Listening (16 points)

Time: 15 minutes

You will hear people talking in 8 different situations. For questions 1-8, choose the best answer (A, B or C). You will hear each conversation twice.

1. You hear a woman talking about going to a concert with her friends. How does she feel about Jack not going with them?

A) She's astonished at his decision.

B) She understands his reaction.

C) She's disappointed he isn't coming.

2. You overhear a man and a woman talking about saving money. What do they agree about?

- A) a way to spend less on food
- B) a way to save on leisure activities
- C) a way to cut their electricity bill

3. You overhear two colleagues talking about how to improve their French quickly. What is the woman doing?

- A) working out which way would be best
- B) getting the man to follow her example
- C) complaining about the lack of time

4. You overhear two friends talking about ways to get fit. What is the man's response to the suggestion of running?

- A) enthusiastic agreement
- B) limited agreement
- C) complete disagreement

5. You hear two people talking about going on holiday. What doesn't the woman want to do?

- A) camp in bad weather
- B) stay in expensive accommodation
- C) spend a lot of time travelling

6. You hear two people talking about the moon. How do they respond to the idea of living on the moon?

A) They can't imagine doing it themselves.

- B) They think there are dangers involved.
- C) They believe it's likely to happen soon.

7. You hear two people talking about a city centre gym. Why is the woman not sure about joining it?

- A) It costs a lot to be a member.
- B) The staff are rather unwelcoming.
- C) The location is not convenient.

8. You hear a man talking about a football match. How does he feel about his team's performance?

- A) He is disappointed.
- B) He is happy.
- C) He is surprised.

Transfer your answers to the answer sheet!

Reading (15 points)

Time: 25 minutes

Task 1

For items 1–6, read the text below and choose sentences A–H that fit into the numbered gaps in the text. There are two extra sentences, which you do not need to use.

A WRITER FOR ALL TIME

'He was not of an age, but for all time!' stated the preface of William Shakespeare's collected plays when they were first published in 1623. 1_____. But in the years that followed, the words of that preface proved to be prophetic. His reputation grew and grew and today Shakespeare is widely recognized as the greatest writer in the history of English literature. His plays live on, translated into at least eighty languages and performed all over the globe. Why is it that, four hundred years after his death, his work is still rated so highly?

2_____. But Shakespeare could tell great stories in all these genres and more: from quirky fairy tale ('A Midsummer Night's Dream') to political thriller ('Richard III'). He rarely came up with original plots for his plays - in fact, he usually took them from traditional stories, history or other writers. In his hands, however, they became powerful tales that transcend time and culture. 'Romeo and Juliet' is a story of love, hate and teenage rebellion against authoritarian parents. 'Macbeth' shows the dangers of ruthless ambition. 'Othello' deals with insecurity, trust and jealousy. It's no surprise that theatre and film directors return again and again to his plays for their material. As well as productions using the original language and settings, there have been imaginative reinterpretations as musicals ('Romeo and Juliet'/'West Side Story'), sci-fi films ('The Tempest'/'Forbidden Planet'), high school romantic comedies ('Twelfth Night'/'She's the Man'), ('Macbeth'/'Maqboof'), and even Bollywood films children's cartoons ('Hamlet'/'The Lion King').

Shakespeare portrayed the richness and variety of human life in a way that has never been equalled in the English literature and many actors believe that his characters are drama's most challenging and satisfying roles. 3_____.We can easily picture ourselves as Hamlet, a person of gentle character who is led by extreme circumstances to plan violent revenge on his uncle, or as King Lear, flattered into trusting the wrong people and driving away the ones who truly love him. Every character, however bad, has a human side. Even Shylock, the shockingly cruel villain in 'The Merchant of Venice', has some positive traits.

While some parts of Shakespeare's plays are in prose, his greatest speeches are in verse and their language, though old-fashioned, still resonates powerfully with modern audiences. His rude jokes ensure that the theatre is often filled with laughter, but moments later there might be an achingly beautiful passage about love or chilling words about death, revenge or jealousy. As well as at least thirty-seven plays, he is known for 154 short poems called sonnets. **4**_____. They include some of the most famous lines about love and beauty in the English language.

Shakespeare enjoyed playing with words and his language is full of interesting images and metaphors. People still use many of them today, unaware that they were invented by him: *green-eyed monster* (meaning 'jealousy') and *wear your heart on your sleeve* (meaning 'show your emotions') are two examples. 5_____. Of the 17,000 different words that he used in his plays and poems, he made up an incredible 1,700 of them, and we are still using 800 today. They include everyday words, such as *generous, apostrophe, hurry, road* and *amazement*.

Perhaps one day a writer will be able to match the achievements of William Shakespeare. 6_____.

A Each of his leading character has a complicated mixture of qualities and faults which feel very real to the audience.

B This treasure, now 400 years old, stands at the heart of the Library's Shakespeare celebrations today.

C But until then he stands at the pinnacle of English literature, setting the standard which all other great writers want to achieve.

D Even individual words were a chance for Shakespeare to show off his creativity.

E It is thought that he started writing them in 1592 when the plague stopped Londoners from being able to go to the theatre.

F At that point, seven years after the playwright's death, Shakespeare was just one of many respected writers of his era.

G But his plays were written for the stage, not for printing.

H Many writers before Shakespeare could write great comedy, or tragedy, or history.

