

Task 1:

(5 points)

The yearly report of the Blue Cross – the charity that runs animal hospitals – reported a 9% increase in the number of animals it treated at its four centres. Many pet owners cannot afford their vets' bills and are now going to the charity. One of the main reasons for the increase in bills is a new European Community law which has doubled the cost of veterinary medicines

Vets' costs are going up, and like all small businesses they have to keep up with the times – if an animal has to have an expensive treatment then people have to pay for it. The problem is that the government pays for people's treatment in Britain, and so nobody realises what the true cost of medicine is. A spokesperson for the British Veterinary Association thinks that prices are not too high but the increasing number of people taking their animal to charities is more a reflection of unemployment and poverty than the prices charged by vets.

Although the Blue Cross is geared to help unemployed people and their pets, it is unlikely to turn away any sick or injured animal. Last year an animal was treated every two minutes and each centre carried out about 500 operations every month.

But there are ways to cut back on vets' bills. When buying a pet, people should think about the size of the animal. Medicine is given to animals according to their weight, so the bigger the dog, the more medicine it needs and the more expensive the treatment. The Blue Cross discourages buying exotic pets such as snakes and strange birds, as they require expert knowledge and the cost of keeping them goes up immediately. They suggest that small dogs or cats or animals such as guinea pigs and mice are much cheaper to care for.

1. Why has the cost of animal medicine risen so much?
 - a) the European Community has passed a new law.
 - b) vets are running small businesses.
 - c) the price of chemicals has risen.
 - d) vets want to make bigger profits.
- 2) Why don't people know what medical treatment costs?
 - a) they never need it.
 - b) vets never tell them.
 - c) animal treatment is very specialised.
 - d) the government pays for their treatment.
3. What do vets think the real reason for going to the Blue Cross is?
 - a) there are more Blue Cross clinics
 - b) people are poor and out of work
 - c) the treatment is quicker
 - d) they do a lot of operations.
4. What can increase the price of medical treatment?
 - a) animals with unusual diseases
 - b) the cost of new technology
 - c) the lack of insurance
 - d) larger and heavier animals
5. What doesn't Blue Cross advise?
 - a) to buy small dogs and cats
 - b) to keep unusual animals
 - c) to keep mice and guinea pigs
 - d) to have pets at home

Task 2: *Read this article about a woman who has recently become a karate black belt.* **(13 points)**
For questions 6-18, decide which answer A, B, C or D best fits each space.

My teenage son was a big fan of Japanese cartoons and martial arts films, so it (6.) as no surprise to me when he asked to do karate. I (7.) years picking him (8.) after school and taking him to classes. I (9.) to watch him training sometimes, but more often I would read my book. Then one year he got the chance to go on a one-week karate summer camp in the south of Spain. I planned to sunbathe and swim (10.) the kids trained, but the instructor had other ideas. No (11.) had we arrived than he wanted me and the other parents to (12.) part. I thought I'd never be (13.) to do it. I was a middle-aged, overweight woman, but by the end of the week I'd decided to keep training. When I got back home, all my friends thought I was mad to take (14.) such an aggressive sport. But it's mainly about strength, control and self-defence. After only five years, I achieved my black belt. Doing karate has given me

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(15.) much more confidence. I also feel strong and (16.) now and I have a lot more energy. I haven't got the flexibility to jump as high (17.) younger people, but I've still amazed myself (18.) what I can do.

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|-----|---|---------|---|------------|---|----------|---|-----------|
| 6. | A | went | B | was | C | seemed | D | came |
| 7. | A | took | B | passed | C | was | D | spent |
| 8. | A | out | B | up | C | in | D | down |
| 9. | A | usually | B | accustomed | C | used | D | would |
| 10. | A | during | B | while | C | although | D | meanwhile |
| 11. | A | sooner | B | more | C | longer | D | harder |
| 12. | A | form | B | make | C | do | D | take |
| 13. | A | capable | B | manage - | C | able | D | succeed |
| 14. | A | out | B | up | C | in | D | down |
| 15. | A | such | B | more | C | so | D | lot |
| 16. | A | fit | B | health | C | shape | D | form |
| 17. | A | that | B | than | C | like | D | as |
| 18. | A | with | B | of | C | to | D | for |

Task 3: Seven sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A-H the one that best fits each gap 19-25. There is one extra sentence which you do not need. (7 points)

PLAYING 'HOUSE' AT 15

It was spring 1979, and I had just turned 15. Life was a middle-class routine. My father worked long and hard, my mother stayed at home. Then quite unexpectedly one day, my parents announced that they were moving to Nigeria. My father was taking up a job managing the electronics division of a large multinational. It was extremely well- paid and would, they said, be the opportunity of a lifetime.

