

Reading

Strategy

When you are answering questions about specific information, remember that you will always find the information in a specific part of the text. It helps to underline the parts of the text that give you the information so that you can check your answers at the end.

- 1 Read the Strategy. Then read the first main paragraph of the text and the first question. Choose the correct option and underline the part of the text where you find the answer. Why are the other options wrong?

- 2 Now read the whole text. Choose the correct answers (A–D).

Mark Harris is a research scientist at Rothera Research Station, on Adelaide Island in the Antarctic. We asked Mark what were the best and the worst things about living in the Antarctic.

'The best thing about being here is the wonderful view,' Mark said. 'On my first day, I was unlucky because I was ill and had to spend a few days in bed. The station's doctor thought I'd eaten something bad at home, or in the station canteen, but I didn't even go to the canteen. I think it was the meal I had on the journey across – it didn't taste right to me. And so I was pretty miserable at the beginning. But then I lay in bed during those first days and watched icebergs drifting past my window. It was amazing! In summer, I like to be outside as much as possible. One of my jobs is to fly around with other scientists in a helicopter making observations and checking on experiments. We fly over the most fantastic places. Our pilots are really skilled. They can land anywhere – even on glaciers!'

'I try not to think about the bad things, but there are some, of course. I like the food – it's actually really good – but we don't have fresh fruit and vegetables. I often think about the countryside: the green grass, the trees, and the flowers. I always look forward to seeing it again. But Rothera is great because there's always someone to talk to if you're feeling unhappy, and someone will always help you with a difficult task. But at the same time people understand when you want to be alone.'

'There's always plenty to do as well. You might think that living in the middle of so much snow is boring, but it isn't at all. On good days I like to ski and snowboard, and watch the wildlife. I play badminton and table tennis at the station, and some nights I go to the gym, so fitness isn't a problem. We have video nights and games nights, and we even have cookery and woodwork lessons. I've actually learned some great new skills since I've been here. I've also had two holidays, camping. Of course, I'd like to have my friends and family with me, and I always think about that, but that can't happen for a while. I have to be patient. All in all, being at Rothera is a great experience.'

- Mark thinks he ate something bad ...
 - a few days after he arrived at the station.
 - during his trip to the station.
 - before he left home.
 - on the day he arrived at the station.
- During the summer months, Mark ...
 - flies a small plane.
 - travels across the island.
 - works alone.
 - spends his time inside the station.
- Mark sometimes feels bad because he ...
 - dislikes the meals at the station.
 - never has time alone.
 - misses the countryside.
 - finds the work difficult.
- Mark would like to ...
 - see his family more often.
 - have a holiday on the island.
 - learn some new skills.
 - have more opportunity to get fit.
- The purpose of the article is to ...
 - advertise jobs for scientists in the Antarctic.
 - make people aware of the problems in the Antarctic.
 - explain how to become a scientist in the Antarctic.
 - describe everyday life for a scientist in the Antarctic.

Listening

Strategy

If you do not know the answer to a question, leave it and go on to the next one. You will be given the chance to listen again.

- 3  2.17 Read the Strategy. Then listen to the dialogue and choose the correct answer (A–C).

- What's the prize for the design competition this year?
 - A money prize of £50.
 - A visit to a fashion show.
 - Some new clothes.
- What is Sally's problem?
 - She doesn't think her design is very fashionable.
 - She can't think of any new ideas for her design.
 - She has sold all of her new designs to friends.
- When does Sally need to enter the competition?
 - Next week.
 - In a few days.
 - In July.
- Sally has looked for some ideas
 - online.
 - at school.
 - at a fashion show.
- Sally likes Jake's suggestion of designing
 - a dress.
 - a jacket.
 - some sports shoes.

Use of English

Strategy

Try to guess the correct words without looking at the options. Then check if your answer is given as an option.

4 Read the Strategy. Then choose the correct options (A–C) to complete the gaps.

Crime drama programmes on television are very popular these days. They ¹ _____ on nearly all the channels in the evenings. The most popular series are the ones where scientific methods are used ² _____ the police investigators to find the criminals. But how true to life are these programmes? A scientist ³ _____ recently, and she ⁴ _____ the interviewer about some important differences between the stories in the dramas and the things that happen in real-life crime investigations. One of the most important things she mentioned was how long it really takes for test results to ⁵ _____ back. She gave the example of a programme that ⁶ _____ the night ⁷ _____. She said that the police ⁸ _____ the test results within hours and explained that in real life tests like these ⁹ _____ several days! She also said that ¹⁰ _____ these series were made as realistic as possible, viewers would get completely the wrong idea about what investigators are able to do. They would complain about the time that is taken to solve crimes. I think she has a point. What do you think? We'd love to hear your views.

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 A would find | B can be found | C are finding |
| 2 A by | B for | C of |
| 3 A interviewed | B has interviewed | C was interviewed |
| 4 A said to | B said | C told |
| 5 A be sent | B send | C be sending |
| 6 A is broadcast | B had been broadcast | C was broadcasting |
| 7 A previous | B last | C before |
| 8 A had received | B have received | C were received |
| 9 A will be taken | B would take | C were taken |
| 10 A if | B when | C unless |

Speaking

Strategy

Listen carefully to the instructions that the examiner gives and the questions that you are asked. If you do not understand the examiner's question, it is OK to ask him / her to repeat it.

5 Read the Strategy. Then tick (✓) the statements that can be used to ask the examiner to repeat a question.

- | | |
|---|--|
| A I'm sorry? ☐ | E I can't hear you. ☐ |
| B I don't know. ☐ | F Pardon? ☐ |
| C Excuse me? ☐ | G Don't speak so quietly. ☐ |
| D Could you repeat that, please? ☐ | H Sorry, I didn't catch that. ☐ |

6 Now do the exam task.

These two photos show children learning in different ways. Compare and contrast them and say which lesson you prefer and why. The following ideas may help you:

- the places and the atmosphere
- the people and their feelings
- the activities.



After comparing the photos, answer the questions.

- 1 How do you think children learn best? Why?
- 2 Which style of learning suits you best? Why?

Writing

Strategy

When writing an article that gives opinions about an issue, it is a good idea to give some examples to illustrate your point(s).

7 Read the Strategy. Underline the phrases used to introduce examples in the sentences below.

- 1 It's important to keep up to date with news events. For example, I always check out the important events online.
- 2 Using technology can be quite difficult for older people. My grandmother, for instance, often has problems using the tablet we bought her for her birthday.
- 3 Children need to learn about important environmental problems like global warming and climate change when they are at primary school.
- 4 We can do lots of things to help prevent burglaries, such as putting in alarms and locking all our windows.

8 Read the exam task and write your article.

An English student magazine has started a writing competition. The topic is 'New gadgets are making us lazier and lazier.' In order to take part in the competition, you need to write an article arguing your point of view. In your article:

- Express your opinion on the statement.
- Support your opinion with arguments.
- State counter arguments.
- Summarise the main points.