

TASK 1

You are going to read an article about a man who works as a professional shopper. Choose from the list **A–H** the sentence which best summarises each part (**1–6**) of the article. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (**0**).

- A** Bryan successfully avoids some of the problems that shoppers encounter.
- B** Bryan's success may be related to a recognised trend.
- C** Bryan's experience allows him to predict bargains.
- D** Bryan makes his terms and conditions clear.
- E** Bryan's initial success was not anticipated.
- F** Bryan's clients are offered special treatment in shops.
- G** Bryan's strategy is to provide a flexible service.
- H** Bryan feels fortunate that he is able to combine work with pleasure.

THE GOOD BUY MAN

So, you don't want to get your toes crushed in the summer sales? Michele Dalton meets a man who'll do your shopping for you.

0 H

Bryan Bonaparte is that rare find – a man who loves shopping. Indeed, he loves it so much that he's set up an agency to provide a shopping service for those people who don't share his enthusiasm. 'I get a real buzz out of shopping,' admits Bryan. 'It's a challenge to track down what people want and to find new and interesting things on their behalf. People say to me, "I can't believe you enjoy doing this", but I do. And it's great to get paid for it as well.'

1

Bryan's agency, called Ace, started in a small way one Christmas. It was meant to be just a seasonal thing, but it turned out to be so successful that he carried on throughout the year. It seems there are always gifts to buy for weddings, birthdays, anniversaries and retirements.

2

A survey published in the *London Evening News* last year found that many people are getting increasingly depressed at the prospect of shopping, and this may go some way to explaining Bryan's success. The survey pinpointed crowds, bad weather, choosing the right present and carrying heavy bags as stress triggers.

3

Planning a shopping trip with military precision is Bryan's solution. 'A lot of people go shopping, especially during the sales, with no idea what

they are looking for,' he explains. 'It's no wonder they find wandering around the stores frustrating and exhausting.'

4

The shopping stretch covered by Ace runs through most of London's West End shopping districts. Bryan, or another member of his team, is happy to take anyone shopping within this area or to visit stores on their behalf, delivering goods to clients' homes or offices at a convenient time, including evenings and weekends. If you don't actually know what you want, Ace will make suggestions, buy the items, then return to the shops to exchange them if you are not completely satisfied.

5

A flat charge of £15 per hour applies to either service. Clients with a list of requests are given a quote based on the amount of time involved. The only thing Bryan won't do is buy food. For sales shopping, customers need to be specific about size, colour, style and designer labels. Details about the normal price and the discount that clients want are required, and Bryan warns that shops generally won't exchange items bought in sales.

6

Bryan's specialist knowledge means that clients usually get a good deal. 'I've come to know how long the sales will run for, the stock that will be carried and whether old stock will be brought back in at sale time. If I know the store will reduce prices after a month, then I'll hang on before buying. Sometimes, prices can be slashed by up to 70% a few days before the sale ends. With Bryan to guide you, will shopping ever be the same again?

You are going to read a magazine article about a young sports person. For Questions 7-14, choose the correct answer A, B, C or D.

TASK 2

Wakeboarding

Knowing that Tom Finch, a junior champion in the relatively new sport of wakeboarding, had won so many competitions, I was more than a little taken aback to see how slight he was. Wakeboarding, you see, involves being pulled along at high speed behind a power boat, rather like in water skiing, then launching yourself into the air to perform a series of complicated tricks, as in skateboarding or snowboarding. Now, that is a feat you'd think required big bones and bulging muscles. But Tom is just 1.44m tall and weighs 38 kilos.

'It hurt my forearms at first, but now I guess I'm used to it,' Tom told me. At 14 years old, Tom has been practising the sport for just two years, but has already found competing in his age group almost too easy. He didn't say that, of course. Maybe because he didn't want to seem bigheaded, especially with his Dad sitting just a few metres away, or maybe because he just doesn't think it's important. 'I wakeboard because it's fun,' he told me with a smile, 'and scary!'

He knows he's good though and one look at his results confirms that this is justified. Yet when Tom started, the organisers tried to persuade him not to enter his first competition, thinking he'd be upset when he came last. Tom won by a mile and silenced them all. So, what makes him so good? Perhaps putting on a wetsuit, whatever the weather, and practising

for at least two hours everyday. For ⁴² **that** is what Tom does. He also buys and studies every new wakeboarding video and spends hours working on every new trick, finding new ways to twist and turn his small body.

He's also not afraid to take advice from people better than him. 'I wouldn't be where I am without my trainer,' Tom says. 'It takes so much longer to learn without him; he can spot what I'm doing wrong in a second and put me right. He gives me lots of tips on some of the real technical details too.'

Although the sport is still relatively unknown compared to surfing and snowboarding, which everyone's ⁵⁹ heard of, Tom reckons it's **on the up**. 'Everyone at school is well aware of it, trying it and loving it,' he says. He's not wrong either. Even on the rainy, windy day that I met him, there's a queue of eager bodies in wetsuits getting into the freezing water at the watersports centre near London where Tom trains.

