

PART ONE – Reading

Task 1.

Instruction: Read the text carefully and choose the best answer to the questions after the text. Circle the letter of the answer you have chosen.

In 2001, artist Michael Landy destroyed all his possessions in a work he called *Break Down*. The exhibition, which was held in an empty department store in Central London, cost 100,000 quid to put on and lasted for two weeks. Landy had spent three years cataloguing the 7226 separate items. More than 45 000 people came to watch him and his ten helpers destroy everything he ever owned, right down to his last sock, his passport and even his beloved hand-made Saab.

Many of those who came to the exhibition applauded and encouraged Landy in his two weeks of destruction, but his mother wasn't one of them. "I hated to throw my Mum out," said Landy. "She started crying and I couldn't handle those emotions. She had to go."

Many other people were equally upset, especially those in the art world who thought it was unacceptable to destroy famous artist's work. Landy destroyed pieces of art given to him by famous people. But on that point Landy said he felt no guilt. After all, he had destroyed all his own work – a collection that spanned fifteen years.

Landy said that *Break Down* was an examination of consumerism – others said it was a case of madness. In fact, a priest and a psychiatrist believed he was mentally ill and offered him counseling. However, Landy's description of his state of mind at that time was very different. "When I finished I did feel an incredible sense of

freedom", he said, "the possibility that I can do anything. But the freedom was eroded by the everyday concerns of life. Life was much simpler when I was on my platform."

The art world eagerly awaited the destroyed remains of his possessions. After the exhibition offers from galleries all around the world poured in. He was even asked to repeat *Break Down* in a Brazilian gallery. However, as Landy points out, *Break Down* was a one-off – it couldn't happen twice.

1. How long did it take Landy to prepare the exhibition:

- a. a few weeks
- b. over two years
- c. two weeks
- d. no information

2. The exhibition itself was on for:

- a. a fortnight
- b. two days
- c. three years
- d. several days

3. For Break Down Landy spent a lot of time

- a. collecting 7226 items
- b. sending invitations to 100 000 people
- c. arranging the items
- d. putting the items into a list

4. Landy threw his mother out because:

- a. she was messing with his work
- b. he was angry with her
- c. she was making a lot of noise
- d. he was very upset

5. The artists present at Break Down were upset because:

- a. Landy destroyed his own collection
- b. Landy lost his last sock and passport
- c. Landy destroyed his hand-made Saab
- d. Landy destroyed beautiful masterpieces

6. After Break Down Landy:

- a. didn't have clothes
- b. couldn't travel abroad
- c. lost all his possessions
- d. couldn't drive a car

7. A priest and a psychiatrist offered him:

- a. to take him to hospital
- b. to give him medicines
- c. to talk to a specialist
- d. to help him with his work

8. After Break Down Landy felt:

- a. depressed
- b. uncertain
- c. free
- d. mighty

9. Break Down:

- a. was a test for his mother
- b. was to be repeated again
- c. was broadcast in Brasilia
- d. couldn't be repeated

10. Break Down itself was:

- a. an eccentric show
- b. an artistic performance
- c. an exhibition name
- d. a public initiative

Task 2.

Instruction: You are going to read a newspaper article about a ghost-hunting weekend. Choose the most suitable heading from the list (A–G) for each part (1-5) of the article. There is one extra heading which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0).

A. Somebody must have made a mistake

B. A weird surprise

C. I am not a believer but am interested

D. I still have my doubts

E. Heading off for a ghost-hunting adventure

F. The haunted place story

G. Ghosts are popular among quite a few people

0. _____ **G** _____ A recent survey revealed that 68% of people in the UK believe in ghosts, and 1 in 10 people claim that they have actually seen a ghost. Being naturally skeptical, I always take this kind of survey with a pinch of salt, but it does seem, that nowadays everyone wants to meet a real-life ghosts.

1. _____

So when my sister-in-law Pat suggested going on a ghost-hunting weekend I didn't need to be asked twice. Pat was hoping to see her first ghost, while I just wanted a few days off to recharge my batteries. We were soon driving to Brockfield Castle in Somerset, one of Britain's most haunted houses, to spend the weekend looking for ghosts.

2. _____

There were eight other guests and we all had dinner together on the first evening to break the ice. Our fellow ghost-hunters seemed normal enough – apart from one strange old lady who kept telling us to keep an eye out for werewolves. She must have booked the wrong weekend break.

3. _____

After dinner Ashley, our guide, gave us a talk on the history of the castle, which is apparently haunted by two brothers who died in a fire over 200 years ago. Then we were taken on a tour of the castle's 37 rooms. Sadly the brothers were nowhere to be seen – perhaps they had gone away for the weekend too.

4. _____

Later that night, while Pat and I were walking in the gardens she suddenly shouted, "Look there is a ghost!" pointing at one of the windows. We saw an old man with arms outstretched. When we told Ashley he said we had been looking up at the room where the brothers had died.

5. _____

Of course, Pat's ghostly encounter really made her day, and it gave me food for thought. However, as someone once said, for the believer, no proof is required, but for the skeptic, no proof is sufficient.

PART TWO – Use of English

Task 1. Lexical Cloze

Instruction: Read the text and then decide which word from the list below best fits each space. Circle the letter of the answer you have chosen. There is an example at the beginning.

