


Text 1 E-mail

Read the e-mail from Amir to his pen pal Hassan, and then answer questions **01** to **06**.

	From... <input type="text" value="amiramir@webmail.biz"/>
Reply	Subject: <input type="text" value="Any ideas?"/>

Hi Hassan

Hope you're well. Sorry I haven't emailed for a while – I've been busy studying for my maths exam which is on the 20th May.

I need a good grade if I want to get into college. I'll find out how well I've done on 18th August, so I'll be very nervous until I find out the result. I'm a little apprehensive about the outcome - I know that I could go to Blackton College if my exam grades aren't as good, but Westford College looks the best. I visited it with Ivan last week and was amazed at the sporting facilities. Most of my friends want to go there.

It's been a while since we met, so I'm planning to visit your town in the summer. I'll be free during the first half of August, so if we can agree a suitable date, let's meet up. I'll bring my cousins with me, so I'd like to take them somewhere nice. I know there's a gallery in the town centre, which will please my cousins, and if we can find a restaurant that serves pasta and pizza, then they'll be delighted. I really need some ideas where I can take them – can you think of something we could all do?

Speak soon,

Amir

0 1

On which date will Amir get the result of his maths exam?

[1 mark]

0 2

What is the name of the college Amir wants to go to?

[1 mark]

0 3

Who is also visiting the town with Amir?

[1 mark]

Shade in the circle in the box next to the correct answer for questions **04** to **06**.**0 4**

Read the following statements. Which statement is true?

A Amir's cousins like art and Italian food.**B** Amir says he will visit in the middle of August.**C** Amir enjoys sport and art.**[1 mark]****0 5**What is the **main point** of the **first paragraph**?**A** To say why Amir hasn't been in touch recently.**B** To tell Hassan when the exam is.**C** To tell Hassan which subject Amir is studying.**[1 mark]****0 6**What is the **main purpose** of the email?**A** To entertain.**B** To persuade.**C** To ask for advice.**[1 mark]**

Text 2 Trips to the Capital

Read the information below advertising trips to London and then answer questions **07 – 14**.

www.capitaltrips.co.uk

Visiting London with Children

Is there a better place to spend family time than the bustling, beautiful city of London? It's a city of history and a city of drama. It's a place where memories are made. From the swinging London of the 1960s through to the inspiring 2012 Olympics, London is always awash with spectacle. Since 1990, Capital Trips have been helping people get the most from this great city by organising weekend breaks and trips to London. So if you're coming to London with your family, we can help. Here are a couple of ideas to keep the little ones happy.

Tower Terror

If your kids like the horrible side of history, they will love The Tower of London. It's very scary, so it's not for the faint-hearted! They will learn all about the nasty past and enjoy the dark stories of long ago. The Crown Jewels are also on display. Queues tend to build up around 11am, so you might wish to arrive early, or perhaps visit in the last hour before closing time. If you're hungry, there's a café called 'Henry's' where you can get a range of snacks. Once you leave the Tower, there's also a fantastic café called 'Boleyn's' which serves children's meals and gluten-free options at reasonable prices. It's a firm favourite of the staff at Capital Trips.

The Tower opens at 10am, but group visits can enter from 9.30am. Closing times vary, so check the details on the Tower website. The Tower is on the north bank of the River Thames.

Go for a Spin

Kids will love a trip on The London Eye, the capital's great spinning wheel. From the top of the wheel you get great views of Big Ben, The Shard, Tate Modern and many more places. The Eye is situated on the south bank of the River Thames. It was opened in December 1999 and has 32 capsules. It can carry up to 750 people at a time but gets busy at peak times. Make sure that your children are ok with heights, because once the ride starts, it won't stop! Of all the attractions, this is the one that kids visit and enjoy the most.

You can start riding The London Eye at 10am. It's open every day apart from 25th December. Your children will love trying to spot the famous landmarks of London from the sky. There are many places to eat around The Eye. Sacha's Café serves very tasty burgers, and the more reasonably-priced Gina's Gelateria sells lovely ice cream.

Travel and Tickets

London is served by several large national rail stations and the substantial bus and tube networks make travel a breeze. As part of your break we can arrange travel to and from your home and also around the city. We have also started offering amazing deals on tickets to sporting events and concerts. Why not get in touch and see what we can do for you?

0	7
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When did Capital Trips start arranging trips to London?

[1 mark]

0	8
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What is the name of the café in the Tower of London?

[1 mark]

0	9
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In the **first paragraph**, the writer says London is 'awash with spectacle'. What does this mean?

