rubble on the ground. It was chaotic."

Neighbour Tina Johnson described how Mrs Marpals came wandering into her kitchen after the blast. She said: "___2___. My son Tony started shouting 'Get out of here everyone, there's been an explosion' and we all rushed downstairs." Mrs Marpals stumbled in, battered and burnt all over her arms. "She looked awful. There was all red skin on her arms from the burns and she could hardly speak. ___3___. She remembered turning on the kettle and that was it. She couldn't even work out how she got in our house.

"The ambulance arrived straight away and there was already a doctor in the street looking after Kelly. But we couldn't believe how well Kelly looked, she just walked into the house as if nothing had happened. ___4___. It must have been landing so softly on her bed that saved her life.

"All that's left of the family's possessions is two photographs and some personal jewellery which the firemen were able to salvage. ___5___."

Adapted from *The Daily Express*

- a. What if it happens again?
- b. We got her in and sat her down but I was too afraid to touch her in case I made her wounds any worse.
- c. The rest has been blown up.
- d. The teenager was asleep in her attic bedroom when an explosion tore through the terraced property on Saturday morning. **(Example)**
- e. Fire investigation officers and health and safety inspectors worked at the scene throughout the day along with gas engineers.
- f. She only had one small cut on her foot.
- g. Then I saw the girl come flying out of the attic still tucked up in her bed.
- h. We were all in bed upstairs when it felt like our house had been rocked by an earthquake.
- i. It just landed in the road in one piece.

A) READING COMPREHENSION

Example 1: THE BENEFITS OF MUSIC

| | | |
|-------------|--------------|------------|
| 1. WORRYING | 4. REWARDING | 7. ATTEND |
| 2. EFFECT | 5. AS | 8. THOUGH |
| 3. MOODS | 6. SYSTEM | 9. AGAINST |

Example 2: ANECDOTES

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | F |
| 2 | D |
| 3 | G |
| 4 | E |
| 5 | C |
| 6 | H |

Example 3: DIVAN INTERVENTION

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | E |
| 2 | H |
| 3 | B |
| 4 | F |
| 5 | C |