George Michael is counting the (0) A of ways he has tried to destroy his career. There's the time he refused to promote his own work, and (1) _____ to war against Sony, whom he labelled a slave-master.

The years he refused to make (2) _____. The years he couldn't make music. The years locked away from the (3) _____. Then there's sex - the time he outed (4) _____ in a Los Angeles public toilet after being caught by the LAPD. And, of course, there is politics - he made an anti Bush-Blair song, **Shoot the Dog**, that won him a whole new wave of (5) _____.

As a boy, George Kyriakos Panayiotou was (6) _____ paralyzingly shy and desperate for fame. He was born in east Finchley in North London where his Greek father (7) _____ restaurant with his English mother. In these early days he didn't have a (8) _____ who or what he was: part of him thought he was gorgeous, but most of him thought he was still a plump Greek boy.

Michael, who wrote virtually all the songs of his first (9) _____ Wham!, soon emerged as a creative solo (10) _____. He went solo in 1984, and with his first single (the

(11) _____ ballad **Careless Whisper**) and first album, **Faith**, became the biggest singer-songwriter in the world. **Faith** (12) _____ a more mature Michael. At the same time he (13) _____ he hated the global fame he had so craved. He refused to publicize his (14) _____ album, **Listen Without Prejudice**, and wouldn't even appear in promotional videos. It all ended (15) _____ in court with Michael fighting for release from his "lifetime" contract with Sony. But he lost.

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|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 0. A. number | B. many | C. various | D. amount |
| 1. A. gone | B. went | C. going | D. goes |
| 2. A. music | B. lyrics | C. records | D. recordings |
| 3. A. public | B. social | C. socium | D. folks |
| 4. A. him | B. her | C. them | D. himself |
| 5. A. competitors | B. enemies | C. rivals | D. adversaries |
| 6. A. together | B. all | C. both | D. neither |
| 7. A. did | B. got | C. ran | D. managed |
| 8. A. clue | B. notion | C. idea | D. information |
| 9. A. gang | B. band | C. orchestra | D. party |
| 10. A. actor | B. performer | C. professional | D. artist |
| 11. A. standard | B. classic | C. established | D. authoritative |
| 12. A. exposed | B. exhibited | C. found out | D. revealed |
| 13. A. discovered | B. uncovered | C. excavated | D. found |
| 14. A. latest | B. latter | C. next | D. late |
| 15. A. over | B. up | C. down | D. off |

Task 2. Structural Cloze.

Instruction: Read the text below and think of a word that best fits each space. Use only ONE WORD in each space. There is an example at the beginning.

Until recent years **(0)** little was known about the effects of alcohol on the human mind and body. Recent research has shown that **(1)** _____ people are more likely to become addicted than others, but it is not known why. Effects depend **(2)** _____ how much is consumed and over **(3)** _____ period of time.

It is **(4)** _____ interesting and potentially dangerous fact that small amounts of alcohol can make some people feel good **(5)** _____ larger amounts make them feel depressed. Alcohol taken in large amounts causes serious changes **(6)** _____ the body's chemistry, affecting nearly every part of the body. Drinking coffee **(7)** _____ taking a shower does not help in such cases.

Alcohol has evident effect on the nervous system. In moderate amount it

(8) _____ relax tension. **(9)** _____ the same time judgment and coordination are impaired. Alcohol is a factor in **(10)** _____ than half of all car accidents. It affects the ability of the nerve cells **(11)** _____ transmit messages. There is evidence of that in unclear speech and vision.

Alcoholism affects the muscles **(12)** _____ the body, the liver and sexuality and reproduction. One of the worst effects of alcohol **(13)** _____ on the brain. Heavy drinking can lead to loss of memory, confusion and **(14)** _____ unconsciousness.

Alcohol affects each person differently, and every user should be aware of

(15) _____ potential effects.

Task 3. Error Identification.

Instruction: Read the sentences carefully and decide which of the underlined parts A, B or C contains a mistake, then circle the corresponding letter below.

1. Parents (A) needn't have chosen harsh (B) punishments when they are unhappy (C) with their kids.
2. (A) One must be careful about (B) one's clothes if one would expect to be treated (C) like a professional.
3. I (A) am believing that (B) everyone deserves (C) a second chance.
4. Children who (A) are involved in adult matters (B) since early age miss out (C) in the simple joys of childhood.
5. Some of the (A) most recent (B) researches concludes that no level of smoking can be considered (C) safe.
6. (A) The other day I received a letter from a stranger (B) suggesting that what I (C) have seen that night should be kept in secret.
7. According to Mark Twain (A) the humans are the only animals who (B) have lost almost (C) all hair and who can speak.
8. Some scientists think that (A) in the coming (B) 30 to 60 years computers will become more (C) smarter than humans.
9. If I (A) fail my driving test I (B) will have had to wait for (C) another two weeks.
10. My washing machine (A) has gone out (B) during the night, so (C) the whole kitchen was flooded.

PART THREE – Writing

Instruction: Chose a topic and write a short essay (250-300 words) on ONE of the following:

1. Which country would you like to visit and why?
2. What are, according to you, the advantages and disadvantages of the school final exams?