

Answer Key

Unit 1

Improve your writing skills

1 B 2 A 3 C 4 C

Get started

Students' own answers

Develop your vocabulary

1

1 d 2 f 3 e 4 c 5 a 6 b

2

- 1 department store
- 2 well-known brands
- 3 special offers
- 4 discounts
- 5 same-day delivery
- 6 postage and packing
- 7 bargains
- 8 money-back guarantee
- 9 high street

Develop your writing skills

1

Sentences to be ticked: 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15

2

1 c 2 b 3 c 4 a 5 a 6 b 7 a 8 c

3

- 1 A digital camera is smaller than a laptop computer.
- 2 A laptop computer is more expensive than a mobile phone,
- 3 A computer expert is more helpful than a confusing manual.
- 4 Paying by credit card is more common than paying in cash.
- 5 Buying things on sale is smarter than paying the full price.
- 6 New electronic devices are faster than old ones.

4

- 1 Getting a 2-for-1 special offer is similar to getting something free.
- 2 Doing window-shopping is just like having fun at no cost.
- 3 Buying on impulse is better than taking forever to decide.
- 4 Splashing out on something is the greatest thrill in shopping.
- 5 Finding a great bargain is more enjoyable than paying full price.

6 Overcharging is the worst way to sell something.

7 Shopping online is quicker than shopping on the high street.

5

These days, buying electronic devices is like torture. There are so many different things to choose from. You walk into an electronics shop and you are greeted with endless rows of shelves, where nearly every device is similar to another. You read the labels next to the mobile phone, or the laptop computer, or the digital camera and it is the same as reading a foreign language. The sales assistants are sometimes helpful, but at other times they are not as helpful as you'd like them to be. You may start with one simple question and end up with ten! The best thing to do is to take your time – don't buy anything on impulse. Find out as much as possible about the device. It can be just like a quick course in technology. And the advantage is that with most shops, if you change your mind, you can probably get a refund.

6

- 1 to
- 2 like
- 3 just
- 4 like
- 5 as
- 6 as

7

1 d 2 h 3 a 4 f 5 c 6 e 7 b 8 g

8

- 1 as
- 2 the
- 3 than
- 4 than
- 5 same
- 6 much
- 7 more
- 8 just

9

A The best way to surprise your friends with well-chosen gifts is to remember the things they say they want. Of course, this means you will need a memory like an elephant's. We usually wait too long to start paying attention to this detail. We think more often about

what we want than what others want!

By the time you start thinking about buying them a gift, you'll only have a few days to start paying attention. In that case, it might be better to just ask!

B Buying gifts for friends can be difficult.

You often don't know what to buy because you're not sure what they want. Some things, like a candle, a plant, or something similar, are good gifts that almost anyone would like. But we usually want to get something special for our friends. That means you need to do some listening. Make a note of the things they say they want and then head off to the shops with your perfect idea for a gift!

Paragraph A makes better use of comparisons.

10

Upmarket boutiques and discount chain stores both have their advantages. For instance, a boutique usually has better quality clothes than a chain store. In addition, the staff in upmarket boutiques are generally more helpful than those in chain stores. On the other hand, chain stores are not as expensive as upmarket boutiques. You are also far more likely to find bargains and you could be lucky enough to find styles similar to those in boutiques. So it's just a matter of what you're looking for.

11

Suggested answers

Shopping alone

quicker because you don't spend time chatting lonelier less likely to spend so much money

Shopping with friends

takes longer more fun you're more likely to spend more money / buy on impulse as friends persuade you to buy something

12

Suggested answers

Shopping alone and shopping with friends can both be very difficult experiences. Some believe it's easier to shop alone and it takes less time. However, it's lonelier

to shop by yourself and shopping with friends can be a great deal of fun. On the other hand, you will probably spend less money when you shop alone than with friends, because you will spend less time in the shops. You might be more likely to buy something on impulse with a friend because they'll probably talk you into it!

Exam focus

- 1
- 1 an article
- 2 on a website
- 3 your favourite way to shop
- 4 next week
- 5 a gift voucher

Skills tip

a No, b Yes

- 2
- 1 b 2 c 3 a 4 b 5 b 6 c

- 3
- 1 You're able to look at things before you decide to buy them.
- 2 Crowded shops are full of people and it's hard to move around.
- 3 You can try shoes on and look at them in the mirror to see if they suit you.
- 4 Department stores offer discounts online to encourage online shopping.
- 5 There are lots of shops in a shopping centre and they are close together.
- 6 You have to wait for the item to be delivered when you buy it online.

- 4
- 1 F 2 F 3 F 4 T 5 F 6 T

Exam practice

Suggested answers

1
There are many ways to shop these days and everyone has their favourite way of doing it. Personally, I prefer to do my shopping online for a number of reasons. One reason I prefer online shopping is that it's a great way to view many items quickly and easily. Many department stores and clothes shops display well-known brands and bargains on easy-to-use websites. It's like window-shopping, but without the walking. In addition, you can avoid crowds of shoppers. If you've ever been to a shopping centre or the high street to buy something in the sales, you know what I mean. Online websites have always got discounts and special offers anyway, so you don't need to go to the trouble of waiting in queues. Lastly, online shops offer the same money-back guarantees as ordinary

shops. They often do same-day delivery, so it's like buying something on impulse. You'll have it in your hand in a few short hours. Postage and packing is often free as well. Who can say no to that?

For these reasons, online shopping is by far the best way to shop. It is good value for money and as easy as point and click!

2
To: Mrs Wilkinson
From: Khalid Momani
Subject: Shopping in my area

Introduction
There is a wide variety of shops in my area where you can buy anything from clothes to books and electronic goods.

Clothes shops
First of all, there are several clothes shops in my area. Most of them offer well-known brands of clothing and there are a couple of chain stores that offer discount shopping. The chain stores are the most popular because they are cheaper than the other shops.

Bookshops
Another popular type of shop is bookshops. The largest one always has the latest books while there are two others which sell used ones. The large bookshop is the most popular of all because it is spacious and has more to offer than just books.

Other shops
Finally, there is a shop which sells electronic goods, such as computers. It's very popular because you can go and spend hours trying out the different devices. We also have a small supermarket and a bakery. However, these are less popular than the large supermarket outside town because they sell a limited range of goods.

3
Hi Beth,
I'm glad you're coming to visit me for your holiday. We're going to have a great time, you can be sure of that!
Let me tell you about the places where I like to hang out. The first one is the local café where all my friends meet quite often. It serves great snacks at more reasonable prices than most others. Another favourite choice is the park, which is the best place to go for a walk or do other outdoor activities. As far as shopping goes, the high street in my town has quite a variety of clothing shops, bookshops, music shops and gift shops. There's also a shopping centre

which I prefer going to because it's more convenient than walking up and down the high street. There are some great places to eat in the shopping centre as well. I'm sure we'll find many more things to do while you're here, but this is just to give you some ideas. Get in touch if you've got any more questions and I look forward to seeing you!

