

SECTION A: READING COMPREHENSION

EXAMPLE 1 (Estimated time: 10' / Marks 5)

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

Ireland is ranked friendliest place in the world

- A. Irish oral tradition.
 - B. British attitude towards the Irish.
 - C. Good humour after hard times.
 - D. More than you can expect.
 - E. The biggest attraction in Ireland.
 - F. What the Irish think of Britain.
 - G. Having a nice time.
 - H. Three reasons to visit Ireland.
0. The British have rarely been complimentary about the Irish down the centuries. There have been the Irish jokes, insulting nicknames and the attitude that much that went on the neighbouring island was simply unacceptable. **B (Example)**
1. Now it turns out that the friendliest country in the world is Ireland. The prestigious British travel guide Lonely Planet reckons that the island's inhabitants have reverted to what they do best – drinking good liquor, making strangers feel at home and having fun.
2. The 2008 edition of The Lonely Planet BlueList – a guide to places you should think about visiting – says: “Centuries of turmoil, conquest, famine and subsequent immigration have left them with a deliciously dark sense of humour and a welcoming attitude towards strangers.”
3. “That famous ability of the Irish means you're always having fun. A cautious optimism reigns supreme, infecting the land once again with the sense that anything is possible.”
4. The verdict was greeted triumphantly by tourism officials yesterday. Lawrence Bate, of Tourism Ireland, said: “We are delighted to have this endorsement of thousands of Lonely Planet readers. People have expectations that are far and away exceeded when they visit Ireland.”
5. The Irish have further reason to smile after claiming a place in the Lonely Planet list of the world's 10 best brewery headquarters, leased by Arthur Guinness in 1759. “If you don't know what it is that makes the Guinness brewery Ireland's number one visitor attraction, you must be under 18,” the book says.

Adapted from *The Independent* by Andy McSmith, Oct 2007

EXAMPLE 2 (Estimated time: 15' / Marks 6)

Read the text and for questions 1-6 choose the correct option a), b) or c). 0 is the example.

CURRICULUM VITAE: TIPS THAT HELP

Six out of ten CV's which are prepared by Information Technology professionals fail to meet the basic standards and are turned down without even being read fully, according to a recruitment company. As a consequence, thousands of candidates are excluding themselves from attractive job opportunities.

Although the company handles over 60,000 CV's per year, it estimates that at least 60% would not be admitted if they were sent directly to potential clients due to basic errors.

The company Marketing Director said, "Sadly it's often the most highly qualified candidates whose CV's are so poorly constructed that they are literally dead on arrival. Attractive job opportunities in the IT industry often generate intense competition and there is often little to choose between the candidates".

"Advice on the presentation format of CV's in relation to the requirements that they are being submitted for should be an Industry standard so as to add real value to the candidates that you are representing and indeed to fulfill your professional obligations to your clients".

"Writing a CV can be extremely difficult and too often a CV turns out to be a generic overview including a lot of information that is irrelevant. People should remember that an employer typically spends between 15 and 30 seconds scanning each CV and you have that one chance to make an impression".

"A good CV is more than just documentation of your career path; it is a marketing tool designed to present your professional career experience according to the new job specification. It should also include details of past professional successes that effectively demonstrate your ability to undertake the job responsibilities outlined".

Adapted from College Times Magazine Feb 2007

0. Six out ten CV's are ...
 - a) attractive.
 - b) badly written. ✓ (Example)**
 - c) well-done.
1. Recruitment companies say that potential clients ...
 - a) make basic mistakes.
 - b) only get 60% of CV's.
 - c) reject CV's with mistakes.
2. The Marketing Director said that the best candidates ...
 - a) are the most affected.
 - b) do not send CV's.
 - c) write the best CV's.
3. The Marketing Director suggests that candidates ought to pay attention to ...
 - a) CV's presentation.
 - b) other companies.
 - c) other competitors.
4. The Marketing Director says that very often CV's include ...
 - a) necessary details.
 - b) unimportant information.
 - c) very little information
5. Candidates should remember that employers ...
 - a) are typical people.
 - b) are very busy people.
 - c) make an impression on people.
6. A good curriculum should show ...
 - a) the new job specifications.
 - b) your marketing tools.
 - c) your overall skills.

EXAMPLE 3 (Estimated time: 15' / Marks 9)

Read the text and complete each blank with ONE suitable word from the list supplied. Then write your answers in the boxes provided. Each word can be used only ONCE. Three of these words are not to be used. The first one has been done as an example.

VETERINARIANS TRY ACUPUNCTURE

As alternative approaches like acupuncture and herbal (0) **REMEDIES** (Example) have moved into the mainstream for humans, veterinarians have made those same techniques (1) _____ available for pets.

Animal-care officials say pet owners have been convinced by their own positive experiences that their pets should also enjoy the (2) _____ of alternative techniques.

“Seeing is believing,” said Ms Wortman, a pets hospital administrator, standing near a row of scented candles on the new clinic reception desk.

A Japanese fountain, soft lights and walls painted in soft tones increase the calming atmosphere of the clinic, which has a 24-hour-a-day (3) _____ room for pets.

