

READING COMPREHENSION (20 marks)

TASK 1

THE STRADIVARIUS VIOLIN

Fit the sentences below into the gaps of the text. There are THREE sentences that do not belong to the text. Match the gaps numbers with the letters. **0 is the example.** (6 items x 0'8)

A violin made by Antonio Stradivari is perhaps one of the most coveted instruments in the world. ____ (0) ____ A (Example). Master musicians everywhere covet a Stradivarius for the pure, beautiful sound that it brings to their music. Others are drawn to the instrument's astonishing track record as an investment whose value rises every year. Each Stradivarius violin has its own unique characteristics. And each instrument is known individually by name. ____ (1) ____ . Violins created by many craftsmen are named in this way. It is rare for a Stradivarius violin to come up for sale on the open market. ____ (2) ____ . The man who made such treasured violins, Antonio Stradivari, was born in 1644 in Cremona in Italy. He established his workshop in the town where he was born and made violins there until his death, aged 93, in 1737. His grandfather, Andrea Amati, is generally considered to have perfected the form of the modern violin. ____ (3) ____ . However, Stradivari made harps, guitars, violas and cellos as well as violins. Indeed he is believed to have made a total of 1,100 instruments, of which 650 still survive today. ____ (4) ____ . A few years ago it was proposed that the secret to the success of the violin was in the preservative that Stradivari used to treat the wood. ____ (5) ____ . Experts believe it winds the wood in a unique way and that is the source of the instrument's wonderful acoustic qualities. Despite great advances in the way musical instruments are made, concert violinists believe that the centuries-old instruments of the great Italian craftsmen have a better sound than any instrument made today. ____ (6) ____ . Until someone finds a way to mass produce the magic that is in a Stradivarius, we must hope that the world's stock of these instruments is held safe for public enjoyment for centuries to come.

- A) *A Stradivarius violin is an undisputed masterpiece* **0 (Example)**
 B) And there is no doubt that Stradivari gained much treasured knowledge from him
 C) And this sound works on our senses to create the most wonderful music we are ever likely to hear
 D) The Gibson Stradivari has been stolen on two separate occasions
 E) The substance, known as borax, fell out of use by violin makers after Stradivari's time
 F) However, climatologists maintain that this wood was created through slow tree growth
 G) So it is hard for experts to calculate the true value of any particular violin at a given time
 H) Thus, the violin was baptized by the name by which it is known today
 I) It's usually that of a famous former or talented musician associated with the playing of it
 J) What makes a violin made by Stradivari so special?

| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | I | G | B | J | E | C |

TASK 2

WEIRD NEWS

Match each paragraph with the most suitable title. There are THREE titles you do not need to use.
0 is the example.

- A) ADVISING THROUGH BREAK-UP
- B) BLAME IS ON THE NET
- C) JAILED AFTER BREAKING THE LAW
- D) LOVE-SICK ANIMAL CAUSES CHAOS
- E) NEW TOOL FOR MORE BEARABLE VISITS
- F) ONLINE LOVE FOREVER
- G) SAVING TIME ON CONGESTED DAYS
- H) *TWIN PLACES 0 (Example)*
- I) UNCONSCIOUS OFFENDERS
- J) USELESS TOOL

0. *The rural Scottish village of Glenelg has announced an unlikely link with its planet Mars namesake, situated more than 35 million miles away. The coastal community, situated in the Highlands of western Scotland, shares the same name as a location on the Red Planet and it has now announced its intention to hold a ceremony this month. H (Example)*

- 7. If you struggle to find a parking space in the morning, or take hours off your weekend shopping trip by looking for a gap to squeeze your car into, worry no more. A new application could save you stress at the wheel by doing the hard work for you. The Car Park Finder tells you which car parks are nearby, how much they cost and how long you can stay for.
- 8. The government has revealed plans for a 'divorce app' available via the web and smartphones to help couples through the process of separation. The application will offer support and advice to people splitting from their partner, as well as tips on how to behave in front of their children. There will also be advice offered on avoiding arguments, sorting out child support payments and how to cope with meeting an ex's new partner.
- 9. Experts have seen a sharp rise in the number of divorces in which Facebook pages were used as evidence of 'unreasonable behaviour', as suspicious people now regularly use the site to check up on their spouses. Divorces involving social networking sites are no longer eye-catching events as they have become so commonplace. Lawyers suggested last year that Facebook flirting could be involved in as many as a fifth of divorces.
- 10. An elderly couple have had a huge cannabis plant seized by police after buying it at a car boot sale. Police said the plant seized was the biggest they had seen. The couple, who were simply looking for a pot plant at the boot sale, were shocked to find that the shrub they had cultivated was a giant cannabis plant, which had taken over a large area of their suburban garden. It is unclear whether or not the pair will be charged over the cannabis plant.

