

Aim High 5 Exam practice 5

Reading

Tips

- Read the text quickly, then read sentences A–G.
- Read the sentences before and after each gap in the text very carefully, looking for clues about the missing sentence, e.g. pronouns, conjunctions and linking words.
- Read the text again with the missing sentences and check that it makes sense.

Read the text about education for gifted children. Complete the text by matching the sentences (A–G) to the gaps in the text (1–6). There is one sentence you do not need.

Too far too fast?

One of the difficulties faced by child prodigies is that the school system is just not set up for them. ¹ _____ This makes it difficult for teachers to accommodate their needs within a standard class. Activities suitable for most of the children in the class will be unchallenging or downright boring to the gifted child. ² _____ The big advantage of this form of ‘accelerated learning’ is that it meets the academic needs of gifted children within the normal school system, without the need for specialist tuition.

From the point of view of gifted children, the big advantage of moving up a year or two is that school life immediately becomes a lot more interesting. ³ _____ The work itself is also more demanding and likely to stretch their abilities. A second benefit is that it gives them the opportunity to take exams at a younger age and move on to higher education and ultimately a career. ⁴ _____ Some have gone on to study at university at ages as young as twelve or thirteen, graduating before most youngsters have even thought of applying to university.

Moving quickly through the education system does offer undoubted academic benefits. ⁵ _____ They argue that children also need to develop physically, socially and emotionally, and in these areas a gifted child may be no more advanced than a child of more average ability. Many psychologists worry about youngsters who have been ‘hot-housed’ and go to university too young. ⁶ _____ It is also about leaving home and growing up. Interestingly, Ruth Lawrence, who made headlines in Britain when she was accepted by Oxford University at the age of twelve, has said that what she most wants for her own son is to have a normal childhood!

- A There have been some well-known cases of teenagers who have been fast-tracked through their education in this way.
- B However, some psychologists believe it can be damaging to a child's social or emotional development.
- C Their ability and understanding is often way beyond that of their peers.
- D They argue that university is about more than just academic achievement.
- E They are working with children who are more on a par with them academically.
- F Many gifted children suffer with social problems later in life.
- G A common response to this is for schools to move gifted children forward by one or two years in their education.

Use of English

Tips

- Read the text through once to find out what it is about.
- Think carefully what meaning is required for each gap.
- Read the four possibilities and see which word has the exact meaning needed.
- Think about the grammar and collocations of the words, as well as the meaning.
- Check that the other three words don't fit.

Complete the text with the correct words (a–d).

Making a difference

What are you prepared to ¹ _____ in order to help the environment? Most of us agree that something ² _____ to be done to stop climate change becoming worse. But how many of us are prepared to take ³ _____ action in order to make a difference? Yes, of course we are happy to make token ⁴ _____ such as recycling paper and cans, and using energy-saving light bulbs. But when it ⁵ _____ to abandoning our cars or foregoing the comforts of modern living, far fewer of us are willing to ⁶ _____ sacrifices. Most scientists believe that people will not really change their ⁷ _____ until the economic necessity begins to hit home. Fuel prices, they argue, will begin to ⁸ _____ rapidly over the next twenty years. This will ⁹ _____ to a reduction in consumption, which in turn will help to slow climate change. In the meantime, we will all probably ¹⁰ _____ to say that someone needs to do something!

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|---------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1 a give out | b give up | c give off | d give over |
| 2 a had | b should | c needs | d must |
| 3 a single | b own | c sole | d individual |
| 4 a gestures | b signs | c acts | d examples |
| 5 a goes | b comes | c gets | d arrives |
| 6 a do | b have | c make | d get |
| 7 a lifestyle | b habit | c way | d living |
| 8 a expand | b heighten | c raise | d increase |
| 9 a cause | b result | c lead | d force |
| 10 a keep | b continue | c go on | d resume |

Listening

3.23 You will hear part of a radio programme. Choose the best answer (a–d) according to what you hear.

- 1 What does the presenter say about the new documentary?
 - a It is extremely popular.
 - b Its impact is slightly exaggerated.
 - c It resembles popular reality shows.
 - d It has begun a new era in broadcasting.
- 2 One of the puzzles of the ‘screaming man’ is
 - a the way he acquired his celebrity status.
 - b the mysterious noises his body emits.
 - c why he has such a strange facial expression.
 - d his coffin which is covered in strange markings.
- 3 When the mummy was found
 - a archaeologists tried to preserve it properly.
 - b it was immediately given a tomography scan.
 - c scientists assumed it was in perfect condition.
 - d it was thought to have been hastily mummified.
- 4 Anthony Geffen
 - a protected the mummy from hordes of curious tourists.
 - b was officially allowed to have the mummy examined.
 - c filmed the mummy being removed from the museum.
 - d became a member of Egypt’s Council of Antiquities.

Writing

Tips

- Plan your ideas before you start writing, and organize your ideas into paragraphs.
- You can either put forward just one point of view, or present both sides of an argument.
- Remember to include your own opinion.

Write an essay on the subject below.

We are all responsible for climate change, so we must all act to prevent it.

In your essay:

- discuss who or what is most responsible for climate change
- talk about whether individuals can really make a difference
- give your own opinion.

Speaking

Preparation

- Read the statement and think about your own opinions.
- Express your own opinions and listen to your partner's ideas. React by agreeing or disagreeing politely, e.g. *Yes, I can see your point, but ...*, *That's true, but don't you think ...?*

Work in pairs. Read the statement below and discuss it.

Gifted children should not be treated differently to non-gifted children.

These ideas may help you:

- Do you agree or disagree with the statement? Why?
- Can you add examples?
- What other points of view can you appreciate?
- Can you talk about your experience, or the experience of family members?