

## GRADES 7-8

### PART 1.

#### LISTENING COMPREHENSION

TIME: 30 MIN.

**Task 1. You will hear a dialogue between a man and a woman. For questions 1-9, complete the sentences with one word each (there contracted forms can be). Mark your answers on your answer sheet. You will hear the dialogue twice.**

**Presenter:** Today we're looking at the darker side of literature with two books about not-so-happy families. And we've got writer Helen Slade and book critic Anna Kimura to talk us through them. First up, we're looking at *Her Mother's Daughter* by Alice Fitzgerald, a novel written from two points of **1) ...**, one of a child and the other of her very troubled mother. Helen, I have to be honest. I found this one hard to read. It's very well written but, well, how did you find it?

**Helen:** I know what you mean, but I **2) ...** couldn't put it down and stayed up till three in the morning to finish it. There's something about immersing yourself in a family this flawed, this damaged, that's compelling. You'd never want to be in that family yourself, but that's what reading is about, isn't it? Wearing someone **3) ...** shoes for a while without ever having to live their reality.

**Presenter:** You surprise me! The families in your own books are a million miles away from this one.

**Helen:** Yeah, my readers can always be sure they're going to get a happy ending. Which you **4) ...** I don't want to give too much away here, but you definitely don't feel like a happy ending is coming for these characters.

**Presenter:** OK, so don't mention the ending, but can you just describe **5) ...** listeners what the book is about?

**Helen:** So, it's about a family with secrets. The mother has hidden her troubled childhood from her husband and her two children but, of course, it's shaped her entire personality and how she behaves as a mother and as a wife. Which is especially obvious when we're reading the sections told in the **6) ...** voice, even though the little girl herself doesn't understand the meaning of everything she's seeing.

**Presenter:** For me, what was really so shocking was less what happened to the mother when she was a child but how the mother treated her own children. Why is that, do you think?

**Helen:** I think we're all programmed to see mothers as something sacred and pure. As a child she was **7) ...** by her father, and in some ways we're not that shocked by that, which is a sad thing in itself, and her own mother didn't help her. As a reader we're less **8) ...** by that, I think, because that part of the story is revealed to us in the mother's voice, the adult voice. But the reason the way she treats her own child is so much more shocking is that the child is telling us about it and we sympathise with her. **9) ...** very clever how the author plays on our natural instincts to protect a child.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

**Task 2. You will hear a story. For questions 10-15, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear. Mark your answers on your answer sheet. You will hear the story twice.**

10. Today is the kind of day that makes Vicky happy because ...
- a) her life was different four months ago
  - b) she came home from school earlier than usual
  - c) watched TV for half an hour
  - d) she doesn't have any homework to do
11. Vicky hated school because ...
- a) she didn't get on well with her parents
  - b) she didn't see the point of doing so much homework
  - c) her teachers didn't understand her
  - d) it was worse than home
12. In England you can get a proper job when you are ...
- a) fourteen
  - b) fifteen
  - c) seventeen
  - d) sixteen
13. When the Robinsons learned Vicky's story they offered ...
- a) to take her back home in their car
  - b) to pay for her ticket home
  - c) to talk to her parents so that they wouldn't be angry
  - d) to call her parents and ask them to come
14. While Vicky was in the Robinsons' house, Mrs. Robinson went next door and telephoned ...
- a) Vicky's father
  - b) the police in Birmingham
  - c) the police in London
  - d) her friend
15. Vicky's mother said her daughter's coming back home was the best ...
- a) Christian's present
  - b) birthday present
  - c) Christmas present
  - d) holiday

<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>

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**PART 2  
READING COMPREHENSION**

**Time: 40 min.**

**Task 1. Read the text and questions below. For each question, mark the correct letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet.**

In 2005, Cliff Jones began a journey round Britain on a unicycle, a bike with only one wheel. He had already made a documentary film about his experiences travelling round Europe in a 50-year-old car. He was mad about motor sport and had a job building racing car engines. To save money, Cliff rode to work in London on an old bicycle, which he also used to go to France on holiday. ‘That trip opened my eyes,’ he says. ‘I decided to do a tour of Britain by bike.’