Task 2

Read the text again and mark the sentences (7-15) T (true), F (false) or NS (not stated), according to the text.

7. Shakespeare's reputation is better now than it was during his lifetime.

8. All the stories for his plays were his own.

9. To enjoy his stories, you have to know a lot about Britain's past.

10. His heroes have more good qualities than people have in real life.

11. Audiences pity Shylock in 'The Merchant of Venice'.

12. Audiences today can't feel the emotions in his plays.

13. He liked to use humour after a particularly tragic scene.

14. In1592 people in London stopped going to the theatre because of a terrible disease.

15. His plays are full of words of his own invention.

Transfer your answers to the answer sheet!

Use of English (24 points)

Time: 20 minutes

Task 1

For questions 1-8, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.

LETTER WRITING

Because of national festivals such as Christmas or personal **1**. _____ like birthdays, there is undoubted pleasure in waiting for a letter to **2**. _____ through the letterbox, as opposed to a text or an e-mail.

People love receiving personal letters, but they are not **3.** _____ on replying to them. A survey of letter writers in the UK **4.** _____ that young people are among the most frequent letter writers. They are also prepared to **5.** _____ emailing a friend they may never meet.

However, the survey also produced a strange result. **6.** _____ 94% of people agreed that a letter showed that someone had put time and thought into its content, 69% said they would **7.** _____ to spend their time on other things than writing. Overall, almost a third thought that receiving good **8.** _____ was the best thing about receiving letters.

1.	A	occasions	B	times	C	points	D	days
2.	A	post	В	enter	C	drop	D	push
3.	A	keen	В	anxious	C	eager	D	concerned
4.	A	described	В	made	C	meant	D	showed
5.	A	do	В	begin	C	hold	D	write
6.	A	However	В	But	C	While	D	Moreover
7.	A	prefer	В	rather	C	consider	D	enjoy

7

8.	A	evidence	B	facts	C	greetings	D	news	
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Task 2

For questions 9-17, read the text below and think of the word that best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap.

BLOGAHOLICS

A blog or a weblog is a frequently updated internet journal that 9. _____ intended for the general public to read. Blogs are popular as they give their authors, bloggers, 10. _____ own voice on the Internet. It is a place 11. _____ ordinary people can share interests – whether through a political commentary, a personal diary 12. _____ a list of links to favourite websites.

Professional as **13.** _____ as amateur journalists often use blogs to public breaking news, while personal bloggers may prefer sharing their inner thoughts

14. _____ the rest of the world.

For many people, blogging is just a hobby, but for others it can become an obsession. Bloggers **15.** _____ fall into this group can feel forced to write several times a day and become nervous if something prevents them **16.** _____ blogging. As with other addicts, these people spend more and more of their time on their obsession and may end **17.** _____ failing to care for their families, friends and jobs.

Task 3

For questions, 18-24 find the names of the British rulers that are hidden in the word search below to match interesting facts about them. Words can go across or down. There are two names in the word search that you do not need.

18. (1066-1087) By the time of his/her death on 9 September, 1087, this monarch had maintained the authority over both England and Normandy for over two decades. He/She built over 50 castles and fortifications during his/her reign. One of the most memorable of them was the White Tower, which remains the central structure of the Tower of London.

19. (1837-1901) This monarch's reign of 63 years and 216 days was a period of industrial, political, scientific, and military change within the United Kingdom, and was marked by a great expansion of the British Empire. He/She married a German and had nine children.

20. (1558-1603) According to his/her own words, this monarch 'was married to England'. The Spanish Armada was defeated, which strengthened the monarch's power. The period of his/her reign was 'The Golden Age' of art and literature.

21. (1553-1558) This monarch was a child of King Henry VIII and his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, and was crowned at Westminster Abby on 1 October, 1553. The monarch's nickname was "Bloody".

22. (1952-2022) This monarch's reign of over 70 years was longer than any British monarch's. In 1977 he/she celebrated the 25^{th} anniversary of the accession to the throne. To mark it, this person visited 36 countries – no monarch had visited so many places within such a short period.

23. (1509-1547) This monarch was born dreaming of war. When he/she took the throne in April 1509, he/she knew what kind of monarch he/she wanted to be. The monarch was married six times and was recognized as Head of the English Church. 24. (2022 - present) This monarch is the oldest person to ever take the British throne. He/She was the first of the British Royalty not to be educated at home and to earn a university degree. The monarch was married to Lady Diana Spencer, known as Princess Diana.

THE BRITISH ROYALS



Transfer your answers to the answer sheet!

Writing (20 points)

Time: 30 minutes

Read the advertisement.

Stories wanted!

We are looking for stories for our teenage English online magazine. Are you a creative and imaginative person? Create a fantasy world and take part in the Fantasy World Contest! Your story must begin with:

Once a wizard, the Librarian, found himself in a fantasy world.

Write the story about your fantasy world.

Remember to:

- give a title to your story (it must be the name of the fantasy world);
- start with the sentence from the advertisement;
- describe the place and the main character, the Librarian, in an entertaining way;
- include the episode where the Librarian uses his magic powers;
- include direct speech.

In your story, do not forget to follow the plan, use vivid language and express your ideas in a clear and logical way.

Write 120-200 words.

Transfer your answer to the answer sheet!