

Part 1

For questions **1-8**, read the text below and decide which answer (**A, B, C or D**) best fits each gap. Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

There is an example at the beginning **(0)**.

- 0** **A** racing **B** passing **C** shooting **D** flying

0	A <input type="checkbox"/>	B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C <input type="checkbox"/>	D <input type="checkbox"/>
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Sharing a Room

Before starting university, I hadn't given more than a **(0)** **B**..... thought to what could go wrong sharing a room with another student. I had simply assumed that my roommate-to-be would be rather like me - at university to have fun but mainly to learn. Within a couple of weeks, I was **(1)** aware that my fun-loving Scottish roommate, Thomas, was at university to do a great deal of the former but very little of the **(2)**

Every evening, I would be tucked up in bed by midnight, exhausted from the day's activities. But the midnight **(3)** was precisely when Thomas' night began. First, a constant stream of people would start traipsing in and out of our room until a general consensus had been reached on how the night would best be **(4)** Next, preparations for the night would ensue; phone calls would be made, outfits chosen. If I was lucky, Thomas would be gone by 1:30am. But by 6:30am, he and two or three of his mates would be back, keen to **(5)** the night's activities. At which point, the smile I always endeavoured to plaster firmly on my face would be **(6)** dangerously thin.

Despite all this, Thomas and I remained **(7)** friends throughout university. Although I do confess that our friendship was **(8)** rather a lot by the fact that we both found new roommates before the first month was out!

- | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|----------------|------------|---------------|
| 1 | A more so | B too much | C as well | D all too |
| 2 | A second | B later | C latter | D other |
| 3 | A hour | B moment | C count | D strike |
| 4 | A formed | B used | C drawn | D spent |
| 5 | A deliberate | B measure | C dissect | D weigh |
| 6 | A wearing | B fading | C breaking | D beating |
| 7 | A strong | B firm | C tight | D secure |
| 8 | A brought about | B helped along | C won over | D loosened up |

Part 2

For questions 9-16, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only **one** word in each space. There is an example at the beginning (0). Write your answers **IN CAPITAL LETTERS** on the separate answer sheet.

Example:

0

O N E

Fake Rolex Watches

Rolex is (0)ONE..... of the most sought (9) brand names in the timepiece industry. (10) from the design and movement of a Rolex to its price screams quality. Thanks to the outrageous prestige of the Rolex brand, Rolex watches are (11) the world's most copied luxury items. In recent years, Rolex forgeries have become so good that the (12) of the best are now virtually identical to the real thing.

It (13) without saying that thrift motivates informed fake Rolex purchases. Most people simply don't have the money to purchase the genuine article. But what about those who are unwittingly duped into buying a fake Rolex? How can they avoid being scammed?

There is only one way to tell a high-quality Rolex knock-off (14) the real deal and that is to get an expert to open up the watch. At this point, most experts, most of the time, can spot a fake by looking at the watch's movement. But not always. Sometimes, even experts can have a hard time telling fake and genuine Rolexes (15) Thus, there really is only one fail-safe way for would-be Rolex owners to avoid being inadvertently caught (16) : purchase their watch from a reputable Rolex dealer.

Part 3

For questions 17-24, 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 space 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 D D I T I O N A L

Employee Sick Leave

The European Court of Justice has ruled that workers who become ill during their holidays have the right to take (0)**ADDITIONAL**..... paid time off later.

ADD

The Luxembourg-based court stated that “the purpose of (17)

TITLE

to paid annual leave is to enable the worker to rest and enjoy a period of (18) and leisure. The purpose of sick leave is different.

RELAX

It is to enable a worker to recover from an (19) that has caused him to be unfit for work.” It concluded that it would be arbitrary and

AIL

(20) to the purpose of paid annual leave to deny workers holiday time in exchange for time spent sick.

CONTRADICT

Business groups in the UK warn that applying the courts’ rules will be (21) to the wider UK economy and say that the rulings

DETRIMENT

(22) the need for Britain’s ministers to resist the court. But, unfortunately, while the UK has an opt-out on parts of the (23)

LINE

DIRECT

that the ruling relates to, it has no exemption on sick pay and holiday.

The UK government estimates that adopting the rules will cost British employers more than £100 million annually. The UK’s Business Secretary described the court’s rulings as “an unnecessary burden on businesses” and

DEFEND

“completely (24) during a time of economic strain”.

Part 4

For questions **25-30**, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. **Do not change the word given.** You must use between **three** and **eight** words, including the word given. Here is an example (0).

Example:

- 0 Since John has now retired, you will both be able to travel.

means

John's you will now both be able to travel.

- 0 retirement means that

Write **only** the missing words **on the separate answer sheet.**

- 25 I think you will find that a visit to the British Museum will be helpful.

while

I think it will to visit the British Museum.

