

Reading

Strategy

Eliminating incorrect options is an important part of completing a multiple-choice reading task. But keep in mind that what looks wrong at first sight may turn out to be correct on closer reading of the text.

- 1 Read the Strategy. Quickly read the extract and question below and try to eliminate the incorrect answers. Then go back and choose the correct answer.

Families often try to give career advice based on what they believe is best for you, but blindly following their advice may lead to issues in the future.

Allowing family to influence your career choice

- A is never a good idea.
- B may produce positive results.
- C can have negative consequences.
- D can be a good idea.

- 2 Read the text. Choose the correct answers, A, B, C or D.

Volunteer blog

When I signed up to volunteer at a local hospital last year, I didn't have any real expectations. I decided to do it mainly because my friends were planning to do volunteer work, and our class attended a volunteer job fair that October, which made it easier to choose something interesting. I knew the experience would look good on my college applications, and that was a plus too.

On my first day, I was given a tour of the hospital. Then I was given a tablet computer with maps and some basic information. I was then told to stand next to an information sign and to answer any questions that came my way. I'm sure I sent a few visitors in the wrong direction that first day, but I did my best. It wasn't a big deal, and my second time there was much the same.

But on the third day, everything changed. I was in the middle of my shift when I noticed a wheelchair speeding in my direction. A young boy of about six with one of the biggest smiles I have ever seen was sitting in it. The boy stopped in front of me and said, 'Who are you? You're in my hospital and I don't even know you!'

I have to say that I've never been known for self-confidence. But this boy with his irresistible smile completely disarmed me. I introduced myself and explained that I was new. 'Like you know anything!' the boy said. 'I've been coming here for the past two years, so I know every inch of this hospital.'

David's parents caught up with him and introduced themselves. They explained that he was there for his weekly check-up, and they sat down for a bit while they waited. David began to tell me about his medical history, his favourite football player and other details of his life. Our conversation transformed my view of young children, illness and hospitals.

In fact, after David had gone to his appointment, one of the administrators came up to me and said, 'That was amazing.

You were a different person when you were talking to him!' She went on to explain that they needed volunteers to work in the children's department. 'And I think you'd be great at it,' she added.

This led to my becoming a regular in the children's department, and also to my decision to study medicine at university and become a paediatrician. It was a career path that hadn't crossed my mind before. Volunteering might not do the same for everyone, but in my case it was a life-changer.

- 1 When the author decided to do volunteer work, she
 - A didn't know anyone else who was interested in it.
 - B persuaded her friends to do it too.
 - C was influenced by her friends.
 - D thought it would be an amazing experience.
- 2 The volunteer job fair
 - A helped her decide which volunteer job to do.
 - B was an event that she went to on her own.
 - C was, she believed, an experience that would look good on her college applications.
 - D was organised by her class that October.
- 3 During the first couple of days at the hospital, she
 - A had to give people tours of the building.
 - B didn't find the work too challenging.
 - C didn't know where some hospital facilities were located.
 - D was informed she was giving wrong directions.
- 4 On her third day, she met a young boy
 - A who demanded to know who she was.
 - B when she was leaving work.
 - C who was walking towards her in the hospital.
 - D who seemed very sad.
- 5 The author spoke to the boy because
 - A she felt he'd been rude to her.
 - B she was curious to know why he was in hospital.
 - C he asked her something about the hospital.
 - D she found him very charming.
- 6 Why did David tell the author his medical history?
 - A Because his parents told him to.
 - B Because he told her lots of things about himself.
 - C Because he thought she was a doctor.
 - D Because she asked him about it.
- 7 What led to her volunteering in the children's ward?
 - A feeling sorry for David
 - B someone observing her conversation with David
 - C her ambition to become a medical professional
 - D a suggestion from the boy's parents
- 8 Before working at the hospital, the author
 - A had regularly visited the children's department.
 - B had always wanted to be a doctor.
 - C hadn't thought about studying medicine.
 - D had sometimes thought about becoming a paediatrician.

Listening

Strategy

Before you do a true or false listening task, read the statements and underline the key words or information.

- 3  2.16 Read the Strategy. You are going to hear three recordings twice. Read the statements and underline the key words or information. Then listen and choose the correct option, *True* or *False*.

- 1 The majority of the London Underground's tracks are above the ground. **True / False**
- 2 Victoria is the busiest Underground station. **True / False**
- 3 The new principal is a famous dancer. **True / False**
- 4 The students will be able to prepare a performance with help from visiting choreographers. **True / False**
- 5 The speaker is telling young people to feel good about themselves. **True / False**
- 6 The 'Better You' programme is an after school club for young people that runs all year. **True / False**

Use of English

Strategy

Before you complete the gaps in a cloze task, read the whole text through to get a general sense of what it is about. When you've finished the task, read the whole text again to check the words you've added are correct in context.