Bye for now,
Tara

Unit 2

Improve your writing skills

1 B 2 C 3 C 4 A

Get started

Students' own answers

Develop your vocabulary

- 1
- 1 ticket
- 2 fare
- 3 journey
- 4 travel
- 5 tourists
- 6 travellers
- 2
- 1 a 2 d 3 b 4 c
- 3
- 1 way
- 2 brochure
- 3 gap
- 4 camp
- 5 means

Develop your writing skills

1 and 2

giving examples	adding information	showing contrast
such as	also	but
for example	moreover	although
like	in addition	despite
<i>for instance</i>	<i>additionally</i>	<i>however</i>

showing result	showing reason
therefore	as a result of
as a consequence	owing to
so	since
<i>consequently</i>	<i>because</i>

3

- 1 However
- 2 like/such as
- 3 so
- 4 Also/Moreover/In addition/Additionally
- 5 since/because

4

- 1 addition to (visiting) Australia
- 2 Despite being
- 3 as a result of
- 4 such as hotels
- 5 as a consequence/result

5

- 1 so
- 2 because
- 3 so
- 4 as
- 5 despite
- 6 since

6

- 1 they
- 2 its
- 3 it
- 4 ones
- 5 it/one/this
- 6 which
- 7 them
- 8 who

7

- 1 b 2 e 3 a 4 c 5 f 6 d

8

- 1 destinations
- 2 employment
- 3 funds
- 4 taxi, bus or train
- 5 Customs

9

- 1 them
- 2 women
- 3 so
- 4 For
- 5 while/whereas/but/although
- 6 other
- 7 Some
- 8 as
- 9 because

10

- Suggested answers
- 1 going just for the sunbathing and nightlife is a waste of time and money.
 - 2 they need a period of relaxation after their exams.
 - 3 degree courses are more expensive than ever.
 - 4 they learn to be more independent and self-reliant.
 - 5 they can help out at a summer camp.
 - 6 there are dangers that the traveller should be aware of.

11

- Suggested answers
- 1 Many students go to Thailand because it is a very cheap country. / Thailand is a very cheap country, which is why many students go there.
 - 2 Some parents pay for their child's round-the-world ticket, which is the most expensive part of their journey.
 - 3 Young people often stay in hostels since they offer accommodation at a reasonable cost. / Young people often stay in hostels, which offer accommodation at a reasonable cost.
 - 4 You should plan your daily expenses, such as food, transport and accommodation.
 - 5 InterRail and Eurail tickets, which lots of people have used to travel round Europe, are a great idea.

12

Many school-leavers have the choice of going to university in the autumn after they pass their exams, or taking a year to see the world before starting their degree. However, it is not always easy to decide which to do.

Some young people are keen to complete their university studies as quickly as possible, so that they can start earning a living. For this reason, they often decide to go straight to university after leaving school.

Although / Even though / While this seems sensible, it may be better for them to take a year off before starting their studies. This is because many school-leavers lack real-world experience. A gap year travelling will help them mature, which, as a result, will help them be better students at university – and have more of the skills that employers want. For example, they have probably always lived at home. A gap year teaches them how to be more independent, which is a useful skill at university.

To conclude / In conclusion, my personal opinion is that school-leavers should seriously consider taking a gap year. It is often said that travel broadens the mind. The more broad-minded and experienced university students are, the better.

Exam focus

1

Sentences to be ticked: 1,4,5

2

- 1 disadvantage
- 2 advantage
- 3 advantage
- 4 advantage
- 5 advantage
- 6 disadvantage

3

- 1 b 2 c 3 e 4 a 5 d

Skills tip

a No, b Yes

Exam practice

Suggested answer

More and more school-leavers are taking a gap year before going to university. Some use the time to work and save money, others to travel and see the world. Which is the best option?

Of course, they will need money at university. The life of a student is more expensive than ever, and some savings in the bank will help. Also, round-the-world air tickets cost money, and the last thing a first-year student needs is debt.

The gap year, however, is not just about finances. This is the student's chance to broaden their horizons. A job delivering pizzas, for example, is unlikely to do this. Visiting other countries, on the other hand, will show them new cultures and ways of life. In addition, what they learn while abroad will help them see the degree they have chosen in a new way, or even decide to change it. Working in a menial job will not be so eye-opening. In conclusion, travelling is the best way to spend a gap year. Of course, a student should not start university in debt and should be prepared to work enough to fund any travel expenses.

Unit 3

Improve your writing skills

- 1 C 2 A 3 C 4 B

Get started

Students' own answers

Develop your vocabulary

1

- 1 b 2 e 3 a 4 c 5 d

2

- 1 stage
- 2 cast
- 3 festival
- 4 series
- 5 audience

3

- 1 dramatists
- 2 plays
- 3 production
- 4 set
- 5 director

Develop your writing skills

1

- 1 C 2 C 3 O 4 O 5 C 6 O

2

- 1 T 2 S 3 S 4 T 5 S 6 S 7 S 8 T
9 T

3

- 1 b 2 c 3 e 4 a 5 f 6 d

4

- 1 c 2 a 3 e 4 b 5 d

5

- 1 MB 2 C 3 I 4 MB

6

When you visit the theatre, do you give much thought to what goes on behind the scenes? The show itself is what everyone focuses on. But a great deal of work has taken place in the background, which often gets forgotten. One thing that often gets taken for granted is the props, those small bits and pieces that give the actors and the set an authentic feel. And in every theatre there are a group of people who make sure these things are as they should be. We spoke to Daniel Frost, who is head of the props department at Wood Lane Theatre, to find out what his department does. Daniel explained how vital it is that productions have the right props from the correct era. 'If you're watching a play that's set in the 19th century and you see someone wearing a digital watch, it completely ruins the effect.' People who work in the props department of a theatre spend a lot of time researching. They know what items they need in order to make a production convincing and accurate. Of course, then they have to find them! So, next time you're watching a play, spare a thought for all the people you can't see. They've helped make the play what it is as much as the actors on stage.

7

- 1 a 2 b 3 a 4 b 5 b

8

- 1 b 2 d 3 a 4 c

9

Sentences to be ticked: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8

10

- First main body paragraph
- 2 Talk about the forms of entertainment most popular in your country.
 - 3 Mention that the main forms of entertainment are the same as everywhere else.
 - 6 Mention other popular forms of local entertainment.
 - 7 Give examples of popular local entertainment forms (festivals, folk dancing, etc).

Second main body paragraph

- 1 Explain how much you like going to the cinema.
- 4 Give examples of the film genres you like.
- 8 Describe a film which you recently enjoyed.

11

Suggested answer

Just as everywhere else in the world, the main forms of entertainment are the most popular. For instance, many young people love pop music, older people enjoy the theatre and everyone loves going to the cinema. But other local forms of entertainment are popular, too. For example, we have many festivals in the summer that people enjoy going to as well. Folk dancing is still a popular activity, even for young people. My favourite form of entertainment is the cinema and I love going at least once a week. I enjoy comedies very much and sometimes a good thriller or action film. The other activity I really like doing is watching things on TV and online. I particularly like watching things online because then you can share the links with your friends and add comments!

12

- 1 c 2 a 3 b

13

Suggested answers

1

First of all, there have been many advances in the technical quality of the televisions we watch. For example, televisions are now usually flat-screen, instead of the old box type. This has resulted in an improvement in the picture and sound quality. Many use LED technology, which produces high-quality images, and people can also attach speakers for better sound quality. Programme makers also produce better quality programmes nowadays. This is because televisions are now so advanced that poor productions would come

across as unrealistic. This applies not only to TV series and dramas but also to documentaries and sports broadcasts. The advances in technology have affected the whole industry.

2

Home entertainment in the past
In the past, home entertainment mainly consisted of watching television. Playing music on a sound system was also popular, as was listening to music on the radio. Video recorders and DVD players started to gain recognition in the late twentieth century and so did cable and satellite television.