[2 marks]

1	0
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In the **second paragraph**, the writer says the Tower is 'not for the faint-hearted'. What does this mean?

[2 marks]

Shade in the circle in the box next to the correct answer for questions **11 and 12**.

1 1

Which of these statements best describes the **main point** of the **first paragraph**?

A London is a very busy place.

B London is an interesting place to visit.

C London hosted the 2012 Olympics.

[1 mark]

1 2

What is the **main purpose** of the text?

A To inform children about two attractions.

B To describe the features of two attractions.

C To persuade parents to visit two attractions.

[1 mark]

1 3

Below is a list of statements about the information given in Text 2.

Four of these statements are correct.

Shade in the circles in the boxes next to the **four** correct answers.

- A** Capital Trips arrange midweek breaks to London
- B** The Tower is less popular with children than The Eye
- C** 9am is a good time to visit The Tower
- D** The Tower closes at 5pm
- E** The Tower can be accessed from both sides of the river
- F** Capital Trips supply tickets to plays
- G** You can travel on the London Eye on Christmas Eve
- H** 600 people could travel on The Eye
- I** The writer gives an opinion about the food at Sacha's Cafe

[4 marks]

Text 3 Social Media

Read the article below then answer questions **14 – 19**.

Teenager Umar Hussain gives his views on what social media means to him.

Social Media: making the world a smaller place

Social media. Everybody uses it. I check Twitter first thing in the morning. My mother is always on Facebook. My little cousin uses Instagram, and even my grandmother can't stop checking her phone.

Some people enjoy complaining about new technology, and it's true that there are some bad aspects to social media. It takes up a lot of your time, and it stops you being physically active. Some schools also say that it encourages bullying. This might be true, but I think the world is a much better place with it than without it. There'll always be some people who like to complain. Worse still are those people – like my grandmother - who simulate disinterest in Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, but secretly love social media and can't stay off it!

It's so easy to share your photos with social media. My granddad keeps his photos in an old album, and most of them have only been seen by his family. But on Facebook, I can share pictures instantly with my family all around the world. I have made many new friends on social media (most of them normal!) and they, through social media, have educated me. I've discovered recipes, found out about charities and learned about people.

It's true that one of the bad things is that you can just waste your time watching silly videos about cats, but social media is about much more than just entertainment. I've had discussions about world poverty, read breaking news on Twitter and become a more informed person about global events. My uncle's business gets lots of publicity on Facebook and many people hear about jobs via Twitter.

Some people say that social media can be addictive in a negative way. I agree partly with this and I know friends who struggle to sleep because of their fascination with the medium. It might also be true that some people who can go for hours without actually speaking to another human, but at its best, social media is a great force for communication. It's the sharing of things that matter that is the point of social media. I'm sure that my teachers think I spend my evenings playing games (ok, that's partly true!), but my friends and I use chatrooms to help each other with homework and essays. I wonder whether one of the reasons why my teacher hasn't marked my book recently is that she's been too busy on Facebook herself?

Social media simply makes me happy. Seeing my friends' pictures and messaging each other brightens my day. Life is too short to be miserable, and one way to keep smiling is to keep in touch with other humans. Social media makes the world a smaller place - and a much happier one.

Shade in the circle in the box next to the correct answer for questions **14** and **15**.

1 **4**

Which family member **is not** mentioned in the article?

A Grandad

B Cousin

C Sister

D Uncle

E Grandmother

F Mother

[1 mark]

1 **5**

What is the **main point** of the **first paragraph**?

A To introduce the writer's family.

B To say that social media is very popular.

C To mention types of social media.

[1 mark]

1 **6**

In the **second paragraph**, the writer says that some people like to 'simulate disinterest' in social media.

What does this mean?

[2 marks]

1 7

According to the article, there are good and bad points about social media.

List **five good points** and **five bad points** below.

[10 marks]

Five good points:

- 1 _____

- 2 _____

- 3 _____

- 4 _____

- 5 _____

Five bad points:

- 1 _____

- 2 _____

- 3 _____

- 4 _____

- 5 _____

1 8

In the **fifth paragraph**, the writer says that “I wonder if one of the reasons why my teacher hasn’t marked my book is that she’s been too busy on Facebook herself”.

Which statement below best describes what the writer means?

- A** The writer’s teacher has a very busy life and the writer knows this.
- B** The writer is making the point that both children and adults use social media.
- C** The writer is making the point that only older people use Facebook.

[1 mark]

1 9

In the **last paragraph**, the writer says social media ‘brightens my day’.

