



[Turn over

Exercise 1

Read the article about Grand Central Terminal, a train station in New York City, and then answer the following questions.

Grand Central Terminal

Grand Central Terminal in New York City is possibly America's most famous railway station. Visitors are likely to see not only commuters, but also tourists taking photos of the world-famous clock or enjoying the shops. It's actually the third station to occupy the site. The first was Grand Central Depot, built by Cornelius Vanderbilt, which opened in 1871. In 1899, this was replaced by a larger building named Grand Central Station. It wasn't until 1903 that construction of the station now known as Grand Central Terminal began. As the station needed to continue operating, only limited work could be done during the day. This meant the project took ten years to complete. Another reason for this was that the construction company didn't hire enough workers.

Before work on Grand Central Terminal began, people had complained for years about pollution from steam trains running through the city. In 1902, there was an accident between two trains near the station entrance. It happened when one of the drivers couldn't see ahead because of the steam. The city council quickly agreed the area needed to be safer, so they decided that steam trains would be stopped from operating in the city. The Vanderbilt family therefore announced that their new station and trains would only use electricity. However, steam trains continued to run until the new station was ready, so work had to be paused regularly to allow the steam trains to pass.

When it was finished, the new station looked impressive. The Vanderbilts wanted to emphasise that it was one of the world's first all-electric buildings, so they installed 4000 light bulbs. These regular light bulbs remained in use until 2008, when they were replaced with energy-efficient bulbs. The station's design also included slopes for passengers. In contrast to other stations, which only had stairs, passengers could now quickly get to different parts of the station without having to carry suitcases up and down steps.

The new terminal had a huge impact on the area's business district because the majority of the station was moved underground. This allowed more space on the streets above for new shops and businesses. It also improved air quality. However, this move wasn't straightforward. Heavy machinery to break rocks could only be used when passengers weren't present, which meant it couldn't be done quickly. Additionally, once the digging was done, workers had to wait for clear tracks before removing rock.

Perhaps the most famous building constructed above the station is the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. Guests arriving by train could access the hotel without going outside the station, thanks to an elevator which linked the two buildings. It was used by important people, including President Roosevelt. However, another man, General John Pershing, had the honour of using it before anyone else. He suffered ill health, so couldn't walk too far.

Buildings show their age over time, and a project to restore the station began in the 1990s, which included cleaning the ceiling. As a record of the past, however, a small area of ceiling was left in its natural state. Also, as the building originally had just one set of stairs, another was added. The new stairs were built higher than the old ones to indicate that they were a later addition.

When it was built, Grand Central Terminal was seen as a cultural centre, with people enjoying its restaurants, or watching movies in its own cinema. Today, there are even tennis courts, although few people realise that these were originally studios where many famous films were made. Nowadays, Grand Central Terminal is a symbol of New York and one of the world's top ten tourist attractions.

- 1 When was the work on Grand Central Terminal started?
..... [1]
- 2 What caused steam trains to be banned from New York City?
..... [1]
- 3 How did the Vanderbilts demonstrate the station building's use of electricity?
..... [1]
- 4 What new feature made it easier for people to move around the station?
..... [1]
- 5 What change in the station's location had a positive effect on the local area?
..... [1]
- 6 Who was the first person to travel to the hotel above the station in a special elevator?
..... [1]
- 7 What was done in the 1990s to provide information about the building's history?
Give **two** details.
.....
..... [2]
- 8 Which part of the station was later converted into sports facilities?
..... [1]

[Total: 9]

Exercise 2

Read the reviews of paintings by three people (A–C) who like art. Then answer Question 9(a)–(h).

My favourite painting**A** *Blue Door* by Albie

My favourite painting, *Blue Door*, is a modern work of art that hangs in the main hall of the gallery in my town. The hall is full of lots of other modern paintings, including some that people might recognise as they're really well-known. That's not the case with *Blue Door*, however, and in fact it's pretty easy to miss because of its size – the others are mostly much bigger. Every time I see it, I find myself wondering what could be on the other side of the door in the picture. I think that's the reaction Jay Shelton, the painter, was hoping for, and why he decided to paint it. When I first saw the painting, the gallery owners had put a small poster next to it on the wall, all about the changes taking place in Shelton's life when he was painting it. Reading that gave me more of an idea of what the artist was trying to say – in both this one, and some of his other paintings I've seen too.