Home entertainment today

In recent years, computers have changed the way people access entertainment at home. The internet is widely used to listen to music. For example, people now download music or watch videos on YouTube. Computers are also used to play DVDs in order to watch films. The main form of home entertainment, though, is still the television and many people pay to access cable or satellite television channels.

3

I know that you will be tired from travelling when you arrive on Saturday, so I thought we should spend a relaxing evening. We could go out for a meal or go to the cinema. The local Indian restaurant is great and the open-air cinema always has an interesting choice of films. Alternatively, if you don't want to go out, we could watch a DVD at home. I've got a few ideas about what we could do on Sunday, too. One possibility is the theatre festival that is taking place at the Town Hall. Or we could go and see a band at the Big Venue. My favourite local band, Bliss Field, is playing. If you don't fancy these options, we can always ask my friends to come round and watch videos on YouTube.

Exam focus

1

- 1 b 2 b 3 a 4 b, e

Skills tip

a No, b Yes

2

- 1 B 2 A

3

Paragraph 1
b, g
Paragraph 2
c, e

Paragraph 3
d, h
Paragraph 4
a, f

Exam practice

Suggested answers

1

Dear Alicia,

It's great to hear from you! I hope you and your family are all well. Now, let me see if I can help you with your questions.

First of all, there are many different theatrical productions on this year and they're all excellent. There's a great comedy play on at the Open Air Theatre called *Odd One Out*. I think it would be great fun. Another possibility is the musical *Phantom of the Opera*, which is on at the Orion. It's a very popular show. My final suggestion is a bit more cultural. There's a season of Shakespeare plays on all year at The Warehouse Community Theatre. All the productions are suitable for families.

As for buying tickets, there are two possibilities. Firstly, I can buy tickets for you. Just let me know as soon as possible which shows you want to see. Or, if you prefer, you can log on to the theatre websites yourself and book the tickets you want online. Either way is very easy.

I must dash off now, as I've got a music lesson. I can't wait for your visit.

Lots of love,
Penny

2

To: Mr Scholes

From: James Benson

Subject: Entertainment for exchange students

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to review the entertainment choices that would be suitable for the exchange students, who will be visiting the school this month.

Options

The town centre has a number of entertainment facilities. There is a cinema complex in the centre. There is also a theatre not far from the centre. Another option is the music club, Avengers. It has a disco and also has live bands at the weekend. It is located on the outskirts of the town.

Cost

The entrance fees for the various venues are as follows. The cinema complex costs

€4.90 per person. The theatre is €7.70 per person, while getting into the music club costs €2.50 per person.

Recommendations

All in all, considering cost and location, the best venue would probably be the cinema. It is easy to reach and inexpensive. On the other hand, the theatre is expensive and not so accessible by public transport. Finally, although the music club is cheap, taking a taxi to get there and back would increase the cost.

3

Like many people, I enjoy a night out at the theatre whenever I can. So, I recently attended a performance of *The Tempest* at The Lyric.

This is one of my favourite Shakespearean plays and I was looking forward to an evening of great Elizabethan drama. I didn't get quite what I was expecting, though. The director had set the play in modern times and the set was designed as if the action was taking place at a Greek tourist resort. Also, all the actors wore modern clothes. However, I didn't think the modern staging fitted in well with the Shakespearean language.

On the other hand, the direction and acting were exceptional. It was a very lively performance from all the cast. For example, they really made the most of the comic aspect of the play. The director made a good job of tying all the scenes together, even if the modern setting was odd. Furthermore, the performances from the lead roles were among the best I had ever seen.

All in all, it was a great evening. Once I got over how strange the modern setting was, I really enjoyed this fantastic play and I would recommend it to people of all ages.

Unit 4

Improve your writing skills

1 B 2 A 3 B 4 C

Get started

Students' own answers

Develop your vocabulary

1

- 1 career
- 2 job
- 3 security
- 4 Manual

- 5 working for yourself
- 6 boss
- 7 fired
- 8 overtime
- 9 wage

2

- 1 running a business
- 2 secure job
- 3 regular salary
- 4 fewer responsibilities
- 5 become self-employed
- 6 job satisfaction

Develop your writing skills

1

1 c 2 b 3 b 4 b 5 c 6 a

2

Suggested answers

- 1 Firstly / First of all / To start with
- 2 Furthermore / Secondly / Moreover / In addition / Additionally / As well as that
- 3 Apart from / Despite / In spite of
- 4 Firstly / First of all / To start with
- 5 Furthermore / Secondly / Moreover / In addition / Additionally / As well as that
- 6 Finally / Lastly

3

Against working while studying

- 1 It takes up study time.
Students can't do all their work if they have jobs.
- 2 Further education is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.
Students should be able to spend all their time studying. They will work in the future.
In favour of working while studying
- 1 It helps financially.
Being a student is expensive and every little bit helps.
- 2 It can teach you time management/organisation.
Future employers might be impressed.
- 3 It can give you an advantage in the job market or when starting your own business.

4

1 b 2 c 3 a 4 d

5

Suggested answers

- Text 2 The phrase 'This is because' should be replaced with 'For example'.
- Text 3 The first sentence should be more positive and less generalised, e.g. 'For some people, starting a business is the best way to find job satisfaction.'
- Text 4 The questions and exclamation mark are not appropriate for an essay. The extract should be rewritten in a more formal style.

- 6**
Suggested answers
- Many businesses fail because of poor financial planning.
 - If so, it is important to choose these people carefully.
 - Especially in the early stages, a business needs a lot of time and commitment.
 - You are no longer told what to do every day and the important decisions are made by you.
 - This includes understanding the market and perhaps having some kind of qualification in business administration.
 - Once they have got used to running a business, they do not want to go back to being an employee.

7
Students' own answers

- 8**
- Firstly
 - reason
 - So
 - linked
 - addition
 - particular
- Points used from exercise 7: low salary, long or unsociable hours, unpaid overtime, unsafe or unhealthy working conditions

9
Students' own answers

10
Students' own answers

11
Students' own answers

- 12**
Suggested answers
- In favour of a secure job
Secure jobs are hard to find.
The harsh current economic environment means having any job is better than having none.
Security allows you to plan for the future / enjoy luxuries.
In favour of a job you love doing
You will spend up to a third of your life working – it should be enjoyable.
People are more productive when they are happy.
Money is not everything.

13
Students' own answers

Exam focus

- 1**
- both
 - Students' own answers
 - Job security and money

- 4 Suggested answer: Working for a company usually provides you with more job security, but running a business probably offers the potential to earn more money.

Skills tip

a No, b Yes

2
1 A 2 A 3 F 4 F 5 A 6 F

3
Students' own answers

4
Plans A, B and D are suitable. Plan C emphasises working for a company, not starting a business.

Exam practice

Suggested answer
Many people dream of starting a business doing something they enjoy. However, this is a big step which needs serious thought.

First of all, there are disadvantages to starting a business. Unfortunately, many businesses will fail and the owners risk losing everything. The main reason for this is that they do not have the necessary knowledge and qualifications. In addition, being self-employed requires a great amount of effort and hard work and many people complain that they have no free time. So it might be better to stay in a secure job with less stress, fewer responsibilities and a regular salary.