- 26 He fooled everyone with his relaxed and confident manner.

taken

Everyone fact that he seemed so relaxed and confident.

27 I don't mind whether he comes on Friday or Saturday.

same

It's whether he comes on Friday or Saturday.

28 There's no need for me to tell you how important this deal is for the company.

saying

It is very important for the company.

29 Her lack of qualifications didn't deter her from applying for the job.

put

She by her lack of qualifications.

30 I don't think he will make a very good actor.

cut

In my opinion, an actor.

Part 5

Tip!

Underline or highlight parts of the text where you expect to find answers to each question. Write the question number in the margin if it helps you.

You are going to read an extract from a novel. For questions 31-36, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text. Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

Behind the wheel of her new 2-litre Hyundai Coupé, Emma Boylan made her exit from the congested traffic lanes of Dublin's quays and headed for the town of Navan. Tourist promotions for the town used the tag line 'Only an Hour from Dublin'. Emma was hoping to better that. Leaving Phoenix Park via the Ashtown Gate, she allowed the car to reach 60mph. It was her first day to try out the car outside the city and she was looking forward to putting the silver machine through its paces. Trading in her old Volvo 360 GLT after many years of faithful service, she'd been seduced by the Hyundai's lines and curves, its leather upholstery and chrome dash. Sitting in the car in the showroom, she'd felt comfortable, at ease with its interior. Vinny, who had insisted on inspecting the car with her – believing himself to be something of an expert on the subject – expressed qualms. Was it not a bit too powerful for a woman driver, he offered.

That clinched it. She bought the car.

And now, on its first proper road test, it had come through with flying colours. According to the clock on the dash, the journey had taken fifty-four minutes exactly. Not bad.

It was rare enough for Emma Boylan to visit the Victorian building that housed her father's law practice. Her father did not encourage the habit, nor was it something she particularly enjoyed herself. But today she had decided to call on him unannounced. Even though he was busy talking on the telephone, he waved to her good-naturedly as she was shown into his office.

She sat in an uncomfortable armchair and waited for him to finish the call. Little had changed in her father's place of work over the years: flock wallpaper from skirting board to stuccoed ceiling, wine-coloured carpet on the floor, framed hunting scenes on the walls. Décor she considered oppressive. Muted noise from the traffic in the street filtered through windows that were top-

heavy with elaborate pelmets. An array of photographs stood on top of a drinks cabinet: studies of her father the family man, posing with her and her mother at various events throughout their lives; her father the business man, happily smiling in the company of well-known movers and shakers from the world of finance and politics. Emma suspected that the display was more for the benefit of visitors than for the man sitting behind the desk. It never ceased to amuse her to note how accurately her father's office reflected his personality. She could not envisage working in such an environment, not that she would ever share such thoughts with her father.

Arthur Boylan finished his phone call, leaned forward in his swivel chair and smiled broadly. 'Emma, dear girl, what brings you down from the big smoke?'

'Had a little time on my hands... thought I'd drop by.'

'Emma,' he said, arching his head back, peering at her down the length of his finely sculptured aquiline nose, 'you're talking to your father now, remember? I know you never do anything without a reason. So, why are you here? What do you want?'

'Ah, Dad, you're being rotten.'

Her father got up from his chair, walked to a window facing Trimgate Street and stood there for a moment, his back to her. 'Huh, another coach-load of tourists taking pictures of our church,' he said, gesturing with his index finger at St Mary's Church across the street. 'They've discovered that Pierce Brosnan was an altar boy there when he was growing up here in the town. Strange to think of a Navan man playing James Bond, don't you think?' Emma remained silent. He turned to face her, adjusted the handkerchief sprouting over the breast pocket of his navy pinstripe suit. 'Come on, Emma,' he said, doing a passable impression of a barrister admonishing a witness, 'answer me one question: what are you looking for?'

- 31 What had made Emma finally decide which car to buy?
- A She had had a very exciting test drive in it.
 - B She reacted against Vinny's reservations.
 - C She trusted the opinion of an expert on cars.
 - D She was impressed by its power.
- 32 What do we learn about Emma's visits to her father at work?
- A He was usually rude to her and she hated going.
 - B She would never let him know in advance.
 - C He was often too busy to see her.
 - D They shared similar feelings about them.
- 33 What do we learn about the photographs of Emma's father?
- A They bore a very strong likeness to him.
 - B They proved that he was a very popular husband and father.
 - C He probably used them to impress people.
 - D They obstructed the view from his desk.
- 34 How does Emma feel about her father's office?
- A Conditions there would not suit her.
 - B She was disgusted because it was so dirty.
 - C She secretly aspired to working in such a place.
 - D It was not a fitting place for him to work.
- 35 Emma's father
- A knew there was a purpose to her visit.
 - B knew she was in trouble.
 - C was going to defend her in court.
 - D impersonated people to amuse her.
- 36 From the extract as a whole, we can infer that the relationship between Emma and her father was
- A cold and hostile.
 - B friendly but distant.
 - C warm and loving.
 - D extremely antagonistic.