B *New Day* by Gerry

I think what I really love about this painting by Theo James is the style. It's almost like a photograph, although it was painted nearly 200 years ago. When I first saw it in a gallery, although I understood it was technically very good, I felt perhaps it lacked imagination. But something kept pulling me back to the gallery to go and have another look – I've been in about ten times since that first visit! And I began to realise that there are some fascinating little hidden messages when you look carefully. You just don't see them initially. James also designed wallpaper using the same technique – that's really fun too. This idea of secret messages is something I've tried to include in a piece I'm working on at the moment. We'll see how it turns out. I'm not sure how the finished result will compare to the way I'm imagining the picture will look.

C *Work in Progress* by Jon

The reason why this is one of my favourite paintings is the mix of styles that the artist, Kathy Mallow, uses. I find it more appealing than traditional oil paintings of landscapes, for example, although I guess that might change, of course. I realise that some people might be a bit put off as the painting is rather unusual. For a start, there are no recognisable objects, like people or animals; the artist uses interesting patterns, colours and shapes instead, so it can be quite hard to know what's going on. But my advice is to keep looking – the more you do, the more you'll see. And if you look closely, you can see how she's created some of the effects by painting thousands of tiny dots. The result looks simple at first, but it must have taken ages to do. I would love to have the patience to try it in my own work.

9 For each question, write the correct letter A, B or C on the line.

Which person ...

- (a) says that he has used an idea from the painting in one of his own pictures? [1]
- (b) suggests a reason for the artist choosing the subject of the painting? [1]
- (c) admits that not everyone will share his feelings about the painting? [1]
- (d) explains that his opinion about the painting has changed over time? [1]
- (e) describes how some information helped him understand the painting better? [1]
- (f) says that the artist didn't just produce paintings? [1]
- (g) suggests that people might not notice the painting at first? [1]
- (h) compares the painting he likes with another type of painting? [1]

[Total: 8]

Exercise 3

Read the article about books that are translated into other languages, and then complete the notes.

Translated books

Many of us have a few books on our bookshelves at home, or perhaps on our phones or laptops, that were originally written in another language. But how often do we stop to think about the process of translating books, and whether translating has any effects on the finished work? Of course, most people are more likely to read books which were originally written in their own language. Although when we consider all the authors from around the world writing now and in the past, we can see that the best literature is likely to be translated. Just think of great writers such as William Shakespeare, Hans Christian Andersen or Leo Tolstoy, to name only a few. However, there are some issues to consider. For example, a concept like humour is often easy to misunderstand. This is one aspect which can make the translator's job more difficult.

Translated books are often needed for work-related or educational purposes. Examples include scientific or medical journals and textbooks in which technical terms are generally simpler to translate. This can be seen in references to things like pieces of equipment or scientific experiments. The terms are clear, and everyone involved understands them. In contrast, fiction often uses words with more than one meaning. That can be another complication for the translator to consider when working on a project.

Stories that have been translated are typically set in other countries, and this allows us to experience other cultures. There is also some evidence that a book of this type actually increases our vocabulary, and that surely can't be a bad thing, can it? On the other hand, some cultural references are impossible to translate.

It is also worth noting that reading works written by foreign authors gives us access to far more books – more than even the keenest reader could hope to get through in a lifetime! In addition, we can also enjoy a wide range of writing styles. In the case of stories containing written conversation, however, there is a particular point that translators need to keep in mind. Translating natural speech is actually very tricky to do well – even the most experienced translators tend to struggle with this.

A very popular type of literature which comes in many different styles and forms is children's stories. These are often designed to be read aloud, as this can help children to focus on the flow and pattern of the words. For the translator, it can sometimes be demanding to keep the original rhythm when changing from one language to another. But it is worth remembering that a good translation is often more than just a copy of the original work. It can be very interesting to compare a translated book with the original version. And, in fact, this is where the skill of the translator can often be clearly seen. Next time you read a book that has been translated, take a moment to think about all the effort that has gone into it!

You are going to give a talk about translated books to your class at school.
Prepare some notes to use as the basis for your talk.

Make short notes under each heading.

10 Advantages of reading translated fiction

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-
- [4]

11 Challenges facing people who translate fiction

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-
- [3]

[Total: 7]

Exercise 4

12 Read the article about the skill of listening to people.

Write a summary about advice on how to be a good listener.