11. An innovative dentist hopes to ease his patients' surgery fears after creating a musical drill to help keep their mind off the intrusive instrument. He modified a conventional dentist drill to play music via an MP3 player instead of the custom buzzing sound usually associated with a dentist surgery. He hopes to make those dreaded trips to the dentist slightly more bearable by using this tool to lighten the mood.
12. A runaway ostrich provoked a rush hour police chase after escaping from its Florida home in a mating season moment of madness. Amorous four-year-old bird Taco jumped over a garden fence trying to find a female companion before running about aimlessly onto a busy motorway. The feathered fugitive approached several cars and even a man on a scooter, causing traffic jams during its early morning breakout

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|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| 0 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| H | G | A | B | I | E | D |

TASK 3

IRELAND

Read the following text. For questions 15-22, choose the option a), b), c), or d) that best fits each gap. Circle the correct answer on the answer sheet provided. *0 is the example.*

Ireland is an island nation on the westernmost *0* edge (*example*) of Europe. It is the continent's second largest island, after Great Britain. The Republic of Ireland occupies 80 per cent of this landmass, 13 a large chunk of land in the north is part of the United Kingdom. Ireland is known 14 its wide expanses of lush, green fields. About 15,000 years ago, Ireland was completely covered by thick glaciers. The movement of these giant sheets of ice stripped the soil, leaving huge tracts of flat, limestone pavement. The midlands and west coast of Ireland are dotted with the remains of dried-up ancient lakes left by the glaciers. Ireland's highlands 15 mainly in the southwest, often ending at sheer cliffs that plunge thousands of feet into the Atlantic Ocean. Did you know that you will never come 16 a wild snake in Ireland? The sea has 17 many animals common on mainland Europe from reaching the island. There are also only two wild mouse species, one type of lizard, and just three kinds of amphibians. Although they are in danger of extinction, research is being carried 18 to guarantee their survival. Irish wildlife is protected by government conservation programmes. To 19 their natural habitat, the government has established six national parks and hundreds of national heritage areas 20 the country.

0. a) bottom b) **edge** c) side d) way
 13. a) even b) how c) when d) while
 14. a) because b) for c) from d) thanks
 15. a) arise b) lift c) raise d) rise
 16. a) across b) into c) over d) up with
 17. a) banned b) kept c) prevented d) stood
 18. a) away b) off c) on d) out
 19. a) deserve b) preserve c) reserve d) serve
 20. a) above b) along c) over d) throughout

| 0 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| B | D | B | D | A | C | D | B | D |

TASK 4

THE FUTURE OFFICE

Fill in the gaps in the following text with ONE suitable word. For questions 21 – 28, write down the correct word on the answer sheet provided. *0 is the example*

Google's headquarters *0* ***in*** (*example*) Zurich has a massage room, aquarium and a slide to deliver engineers smoothly and quickly to the canteen. Deloitte's Amsterdam office was designed with one empty room on 21 floor for employees to put 22 they wanted in them – most have gone for games 23 as table football. At LinkedIn's Californian Headquarters, there is a music room, stocked with keyboards, drums, guitars and audio equipment. And allowing employees to bring their pets to work is increasingly common. So, when did our offices turn 24 playgrounds, and does this represent the new way of working? Technological advances mean that staff can avoid the drudgery of commuting and can work from home, coffee shops, or 25 number of exotic locations. So some companies are working extra-hard to make their offices more attractive places to be. According to a recent report from US software giant Citrix, in the near future, 70% of people will work away from the office as often as they work at a desk. "Offices are expensive and office space will decline," says Citrix vice president Jacqueline de Rojas. This is partly 26 to bosses realising not all jobs 27 to be done from an office, but also because employees are increasingly demanding a better work-life balance, she adds. 28 does not mean that the office will die, though. "Offices will become places of collaboration and connection because culturally we need touch points as we are social animals," she says.

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|-------|------------|---------------|-----------|------|
| 0 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| IN | Each/every | What/whatever | Such | Into |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | |
| Any/a | Due/owing | Need/have | That/this | |