What does this mean?

[2 marks]

2 0

Which statement best describes this article?

Shade in the circle in the box next to the correct answer.

- A** An entirely serious article about social media
- B** An article with some humour in it
- C** An article which isn’t to be taken seriously

[1 mark]

Text 4 The Kindness of Strangers

Read the text below and answer questions **21 – 30**.

The following passage is taken from a collection of travel writing entitled: 'The Kindness of Strangers'. In it, the writer finds herself lost at night in the Sahara Desert.

I remember one night in particular when a man with whom I could not speak saved me.

I was in the Sahara Desert, travelling with a group of people I neither knew nor liked especially well. We were en route to a Tuareg* wedding, moving via jeep during the day and sleeping under the stars at night. It was arduous travel. The daytime heat was stupefying and the drives were long, with nothing to do but stare at the passing desert.

I was happier when the nights brought their beautiful cooling air, the gloom relieving the sun and the moon hovering huge. And each evening, after my companions ate dinner and retired to their mattresses, I would leave on a walk. That night I left camp at about nine, foolishly dressed only in a thin cotton shirt and light trousers. The sky was inky and the moon was high, casting a meek metallic light on the ground. But the desert seemed radiant and beckoning, and I was overjoyed to be alone and moving.

After an hour, I finally turned back towards camp. It was not until that moment that I realised how far I had come and that I had no idea where I was. I looked for footprints but beneath my feet was hard-baked earth – flat and stony. With horror I realised there were no landmarks and I had left no trail.

Resisting panic, I looked to the sky as I imagined one is supposed to do in such situations – and found I was, of course, utterly clueless about navigation by the stars. The extent of my stupidity dawned on me. I was a city girl who fancied herself an adventurer and now I was lost with no water, no food or warmth.

The cold had descended and I shook, Sahara nights being as brutally frigid as the days are blistering hot. As I lurched over the featureless land, I knew my fellow travellers would be sleeping and there would be no light coming from our encampment. I could stumble within ten metres of them without knowing it.

I'd been searching for a good hour when I turned and saw a smudge of fire glowing in the distance. After an initial rush of relief, I froze, realising my predicament. Here I was, a youngish small woman alone at night, lost and desperate. In the distance, I could hear strange, mechanical sounds. Much as I feared, things were about to take a turn for the worse.

*Tuareg - a group of people who live mainly in the Sahara Desert.

2	1
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This text is taken from a collection called 'The Kindness of Strangers'.

Explain why the title, 'The Kindness of Strangers' is suitable given the **opening line** of the text.

[2 marks]

2	2
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What is the **main point** of the **second paragraph**?

A To tell the reader about the scene

B To tell the reader about the Tuaregs

C To tell the reader about the wedding

[1 mark]

2 3

In the **second paragraph**, there are things the writer doesn't enjoy.

List **four** of these below.

[4 marks]

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

2 4

In the **third paragraph**, the writer says, the nights brought 'cooling air'. How does she feel about this?

A Disappointed

B Glad

C She doesn't say

[1 mark]

2 5

In the **third paragraph**, the writer says the desert was ‘beckoning, and I was overjoyed to be alone’.

What does this mean?

[3 marks]

2 6

In the **fourth and fifth paragraphs**, the writer has problems when she is alone in the desert.

List **five** problems she has.

[5 marks]

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

2 7

In the **sixth paragraph**, the writer describes the desert as “featureless”?

What does this mean?

A There were a few landmarks.

B There used to be things to see.

C There was nothing to see.

[1 mark]

2 8

In the **last paragraph**, the writer feels relief for a short time.

What does she see which makes her feel briefly safe?

[1 mark]

2 9

At the end of the text, we find out several things.

From the list below, choose **five** correct things that we find out from the **last two paragraphs** of the text.

Shade in the circles in the boxes next to the correct answers.

- A** The night is incredibly cold.
- B** There are strange lights in the desert.
- C** The temperature affects the writer.
- D** The writer is not old.
- E** The writer is armed.
- F** The writer can hear things.
- G** There is a jeep in the desert.
- H** The writer feels a mixture of emotions.
- I** The writer gets very close to the camp.
- J** We find out nothing about the writer's appearance.
- K** The writer finds safety.

[5 marks]

3 0

Which statement best describes this text?

- A** It educates readers about the Tuaregs' way of living.
- B** It provides an insight into the danger of travel.
- C** It entertains readers with a dramatic story.

[1 mark]

END OF QUESTIONS

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