It will take a few years until the overall standard reaches that of the USA though. Tom told me that everything is twice as fast, twice as big there, which makes it really scary and dangerous. Tom knows no fear though and wants one day to be a professional. He might only be 1.44m tall, but let's not forget that the professionals were all fourteen-year-olds at one time too.

- 7 What surprised the writer most on first meeting Tom Finch?
- A his height
 - B his strength
 - C his skilfulness
 - D his bravery
- 8 When asked about his success in competitions, Tom appeared to be
- A embarrassed.
 - B proud.
 - C modest.
 - D nervous.
- 9 When Tom started entering competitions, people thought
- A he had not been trained.
 - B he might hurt himself.
 - C he was below the age limit.
 - D he would be disappointed.
- 10 What does 'that' in line 42 refer to?
- A studying hard
 - B practising daily
 - C buying videos
 - D working on new tricks
- 11 Tom is particularly grateful when his trainer
- A points out his mistakes.
 - B makes him work hard.
 - C stops him being afraid.
 - D spends long hours with him.
- 12 What does Tom mean by the phrase 'on the up' in line 59?
- A becoming better understood
 - B getting more practice
 - C getting easier for people
 - D becoming more popular
- 13 In the future, Tom hopes to
- A train others in his sport.
 - B go and live in the USA.
 - C get over his remaining fears.
 - D make the sport his career.
- 14 In general, what does the writer think of Tom?
- A He's very determined.
 - B He's easily persuaded.
 - C He's overconfident.
 - D He's underachieving.

TASK 3

You are going to read some interviews with women who have unusual jobs. For Questions 21–35, choose from the people (A–D). The people may be chosen more than once. There is an example at the beginning (0).

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| A | Dina Dorset |
| B | Angela Bell |
| C | Claire Dorn |
| D | Dolly Masons |

Which interview is with someone who

works part-time?	0	A
had a better salary in an earlier job?	21	
cannot make friends at work?	22	
will get a university qualification?	23	
has to pretend she is always happy?	24	
writes to her customers?	25	
meets her customers socially?	26	
organises activities for older people?	27	
was promoted at work?	28	
does not like to use her voice?	29	
has a job that affects her health?	30	
had an earlier job as a teacher?	31	
thinks attitudes towards her work have changed?	32	
has the job she had always wanted?	33	
considers work more important than family?	34	
has responsibility for quality control?	35	

Women in unusual jobs

Dina Dorset

is a disc jockey in a nightclub in London. A few years ago she thought her future was in tennis. 'For a while I trained promising young players on a fulltime basis, but one day a neighbour who was a radio producer took me down to his radio station and I became involved in the music scene,' she says. There are lots of late nights for Dina but surprisingly the job doesn't offer her much in the way of a social life. 'I don't have any real contact with the large numbers of people I meet,' she says. She particularly likes the fact that she now only works four hours a day. 'The one thing I resent is having to appear cheerful all the time even when I feel down,' she says. She hopes to be able to produce her own records one day but she has given up her ambition of going to college. 'You can't do everything in life,' she says.

Angela Bell

is a clown, she paints her face white and wears funny clothes to entertain people. She decided clowning was the job she wanted after seeing a clown show. 'I said that was it. It involved no talking, and that suited me down to the ground,' she says. She soon realised that women only introduced the act and were on stage for a few minutes because it was considered a job for men. 'That is changing now,' she says. 'But from the beginning I decided to call myself Chris on the programmes instead of Angela so that the audience don't know if I'm a man or a woman.' Angela had to choose between family and work. 'I liked my work too much to think of children,' she says, 'and I have no regrets.' She says the secret of her success is that she is a very happy person, which is what you need to be a good clown.

Claire Dorn

works on a cruise liner, a floating luxury hotel which is her home for eight months of the year. She is the ship's secretary and has responsibility for all information customers may need while on board, as well as acting as secretary to the captain. 'He is very demanding but I have no complaints from him,' she says. Losing touch with the real world for so long is no problem because the ship's officers can take advantage of the activities provided for the entertainment of passengers. 'I've made many lasting friendships here,' she says, 'we get customers of all ages and backgrounds.' Her previous work experience as a Personal Assistant to a manager prepared her for the demands of this job. It was better paid than her present job but she gave it up because she had always liked the idea of working on a ship. 'The only disadvantage is that there are constant time changes when you go round the world and it makes you feel physically unwell,' she says.

Dolly Masons

has worked in a chocolate factory for the past twenty years. 'I was nearly sixteen when I joined,' she says. 'My parents both worked here at the time, so it had become a kind of family tradition. My first job was as an assistant and I've since climbed the ladder to become customer relations manager.' Her present job involves a number of responsibilities, from performing taste tests for all chocolates to ensure their flavour is the same, to organising events for retired employees, including parties and excursions to the seaside. 'I like to have variety in my job,' she says, 'any comments from customers will be forwarded to me to deal with. Of course, I'll never meet them personally but they will all get a written response from me.' She admits that at the moment she is finding it difficult to concentrate on the degree course in marketing she started last year, but is confident she will finish it by June.