Part 6

You are going to read a newspaper article about creating computer games. Seven paragraphs have been removed from the extract. Choose from the paragraphs A-H the one which fits each gap (37-43). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use. **Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.**

Playing the Game

It's a cut-throat business but there are massive rewards on offer in the software industry – and age is no barrier to success, explains Rupert Jones.

The frequent claim that Britain has an unrivalled reputation when it comes to producing games is no idle boast; the UK has by far the biggest development community in Europe and is also home to most of the global publishing giants. In fact, the UK leisure software market is now said to be the fastest-growing sector of the UK entertainment media.

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"It's now very much a commercial exercise," says Roger Bennett, Director General of industry trade body, the Entertainment and Leisure Software Publishers Association (Elspa). "Whereas people can make a film with a camcorder, you can't make a game now unless you have a huge amount of equipment and the skills to use it." And lots of money, too. A top-flight game can cost up to £5m to develop.

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This is borne out by Nick Wheelwright at Codemasters. He says it looks for "outstanding academic people". Those the company takes on will normally have a degree in a relevant discipline, so for an artist that might be fine art or illustration and animation, while for a programmer it could be computer science or maths.

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When it comes to publishing, distribution and marketing, the skills required tend to be more commercial. "It's an industry that people do want to get into. Whenever we advertise a vacancy we get lots of interest," says Rob Murphy, finance director at south London-based SCI Entertainment.

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Games testers are a crucial component of the industry, and this is an area where a university qualification may not be necessary – five GCSEs and good PC knowledge may be enough. These are the people who play games all day, testing them for playability and making sure there are no bugs.

41

Rachel Wood swapped her paintbrush for a computer and the latest graphics and animation software seven years ago. She is now a senior lead artist at Codemasters, overseeing a team of artists working on two new games. "Everyone has input into how the game looks, especially in the early stages. My job is to direct that, initially, and make sure everyone is working in the same direction," says Rachel.

42

When Rachel joined Codemasters she had little understanding of how computers worked, but she had had an interest in maths and physics before choosing to take the fine art route. Working in this field does involve "a certain degree of technological understanding" but Rachel stresses that traditional artistic talent and creativity are very important.

43

Getting a job as a games tester can be a good route in. Many games-mad teenagers have got in this way and then worked their way up the ladder. Students may be able to get a foot in the door by doing gap year or summer job work experience, perhaps working on the company website. A passion for games isn't obligatory but, obviously, it helps.

- A** Perhaps inevitably, the development side in particular has become much more professional in the way it operates, with a far greater emphasis on academic excellence when it comes to hiring staff. "The people being employed now are highly educated and highly qualified. The biggest studios will only recruit people of high academic excellence," says Mr Bennett.
- B** Now 29, she studied fine art at Plymouth University and later spent time doing oil painting commissions but she was content. "Working as a fine artist is fairly isolated. This offered a chance to learn new technologies and to be working in a team." Once she arrived, she was hooked, though she had to learn some new skills.
- C** Based near Leamington Spa, Codemasters employs more than 400 people, and the average age of the staff is just 23-24. It has, among others, people with physics degrees who measure things like the speed, momentum and crash impact in racing games, computer science graduates who are responsible for testing the games to check for bugs, people with law degrees involved with celebrity contracts and licences, and automotive engineering graduates who design the structure of virtual racing cars.
- D** For wannabe graphics artists, some degree of technological understanding is clearly an advantage. If you're not up on the latest software, however, don't be put off. There's still space for people with traditional artistic talent and creativity. You can pick up the tech side as you go.
- E** "Quite often you will have to play the game for many months. You have to be dedicated and pretty systematic," says Mr Murphy. Codemasters says there may be as many as 30 people testing the same game for the final three months. "A tester might be paid around £18,000 compared with an experienced producer, who can earn £40,000-plus", says Mr Murphy.
- F** To stand a chance of serious long-term success in this cut-throat market, games consoles need great games, and lots of them. It's on sales of games at up to £45 a throw that the real profits are made. 'Club Football' and 'LMA Manager' are two such titles. "We've been going out to the clubs and photographing the players. I've been to a couple of the shoots," smiles Rachel.
- G** But the past few years have brought big changes to the way companies work. The cottage industry days, when a teenage techie could create a game in his bedroom that went on to become a blockbuster, are long gone.
- H** SCi is one of the UK's longest-established games publishers, whose recent hits include 'The Italian Job', based on the Michael Caine heist movie. Mr Murphy adds that it helps to have some experience under your belt. "There are a lot of things people can do to get experience; for example, becoming a tester for a while. We have had students on their gap year in to help on our website." Most people will have degrees but a lot comes down to the individual and their enthusiasm for games.