Despite the difficulties, starting a business can have numerous advantages. For many people, it gives job satisfaction, as they are doing something they really enjoy. Furthermore, if the business is successful, it can provide security and possibly much more income than they would earn working for an employer. Finally, self-employed people have a feeling of independence that is hard to find working for a company.

In conclusion, as long as you can avoid the problems mentioned above and you are prepared to work hard, starting your own business could be an excellent idea.

Unit 5

Improve your writing skills

1 A 2 A 3 C 4 A

Get started

Students' own answers

Develop your vocabulary

- 1**
- cuisine
 - dish
 - tastiest
 - fried
 - meal
 - spicy
 - starters
 - waiter
- 2**
1 f 2 d 3 c 4 b 5 e 6 a

- 3**
- sandwich bar
 - junk food
 - chain restaurant
 - microwave oven
 - deep-fat fryer
 - cooking oil

Develop your writing skills

- 1**
- entertainment
 - informal
 - everyday
 - information
 - formal (or possibly semi-formal)
 - technical

- 2**
- teacher
 - street
 - friend/classmate, etc
 - mother
 - radio
 - waiter

3
1 e 2 b 3 f 4 a 5 c 6 d

4
1 c 2 a 3 d 4 f 5 b 6 e

- 5**
- persuade
 - thank
 - criticise
 - explain
 - apologise
 - advise

6
1 b 2 a 3 b 4 a 5 a

- 7**
- It's more like an order.
 - It's insulting.
 - It's too rude.
 - It doesn't describe the food.
 - It's too threatening.

- 8**
Suggested answers
- Why don't you bring your own coffee and lunch to work so you don't have to go to the kitchen?

- 2 I can only express my deepest regret that you did not receive the service this restaurant usually offers.
- 3 That is why it is not always possible to provide top-quality service on those days.
- 4 I expect you, therefore, to pay the cost of those tickets as well as refund the cost of the meal.
- 5 Why not be a little adventurous with food for a change, though?

9

- 1 informal
2 formal
3 semi-formal

10

1

target reader	purpose	register
Matilda	to describe	informal

2

target reader	purpose	register
students	to explain and advise	semi-formal

3

target reader	purpose	register
restaurant manager	to complain	formal

Exam focus

1

Suggested answers

- 1 people who like eating out
2 to recommend that readers do or don't go to a restaurant
3 semi-formal

Skills tip

a Yes, b No

2

Items to be ticked: 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10

3

- 1 First paragraph: 5, 10 (and 2 possibly)
2 Second paragraph: 2, 4
3 Third paragraph: 7 (and 4 possibly)
4 Fourth paragraph: 9

Exam practice

Suggested answers

1

Mario's Italian Job is a new restaurant that opened its doors in the town centre just a few weeks ago. I went along with a dining companion to see if they offer a genuine Italian experience.

The place definitely looks the part. I felt as though I had just walked into a little restaurant in Rome. Even the waiter was the real thing, speaking with a strong Italian accent and charming us both with his manner.

Unfortunately, the food was a little disappointing. For a starter, we shared a small pizza and the bread wasn't properly cooked. My companion's main course, cannelloni with spinach and cheese, was delicious, but my spaghetti bolognese was cold and the sauce was runny. We had excellent Italian ice cream for dessert, but the overall experience was not a positive one.

I am willing to believe that Mario's Italian Job is just suffering from the usual difficulties a new restaurant has and I intend to try it again. It really has to make every effort to improve the quality of the food, however, because poor quality food will destroy a young restaurant, no matter how charming the waiters are.

2

Even though young people know that fast food is unhealthy, it is still their first choice of food when they eat out. Fast-food restaurants are full of teens and people in their twenties and new places open up every day. What's their secret?

The minute you walk into one of these places, you can see why young people like them. They're well lit, decorated in modern bright colours and they always play the latest pop music. There are other young people inside including the staff. In other words, young people feel at home and welcome there, which is often not the case in other places.

Young people also like fast food. Ask anyone between the ages of ten and twenty-five which they'd prefer – a burger or a steak, a pizza or a pasta salad – and they'll always go for the first option. It's also food they can easily afford, since a meal in a proper restaurant is usually far too expensive.

I don't think young people will stop eating fast food, so maybe we'll just have to try and make it healthier!

3

Dear Alex,

How are you? I hope you're well.

Congratulations on getting the job! You're right – I've never worked as a waiter. But I have been to many different kinds of restaurants and I can give you an opinion as a customer about what kind of waiter I would prefer!

Of course, it depends on the kind of restaurant you're going to work in. Some expensive restaurants want their waiters to be very formal and polite and always call the customer 'Sir' or 'Madam'. I have to say, though, that I don't like this and would prefer a friendlier, more natural manner.

And you have to be knowledgeable. If I ask a waiter about the menu, I want them to know the answer. Make sure you know what ingredients are in every dish and how they're cooked. The final thing is to be attentive. If a customer wants something, they don't want to wait for half an hour before they can attract your attention!

Having said that, I'm sure you're going to make a great waiter. Let me know how you get on!

Bye for now,
Sam

Unit 6

Improve your writing skills

1 C 2 B 3 A 4 A

Get started

Students' own answers

Develop your vocabulary

1

1 d 2 b 3 f 4 a 5 e 6 c

2

- 1 inner cities
2 run-down
3 estate
4 high-rise
5 surroundings
6 sense of community
7 built-up
8 green spaces
9 domestic waste

Develop your writing skills

1

- 1 an article
2 ways to improve urban environments / what measures could be taken in your town
3 b

4 a MB b I c C d MB

2

Plan a is best because it answers the question properly and covers all the points in the exam task in the correct order.

Plan b includes too much information that is not relevant to the exam task question.

Plan c doesn't start answering the question and addressing the exam task until the final paragraph.

3

Paragraph 1: b
Paragraph 2: c, f
Paragraph 3: a, d
Paragraph 4: e

4

Paragraph 1: c, i
Paragraph 2: a, e
Paragraph 3: f, j
Paragraph 4: d, g

5

Items to be ticked: 1, 3, 6, 8

6

Suggested answers

1 award-winning community garden – wide variety of beautiful plants and garden areas
e.g. the water-lily pond – very pretty – even has goldfish

2 not only for the people who run the garden – they encourage all locals to visit

e.g. very welcoming place, has small stall selling refreshments.

3 workshops on gardening for all ages – also plenty of social events
e.g. a children's nature festival next weekend

4 money to become member helps keep the garden going – gardening lessons encourage others to set up own garden. Can get excellent advice from volunteers running Feltham St.

7

Suggested answers

1 However, the outskirts of the city have a lot more green spaces.

2 Another problem people face in the countryside is forest fires.

3 Built-up areas tend to have more crime than suburban areas.

4 Chemical fertilisers can cause environmental problems for rural waterways.

5 The process of urbanisation can help stop the over-development of the countryside.

6 National parks are a good way to promote conservation in the countryside.

8

1 b 2 c 3 a

9

You work for the local council. The council has received some funding to improve the town centre, which has become run-down. The council has proposed either

creating pedestrian zones or planting trees along the pavements. Write a report on the advantages and disadvantages of each idea and make a recommendation.

