

### *Reading comprehension, test 2*

#### **1. Read the text and questions below.**

**For each question, mark the correct letter A, B, C or D.**

#### **The Artist**

People think being an artist must be a wonderful way to earn one's living. And of course, there are lots of great things about working for oneself, at home alone, even in a cold studio like mine. What I really like is that nobody tells me what time to start in the morning. I like to paint as soon as I wake up, which is always early, but isn't the same time every day. And nobody tells me what to wear, or whether I can take the afternoon off and go to a football match.

But then, I have no one to chat with when I'm bored, no one to discuss last night's match with during the office lunch hour. Sure, I can spend the afternoon doing something I enjoy like cycling or gardening if I choose. But the work will still be there when I do finally get back home.

Unfortunately, working at home means that people can always find me, whether I'm bored or not, and once I've answered the doorbell, it's too late - my thoughts have been interrupted. No one would dream of calling in if I worked in an office, but I find myself listening to friends' troubles. As they talk, my ideas disappear and I feel increasingly stressed thinking of my work waiting to be done.

However, when I hear the traffic news on the radio, and imagine my friends sitting miserably in their cars in a jam, feeling bored, or waiting unhappily for an overcrowded tram in the rain, I realise that I really haven't got much to complain about. I find a CD which will start me thinking, turn it up really loudly and begin another picture.

- 1. What is the writer trying to do in the text?**  
A encourage readers to work at home  
B explain why he has changed his job  
C describe his working life  
D say how he would like to work
- 2. What does the writer like about his life?**  
A He has plenty of opportunities for sport.  
B He is his own boss.  
C He needn't work in the morning.  
D He has a comfortable place to work
- 3. What does the writer imagine he might do with colleagues?**  
A have meals in restaurants  
B go to the swimming pool  
C spend time in the countryside  
D talk about sport
- 4. The writer plays loud music because**  
A the traffic outside is noisy.  
B it helps him to have ideas.  
C it prevents him from feeling bored.  
D he dislikes listening to the radio.
- 5. Which of these notices would be most useful for the writer to put on his door?**  
A "I'm working - please don't disturb"  
B "Please call at my office for an appointment"  
C "Please knock before entering"  
D "No visitors allowed during office hours"

## P

*Reading comprehension, test 3* Why do economy-class passengers get treated like second-class citizens? Gone are the days when airlines treated their passengers like welcome guests. Today, we're treated more like farm animals.

Recently, I was foolish enough to take advantage of a special offer and bought a cheap ticket from London to Cape Town.

First of all I had to arrive at the airport four hours before my flight. The fact that I'd paid for my ticket weeks before didn't seem to make any difference. Apparently most airlines overbook their flights and won't reserve you a seat. As a result, passengers have to arrive early and hope the airline will be kind enough to give them a seat!

When I finally found my seat I was squashed between two other passengers with my knees pressed against the seat in front.

Shortly after take off, breakfast was served. At least, it should have been. Instead, it turned out to be roast chicken! I decided I couldn't face eating dinner at 9 in the morning and waited. Nothing was served until 3 pm. I arrived in Cape Town feeling hungry, angry and determined never to fly economy class again!

**Reading Comprehension Text 3 Choose the correct answer (a, b, c, or d) to answer the question**

**I. What is the writer's main aim in writing the text?**

- A to talk about means of transport
- B to complain about airline companies
- C to complain about the price of air tickets
- D to describe a recent trip

**II. What would a reader find out from the text?**

- A advice about which airline ticket to buy
- B the experiences of an economy-class passenger
- C which airlines to avoid
- D how to book an airline ticket

**III. According to the writer, how can you make sure you get a seat?**

- A book your ticket early
- B buy an economy class ticket
- C arrive well before your flight takes off
- D be kind to the airline company

**IV. How does the writer feel after flying economy class?**

- A tired
- B hungry
- C determined
- D very annoyed

*Reading comprehension, test 4*

Hi Steve,

I've got a 15-minute break between lessons so I thought I'd write you a quick letter.

I needn't have been so worried about doing a summer course, because I'm really enjoying myself. To tell you the truth, I didn't expect to have so much fun! It's not really a holiday if you have to have 4 hours of English every day, is it?

But even the lessons have been fun and the teachers are friendly and helpful. Since we have to speak English all the time, my English has really improved.

The school is called St Giles' college and is situated in beautiful countryside. There are playing fields for outdoor sports such as football and athletics and there's a big swimming pool. If you prefer indoor sports, there's also a huge gymnasium with a basketball court. The only problem is that we are in the middle of nowhere so there's not much to do in the evenings. We also have to be in bed at eleven o'clock, which I find difficult. We have been on a few excursions though. One of them was to London, which is a fantastic city!

The classrooms are bright and comfortable and have all the latest equipment for language learning: computers, CD roms and so on. But there's always a queue to use the computers.

See you when I get back,

Ivan

**Reading Comprehension Text 4 Choose the correct answer (a, b, c, or d) to answer the question**

**I. What is the writer's aim in the letter?**

- A to tell his friend about a holiday
- B to complain about St Giles' College
- C to tell his friend about his English language course
- D to advertise St Giles' College

**II. The writer likes everything about the school, except**

- A the English lessons
- B the teachers
- C the computers in the class
- D his evenings

**III. How do you think the writer might describe his course?**

- A as good value for money
- B as not helping to improve his English
- C as very difficult
- D as very enjoyable

**IV. What do we learn about St Giles' College?**

- A It is in the countryside.
- B It is in London.
- C It doesn't have any equipment.
- D People go there to learn French.