Cliff didn’t want a normal touring bike, and he knew he wanted to build one himself. ‘The craziest bicycle I could think of was a unicycle, so I went to a factory to see how they are made.’ After one false start in 2004, when he had to turn back because of a knee injury, he finally set out in 2005. He was away for four months, and travelled over 8,500 km.

The best bit of the trip was arriving in Wales and seeing Mount Snowdon. ‘Although I met cyclists who could easily ride up mountains on their bikes, which I couldn’t do, I never regretted my unicycle. The further away from London I got, the more amazed people seemed by it.’ His worst moment came when he had to drink some dirty water from a stream. A serious fever kept him in bed in hospital for five long days. He was determined not to give up and go back home before he had completed his challenge, but found it hard to carry on because he felt so weak. Yet despite all this, Cliff now says, ‘If I could afford it, I would like to do something similar again.’

1. What is the writer trying to do in this text?

- A advise people to take adventure holidays
- B explain a rather unusual choice of transport
- C suggest the benefits of a special vehicle
- D persuade people to travel long distances

2. What made Cliff realize he wanted to cycle round Britain?

- A touring Europe in an old car
- B visiting a unicycle factory
- C attending motor races abroad
- D taking his bike to another country

3. When Cliff met other cyclists in the mountains, he was

- A anxious to get away from them.
- B satisfied with his own type of bicycle.
- C jealous of what they were able to do.
- D surprised by their attitude towards him.

4. What was Cliff’s biggest problem during the trip?

- A He fell ill for nearly a week.

- B He had to go home to rest.
- C He wanted to finish his trip early.
- D He took too long to get to one place.

5. What might Cliff say after his trip?

- A My aim was to get to the top of Mount Snowdon, so I was disappointed not to reach Wales.
- B I am already building the unicycle for my next trip. It's going to be the latest model so I can ride up mountains.
- C I was happy when I managed to get started at the second attempt. Fortunately, my knee didn't give me any more trouble.
- D I'm lucky that I have plenty of money. That means I can set off on another trip whenever I like.

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

**Task 2. Read the text and mark the sentences as correct or incorrect**

I began riding motorbikes when I was eighteen years old, as a passenger on the back of my friend Luke's bike. It was a classic motorbike – big, fast, and noisy! Our first few rides were short trips – which he was very careful to make as enjoyable as possible for me – and as a result I fell in love with the whole motorbike experience almost immediately.

After a couple of months of shorter rides, we went on a longer group ride with Luke's motorcycling club, which he said would give me a good idea of the pleasures and difficulties of motorcycling. We rode approximately 100 km in one day, and it was a great experience – although we only managed to get less than half of the way to our destination. The ride was wonderful and we had beautiful weather as we went along the quiet roads. However, after we'd stopped to have a rest and were about to carry on riding, one rider in the group, Tania, suddenly found her bike wouldn't start. Some people in the group finally managed to get it going, but in the end Tania had to turn round and go back home by herself, knowing that if she stopped anywhere, she wouldn't be able to start her bike again. She bravely decided she could ride back home alone, but I doubted whether I'd have such a confident attitude in the same situation.

Our group then drove on to the mountains and stopped for some lunch – and that's where things started to go wrong. The weather turned bad and it began to snow. The, without asking anyone, the leader of the group had the idea of going in a completely new direction up a steep mountain road, with corners that would be difficult for motorbikes even when the weather was good – and by now it was snowing quite heavily!

When we finally made it to the top of the mountain, Luke was annoyed. He said it was too risky to be a mountain in such bad weather, and that we should go back down. We were both frozen when we reached the bottom, despite our cold-weather clothes. However, when we got back to my house we both began to see the funnier side of it all, and I immediately asked Luke when we could go again. I realized I could handle the worst of times on a motorbike, and there and then I made up my mind to try and save up for one.

