

G R A M M A R

Complete the sentences by putting the verbs in brackets into the correct form or writing the word which best completes the sentence.

While Lisa 1. (visit) the United States, she 2. (decide) to go by plane from New York to the West Coast. She 3. (already stay) with her friends 4. two weeks, and they 5. (tell) her that California was a 6. more exciting. "It's much warmer, and you 7. (able) to swim in 8. Pacific Ocean!" they said. Lisa 9. (not have) any information about flights, so she went to the travel agent's next door to the block of flats where she 10. (stay). After they checked their records, she discovered that there 11. (be) two flights 12. next morning, but she couldn't get a seat on 13. of them.

...../13 pts

Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first, using no more than three words.

14. Nobody at all picked up the litter.

Not person picked up the litter.

15. There isn't any cake in the fridge.

There is in the fridge.

16. Jean left London in June.

Jean stayed in London June

17. I haven't seen a worse film than this one.

This is I have ever seen.

...../2 pts (0.5 each)

Total points:/ 15 pts

V O C A B U L A R Y

Choose one word below which best completes the sentence. Write the letter A, B, C or D into the space provided.

We often read today about the natural world nowadays. It is generally to be given dire predictions about its (1) destruction. Some scientist go so (2) as to assert that from now on, the world can no longer be called 'natural,' insofar as future processes of weather, climate, and all the interactions of plant and animal life will no longer carry on in their time-honoured way, unaffected by humans. It is hard to know whether to believe such (3) of doom, possibly because what they are saying seems too terrible to be true. There are other influential scientists who argue that the climate has changed many times over the (4) , and that what we are experiencing now may simply be part of an endless (5) of change, rather than a disaster on a global (6)

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|--------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|
| (1) A/ coming | B/ close | C/ imminent | D/ nigh |
| (2) A/ much | B/ deep | C/ long | D/ far |
| (3) A/ prophets | B/ champions | C/ warriors | D/ giants |
| (4) A/ generations | B/ periods | C/ centuries | D/ eras |
| (5) A/ revolution | B/ circle | C/ round | D/ cycle |
| (6) A/ measure | B/ scale | C/ proportion | D/ extend |

...../6pts

Underline the word in each sentence which best completes that sentence.

7. The police arrested John and took him into *custody* / *detention* / *prison*.
8. In most countries, the *capital* / *death* / *execution* penalty has been abolished.
9. The judge in the court was wearing a *hairpiece* / *head-dress* / *wig*.
10. Two football fans were later charged with *aggression* / *assault* / *attack*.

...../4pts

Total points:/10pts

READING COMPREHENSION

Read the story carefully. There are two (2) tasks to do after you read.

They looked shocked and affronted and somehow ashamed. Above all, they looked old. Wexford thought that in the nature of things, a woman of seventy ought to have been an orphan for twenty years. This one had been an orphan for scarcely twenty days. Her husband, sitting opposite her, pulling his wispy moustache, slowly and mechanically shaking his head, seemed older than she, perhaps not so many years the junior of his late mother-in-law. He wore a brown cardigan with a small neat darn at one elbow and sheepskin slippers, and when he spoke he snuffled. His wife kept saying she couldn't believe her ears, she couldn't believe it, why were people so wicked? Wexford didn't answer that. He couldn't though he had often wondered himself.

'My mother died of a stroke,' Mrs Betts said tremulously. 'It was on the death certificate, Dr Moss put it on the death certificate.'

Betts snuffled and wheezed. 'She was ninety-two,' he said in his thick catarrhal voice. '*Ninety-two*. I reckon you lot must have got bats in the belfry.'

'I mean,' said Mrs Betts, 'are you saying that Dr Moss was telling untruths? A doctor?'

'Why don't you ask him? We're only ordinary people, the wife and me, we're not educated. Doctor said a cerebral haemorrhage,' Betts stumbled a little over the words, 'and in plain language that's a stroke. That's what he said. Are you saying me or the wife gave Mother a stroke? Are you saying that?'

'I'm making no allegations, Mr Betts.' Wexford felt uncomfortable, wished himself anywhere but in this newly decorated, paint-smartened house. 'I am merely making enquiries which information received obliges me to do.'

'Gossip,' said Mrs Betts bitterly. 'This street's a hotbed of gossip. Pity they've nothing better to do. Oh, I know what they're saying. Half of them turn up their noses and look the other way when I pass them. All except Elsie Parrish, and that goes without saying.'

'She's been a brick,' said her husband. 'A real brick is Elsie.' He stared at Wexford with a kind of timid outrage. 'Haven't you folk got nothing better to do? What about the real crime? What about the muggings and the break-ins?'

Wexford sighed. But he went on doggedly questioning, remembering what the nurse had said, what Dr Moss had said, keeping in the forefront of his mind that motive which was so much more than merely wanting an aged parent out of the way. If he hadn't been a policeman with a profound respect for the law and for human life, he might have felt that these two, or one of them, had been provoked beyond bearing to do murder.

One of them? Or both? Or neither? Ivy Wrangton had either died an unnatural death or else there had been a series of coincidences and unexplained contingencies which were nothing short of incredible.

READING COMPREHENSION

Based on what you read, choose the best answer (a, b, c or d) to complete each statement (1 - 5).

1. Wexford was slightly disconcerted by the fact that

- a/ Mrs Betts was so old when her mother died.
- b/ Mr Betts was as old as his wife's mother.
- c/ Mrs Betts had lost both of her parents.
- d/ Mr and Mrs Betts both denied his accusations.

2. Mr Betts implies that

- a/ his mother-in-law died of her old age.
- b/ the doctor caused his mother-in-law's death.
- c/ the doctor who signed the death certificate made a mistake.
- d/ he cannot fully understand how his mother-in-law died.

3. The inspector is questioning the elderly couple because

- a/ they have been charged with attempted murder.
- b/ he has proof that they are involved in a murder.
- c/ he has a duty to carry out the investigation.
- d/ he does not believe what the doctor said.

4. Mr Betts appears to believe that

- a/ the neighbours have been gossiping about other offences.
- b/ the police should be concentrating on other offences.
- c/ one particular neighbour has been spreading rumours.
- d/ the people who live near them are snobbish.

5. Wexford feels it is worth questioning the couple about Ivy Wrangton because

- a/ he is certain they both murdered her.
- b/ he knew they were tired of looking after her.
- c/ the circumstances surrounding her death were unusual.
- d/ he was unsure of what their motive may have been.

...../5pts

Find the words in the text that are similar in meaning to the following words and expressions.

6. in a nervous voice _____

7. deceased _____

8. with determination _____

9. insulted _____

10. street attacks _____

...../5pts

L I S T E N I N G C O M P R E H E N S I O N

Decide whether each of these statements is true (T) or false (F). Circle your answers.

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Her first novel is called <i>The Bell Jar</i> . | T / F |
| 2. She won the Pulitzer Prize in 1983, after she died. | T / F |
| 3. Silvia's husband was a poet, too. | T / F |
| 4. Silvia's brother was three years older than she was. | T / F |
| 5. Silvia's time at college was difficult because she got bad marks. | T / F |
| 6. Sylvia had a part-time job to support the family. | T / F |
| 7. Her father was happy when she was born. | T / F |
| 8. The image of her father often appears in her works. | T / F |
| 9. Silvia wrote about women's issues. | T / F |
| 10. Silvia was very ambitious as a girl. | T / F |

Total points:/ 5pts (0.5pt each)