10

Suggested answers

1st main body paragraph

first suggestion – pedestrian zones popular with shoppers – not popular with shop owners

shoppers like to walk around – no cars shop owners worry – lack of access – fewer people come to town isn't popular with all community

2nd main body paragraph

alternative – programme of planting trees – on pavements

all residents approve of plan

would make town more attractive

however, expensive to do and maintain popular choice but difficult to maintain

11

Suggested answer

The first suggestion put forward is to pedestrianise the town centre. Although this idea would be very popular with shoppers, there are objections from many of the shops and businesses in the centre. While shoppers enjoy walking around

without having to worry about traffic, many shop owners feel that it makes it difficult for them to transport supplies to their businesses and that it discourages people from driving into town. Consequently, this option would not be popular with the whole community.

The alternative is to start a programme of planting trees on the pavements in the town centre. This is a plan that all residents seem to approve of. The reason for this is that it would make the town much more attractive. However, it would be an expensive project both to set up and to maintain. Therefore, although the choice would be popular, it would be difficult to keep it going in the long term.

Exam focus

1

1 F 2 T 3 T 4 T 5 T 6 T

Skills tip

a No, b Yes

2

Paragraph 1: c

Paragraph 2: a, f

Paragraph 3: b, d

Paragraph 4: e

3

Ideas to be ticked: 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10

Exam practice

Suggested answer

People in cities and the countryside face various environmental problems; however they are very different.

In cities, many environmental problems are related to urban problems. For instance, over-crowded cities have too much traffic, which causes air pollution. Another problem is domestic waste.

There is often nowhere to put rubbish in and it is difficult to recycle. On the other hand, air pollution is not a problem in the countryside. However, water pollution is a serious issue. Industrial waste pollutes rural waterways. In addition, over-development can destroy the natural habitats of wildlife.

The worst problem in the city is the amount of energy wasted. Unlike the countryside, the city uses a lot of power. People in cities use more than their fair share and this affects the countryside, too. The main problem in the countryside is the destruction of natural habitats through deforestation, which endangers species and spoils the landscape. If this is not stopped, then nobody will be able to enjoy the countryside in the future.

To sum up, the problems of rural and urban environments might be different, but they affect all of us. We all have to pay the price for the way we treat our environment.

Unit 7

Improve your writing skills

1 B 2 C 3 B 4 A

Get started

Students' own answers

Develop your vocabulary

1

1 young

2 involve

3 match

4 get in touch with

5 stay away from

2

1 influential

2 appeal

3 popularity

4 (un)interested

5 (un)fashionable

3

- 1 in
- 2 to
- 3 by
- 4 in
- 5 on

Develop your writing skills

1

- 1 F 2 I 3 I 4 F 5 F 6 F

2

Suggested answers

- 1 (try to) avoid this. (The first sentence is more formal)
- 2 taking up a new sport or hobby. (The second sentence is more formal)
- 3 should / ought to (take steps to) stop this from happening. (The first sentence is more formal)
- 4 trying something different. (The second sentence is more formal)

3

Suggested answers

- 1 read fashion magazines / go to fashion shows.
- 2 the cost / the functions it offers.
- 3 buy second-hand clothes / wait for the sales / swap clothes with a friend.
- 4 join a club or society / invite colleagues or fellow students to go for a coffee?

4

- 1 a 2 b 3 a 4 a

5

- 1 consider / think about
- 2 It would
- 3 option / idea / suggestion
- 4 were taken

6

- 1 to discuss conditions for young people in my area and make recommendations on how to improve them
- 2 people of different ages tend to go to the same places, despite them having little in common / young people have to move away to find further education / There are very few jobs in the village
- 3 opening a youth club / build a college nearby / encourage more businesses to open up in the area
- 4 it would provide a place that younger people could call their own / encourage young people to stay / provide jobs
- 5 If steps were taken to try to keep young people here, I believe it would help the whole community.

7

Task b

8

Suggested answers

1

Task a: Headings could include: *Crime / Violence / Graffiti*

Recommendations could include: punish offenders severely, so that it sends a message that we will not tolerate bad behaviour / write to the newspapers to complain about the way they are always blaming young people for everything that goes wrong

2

Task c: Headings could include: *Online communication / Celebrity news / Music*

Recommendations could include: an internet café in the area so that everyone could get online / organising regular film screenings and concerts in the area

9

Suggested answers

- 1 *Cafés and Restaurants / Places to go*
- 2 they would have places to meet, which is something that is extremely important for the younger members of the community.
- 3 to attract bands to play here and to encourage local musicians.
- 4 prevent vandalism that spoils our sports facilities and ensure that they are kept in better condition.

10

Students' own answers

11

Suggested answer

Behaviour

Sometimes, young people do not behave as they should, even doing things such as breaking the law. I would like to recommend that all schools should devote some time to showing young people the consequences of dangerous or harmful behaviour. I believe that if young people are made aware of the dangers, they are less likely to injure themselves or get into trouble with the police.

Exam focus

1

- 1 Students' own answers
- 2 Suggested answer: articles/features/ interviews about sport/fashion/pop music
- 3 Formal language is more suitable for a report.
- 4 I recommend including ... / One option is to ... / I would like to suggest that ... / If the magazine included ...
The other phrases are not formal enough for a report.

Skills tip

a Yes, b No

2

Suggested answers

Added to the 1st column: information, ideas, stories, etc

Added to the 3rd column: fashion, jewellery, volunteering, travel, etc

The magazine could include ...

articles about/regarding (rap) music profiles of top footballers, etc

3

Students' own answers

Both plans are suitable – they just approach the report in different ways.

Any of the ideas are suitable, including students' own ideas, but it is worth

remembering the word limit in *First*.

Including all of the information here would make the report too long.

4

Technology

I recommend including articles comparing different models of mobile phones. Since young people spend a lot of time using this technology, they would be interested in finding out which ones are the best or which represent the best value for money. In addition, ...

Exam practice

Suggested answers

1

To: The Editor

From: Alex Ramirez

Subject: Appealing to young people
Introduction

The following are some of my suggestions on ways to make your magazine more interesting for teenagers and young adults.

Music

One option is to include articles about modern music. This is something that greatly interests and influences teenagers today and I believe that more of them would buy the magazine if they knew it contained information about their favourite singers and bands.

Sport

I also recommend having information about sport in the magazine, as this is something that many young people are passionate about. I am confident that articles about football and basketball would appeal to readers. In addition, articles and interviews about extreme sports would be popular.

Fashion

Finally, if the magazine included a section on fashion, I feel certain that it would appeal to the majority of teenagers.

Young people spend a lot of money on the way they look, so articles on clothes and accessories would not only be interesting, but also informative.

Conclusion

I believe that if the above recommendations were put into practice, the magazine would attract many more readers between the ages of 16 and 25.

2

How to stay in fashion

Nobody likes to be unfashionable, so it's worth making an effort to keep up to date with what's happening in the world of fashion.

Clothes are often the first thing that people think about when we talk about fashion. If I were you, I wouldn't just copy what your best friend is wearing. You should choose your own style to suit you, as not all fashionable clothes will look good on you.

But fashion is about more than just clothes. It's about the music you listen to, the way you wear your hair and even the mobile phone you carry with you. It's a good idea to give everything a try and, if you like it, you can spend some money on it. But if you don't like it, just keep looking because there's bound to be something available that suits you.

All of this comes with a warning, though! Fashions change and they change quickly, so it's not a good idea to spend all your money on the latest fashions or accessories. If you do, you might find that you have to replace everything and start all over again next year!

3

Dear Sarah,

Thanks for your letter. I'm sorry to hear you've been unhappy, but you really don't need a lot of money to do the things you mentioned.

