

## C1 Advanced Part 7

## 1 In gapped text exam tasks, what should you do?

- a Start with the most difficult gaps.
- b Answer the gaps that you are sure about first.
- c Do the answers in order so you don't miss any.

## 2 Correct the words in bold in sentences 1–6.

- 1 Jack was **in** the point of quitting when he heard the good news.
- 2 I felt on top of the **earth** when I passed my driving test.
- 3 We both agree up to a **stage**, but the finer details are harder to sort out.
- 4 Mum's heart **lowered** when she realised we wouldn't be back for Christmas.
- 5 It would be a good idea to get together to lift everyone's **feelings**.
- 6 Please **make** into account that the flight will probably be delayed.

## ✓ Exam tip

In tasks where you complete a text with different sentences or paragraphs, start with the ones that you find easiest and are sure about.

3 You are going to read an extract from a magazine article. Six paragraphs have been removed from the extract. Choose from the paragraphs A–G the one which fits each gap (1–6). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use.

### Salvador Alvarenga – A Story of Survival



It was a fishing trip that Salvador Alvarenga had done countless times before. Having pulled out at the last minute, his usual mate had to be replaced by 22-year-old Ezequiel Córdoba, a day worker. Although he was fit and strong, he had very limited experience of the sea.

1

There was an angry sky, a sure sign that a storm was approaching. They were on the point of returning to the safety of the land but decided instead to stay put. The large number of fish they were catching caused them to gamble and take advantage of their good luck.

2

Now, without anything to motor the boat, they were defenceless against the elements. And this storm was likely to last up to five days. Alvarenga made the soul-destroying decision to throw overboard not only their big catch, but also their ice and gasoline supplies, in an attempt to make the boat more stable. What could possibly happen next?

3

But finally the rough seas gave way to calm waters and they were able to assess the situation properly. They had a stick, a shaving mirror and some matches. They tried to signal to a big ship on the horizon by setting light to a T-shirt and using the mirror to reflect the sunlight. Nothing.

4

That's when nature offered them a second chance. It started to rain and the men started to make use of the plastic bottles and a 55-gallon oil drum they had managed to pick out of the water. Collecting water in these containers was a game changer. They would never go thirsty again.

5

However, people need more than food and drink. The men differed in their ability to remain mentally strong. While Alvarenga extended his hunting skills to being able to catch birds, turtles and even sharks, Córdoba had difficulty in eating the raw food. He got depressed some months later, and refused eating at all.

6

Months later, as the boat approached an island, it was easy at first for Alvarenga to think it was his mind playing tricks on him. However, Tile Islet, in the Marshall Islands, was real. Alvarenga found himself at one of the most remote places on Earth. After coming ashore, he stumbled up to the beach house of Emi Libokmeto and her husband Russel Laikidrik. Initially shocked at his appearance, the couple welcomed him into their home. His story of being lost at sea for a mind-blowing 438 days, proves the point that survival is as much mental as it is physical.

**C1 Advanced Part 7 (continued)**

**A** Ten weeks into the journey, despite Alvarenga's best efforts to keep his young companion alive, Córdoba gave up the fight and died. It was the experienced fisherman's ability to adapt to difficult situations like this that kept him going and helped keep him in good spirits. He would imagine the meals he was eating, the people he was with and long morning walks.

**B** Understandably, they were in low spirits after their cry for help had failed to be seen. On top of that, they were about to experience a full week without any drinking water. They were both ready to lie down and give in, thinking the challenge was too big for them.

**C** Just then, the heavens opened up and they realised that if they hadn't made such a big mistake, they'd still have equipment to fish and even get home without too much trouble. Córdoba wasn't happy about the decision Alvarenga had made, but what could he do? He could hardly run off.

**D** They would pay for taking this chance shortly afterwards. Caught by giant waves that prevented them from getting back to the shore, they quickly realised that their little boat was no match for the awesome power of nature. And worse still, water had flooded the engine.

**E** And thanks to their skill at fishing bare-handed, they didn't go hungry either. Alvarenga perfected the art of putting his arms deep into the water up to his shoulders and grabbing fish, digging in his nails and then throwing them onto the boat. In shark-infested waters, this was not only skilful, but also brave. Córdoba then cleaned them, sliced the meat and dried them in the sun.

**F** The radio died, that's what! It was now clear that if they were to survive, it was completely up to these two men on their own. They took it in turns to empty the boat which was fast filling up with water. It was exhausting work, and there appeared to be no light at the end of the tunnel.

**G** So, they set off in a basic 8-metre boat, for what they expected to be a two-day trip off the western coast of Mexico at the edge of the Pacific Ocean. After the trip, they hoped to sell the fish they caught for 50 cents a pound, which would give them enough money for a week. It was all going to plan until they saw something in the distance.

## C1 Advanced Part 2

## 1 Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

answers • gaps • sense • text • word

In activities in which you have to write one (a) ....., check your work when you have completed all of the (b) ..... Read the whole (c) ..... carefully together with your (d) ..... Do they fit the text grammatically? Does the text make (e) ..... ?

## 2 Choose the correct alternative.

When he came around the corner on his bike, he was going at (a) heartwarming/breakneck speed. I had (b) got/reached to the point where I was going to take his bike away from him for his own safety and that of others. I needn't have worried. One day, he came off his bike and injured his leg. It meant he was (c) down/sad in the dumps for a full two weeks because he didn't have the freedom to cycle to school. He brightened (d) over/up as soon as he was on two wheels again. And I was over the (e) moon/earth that he finally started to ride sensibly from that moment on.

✓ Exam tip

When you finish a task where you have to complete a text, read the complete text with your answers in place and see if your answers make sense and also fit grammatically with the words around them.

3 For questions 1–8, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

*The ideal time to get away*



With record house prices, university fees at

(0) ..... *an* ..... all-time high and pressure to find a career all casting a shadow

(1) ..... young people enjoying life, it's easy to see why some might think travel should be the last thing on their mind. But I'm here to tell every young person – that's exactly (2) ..... you should be doing.

(3) ..... reason is simple. When you have a job, family and more responsibilities, you may have more cash in your account but less freedom to jet off. And there's much more to travel (4) ..... lifting your spirits.

Not (5) ..... do you have more energy when you're young, you also acquire the independence you are going to need when you leave home. And the cultural awareness you gain makes you more tolerant

(6) ..... the different types of people you meet in your life.

In 2020, 84% of people who took a gap year said the break in study helped them to pick (7) ..... new skills, 96% believed they gained confidence and 66% took their studies more seriously upon their return. When you take all this (8) ..... account, it's hard to see why more teenagers aren't heading for the nearest airport as soon as they finish their last exam!