- 4 Read the Strategy above. Then complete the gaps with a suitable word. Write one word in each gap.

Over the last century, public health messages have focused ¹_____ the dangers of exposing the body to too much sunlight. However, the best way for the body to produce vitamin D ²_____ to expose the skin to sunlight. If people don't have ³_____ of vitamin D, their bones become weak and it can become painful for them to move around. So just ⁴_____ bad is sunlight for us? Sunlight is ⁵_____ up of two kinds of ultraviolet rays, UVA and UVB. Both UVA ⁶_____ UVB rays can be harmful to the body, but in different ways. UVB rays burn the top layer of the skin, ⁷_____ can lead to sunburn. UVB rays go deeper into the skin, resulting in the skin aging more quickly. Exposure to UVA and UVB rays can increase the risk ⁸_____ someone developing cancer. It's important, therefore, to ⁹_____ care when outside on a sunny day. Avoid spending too much time in the sun ¹⁰_____ the hours of 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., when the sun's rays are strongest, and use suncream that has the right level of protection.

Speaking

Strategy

Sometimes you will be asked to do a role-play in which you have to suggest and discuss different options before reaching agreement. Don't reach a decision too quickly! Make lots of suggestions and think of reasons to disagree with your partner's ideas.

- 5 Four people from Australia are coming to visit your school. They are all about the same age as you. You and your classmate have been asked to give them a tour of the town or city you are in next Friday. You need to take them to some interesting places, go for lunch with them and then take them to some shops. Talk together and reach a decision on the following points:

- which three places (e.g. museums, bridges, parks) you will take them to
- how you will travel from place to place
- where you will go for lunch
- which shops you will take them to

Writing

Strategy

The introduction to an article should introduce the topic of your article and encourage people to read it. Refer to the situation described in the instructions, mention an interesting fact or incident, or ask the reader a question.

- 6 Read the Strategy. Then read the question and choose the best introduction for the article. Explain why the other two introductions are not as good.

A school newspaper has asked its readers for articles about the positive influence of some hobbies on school work. Write an article in which you describe such a hobby and someone who, thanks to their hobby, has been more successful at school.

- A Did you know that the average secondary school student spends between 25 and 40 hours a week at school? And that isn't all – at home, most students have to do homework. This leaves little time for hobbies.
 - B It is believed that happiness is the key to success: if you love what you're doing, you will be successful. This is true of school work and hobbies.
 - C Teenagers have a lot of useful and fascinating hobbies which they do after school. I strongly believe this has advantages, and it can help students to get better results at school.
- 7 Read the task in exercise 6 again. Then write an article on the topic. You can use the best introduction from exercise 6 or write your own.

Reading

Strategy

When matching questions to paragraphs, read the questions first and think about what specific information you need to look out for in the paragraphs. Remember that two of the questions will match each paragraph.

- 1 Read the Strategy above. Then read the questions and match them with the type of information in the box that they are asking you for.

advice direct speech a number an opinion

In which paragraph does the author

- 1 refer to statistics to make a point? _____
- 2 give their personal reaction to a situation? _____
- 3 recommend what people should do? _____
- 4 quote an expert to support an argument? _____

- 2 Now read a text divided into three parts (A–C). Match the correct question (1–6) to the correct part of the text. Each part matches two questions.

A Device-centred communication has become almost universal over the past twenty years. More than three quarters of people in the world now own or have access to a mobile device, and more than half communicate via social networking. But no matter which format people favour – text, social media, photo- or video-sharing – there is a worry that people are becoming less and less comfortable with face-to-face communication. Just recently, I found myself in the same room with two people who were both tapping away on their mobile phones. Later, I discovered that not only did the two people know each other, but that they had actually been communicating with each other online while they were sitting there in the same room. Situations like this may be amusing on one level, but on a deeper level they could be real cause for concern.

B Of course it is now hard to imagine a world without mobile devices like mobile phones and tablets. They are wonderful tools, allowing us to stay in touch with a large network of friends, no matter where they are. But many experts say that communicating with a device is nothing like talking to someone in person. 'Body language, eye contact and tone of voice can tell us so much,' psychologist Mary Peters says. 'And none of those exist on a device. Even video chat removes many subtle clues.' She adds that there is no proof that this damages a person's ability to communicate effectively. But she worries that people might lose the ability to read non-verbal signals if they aren't frequently exposed to them.

C We don't know to what extent these technologies will permanently change the way people interact. Undoubtedly, people will always want to meet up with others in small and large groups just as they have always done. Indeed, it is fair to say that social media makes it easier than ever before for people to organise social events like festivals and parties. However, in my view, there is still a danger that device-centred communication may have a negative long-term impact on the way people interact with each other on a day-to-day basis.

