

Reading

- 1 Read the text. Complete the text with sentences A–F. There is one sentence you do not need.

A DAY TO FORGET

How wonderful it would be if we could magically make unwanted memories disappear or get rid of things in our lives that have caused us unhappiness! [1 _____] The Times Square Alliance in New York, a business group dedicated to promoting and improving the neighbourhood, decided to give people the opportunity to shred images or papers that represented the worst aspects of their lives from the previous year. They called this 'Good Riddance Day' and the event was held in Times Square itself on 28 December 2007. [2 _____] The idea was actually based on an old Latin American tradition in which New Year's revellers put hated objects into giant dolls and burned them.

So, how exhilarating is it to shred pictures of ex-fiancés, bad school reports and so on? [3 _____] Paul Caine was one person who took the opportunity to get rid of his most unpleasant memory of 2007. 'It's just fantastic to see it disappear!' said Paul. 'It really feels that that particularly nasty part of my life is completely gone! I suppose it's what you call 'closure'. And what was Paul's memory? A photo of his ex with her new husband! [4 _____] One woman made a collage of an old demonic boss who had made her life a living misery. There was enormous satisfaction on her face as she watched it being sliced. A recovering alcoholic had written on a piece of paper the words 'My obsession with drink' and happily watched that disappear too. Perhaps the most gruesome item was a photo of a person's appendix that had been removed that year. 'It gave me a really bad time,' its previous owner commented as he said goodbye to the memory forever.

So, will this 'Day' catch on and encourage people the world over to ceremonially say 'Good Riddance' to their bad memories? Personally, I feel there is something a little suspect and even slightly sinister about cutting up photos of other people, however badly they have treated you.

[5 _____] I recently ripped a picture of an old boyfriend to pieces in a fit of temper!

- A Predictably it proved very popular and attracted large numbers of people from far and wide – all with a yearning to get rid of something!
- B But as they say, it takes all sorts to make a world – and who am I to talk?
- C Apparently it really cheers you up!
- D A few years ago an idea was dreamed up that went some way to assuaging that desire – at least symbolically.
- E Most of the items shredded in the huge industrial shredder were photos or old bills, but some were more creative.
- F I didn't actually shred anything myself, but I watched others enjoy the activity.

Mark /10

Vocabulary

- 2 Replace the words in bold with synonyms.

- 1 The boy was convicted on extremely **weak** evidence. _____
- 2 The homeless man had a few **worthless** possessions in a plastic bag. _____
- 3 We have to remain **objective** when we consider the three applicants. _____
- 4 The expedition to the South Pole was **ill-fated** from the start. _____
- 5 The police found **tiny** traces of blood on the car's upholstery. _____
- 6 The feeling of relief once I'd finally passed my driving test was **enormous**. _____
- 7 I'm **over the moon** with these results. They're far better than I expected. _____
- 8 The last meeting of the club was a very **solemn** affair. _____
- 9 It is **essential** that we slow down global warming. _____

Mark /9

3 Choose the correct answers.

- 1 The minister _____ refused to answer any questions after his talk.
A strongly B flatly C thoroughly
- 2 The plot is really _____ and I defy anyone to guess the ending.
A incongruous B ambiguous C baffling
- 3 I think the film's a bit _____ and they could have cut it by half an hour.
A bleak B upbeat C drawn-out
- 4 I enjoyed the book a great deal. I found the second meeting of the two main characters very _____.
A touching B sentimental C hackneyed
- 5 We must first _____ the situation and then consider ways of dealing with it.
A address B assess C combat
- 6 I _____ remember Trent being in the same class as me when I was about seven. He had red hair.
A vaguely B scarcely C entirely

Mark /6

Grammar

4 Rewrite the sentences using a word ending in -ever (e.g. whatever) and make other necessary changes.

- 1 Maria might call while I'm in a meeting, but I still want to speak to her.

- 2 Someone leaked the story to the press and even if it were someone quite important in the company, he or she will be in a lot of trouble.

3 Don't let anything make you late for the meeting!

- 4 I'm always reminding Sheila to back up her work on the computer, but she never remembers.

- 5 Several developers are trying to get the project and all of them will include some low-cost housing in their plans.

Mark /5

5 Combine the sentences with a relative pronoun. Make your sentences formal (F) or informal (I).

- 1 I gave the information to a woman. She was a representative of the government. (F)

- 2 The 10.30 to London might be cancelled because of the weather. If that's the case we'll drive there. (F)

- 3 I've been dealing with that bank since I was a student. It has lost a thousand pounds from my account. (I)


- 4 Davina had been married to a man for twenty years. He turned out to be a fraudster. (I)

- 5 The boss had a heart attack. I'd been talking to him only a minute before. (I)

- 6 You expressed a lot of interest in the newspaper article. Here it is. (F)
- _____
- _____
- 7 Everyone in the company depends on the computer system. It crashed this morning. (F)
- _____
- _____
- 8 There was a large robbery last month. Three million pounds were taken during the raid. (F)
- _____
- _____
- 9 The teacher asked us for our homework. I hadn't looked at it since she gave it to us! (I)
- _____
- _____
- 10 We had some visitors to the college today. Many of them haven't been to the UK before. (F)
- _____
- _____

Mark /10

Listening

- 6  5.10 Listen to a writer talking about traditions. Choose the best answers.
- 1 The interviewer says that
- A newer customs are interesting.
 - B some old traditions have disappeared.
 - C changing traditions are not a good thing.
- 2 Petra thinks that some people
- A exaggerate what is happening.
 - B want to protect customs.
 - C don't know enough about traditions.
- 3 It is possible that the Quinceanera started
- A as a wedding celebration.
 - B in the time of the Aztecs.
 - C in a European country.

- 4 Today the Quinceanera is often
- A more religious than before.
 - B smaller than it used to be.
 - C more expensive than it was.
- 5 Which is NOT a traditional part of the Quinceanera celebration?
- A a dress
 - B a gift of money
 - C a doll

Mark /10

Writing

- 7 Write an opinion essay with the title 'If you don't use a skill you will lose it.' Use the writing guide to help you. Write 200–250 words.

Paragraph 1: Introduction.

Paragraph 2: Make points in support of your opinion.

Paragraph 3: Make points in support of the opposite opinion.

Paragraph 4: Conclusion.

Mark /10

Total /60