First of all, it doesn't have to cost a lot to look good. Why don't you look around second-hand shops? They're very trendy these days! You could also wait for the sales in the shops. You can find many bargains if you look in the right places. I'm always shopping for clothes, so if there's anything you want, I can help you find something cheap!

As for music, have you thought about listening online? There are so many services offering free music these days. I can suggest a few websites to get you started, if you like.

I agree that going to the cinema is expensive, but you could always rent a DVD and invite friends to your house to watch it. That would cost a lot less and it would be a great way to get together with friends.

I hope these suggestions will help. Let me know if you want any more ideas!

Love,

Mary

Unit 8

Improve your writing skills

1 C 2 B 3 A 4 C

Get started

1

Students' own answers

2

1 G, H

2 G, H, perhaps O

3 G, H

4 O

5 H

6 G, H

7 O

8 O

Develop your vocabulary

1

1 jogging

2 path

3 on

4 yoga

5 habits

6 focused

7 unhealthy

8 out of

2

1 personal

2 routine

3 weight

4 aerobics

5 effective

6 weights

7 equipment

Develop your writing skills

1

1 essay

2 article

3 report

4 letter

2

2 your daily diet

3 sports facilities in your area

4 ideas on how to become fitter

3

Paragraphs to be ticked: 1, 3

4

Introduction 2 does not answer the question in the writing task.

Introduction 4 is part of an article, not a letter, so it is the wrong type of text.

5

1 T 2 T 3 F 4 T 5 F 6 T 7 T 8 F

6

Essay A follows the prompts better. It includes all of the notes but Essay B only includes the first note and ignores the second note.

7

1 b 2 c

8

Suggested answers

1 the letter doesn't answer the part in Monica's letter about finding a good gym.

2 the essay doesn't follow the notes or mention anything about working out in the evenings. It is also quite short because of that.

Exam focus

1

1 T 2 F 3 T 4 F 5 F 6 F

Skills tip

a Yes, b No

2

Advantages of gym	Advantages of home
<i>place to socialise</i>	is free of charge
provides services	more convenient
Disadvantages of gym	Disadvantages of home
has monthly costs	easy to lose focus
less convenient	limited equipment

3

1 c 2 a 3 f 4 d 5 b 6 e

Exam practice

Suggested answer

Many people exercise at the gym rather than at home in order to stay fit. Gyms are excellent places to work out and have a lot to offer, but they may not be suitable for everyone.

Gyms generally provide a better workout than the home. They offer a range of activities and services, as well as a wide variety of exercise equipment to choose

from. There are areas in which members can lift weights and it is also a place where you can socialise with other members. You can also meet with a personal trainer, who can help you create the perfect exercise routine.

There are some disadvantages to the gym, though. It is less convenient, because you have to travel there every day. That is probably the main reason why working out at home is easier. Also, all gyms have membership fees, but a home fitness routine, such as aerobics or using an exercise bike, is completely free of charge.

In conclusion, the question of whether a gym or the home is a better place to work out depends on the needs of the individual person.

Unit 9

Improve your writing skills

1 A 2 C 3 C 4 C

Get started

Students' own answers

Develop your vocabulary

1
1 e 2 b 3 d 4 c 5 a 6 h 7 f 8 g

2
Suggested answer

I have a good friend called Jacob. He's very outgoing and talkative so people generally find him really likeable. Because he's such a happy person, people sometimes think he's shallow, but that's not true at all. He's very trustworthy, and I feel lucky to have him as a friend.

3
1 join
2 make
3 share
4 have a lot in common
5 get on
6 hold
7 give

Develop your writing skills

1
1 a 2 a 3 a 4 a 5 b
2
1 I 2 F 3 F 4 I 5 I 6 F 7 I 8 F
9 F 10 I

3
1 Dear Sir/Madam,
2 I am writing to express
3 Please could you send
4 I look forward to meeting

5 Best regards,
6 Hi Brad,
7 How's it going?
8 Here's an idea
9 Let me know how it goes
10 Bye for now!

4
1 F, e
2 F, a
3 S, c
4 I, d
5 S, b
6 F, f
5
a report
b review
c essay
d review
e essay
f report

6
1 c, discursive style
2 f, informative style
3 b, descriptive style
4 e, chatty style

7
Paragraph 4

8
Students should underline:
Paragraph 1: A recent study shows the percentage of people who choose friends based on wealth.
Paragraph 2: There's a cool new café that's great for hanging out with friends.
Paragraph 3: Some of my friends are loud, but others are shy.
Paragraph 4: Let me know how the search turns out, and remember to have fun.

9
1st incorrect sentence: report
2nd incorrect sentence: review, letter or email
3rd incorrect sentence: letter or email
4th incorrect sentence: letter or email

10
Suggested answers
1st sentence:
Some even choose friends based on wealth.
2nd sentence:
Do they like hanging out in cafés with other friends?
3rd sentence:
Do you like friends who are loud, or ones who are shy?
4th sentence:
It is important to remember to have fun while searching for new friends.

11
1 T 2 F 3 F 4 F 5 T 6 T

12
Suggested answers

1
One way to know is when they are honest. This means that they always tell you the truth and they never lie to you about anything. Honesty is an important part of any friendship. If someone is not being honest with you, then they are not a true friend.

Another way to know is if they are reliable. This means that they are there when you need them. It also means they are there for you when they say they will be. We all need help in life sometimes and true friends are there for us during our times of need.

These are the ways we can find out if someone is a true friend. Of course, we need to do these things as well, in order to be a true friend to others.

2
The first thing is to talk to your friend and try to find out what the problem is. Ask your friend what happened and why he's angry. Maybe you did something wrong without knowing! Friends should be able to talk to each other. I'm sure he'll tell you what's up.

The second thing I would do is try to make up. Ask him if there's anything you can do to make the situation better. If you did something wrong, say you're sorry! If not, try to make your friend understand that you didn't do anything wrong.

I hope you and your friend work it out. Let me know how it goes.

Bye for now!
Jake

Exam focus

1
1 a letter
2 make new friends
3 advice
4 informal
5 conversational
6 four
7 140

Skills tip
a No, b Yes

2
Sentences to be ticked: 1, 2, 5, 6

3
1 T 2 F 3 F 4 T 5 F 6 F

Exam practice

Suggested answers

1

Dear Fiona,

So you've started a new college! That sounds exciting! I know it can be difficult at first, so you're probably feeling a bit shy. I hope I can help!

Here's what I think you should do. First, you should try to find an activity at the college that interests you, such as doing a sport or joining a drama club. That way, you'll be around other students who have the same interests as you.

The next thing you should do is to try to meet students doing that same activity who also have other interests that you share. Perhaps someone shares your tastes in music or film. You can then ask them to do something with you after college, such as hang out at a café or study together. Who knows, maybe they'll ask you first!

The most important thing to remember is – don't worry! You'll meet new people and have some lovely new friends before you know it. Just try to be adventurous! Let me know how things go!

Bye for now,
Alex

2

To: Mrs Jones

From: Dimitris Ouzanidis

Subject: Local facilities for young people

Introduction

As requested, I have collected information on places in the local area for young people to socialise. This involved speaking to local young people.

Town Square

The most popular place in good weather is probably the town square. A lot of the cafés around the edge of the square have outdoor tables so you can sit outside, enjoy the fresh air and watch people go by. In the square itself there are trees and benches where young people can meet their friends and sit and talk.