Your summary should be about 80 words long (and no more than 90 words long). You should use your own words as far as possible.

You will receive up to 6 marks for the content of your summary, and up to 6 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.

How to be a good listener

When it comes to communicating with other people, there are two aspects to consider. There is the ability to express yourself, but equally important is the ability to listen to what is being said. We probably all know some people who are really easy to talk to. This is very likely to be because they have good listening skills. You might like to examine the techniques of good listeners as this is one way to improve your own skills.

One technique when you are listening is to use visual signals, like nodding, for example. This helps to show the speaker that you really are listening to what they are saying. After all, no-one likes to think that what they are saying is boring! Even something as simple as looking at the other person when they are speaking can make a big difference.

Of course, sometimes, the topic of the conversation that you are listening to might not be one that you find particularly interesting. If this is the case, you might need to try and appear to be more positive about the conversation than you actually feel, although that's not always easy to do! However, it is important not to let yourself get distracted by thinking about other things. If you do, the person you are listening to will probably notice this.

When someone is talking to you, you shouldn't simply be silent the whole time. Instead, respond by asking open questions – ones requiring detailed answers – and the conversation will move forward. And if you're concerned that you have misunderstood what someone has said, don't feel bad about asking them to explain. Nobody will mind, especially if they feel that you are listening to them.

As you can see, there are lots of good ways you can improve your listening skills. How good a listener are you?

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[Total: 12]

Exercise 5



- 13** You recently helped someone in your family who then gave you some money to say thank you for helping. Now you are not sure what to do with the money.

Write an email to a friend telling them about this.

In your email, you should

- explain what you did to help your family member
- describe some ideas you have about what you could do with the money
- say why you think your friend is a good person to help you decide.

The pictures above may give you some ideas, and you can also use some ideas of your own.

Your email should be between 100 and 150 words long.

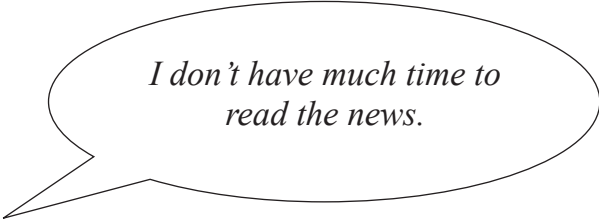
You will receive up to 6 marks for the content of your email, and up to 6 marks for the language used.

Exercise 6

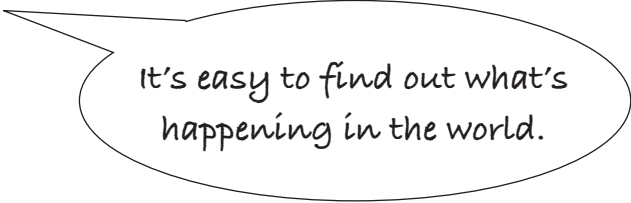
14 In class, you have been talking about why some teenagers are not very interested in the news.

You have decided to write an article about this for your school magazine.

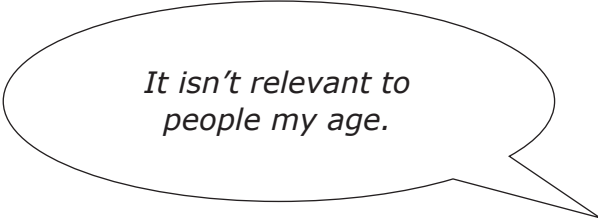
Here are some comments from your classmates:



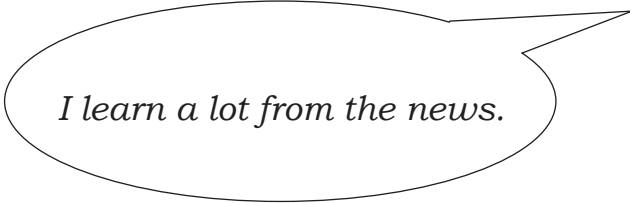
I don't have much time to read the news.



It's easy to find out what's happening in the world.



It isn't relevant to people my age.



I learn a lot from the news.

Write an article for your school magazine, giving your views.

The comments above may give you some ideas, and you can also use some ideas of your own.

Your article should be between 100 and 150 words long.

You will receive up to 6 marks for the content of your article, and up to 6 marks for the language used.

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