TASK 4

For Questions 1–15, read the text below and decide which answer **A**, **B**, **C** or **D** best fits each space. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Example:

0 **A** dating **B** ageing **C** growing **D** stretching

0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	A	B	C	D

TREES FOR LIFE

Trees are amongst the biggest and longest-living things on Earth, some (0) back longer than the oldest buildings. But (1) being nice to look at, trees also (2) an important role in improving the quality of our lives.

On a world-wide (3), forests help to slow down the effects of global warming by using up the gas (4) as carbon dioxide and giving (5) the oxygen we need to breathe. At local neighbourhood level, trees also (6) important environmental benefits. They offer shade and shelter, which in (7) reduces the amount of energy needed to heat and cool (8) buildings; at the same time, they also remove other impurities from the air we breathe.

Urban trees are especially important because for many people they provide the only daily (9) with the natural world. What's (10), urban trees also provide a home for birds, small animals and butterflies. (11) the trees we would lose the pleasure of seeing these creatures in our cities. Regrettably, (12), trees in cities are now coming under (13) There is a limit to the level of pollution they can (14) and, down at street level, their roots are being seriously (15) by the digging needed to make way for modern telephone, television and other cables.

- | | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | A as far as | B as long as | C as soon as | D as well as |
| 2 | A play | B show | C act | D serve |
| 3 | A scale | B size | C range | D area |
| 4 | A called | B known | C titled | D referred |
| 5 | A in | B away | C up | D out |
| 6 | A bring | B make | C take | D find |
| 7 | A turn | B place | C order | D reach |
| 8 | A opposite | B close | C next | D nearby |
| 9 | A junction | B touch | C contact | D taste |
| 10 | A more | B else | C most | D other |
| 11 | A Throughout | B Beyond | C Without | D Outside |
| 12 | A therefore | B whilst | C however | D despite |
| 13 | A risk | B threat | C danger | D warning |
| 14 | A stand in for | B face up to | C put up with | D fall back on |
| 15 | A concerned | B disturbed | C interfered | D involved |

TASK 5

For Questions **16–30**, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only **one** word in each space. There is an example at the beginning **(0)**.

GOOD AT LANGUAGES

At school, Sarah Biggs says she was very bad **(0)** *at* languages. Now she speaks English, Spanish and Italian and works **(16)** a bilingual secretary in a travel company in England. **(17)** several foreign languages at work is not easy, but for Sarah, and other multi-lingual secretaries **(18)** her, it is all standard practice.

Sarah comes from Spain, **(19)** she attended school and college. But it was time spent abroad after college **(20)** encouraged her interest in languages.

In her job, Sarah has **(21)** great deal more responsibility than the title of secretary would suggest. She stresses the importance of **(22)** fluent in Spanish because part of her job is dealing **(23)** customers from Latin America. **(24)** such clients come from abroad, she has to translate everything **(25)** say into English. She is given **(26)** time for preparation at all, so this aspect of her job is one of the **(27)** difficult.

It is important for Sarah to be up-to-date with changes **(28)** her own language, so she reads Spanish newspapers and books looking for new additions to **(29)** vocabulary. Sarah says she **(30)** not give up this job even if they offered her a better salary in another company.

TASK 6

For Questions **56–65**, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of each line to form a word that fits in the space in the same line. There is an example at the beginning **(0)**. Write your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

Example:

0	<i>interested</i>
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THE TRAINING PROGRAMME

If you're **(0)** *interested* in getting fit, then what you need is a training programme. Although aimed at improving physical **(56)**, this programme can also be **(57)** in such a way that it helps in the **(58)** of particular athletic skills. There is a range of different **(59)** to choose from and a growing amount of scientific **(60)** to explain the effects of each one.

When you begin training, it is important to start **(61)**, raising the **(62)** of the programme in a gradual way. Although it is important to work sufficiently hard to make an **(63)** on your physical condition, the activities shouldn't be **(64)** It is **(65)**, therefore, to ignore warning symptoms such as sharp or persistent pain in particular muscles.

INTEREST
FIT
DESIGN
DEVELOP
ACTIVE
KNOW

GENTLE
INTENSE
IMPRESS
PAIN
WISE

Keys:

Task 1.

1. E
2. B
3. A
4. G
5. D
6. C

Task 2. Wakeboarding

7. A
8. C
9. D
10. B
11. A
12. D
13. D
14. A

Task 3. Women in unusual jobs

21. C
22. A
23. D
24. A
25. D
26. C
27. D
28. D
29. B
30. C
31. A
32. B

33. C

34. B

35. D

Task 4. Trees for life

1. D

2. A

3. A

4. B

5. D

6. A

7. A

8. D

9. C

10. A

11. C

12. C

13. B

14. C

15. B

Task 5. Good at Languages

16. as

17. using

18. like

19. where

20. which

21. a

22. being

23. with

24. when

25. they

26. no

27. most

28. in

29. her

30. would

Task 6. The Training Programme

56. fitness

57. designed

58. development

59. activities

60. knowledge

61. gently

62. intensity

63. impression

64. painful

65. unwise