Open comprehension

1 Choose the correct alternative.

When you answer open questions, you **(a)** *must/mustn't* use the information from the text. You may **(b)** *never/already* know something about the topic. However, you shouldn't use **(c)** *your own ideas/ideas from the text* to answer the questions.

2 Complete the sentences with the correct verb.

1 If my best friend and I have an argument, we soon ..... up. But we don't usually ..... out badly with each other.
2 My friends and I often ..... out together in town, in the park or at the café.
3 Although my brother and I don't always ..... eye to eye with each other, we ..... on well.
4 I don't ..... a lot in common with my friend Jack, but it's fun to spend time with him.

Exam tip

Always use the information in the text to answer open comprehension questions. You may know something about the topic, but don't answer with your opinion or ideas. Only use the information from the text.

3 Answer the questions.

1 How do good friendships make us healthier?
.....
2 What is the difference between acquaintances and casual friends?
.....
3 What two things does the writer mention about best friends?
.....
4 How many hours does it take for a casual friend to become a close friend?
.....
5 Why do people have different styles of friendship?
.....
6 What does it say about people who have different groups of friends?
.....
7 What does the writer mean by a 'toxic friendship'?
.....

Friendship

Friends can make you happier and less lonely. They can help with emotions like disappointment or anger, and they can support you during challenging times. Friends are good for your health, too, as they can reduce stress, anxiety and sadness. However, not all friendships are the same.

It's generally agreed that there are different levels of friendship. Acquaintances are the people you recognise and say hello to, but don't really know. Then there are casual friends, who you might meet up with from time to time. The next level up is close friends, who you trust with your secrets. Finally, there are best friends. They're the ones who you get on really well with and who you can be yourself with through thick and thin. Research at the University of Kansas found that the level of friendship depends on the amount of face-to-face time you spend together. After spending about 50 hours together, acquaintances can become casual friends, but someone only becomes a close friend after around 200 hours.

As well as having different levels of friendship, people also have different styles of friendship, depending on their personality and lifestyle. Some people prefer to have just one or two close friends and perhaps a few casual friends. Others have separate groups of friends for different activities. They might have friends they do sports with, friends from school and friends from their neighbourhood. These different groups of friends don't usually know each other. There are also people who love being part of a large network of friends who all know each other well. They hang out together a lot and tend to have many interests in common.

Every friendship has its ups and downs but not all friendships can last. Sometimes you may lose touch with a friend as your lives change and you don't have time to stay in contact. But sometimes a friendship may turn toxic. A friend might start to make you feel bad about yourself instead of good, or you might feel they only talk to you when they need something. In some cases, toxic friendships can be fixed but sometimes it is healthier to let the friendship end.

4 Find words in the text that have these definitions.

1 difficult (paragraph 1) .....
2 be confident that someone is honest and reliable (paragraph 2) .....
3 spending time together in the same place (paragraph 2) .....
4 a group of people that are connected together (paragraph 3) .....
5 continue for a long time (paragraph 4) .....

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B1 Preliminary Part 1

1 Choose the correct alternative. Then look at the underlined parts of the sentence in bold. Choose the sentence (A–C) that has the same meaning.

In real-world text tasks, the correct answer usually expresses an idea in **(a)** *the same/different* words. Underline the important ideas in the texts. Look for **(b)** *synonyms/suggestions* and antonyms of these words in the answers, as well as negative words.

I don't think the film will be very interesting.

A That film sounds really interesting.
B I think the film will be gripping.
C In my opinion, it'll be a boring film.

2 Complete the sentences with the noun form of the words in the box. There are two extra words you do not need to use.

angry • bored • disappointed • free • friend • lonely • member

1 Teenagers have a lot of ..... because they can they do what they want.
2 ..... is really important for everyone. You need to have people to support you.
3 When you join the gym, you get a ..... card.
4 There was a lot of ..... when they cancelled the concert. People had paid a lot of money.
5 ..... is never a problem for me. I can always find something to do.

Exam tip

Read each text and the three options carefully. Remember, the options and texts often express the same idea in different words, so don't look for exactly the same words in the text and correct answer.

3 For each question, choose the correct answer.

Hi Jack, what do you think about going to the Black Eyed Peas concert? The reviews of their live performances aren't brilliant, but I'm happy to go if you are. Let me know! Sara.

1 Sara has written this message to Jack to ...
A confirm she can go to the concert.
B see if he wants to go to the concert.
C ask Jack to send her reviews of the concert.

Sports Centre Rules

Please note there will be no entry to any sports facilities without a valid membership card. Visitors may use the café. Ask at reception if you have any problems.

2 What is this sign telling people?
A All visitors must go to reception first.
B You must show your membership card to play sports.
C Visitors are not allowed to do sports or use the café.

Hi Dan,
Put the dinner in the oven at 5.30 pm – it's in the fridge. I'll buy some bread on the way home. I hope you're not too bored this afternoon. See you this evening!
Dad

3 What is the note asking Dan to do?
A To buy something on the way home.
B To decide what to eat this evening.
C To get food ready to eat.

All Students

The library is closed until further notice due to building repairs. Please return books to the school office. Class teachers will let you know when the work is finished.

4 What is the main idea of this notice?
A Students cannot use the library at the moment.
B Students can only go to the library with their class teachers.
C Students can borrow books from the school office and the library.

To: Mario
From: Fiona

Hi Mario,
I know I said I'd help you with your project on Sunday, but I completely forgot it's the park Fun Run so I won't be able to. Is Monday OK? Please don't be angry! Fiona

5 Why is Fiona writing?
A She's offering to help Mario on Sunday.
B She's inviting Mario to come on the Fun Run.
C She's suggesting a different time to meet Mario.

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