

READING COMPREHENSION (70 minutes)

Name: _____

Group: _____

PART 1. READING COMPREHENSION - TRUE / FALSE. Read the text and decide whether the sentences are TRUE or FALSE.

Bill: There's a lot of crime in my neighbourhood and I'm really worried about it. I think the police should do more to control it. I often see people selling drugs on the street and there are always fights outside the pub at the weekend.

Emma: I never go out alone, especially not at night, and I always lock all the doors and windows when I'm at home. I've even thought about moving to a safer area.

Sophie: I don't think the police can do much to stop crime. There have always been criminals and there always will be. They just need to make sure that they catch them and put them in prison. I don't feel unsafe in my neighbourhood. I think you just need to be careful and use common sense.

Ryan: I work as a nurse in a hospital and I often have to walk home late at night. I've been attacked twice on my way home from work, so I know what it's like to be a victim of crime. I think the government needs to spend more money on putting more police officers on the streets. I also think that the police should work more closely with local communities. That way they would get more information about criminals and their activities.

Chris: I was a member of a gang when I was younger. We used to steal cars and sell drugs. I got arrested and I spent seven years in prison. I think prison is the best place for criminals. It keeps them off the streets and it stops them from committing more crimes.

1. Bill sees people selling drugs outside the pub at the weekend.
2. Emma is thinking about moving to a safer neighbourhood.
3. Sophie is not worried about criminals in her neighbourhood.
4. Ryan has been attacked more than once.
5. Chris is still in prison.

PART 2. READING COMPREHENSION – MULTIPLE CHOICE. You are going to read an interview with the daughter of a famous film director. Choose the best option (a, b, c or d) to answer questions 1-6. The activity starts with an example (0).

MY FATHER, THE MASTER OF SUSPENSE

Patricia Hitchcock is small like her father, Britain's most famous and commercially successful film director, Alfred Hitchcock. She also has something of the intense gaze recognisable from photographs of her mother, Alma. This genetic fusion is entirely apt for, like his only child, Hitchcock's films were very much a collaborative effort with his wife, who was older than him by just a day and outlived him by only two years.

In the early years of their relationship, Hitchcock was actually the junior partner. The couple met at one of the London film studios. It was still the silent era, and Hitchcock, who had become obsessed with film-making, pestered the studio until they gave him a job designing title cards. Alma was a film editor and at first would have little to do with him. They finally fell in love after he was given his first directing

break, on a never completed film called Number 13. From their marriage to his death in 1980, theirs was as much a creative as an emotional partnership.

Alma's role was to oversee scripts through development to post-production. 'I don't think she ever got the credit she deserved,' says her daughter. 'In part it was because she was a woman in a man's world, but she was also a very quiet person who liked to lead a very quiet life.'

Patricia Hitchcock was born in London in 1928, three years after her father made his directing debut in *The Pleasure Garden*. A year later Hitchcock's *Blackmail* was released. His growing reputation made a move to America inevitable. The family arrived in New York on the eve of the Second World War, never to return to London, except for Patricia who went to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts when she was 16. After graduating, she was quickly assimilated into the family 'firm', appearing in several of Hitchcock's films including *Psycho*.

Real life with the Hitchcocks, though, rarely matched the thrills and unexpected twists of their films. There were no unpleasant secrets or murderous neighbours. Rather, the opposite was the case. According to their daughter, the couple thrived on mundanity. Hitchcock's favourite meal was steak and chips. He also abhorred violence. 'The thought of it appalled him. He was an extremely kind and gentle man,' says Patricia.

Perhaps because of his fame, Hitchcock enjoyed remarkable control over the film-making process, which would typically include hours spent on framing individual shots. In a career that lasted over half a century, his daughter recalls only one occasion where there was a major disagreement with the studio over a script.

He was, anyway, says Patricia, above all a commercial director, who made films he believed his audiences wanted to see. 'You must remember that when *Psycho* first came out it was not well reviewed by the critics, especially because he made them go and see it at a cinema instead of the private showings they were used to. And he wouldn't let anyone go in after it had started. But it was instantly a huge success at the box office.'

Is there anyone working today who has inherited the Hitchcock mantle? She thinks probably not. But her father would, she believes, have admired Steven Spielberg. 'It's not the sort of film he would have made, but he would have loved *ET*. It was pure entertainment, and that was what he was always about.'

0. Alfred Hitchcock's wife, Alma, ...

- A. was two years older than her husband.
- B. was two years younger than her husband.
- C. was a day younger than her husband.
- D. ***died two years after her husband.***

1. Alfred and Alma Hitchcock first met:

- A. when he was directing his first film.
- B. when he was given a job in a film studio.
- C. when they became partners in a film studio.
- D. when he gave her a job as a film editor.