We must not, therefore, lose sight of the need to focus on the actual people around us, and remember that they deserve our real – not virtual – attention. The idea of a culture where people always have a screen between them is not reassuring. 'Deep understanding comes when we see the reactions on other people's faces,' Mary Peterson says. 'With all the misunderstanding in the world today, face-to-face encounters are increasingly important.'

In which paragraph does the author

- 1 accept that online communication can lead to face-to-face communication?
- 2 refer to statistics to make a point?
- 3 explain the difference between types of communication?
- 4 give an example of two friends choosing online communication instead face-to-face communication?
- 5 recommend doing something?
- 6 report a psychologist's concerns about the dangers of device-based communication as well as the acknowledgement that this is still just a theory?

Listening

Strategy

In a task with multiple-choice questions, the information you need to understand in the recording will be expressed differently in the options. Listen out for words and phrases that are synonyms for the ideas stated in the task.

- 3 Read the Strategy above. Then read the extract and sentences 1–4, which could all be correct options in a multiple-choice task. Note the words and phrases which give the same information in the extract and sentences.

🎧 Travelling across Canada by train was a dream come true for me. I adore train travel, but in the UK, even the longest trips seem to end too soon for my taste. I was pleased to find the Canadian passengers more willing to chat than the British.

- 1 The trip was the achievement of a long-time goal.
- 2 The speaker is very fond of travelling by rail.
- 3 The speaker is dissatisfied by the length of train journeys in the UK.
- 4 Other people on the train were more sociable than the speaker was used to.

- 4 🎧 2.17 You are going to hear an interview with a student twice. Choose the correct option, A, B, C or D.

- 1 The speakers
 - A met when they were both exchange students.
 - B both go to the same school.
 - C have both lived in the US.
 - D are meeting for the first time.

- 2 Kevin says that travelling to the US
- A made him very anxious.
 - B did not go smoothly.
 - C felt like the first time he had flown.
 - D was very enjoyable.
- 3 Kevin was very surprised by
- A how easy it is to travel in the US.
 - B how different the US and Canada are.
 - C how friendly people are in the US.
 - D the huge distances people can travel inside the US.
- 4 About school itself, Kevin felt
- A that all the subjects were too easy.
 - B that it was quite challenging.
 - C that he received valuable help in some subjects.
 - D that maths and science are poorly taught.
- 5 In general, how did Kevin feel about his stay in the US?
- A He was disappointed by the experience.
 - B It was better than expected and he'd like to go back.
 - C He found that all his ideas about the US were wrong.
 - D He would rather have stayed in the US the whole time instead of going to Canada too.

Use of English

Strategy

Banked cloze tasks often test discourse markers that highlight, link or contrast ideas within sentences, between sentences and across paragraphs. Look carefully at the information that comes before and after each gapped item to discover the function of the missing word – for example comparison, emphasis, or addition.

- 5 Read the Strategy above. Then complete each gap in the text with one of the words below. There are two extra words.

and considering in fact instead once
provided though whatsoever whereas while

Attending art exhibitions is an important part of my job
¹ _____ I enjoy it a lot. It must be said, ² _____, that they are often fairly predictable. They usually focus on a single artist, period, or theme, and visitors are given all the information about who created what, their dates and so on.

The new show at the Atley Art Museum, Artists in their Youth, is very different. ³ _____ all of the works are by very famous artists, all of them were made before the artists were eighteen years of age. ⁴ _____ most museums label all the works at an exhibition, here there is no information ⁵ _____ about who created each piece. ⁶ _____, each one has been assigned a number, and viewers are invited to guess who the work is by.

⁷ _____ that I'm an art critic by profession, you might assume that I would have scored very highly. However, the work of young artists is often very different from their mature work, and I admit with no embarrassment that I didn't do very well.

⁸ _____, I got fewer than 50% of them right.

Speaking

Strategy

You may be asked to compare and contrast two photos. As well as describing their overall content, look for details in the pictures that you can speculate about.

- 6 Read the Strategy. Then compare and contrast the two photos. Include information about the points below.

- where the people are
- what they are doing there
- how they are feeling about the activity
- what role music plays in their lives



Writing

Strategy

Learn appropriate phrases to perform the functions that you need when writing a formal letter, e.g. starting a letter, expressing an opinion, adding ideas and ending a letter.

- 7 Read the Strategy above. Then match the functions below with phrases A–E.

adding another argument ending a letter
 expressing an initial opinion expressing a strong reaction
 introducing the topic of a letter

- A Furthermore, I believe ...
- B I am writing in connection with ...
- C I must say that I disagree with the idea that ...
- D Yours faithfully
- E I was shocked to read that ...

- 8 Read the task below and write the letter.

You read an article in yesterday's local newspaper. Its author claims that playing computer games does more harm than good to young people. Write a letter to the editor in which you either agree or disagree with the author's point of view. Give examples of how playing computer games has either helped or harmed you and/or other people you know.