White Horse Mall

Another popular destination for meeting up with friends is the White Horse shopping mall in Queen Street, especially when it is raining. The centre has lots of interesting shops, cafés and restaurants. In the evenings most of them are still open and there is also a cinema showing the latest films.

Westland Sports Club

Behind the shopping centre is Westland Sports Club which is also a popular place for young people to meet and play tennis, squash or badminton. It has an excellent juice bar where you can socialise and watch sports on television with your friends as well.

3

Joe's Café

Joe's has only been open a few months but already it is the most popular coffee shop in the town centre. Inside, there are small tables for quiet conversations and a few big round tables for large groups. They also have some very comfortable armchairs, which are popular with students who want to drink coffee and study together at the same time.

It's a great place to hang out and not just because you can get so many different kinds of delicious coffee and cakes. The service is quick and friendly and the prices are reasonable. I ordered a hot chocolate and a piece of chocolate cake and the bill came to less than £5!

Joe's is an excellent place to meet up with friends. In fact it's often difficult to get a table, but it's definitely the place to go to socialise and have coffee in style. Give it a try and I'm sure you'll enjoy it, too!

Unit 10

Improve your writing skills

1 B 2 A 3 A 4 C

Get started

Students' own answers

Develop your vocabulary

1

1 c 2 g 3 a 4 f 5 b 6 h 7 d 8 e

2

- 1 examinations
- 2 experience
- 3 independence
- 4 failure
- 5 opportunity
- 6 prospects

Develop your writing skills

1

- 1 example
- 2 explanation
- 3 result
- 4 example
- 5 explanation
- 6 result
- 7 example
- 8 result

2

- 1 As
- 2 instance
- 3 result
- 4 effect
- 5 such
- 6 example

3

- 1 One reason for this is
- 2 For instance
- 3 Because of this / As a result

4

- 1 a, d, g
- 2 e, h
- 3 b, i
- 4 c, f

5

- 1 c, explanation
- 2 a, example
- 3 b, main point
- 4 d, result

6

- 1 c, e
- 2 d, f
- 3 a, b

7

Suggested answers

- 1 universities, technical colleges, art colleges
- 2 better job prospects, broader education
- 3 financial difficulties, poor progress at school, a job offer
- 4 becoming independent, starting a career, earning money
- 5 bad behaviour in class, poorly motivated students
- 6 holds back progress, teacher cannot give them attention

8

Suggested answers

- 1 Further education can provide better job prospects. For example, if you continue your studies you can become a doctor, a teacher or a lawyer rather than get a job that doesn't need any qualifications.
- 2 One example of this is when the family is in financial difficulty. If the 16-year-old leaves school, he or she could get a job and help bring in money.
- 3 Some students will behave badly because they do not want to be there. One effect of this is that those who really want to learn suffer because the others are simply wasting time.

9

Students' own answers

10
Students' own answers

11
Students' own answers

Exam focus

- 1
1 Students' own answers
2 Finding a job may be easier if you stay on at school longer. / It may be better to find a job at 16.
3 Staying at school until the age of 18 might give you the opportunity to go to college or university. / Not everybody is suited to further education.
4 You are more qualified at 18. / You will be more mature at 18. / 16 is too young to enter the job market. / Most employers look for more qualifications / It is better to start some jobs while you are young. / Some people have to leave school at 16.

Skills tip

a No, b Yes

2
Suggested answers

- 1
a This would mean that you could start earning money sooner and become more independent.
b Employers often look for more qualifications and will not be impressed by candidates who have left school at the first opportunity.
- 2
a In most professions, a degree is a basic requirement.
b People who are not academically minded would struggle at university.
- 3
a For instance, if someone wants to be a designer or a photographer, they can prove their ability with their work.
b The job market is very competitive and employers usually choose candidates who are better qualified.
- 4
a There are plenty of adult education classes to choose from.
b Family circumstances or finances, for example, might stop you from returning to education.
- 5
a For instance, many people do not do very well in exams but their other talents are not recognised as important.
b It is worth having a little patience while you are young so that you can be better qualified.

- 6
a In some countries, education is very poor or very expensive, so we should make the most of what is on offer.
b Unemployment is a problem even among university graduates, so we need to make sure that the education we get is going to be useful.

3
Plan A

Exam practice

Suggested answer
Although the law in many countries states that students can leave school at 16, I believe that in most cases it is advisable not to leave school too soon.
First of all, staying in education longer gives young people a better chance of finding work. This is because employers recognise that they have worked hard at their studies. As a result, they are more likely to be offered a job.
Secondly, further education is very important today. Many employers expect employees to have a degree. For this reason, it is better to stay on at school so they have the chance to study at college or university level.
However, leaving school at 16 is a good idea for some people. For instance, if they have the opportunity to get a good job at 16, there is no reason why they shouldn't. Additionally, problems at home might mean that they have to get a job to bring money into the home.
In conclusion, there are sometimes good reasons to leave school at 16. However, if possible, people should continue their education for as long as they can.

Unit 11

Improve your writing skills

1 C 2 A 3 B 4 C

Get started

Students' own answers

Develop your vocabulary

- 1
1 c 2 e 3 a 4 b 5 d
- 2
1 electronic
2 appliances
3 tablet
4 satnavs
5 user-friendly
6 touch screens

- 7 drop-down
8 multiple
9 data
10 apps

Develop your writing skills

- 1
Sentences to be ticked: 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12
- 2
Suggested answers
F I consider, As I see it, I personally believe/think/feel, To my mind I I (don't) think, I'm sure, I'd say, It seems to me that
- 3
1 ask
2 see
3 no
4 to
5 convinced
6 view
7 consider
8 far
9 Personally
- 4
1 T 2 F 3 F 4 T 5 F
- 5
1 f 2 b 3 i 4 c 5 d 6 a 7 e 8 h
- 6
1 O 2 F 3 F 4 O 5 F 6 O 7 O 8 F
- 7
Suggested answers
1 you can see the faces of the people you are talking to on the internet.
2 they are much easier to use than traditional cameras.
3 one of the best ways to listen to music these days.
4 they want to use them to read their emails and surf the internet.
5 I can talk on the phone while doing other things.
6 they don't seem to be able to live without them at all.
- 8
1 E 2 J 3 E 4 E 5 J 6 J 7 E 8 E 9 J
- 9
1 c 2 a 3 d 4 b 5 f 6 e
- 10
Suggested answers
2 I'd say that MP3 players are easier to use and more useful than CD players. For one thing, you don't need to carry lots of CDs around with you.

- 3 I would suggest that there are many good reasons why people buy tablet PCs. Firstly, they are much more portable than most laptops.
- 4 In my opinion, young people are not too reliant on smartphones. Most teenagers know how to get the best out of modern gadgets without letting them rule their lives.
- 5 If you ask me, older people are as capable of using modern gadgets as anyone else. Learning how to use any device has little to do with age.
- 6 I really don't think that having high-tech gadgets makes a person popular. A person's character is much more important than their possessions.

11

The latest OmegaAlpha tablet from Microworks has to be the gadget of the year, as far as I'm concerned. X This ultra-thin device does everything you expect a computer or laptop to do, and a whole lot more. X I'd say this is the one piece of techy equipment every home should have.

X The dimensions make this a highly portable device. Even for a tablet, it's exceptionally light X and, in my view, its attractive, sleek design makes it a machine to be proud of. I'd certainly be happy to be seen using one in the office or on public transport.