As we celebrated my father's good fortune, the issue of what to do about me needed to be decided. I was in my final year at school and a move would be disruptive. We had no close relatives, and my only grandparent lived far away. (19.) The solution came in the form of a young policewoman called Fran, who could share the house with me. The arrangement suited me and seemed infinitely preferable to any of the alternatives.

I began this new and rather strange chapter of my life with a mixture of excited anticipation at my new-found independence and a fear of the unknown. (20.) Consequently, we found ways to see each other as little as possible. This was made all the easier by the fact that she was rarely there. Meanwhile, I was running the household and studying for my final year exams.

My father had run through the financial side of things in some detail. Now the rest was up to me - what I ate, when I ate, when I did my homework, when I went to bed, who I saw and when I saw them. (21.) But I wasn't. I was responsible and studious.

Each Friday afternoon, I cycled from my strict school to the bank to withdraw cash. (22.) This meant that my only access to money was these weekly trips to the bank. In the evening, I would sit down and go through all the utility bills and my parents' credit card statements, paying those that were due. On Saturday, whatever the weather, I would cycle three miles to the supermarket and purchase groceries for the week.

At Christmas, my mother returned home. However, come January, she returned to Africa and I was left to face life by myself again. I was very aware of my vulnerable situation and it was in this aspect I grew up most quickly. I developed the ability to judge people and situations in a way most people don't manage until their 30s. I don't remember feeling lonely, only frightened at times. Sleep would often evade me (23.) I immersed myself in routine to keep me safe.

Recently, I discussed the bizarre arrangement of my youth with my mother (24.) She didn't. She could see nothing wrong with leaving a perfectly capable child on her own. My life didn't feel strange or unusual at the

time. With a child's infinite capacity to adapt, I soon came to regard my situation as normal.

Today, the experience has certainly coloured my own attitudes. (25.) They know that they will be looked after, that they will be helped with homework as needed, that a hot meal will be placed on the table every evening and that at night they can chat through problems before being kissed goodnight and going to bed.

- A I was alert to every sound and would repeatedly check the locks downstairs,
- B I am lucky to be a full-time mother to three teenage daughters.
- C They were enjoying their life in Africa but they had left their young daughter.
- D Looking back, if I had been a wilder child, I could have gone out of control with this level of independence.
- E Fran was also on her own adventure, living away from home for the first time.
- F At 15, I was not allowed a cheque guarantee or credit card.
- G I was too independent to need a nanny and I didn't want to stay with friends.
- H I asked her if she now felt there was anything strange in what had gone on.

Task 4. Read about George Orwell. Choose the best heading (A or B) for each section (1-6) of the text. (5 points)

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 26. A The young Eric's family | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | B The young Eric and India | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 27. A Eric's education | <input type="checkbox"/> | B The university student | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 28. A Rich and successful | <input type="checkbox"/> | B A disappointing start as a writer | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 29. A Things get better | <input type="checkbox"/> | B A new name | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 30. A Orwell becomes rich | <input type="checkbox"/> | B The first novel | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 31. A Nineteen Eighty-Four | <input type="checkbox"/> | B Living in England | <input type="checkbox"/> |

George Orwell (1903-1950)

1. George Orwell's real name was Eric Arthur Blair. He was born in Motihari in India where his father was working. His mother brought him to England when he was a year old. He did not see his father again until 1907 when his father visited England for three months before leaving again. Eric had an older sister and a younger sister.
2. Eric was a very intelligent boy. He won a scholarship to Eton College, so his parents did not have to pay all the school fees. However, when he finished at Eton, his family could not pay for university, so in 1922 he went to work in Burma as a police officer.
3. In 1927, he decided to become a full-time writer. He moved to Paris where his aunt lived, but he had no success as a writer. He returned to England in 1929 with no money and in bad health.
4. He changed his name to George Orwell, began writing articles for magazines and started his first book *Down and Out in Paris and London*. This was published in 1933. In it, he described his own difficulties in those two cities when he was trying to become a writer. Other novels and articles were published in these years.
5. In the 1940s, Orwell's success as a writer grew. He wrote articles for newspapers and serious magazines as well as his novels. *Animal Farm* was published in 1945. It became one of Britain's most popular books. For the first time in his adult life, Orwell made a lot of money from his writing.
6. In 1946, Orwell moved to the island of Jura, off the coast of Scotland. Here he wrote his novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, which was published in 1949. Originally, Orwell called the book *The Last Man in Europe* but his publisher suggested changing the title. Many of the new expressions Orwell used in the book are used nowadays 'in everyday language for example 'Big Brother (is watching you)''.