6 Graham says his friend Luke was keen for him to enjoy riding motorbikes.

- 7 Luke was confident their first ride with his club would be a totally positive experience.
- 8 For Graham's first group ride, they planned to go to a place 100 km away.
- 9 One rider in their group, Tania, started her bike without help when it broke down.
- 10 Graham wondered if he would feel the same as Tania if his bike had the same problem.
- 11 At one point, the group leader decided to change the route they were following.
- 12 Luke was concerned that the weather conditions were making their ride dangerous.
- 13 They found that the clothes they were wearing protected them from the weather.
- 14 Like and graham's mood improved after they reached Graham's house.
- 15 Immediately after the trip graham bought a new motorbike of his own.

6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15

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### PART 3.

#### USE OF ENGLISH

**TIME: 40 MIN.**

**Task 1. Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first. Use NO MORE THAN THREE words. Write only the missing words on your answer sheet.**

- 1 It was several months since Jessica last went on a train.  
**Jessica hadn't been on a train \_\_\_\_\_ several months.**
- 2 Jessica bought her ticket in advance online.  
**Jessica's ticket \_\_\_\_\_ bought in advance online.**
- 3 It wasn't easy to find a seat because the train was crowded.  
**The train was \_\_\_\_\_ crowded that it was difficult to find a seat.**
- 4 Jessica asked what time they would arrive in York.  
**Jessica asked 'What time \_\_\_\_\_ we arrive in York?'**
- 5 The journey wasn't boring for Jessica because she had a good luck.  
**Jessica \_\_\_\_\_ find the journey boring because she had a good book.**
- 6 I often go cycling with my friend Dan at the weekends.  
**My friend Dan usually \_\_\_\_\_ cycling with me at the weekends.**
- 7 Our favourite place to visit is the lake near our town.  
**We like visiting the lake near our town \_\_\_\_\_ than anywhere else.**
- 8 We hadn't cycled into the countryside for several months.

It was several months \_\_\_\_\_ we had cycled into the countryside.

9 We only had a break when we got hungry at about 2.00.

We didn't have a break \_\_\_\_\_ we got hungry at about 2.00.

10 It was the best ride we'd had for a long time.

We hadn't had \_\_\_\_\_ a good ride for a long time.

**Task 2. Read the text below and choose the correct word for each space. For each question, mark the correct letter A, B, C or D on your own answer sheet.**

**Example:**

0 A brought    B held    C kept    D grown

**Answer C**

Alpacas were first (0) \_\_\_\_\_ by the Inca people in the mountains of South America, more than six thousand years ago. These animals (11) \_\_\_\_\_ clothes, food and fuel for their owners. The softest wool was (12) \_\_\_\_\_ worn by the leaders of Incan society though.

When Spanish explorers (13) \_\_\_\_\_ in the fifteenth century, sheep were introduced and these gradually (14) \_\_\_\_\_ alpacas in the region. It wasn't (15) \_\_\_\_\_ the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century that both farmers and fashion designers began to recognize the (16) \_\_\_\_\_ alpacas again. They are easy to look (17) \_\_\_\_\_ since they eat grass and are used to low temperatures. Their wool, which comes in a (18) \_\_\_\_\_ of natural colours from white to dark brown, is lighter and warmer than sheep's wool and (19) \_\_\_\_\_ strong.

It is not surprising (20) \_\_\_\_\_ that alpacas are becoming a familiar sight in the fields of North America, Australia and the UK.

- |    |             |             |             |               |
|----|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| 11 | A supported | B provided  | C turned    | D gained      |
| 12 | A mainly    | B fully     | C extremely | D absolutely  |
| 13 | A reached   | B delivered | C arrived   | D transferred |
| 14 | A retired   | B removed   | C returned  | D replaced    |
| 15 | A until     | B after     | C during    | D before      |
| 16 | A prizes    | B rewards   | C qualities | D points      |