The renovations have a (4) _____ effect on pets and it is just as important to create a setting where owners also (5) _____ relaxed.

Still the push for the new treatments – also known as holistic or complementary medicine – has not come so much from vets, whose medical training is still acquired in the rigours of the Western scientific tradition. Despite broadening acceptance, alternative medicine for animals faces (6) _____.

The American Veterinary Medical Association said in recent guidelines on alternative medical techniques for animals that the organization is “open to their consideration.” But it stressed that the quality of research into different methods varies, saying some practices “may (7) _____ from current scientific knowledge.”

An animal acupuncturist said one positive experience with alternative techniques can be enough to convince (8) _____. Ms Chartrand treats her cat with aromatherapy when she gets sick. “I do holistic things for my body. So I thought, (9) _____ exciting that they’re doing this for animals.”

Adapted from *Comm-oddities*. Nov. 2006

BELIEVERS	DOUBTERS	HOW	SKEPTICISM	WHAT
BENEFITS	EMERGENGY	INCREASINGLY	STRESSFUL	
DIFFER	FEEL	REMEDIES	THERAPEUTIC	

SECTION A: READING COMPREHENSION

EXAMPLE 1

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

Ireland is ranked friendliest place in the world

- A. Irish oral tradition.
 - B. British attitude towards the Irish.
 - C. Good humour after hard times.
 - D. More than you can expect.
 - E. The biggest attraction in Ireland.
 - F. What the Irish think of Britain.
 - G. Having a nice time.
 - H. Three reasons to visit Ireland.
0. The British have rarely been complimentary about the Irish down the centuries. There have been the Irish jokes, insulting nicknames and the attitude that much that went on the neighbouring island was simply unacceptable. **B (Example)**
1. Now it turns out that the friendliest country in the world is Ireland. The prestigious British travel guide Lonely Planet reckons that the island's inhabitants have reverted to what they do best – drinking good liquor, making strangers feel at home and having fun. **H**
2. The 2008 edition of The Lonely Planet Bluelist – a guide to places you should think about visiting – says: “Centuries of turmoil, conquest, famine and subsequent immigration have left them with a deliciously dark sense of humour and a welcoming attitude towards strangers.” **C**
3. “That famous ability of the Irish means you’re always having fun. A cautious optimism reigns supreme, infecting the land once again with the sense that anything is possible.” **G**
4. The verdict was greeted triumphantly by tourism officials yesterday. Lawrence Bate, of Tourism Ireland, said: “We are delighted to have this endorsement of thousands of Lonely Planet readers. People have expectations that are far and away exceeded when they visit Ireland.” **D**
5. The Irish have further reason to smile after claiming a place in the Lonely Planet list of the world's 10 best brewery headquarters, leased by Arthur Guinness in 1759. “If you don't know what it is that makes the Guinness brewery Ireland's number one visitor attraction, you must be under 18,” the book says. **E**

Adapted from *The Independent* By Andy McSmith, 17 October 2007

EXAMPLE 2

Read the text and for questions 1-6 choose the correct option a), b) or c). 0 is the example.

CURRICULUM VITAE: TIPS THAT HELP

Six out of ten CV's which are prepared by Information Technology professionals fail to meet the basic standards and are turned down without even being read fully, according to a recruitment company. As a consequence, thousands of candidates are excluding themselves from attractive job opportunities.

Although the company handles over 60,000 CV's per year, it estimates that at least 60% would not be admitted if they were sent directly to potential clients due to basic errors.

The company Marketing Director said, "Sadly it's often the most highly qualified candidates whose CV's are so poorly constructed that they are literally dead on arrival. Attractive job opportunities in the IT industry often generate intense competition and there is often little to choose between the candidates".

"Advice on the presentation format of CV's in relation to the requirements that they are being submitted for should be an Industry standard so as to add real value to the candidates that you are representing and indeed to fulfill your professional obligations to your clients".

"Writing a CV can be extremely difficult and too often a CV turns out to be a generic overview including a lot of information that is irrelevant. People should remember that an employer typically spends between 15 and 30 seconds scanning each CV and you have that one chance to make an impression".

"A good CV is more than just documentation of your career path; it is a marketing tool designed to present your professional career experience according to the new job specification. It should also include details of past professional successes that effectively demonstrate your ability to undertake the job responsibilities outlined".

Adapted from College Times magazine February 2007

0. Six out ten CV's are ...
 - a) attractive.
 - b) badly written. ✓ (Example)**
 - c) well-done.
1. Recruitment companies say that potential clients would ...
 - a) make basic mistakes.
 - b) only get 60% of CV's.
 - c) reject CV's with mistakes. ✓**
2. The Marketing Director said that the best candidates ...
 - a) are the most affected. ✓**
 - b) do not send CV's.
 - c) write the best CV's.
3. The Marketing Director suggests that candidates ought to pay attention to ...
 - a) CV's presentation. ✓**
 - b) other companies.
 - c) other competitors.
4. The Marketing Director says that very often CV's include ...
 - a) necessary details.
 - b) unimportant information. ✓**
 - c) very little information
5. Candidates should remember that employers ...
 - a) are typical people.
 - b) are very busy people. ✓**
 - c) make an impression on people.
6. A good curriculum should show ...
 - a) the new job specifications.
 - b) your marketing tools.
 - c) your overall skills. ✓**

EXAMPLE 3

Read the text and complete each blank with ONE suitable word or phrase from the list supplied. Then write your answers in the boxes provided. Each word can be used only ONCE. Three of these words are not to be used. The first blank has been done as an example.

