

[Turn over

Exercise 1

Read the article about a type of fish called a leafy sea dragon, and then answer the following questions.

Leafy sea dragons

Leafy sea dragons are remarkable creatures found around the coast of Australia. They are a type of fish and belong to the same family as seahorses, although their appearance is rather different. Unlike many seahorses, leafy sea dragons look as if they are covered in small leaves. Their name comes from this and also because they resemble dragons in ancient Chinese myths – they even have sharp spikes on their backs which help protect them. They do, however, share seahorses' ability to move each eye independently and can see all around. Leafy sea dragons' diet consists of tiny creatures called sea lice, and they feed by pulling them up through their long noses. This is a different technique from the way other fish eat, as many take in water through their mouths and consume whatever they find in it.



Leafy sea dragons grow to around 35 centimetres, and can swim to a depth of 30 metres out at sea. Many species, however, prefer shallower waters and come in as close as 3 metres to the coast. Even at this distance, they are extremely easy to miss as they are able to disguise themselves as pieces of seaweed. Leafy sea dragons usually live among this seaweed that grows on the seabed, but also search for food that lives around wooden constructions built in the water. These places are where divers have the best chance of spotting one although it is still rare. People are always keen to see them, and this helps raise awareness of the need to protect these amazing creatures. Unfortunately, their interesting appearance means that people want to keep them as pets. The Australian Government has therefore made strict laws which only permit scientists to take leafy sea dragons from the ocean to study. The creatures are very sensitive and cannot survive any extreme changes in water temperature, which is why the numbers of leafy sea dragons are being monitored.

Like seahorses, leafy sea dragons are unusual as although the females produce eggs, the male looks after them until the young are big enough to leave his protection. However, while a male seahorse keeps the eggs in a special pocket on his stomach, called a pouch, a leafy sea dragon's eggs grow on the tail of the male. Another feature of the eggs which makes them a little different from those of many other creatures is that they are bright pink. This is unusual, as many fish eggs are typically sand-coloured, brown or green to match the colour of their habitat, helping them to remain safe from danger. However, when leafy sea dragons become fully grown, they are able to avoid being seen by changing colour to match their surroundings. For example, they tend to become darker in deeper water.

The female produces around 250 eggs twice during each breeding season, which starts in October and lasts a few weeks. It takes 9 weeks until the tiny leafy sea dragons are ready to hatch out of the eggs and leave their parent. The young leafy sea dragons fall off the adult male and drop down onto the seabed, still partly attached to the egg. They eat the remains of the egg, which provides food for two days, after which time, the young are ready to start hunting by themselves. Even at this early stage, they know how to hide from danger by moving with the flow of the water.

Leafy sea dragons certainly catch people's imaginations. If you see one, you'll understand why!

- 1 How do leafy sea dragons eat their food?
..... [1]
- 2 How near to the shore can leafy sea dragons be found?
..... [1]
- 3 Where are you more likely to see a leafy sea dragon if you are diving in Australia?
..... [1]
- 4 What dangers do leafy sea dragons face? Give **two** details.
.....
..... [2]
- 5 Where do leafy sea dragon eggs develop?
..... [1]
- 6 What colour are the eggs of leafy sea dragons?
..... [1]
- 7 How many times do leafy sea dragons lay eggs in a year?
..... [1]
- 8 How do the young leafy sea dragons get food before they become independent?
..... [1]
- 9 How are leafy sea dragons able to protect themselves?
.....
.....
.....
..... [4]

[Total: 13]

Exercise 2

Read the article about four people (A–D) who each have a favourite song. Then answer Question 10(a)–(j).

My Favourite Song**A Yashi: Perfect Moon**

Perfect Moon is a song that's important to me. It's one my mum has played every now and again for as long as I can remember. She always talks about first hearing it on holiday, and how it brings back memories of that special time – which I guess is why she loves it, and now I love it too! And I know that won't change, since it's the one I turn to when things aren't going too well, or I need cheering up. Although the singer's recorded a lot of songs in the past, this is the one that I think shows off her talent the best. And even though when I play it on my phone my mates all laugh about how old-fashioned they think it is, I don't mind! I know they're only teasing, and I'd still recommend it to anyone who loves beautiful music.

B Peta: Whole World

The song I love, *Whole World*, is rather special. You see, it was written for me by my dad! He sang in a band – not one that was well known, but at one point it was important enough to play at a few festivals. There were even some in Spain and France, but I was too young to go, unfortunately! I used to think no one would ever write a better song, although I've come to appreciate that's not actually the case – my dad won't mind me saying that! But the most exciting moment for our family was when his band went on to record the song in a studio. They even performed it at some of their concerts when I was older – can you imagine how great it was for me, being in the crowd at a local festival, listening to everyone singing along to MY song? It's definitely an old favourite and it's become a bit of a tradition to play it on my birthday. It's one I'll keep for sure!

C Sue: Tell Me

I'm not sure if many people will have heard of my favourite song. It's called *Tell Me*, and I think I like it so much because it's just a really happy song! I find it's the perfect choice of song to play when I'm in a great mood and just want to sing loudly and dance around my room. There's also something about the fact that the lead singer isn't singing in her first language – it allows her accent to come through in the song. When it came out a few years ago now, I had a lot going on, you know, a lot of big changes like moving schools, and I guess I was still finding my way a little. It's funny how just hearing a song brings back all sorts of memories of a particular time, isn't it! The song is quite different to a lot of other music I listen to, but I really think it's good to have a variety, and I don't think I'll ever stop listening to it.