X The touch screen operation is easy to use and works well. X I personally felt everything responded impressively quickly and efficiently. X I tested one of these tablets for a week, using it for hours each day. I surfed the internet, performed multiple functions, viewed films and played music on it. X I believe that the fact the device never once crashed or froze is an indication of its quality.

X The OmegaAlpha came out last week and has flown off the shelves in every computer store across the country. In fact, the only way to get one now is to place an order. New supplies are due in stores in ten days' time. X I'm sure it won't be long before those sell out, too!

12

1 Considering everything, it seems to me that getting a digital video camera is a very silly idea. I really think it's a complete waste of money to spend nearly 500 quid on a video camera. I'd say that even if it's quite a useful tool in some ways, there are still better things we could spend our cash on. So I reckon we should spend our money on something else.

2

No. It's not appropriate because it is too informal.

13

Suggested answer

To sum up, in my opinion it is not a good idea to get a digital video camera. I would suggest that £500 is too much to pay for one. I would say that even if it is a useful tool in some ways, there are still better things we could spend the funds on. I think it would be better to reconsider how we spend the money.

Exam focus

1

1 a 2 b 3 b 4 4 5 the advantages and disadvantages of tablet PCs and laptops

Skills tip

a No, b Yes

2

1 a 2 b 3 c 4 a

3

Sentences to be ticked: 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8

Exam practice

Suggested answers

1

I guess many of us have wondered whether laptops or tablet PCs are the better buy. It can be hard to decide. You can listen to music, surf the internet and check your email with either a laptop or a tablet but which is better? That's a difficult question as both are incredibly useful.

If you ask me, the main advantage of laptops is that they are better for functions such as word processing. Another thing I like is that they have a good-sized screen and a proper keyboard. However, there's no doubt that they tend to be a bit heavy.

On the other hand, I'm sure you won't get backache carrying a tablet because they're so lightweight! Another great thing about them is that they're easy to use and you can buy hundreds of apps. On the downside, I think most people would agree prices are too high and they can get stolen easily.

In the end, I'd say it depends what you want the device for. A laptop is great for a student to keep work on but I think a tablet is simpler and more fun to use.

2

Hi Stefan,

Thanks for your letter. I hope I can give you some useful advice about music gadgets.

I think there are two things you should

consider. Firstly, do you want to get something that only plays music, such as an MP3 player, or would you prefer to get a new phone that has a music player and a camera too? I reckon it's better to get a phone that has multiple functions and then you don't need so many gadgets.

While you can get MP3 players at low prices nowadays, I'd say it's better to pay a bit more and get a phone that does everything. You don't have to spend a fortune on the best phone. There are lots of phones that have music players which are quite cheap. I'm sure if you shop around, you'll find something you can afford.

Let me know what you decide to do. I'll call you next week.

Best wishes

Kirsty

3

When I lost my old camera, I decided to get a new digital one. The Fidelity 500 was the one that caught my eye for a number of reasons.

Firstly, I consider this camera to be excellent value for money due to the picture quality. To my mind, the results are as good as I would expect from much more expensive cameras. Another advantage is that it is small enough to carry in a pocket. I'm not keen on heavy cameras.

However, as far as I am concerned, the best thing about it is how easy it is to operate. I find the instructions clear and the controls simple. Even someone who has never used a camera before would have no difficulty using it. Personally speaking, it suits my needs as it allows me to capture images instantly without wasting time reading instructions.

All things considered, I believe that this camera is the best of its kind on the market. I would recommend it as it seems to be both user-friendly and affordable.

Unit 12

Improve your writing skills

1 A 2 C 3 A 4 C

Get started

Students' own answers

Develop your vocabulary

1

1 synonym

2 antonym

3 synonym

4 antonym

- 2
1 bankrupt
2 security
3 lonely
4 developing
5 a single

- 3
1 by
2 up
3 into
4 up
5 off
6 in

Develop your reading skills

- 1
1 No fewer than 40% of the young children the doctor examines every day suffer from the effects of a bad diet. Around 5% of them have to be admitted for treatment at least overnight. This could stem from either a lack of income on the part of their caregivers or even basic ignorance of what a balanced diet is.
2 Should the project be abandoned? If it were, the local people would lose the last medical centre within 200 miles. I suggest we show some patience and perseverance.
3 The family of the author sold the rights to this book to a film producer to cover some of the debts the author left behind when he died suddenly last year. What if he were to see this film? Would he approve? Unfortunately, the answer to this question is a definite no.

- 2
1 result
2 result
3 reason
4 reason
5 reason
6 result

- 3
1 c, f
2 b, d
3 a, e

- 4
1 What
2 Imagine
3 If
4 Let's
5 Why

- 5
1 b 2 e 3 c 4 a 5 d

- 6
1 might
2 don't
3 hear
4 possibly

- 5 What
6 be

- 7
1 What would you do if you won £1 million in the lottery? Would you share it with me?
2 It's hard to know how I would react if I lost everything I owned in a fire or flood.
3 Imagine that some distant aunt left you millions in her will. Wouldn't that be great?
4 It might have been because he was bored or losing clients, but my cousin closed the business.
5 If we hadn't tried to buy out that rival business, we wouldn't have gone bankrupt.

- 6 Suppose that we had tried to spend no money for the rest of the month, how much would we have saved up?
7 I'd live exactly as I do now if I suddenly came into a lot of money.
8 What if every student from a developed country spent a year helping out in a developing country, as part of their course?

- 8
1 that you got
2 she would be
3 may have continued
4 could leave/give up
5 wish there wasn't/was not

- 9
1 losing
2 not feel
3 have cried
4 wanted
5 were
6 happened/were to happen

- 10
1 could/may/might
2 of
3 would
4 that
5 be
6 If
7 not
8 What

- 11
Suggested answers
2 they had a post office box that they could use for correspondence?
3 could be how easy it is to hide sources of income.
4 they had to publish exactly what they used every penny for – then people could make an informed decision.
5 half the money didn't disappear into politicians' pockets, charity would be much more effective.

- 6 that was/were true, no one would be out looking for a job.

- 12
Suggested answers
1 It's possible that he lost his job. He might be suffering from an illness and can't work.
2 What about finding him a hostel to live in?
Supposing (that) he went on TV, someone might offer him a job.
3 If he had somewhere to live, he would start to get his strength back. If he had a job, he might start to feel more self-confident.

Exam focus

- 1
1 have
2 semi-formal or formal
3 happy
4 happiness
5 rich
6 general
2
Examples to be ticked: 1, 2, 5, 6

- 3
1 disagreeing
2 agreeing

- Skills tip
a No, b Yes

Exam practice

Suggested answer
Most people have wished at one time or another that they were rich. However, would wealth really bring all the benefits that they dream of?
Certainly, you could enjoy a life full of luxuries and leisure. Skiing holidays, five-star hotels and first-class travel offer the wealthy a level of pampering that the poor can only dream of. No one can deny that a meal in a top hotel would be better than a burger and chips.
Nonetheless, a life having a great amount of money can be a lonely one. It is often hard to tell whether people want to know you as a person or for your money. If you were rich, you might become suspicious of even close family for this reason.
What money can do is remove some of the stresses and strains of poverty. Even people with steady jobs worry about the future and the main source of conflict in most families is financial insecurity.
To sum up, although it is true to say that money cannot buy happiness, it is equally true that not having enough often leads to unhappiness. Financial security would definitely prevent that.