VETERINARIANS TRY ACUPUNCTURE

As alternative approaches like acupuncture and herbal (0) **REMEDIES** (**Example**) have moved into the mainstream for humans, veterinarians have made those same techniques (1) **INCREASINGLY** available for pets.

Animal-care officials say pet owners have been convinced by their own positive experiences that their pets should also enjoy the (2) **BENEFITS** of alternative techniques.

“Seeing is believing,” said Ms Wortman, a pets hospital administrator, standing near a row of scented candles on the new clinic reception desk.

A Japanese fountain, soft lights and walls painted in soft tones increase the calming atmosphere of the clinic, which has a 24-hour-a-day (3) **EMERGENCY** room for pets.

The renovations have a (4) **THERAPEUTIC** effect on pets and it is just as important to create a setting where owners also (5) **FEEL** relaxed.

Still the push for the new treatments – also known as holistic or complementary medicine – has not come so much from vets, whose medical training is still acquired in the rigours of the Western scientific tradition. Despite broadening acceptance, alternative medicine for animals faces (6) **SKEPTICISM**.

The American Veterinary Medical Association said in recent guidelines on alternative medical techniques for animals that the organization is “open to their consideration.” But it stressed that the quality of research into different methods varies, saying some practices “may (7) **DIFFER** from current scientific knowledge.”

An animal acupuncturist said one positive experience with alternative techniques can be enough to convince (8) **DOUBTERS**. Ms Chartrand treats her cat with aromatherapy when she gets sick. “I do holistic things for my body. So I thought, (9) **HOW** exciting that they’re doing this for animals.”

Adapted from *Comm-oddities*. Nov. 2006

BELIEVERS	DOUBTERS	HOW	SKEPTICISM	WHAT
BENEFITS	EMERGENGY	INCREASINGLY	STRESSFUL	
DIFFER	FEEL	REMEDIES	THERAPEUTIC	

SECTION B: LISTENING COMPREHENSION

EXAMPLE 1

Listen to the following text about David Coulthard, an F1 driver. For questions 1-6, choose the most appropriate alternative a), b) or c).

DAVID COULTHARD

0. The presenter says the sound in the background ...
 - a) comes from a TV Sunday programme.
 - b) makes her feel sleepy.
 - c) **reminds her of her father.** ✓ (Example)
1. F1 driver David Coulthard likes ...
 - a) being inside a racing car.
 - b) driving at 280 km/hr.
 - c) **feeling fully concentrated.** ✓
2. Many F1 drivers suffer from health problems because of the ...
 - a) **force of gravity.** ✓
 - b) ground conditions.
 - c) heat in the car.
3. In the world of motor racing, eating disorders are ...
 - a) **more common than we think.** ✓
 - b) spoken about among ladies.
 - c) unknown to F1 drivers.
4. After the 1995 accident, D. Coulthard realised he ...
 - a) **had gained experience.** ✓
 - b) lost concentration.
 - c) was scared to drive again.
5. Which of these options best summarises what the programme is about?
 - a) How dangerous F1 driving is.
 - b) **What it is like to be an F1 driver.** ✓
 - c) What problems F1 driving has.

Adapted from *www.bbc.co.uk*

EXAMPLE 2

Listen to the following text about Vivienne Westwood, a fashion designer. Fill gaps 1-6 with no more than three words.

VIVIENNE WESTWOOD

- Vivienne Westwood is a **British fashion designer** of the mid 1970s. **(Example)**
- To shock the establishment, punk used (1) **REBELLIOUS MUSIC**, odd behaviour and colourful clothes.
- Punk youngsters often wore tartan trousers, (2) **SAFETY PINS / SPIKY HAIR** and dog collars.
- In her cultural manifesto V. Westwood encourages people to rebel against commerce, celebrity and (3) **CONCEPTUAL ART**.
- In her opinion you use (4) **YOUR IMAGINATION** in the theatre more than in the cinema.
- She considers magazines are more suitable for (5) **(VISUALLY) ILLITERATE** people.

Adapted from *www.bbc.co.uk*

EXAMPLE 3

You are going to hear an interview with Guy Ferland, an American film director. Are the following statements True or False?

GUY FERLAND

0. Guy Ferland promoted *Telling lies* in Spain. **T (Example)**
1. *Telling lies* is a film about a killer. **FALSE**
2. Guy Ferland started making films after seeing a film by Hitchcock. **TRUE**
3. He found it difficult to get a job after graduating. **FALSE**
4. In *Telling lies* there is a character who appears in all the scenes. **TRUE**
5. To make the film, he had to research the music of the 70s. **FALSE**
6. The main character in the film is an American boy. **FALSE**

Adapted from *Speak Up Magazine*