2. Why does Patricia Hitchcock believe her mother never became famous?

- A. Because Alfred Hitchcock never gave her credit for the work she did.
- B. Because she was not interested in becoming famous.
- C. Because she did not have a lot to do with the production stage of film-making.
- D. Because she didn't get on well with men.

3. What was the name of Alfred Hitchcock's first completed film?

- A. Number 13
- B. Blackmail
- C. Psycho
- D. The Pleasure Garden

4. When Patricia Hitchcock turned 16:

- A. she began working in her father's films.
- B. she went to live in New York.
- C. she went back to London to study.
- D. she visited England for the first time.

5. Patricia Hitchcock remembers her father as:

- A. a man with a violent temper who dominated her mother.
- B. a typical celebrity who was often difficult to work with.
- C. an unpleasant and secretive person who often had problems with the neighbours.
- D. a rather conventional man who wanted to make films, people would enjoy.

6. What does 'that' in the last paragraph refer to?

- A. pure entertainment
- B. the sort of films Alfred Hitchcock would have made
- C. Steven Spielberg's film, ET
- D. the director who is most like Alfred Hitchcock

PART 3. VERB FORMS. Fill in the gaps with the correct tense of the verbs in brackets. The activity starts with an example (0).

FAR FROM EARTH

Do you want a holiday that (0) **is** really out of this world? Well, how about booking tickets for two weeks in outer space. This (1) _____ (be) a dream of science-fiction writers for decades but some scientists are predicting that soon this dream (2) _____ (become) a real possibility. It seems that big businesses (3) _____ (also/realize) that there is plenty of money to be made from (4) _____ (take) tourists into the orbit. The race is on to build a cheap and reusable spacecraft (5) _____ (carry) passengers and freight. Once they (6) _____ (be) in space, these tourists will need somewhere to stay. A Japanese company (7) _____ (already/make) plans to build the first space hotel. They say that they will be ready to accept the first guests in as little as five years. The guests will pay more than £40,000 and many (8) _____ (suffer) from space sickness, but this isn't expected to put off people who (9) _____ (look for) the ultimate adventure holiday.

Would you like (10) _____ (be) one of them?

PART 4. MULTIPLE CHOICE LEXICAL CLOZE. Read the following text and decide which of the options (A, B, C or D) best fits each space. The activity begins with the example 0.

Nowadays there (0) ___ many good reasons for using bicycles (1) ___ cars to travel in city centres. (2) ___, bicycles are (3) ___ silent and clean, (4) ___ are easy to park. (5) ___, using a bicycle (6) ___ keeps people fit. However, city centres must (7) ___ have cycle lanes (8) ___ be free of private cars completely. Some large cities, (9) ___ Amsterdam in the Netherlands, are already organized in this way. (10) ___, a combination of the use of bicycles with very cheap or free public transport solves the problem of traffic jams and makes the city centre a more pleasant place.

- | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1) A. is | B. are | C. be | D. have |
| 1) A. but | B. except for | C. instead of | D. such as |
| 2) A. As well | B. First of all | C. In fact | D. Personally |
| 3) A. both | B. and | C. too | D. as well |
| 4) A. also | B. they | C. except | D. this |
| 5) A. And | B. Yet | C. While | D. Secondly |
| 6) A. and | B. both | C. also | D. too |
| 7) A. in | | C. besides | |
| conclusion | B. either | this | D. both |
| 8) A. such as | B. yet | C. also | D. or |
| 9) A. such as | B. as well | C. in my view | D. while |
| 10) A. | | C. For | |
| Personally | B. Finally | example | D. Actually |

KEY

PART 1. READING COMPREHENSION - TRUE / FALSE . IS IT A CRIME? (5 points x 2= 10)

Bill sees people selling drugs outside the pub at the weekend. FALSE

Emma is thinking about moving to a safer neighbourhood. TRUE

Sophie is not worried about criminals in her neighbourhood. TRUE

Ryan has been attacked more than once. TRUE

Chris is still in prison. FALSE

PART 2. READING COMPREHENSION – MULTIPLE CHOICE. MY FATHER, THE MASTER OF SUSPENSE (5 points x 2= 10)

1. B
2. B
3. B
4. D
5. C
6. D
7. A

PART 3. VERB FORMS. FAR FROM EARTH (10 points)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. has been | 6. are |
| 2. will become / is going to become | 7. has already made |
| 3. have also realized | 10. will pay |
| 4. taking | 11. will suffer |
| 5. to carry | 9. are looking for |
| | 10. to be |

PART 4. MULTIPLE CHOICE LEXICAL CLOZE. (10 points)

1. C
2. B
3. A
4. A
5. D
6. C
7. B
8. D
9. A
10. B