D Miriam: Monday's Tales

I really like a song called *Monday's Tales* – in fact it's the one I chose when I took part in my school talent show! Not that I was anywhere near as good as the original version, of course! It was a pretty big deal at the time – the whole school was there to watch, after all. It's funny because I'd actually never even heard of 'Dawson', the band that sings it, until I went away with my parents a few summers ago. The café by the pool where we spent most of our time played it almost constantly – everyone kept asking for it to be put on again! You might think I'd have got fed up with it over the years, but that hasn't happened at all. You don't hear it so often these days, but whenever I do, it takes me right back there.

10 For each question, write the correct letter A, B, C or D on the line.

Which person ...

- (a) says she first heard the song at an important time of her life? [1]
- (b) explains how she felt hearing the song with other people who liked it too? [1]
- (c) explains how the song can affect how she is feeling? [1]
- (d) explains how the song reminds her of being on holiday? [1]
- (e) admits that her feelings about the song have changed? [1]
- (f) suggests it is very different to the songs her friends like? [1]
- (g) mentions how the singer's background affected the song? [1]
- (h) mentions a special time when she likes to listen to the song? [1]
- (i) says she has performed the song in public? [1]
- (j) compares the song with the singer's other work? [1]

[Total: 10]

Exercise 3

Read the article about designing buildings, and then complete the notes.

Designing buildings

Most of us spend the majority of our lives indoors. But how often do we stop to consider the design of buildings where we spend so much time? When we're not in our homes, we're in various public places, including schools or places of work. Apparently, research shows that in well-designed buildings, people take less time off, so you can clearly see that design matters! Of course, there are also practical considerations which can affect the design of a building, like the date to complete a project, which the architects and designers involved in creating buildings can't avoid. Given enough time, however, there's no end to how amazing a building can be.

A key consideration for those who design buildings is being aware of the performance requirements – in other words, understanding what a space will be used for. There's no point in designing a building with lovely large open-plan rooms if what's needed are smaller spaces where people can talk privately or work individually without interruption. It's generally agreed that we work more efficiently when there are different-sized spaces to suit our individual needs, whether the building is designed for work or study. Of course, we all need to be able to concentrate on whatever task we're occupied with. If you're working on something artistic, then it might be useful to know that higher ceilings can generate more creative thoughts. So perhaps that's something to remember when you're struggling to write your next novel or trying to find the perfect lyrics to a song!

Now, you might think that staring out of the window is certain to result in a lack of concentration, but actually, having windows with views of natural scenes can help people pay better attention to what they're doing. While it might not always be possible to have great views – the position of neighbouring properties might get in the way, for example – it's certainly worth bearing in mind. If a country is naturally very hot and sunny, then perhaps large windows might not be the most practical idea, so building designers also need to think carefully about the local climate conditions. It is perfectly possible to use special glass, but it can be expensive and may put it outside the available budget.

It is not just the structural features of the building that are important; the interior design features also play an essential role in a well-designed building. The level of lighting changes how fast people move around a building. This is why, for example, bright lighting is often used in places such as fast-food-style canteens as it encourages people to move more quickly. And lighting isn't the only thing that should be carefully considered. Scientific research has shown that certain colour schemes can alter people's mood quite significantly.

As you can see, therefore, the buildings that we use every day can have more effect on our lives than we might realise at first.

You are going to give a talk about building design to your class at school. Prepare some notes to use as the basis for your talk.

Make short notes under each heading.

11 The effects that a well-designed building can have on people:

-
-
-
-
- [5]

12 Factors which influence a designer's plans for a building:

-
-
-
- [4]

[Total: 9]

Exercise 4

13 Read the article about traditional handmade items.

Write a summary about why people buy AND make traditional handmade items.

Your summary should be about 100 words long (and no more than 120 words long). You should use your own words as far as possible.

You will receive up to 8 marks for the content of your summary, and up to 8 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.

Traditional handmade items

When you are visiting a new place or travelling to a much-loved holiday destination, picking up a souvenir to take home is all part of the tourist experience. And often, the sorts of things people like to bring home with them are traditional handmade items or crafts. These are the types of object that have a historical link to a certain region. This makes them particularly meaningful for many people, possibly for the reason that nowadays, so many of the things we buy are mass-produced in large factories. Buying something that has been made by hand is much more individual, so visitors have something unique to help them remember their fantastic holiday.

When you buy a souvenir on holiday or even on a day trip, you may well have the chance to meet the person who has actually made it in their workshop. And if you do so, this gives you a great opportunity to hear the story behind how it was made. For many people, one of the joys of visiting a new place is that you never know what you'll find when you're wandering around the local shops or market stalls. You just don't get this experience when you buy something that's been produced in a large factory – sometimes even in another country. And when you choose to buy handmade crafts produced locally, you are also helping to provide support to small local businesses. And if you don't have enough room in your suitcase to bring something that's caught your eye home with you, then don't worry – as you can usually arrange for it to be sent home.

Items made by hand, therefore, are not just a good thing for buyers. Those who are involved in making these objects will find that the equipment needed to produce them is often relatively inexpensive. It typically wouldn't be very likely that a big machine is required, for example. In most cases, often a simple tool will do the job perfectly well. What is more, when it comes to the materials that are used, these are generally easily available. And as many of these materials are often natural, such as bamboo or wood, this means that if there comes a time when the items are no longer useful or just unwanted, they won't end up causing long-lasting pollution in a rubbish tip. As we all know, this is all too often the end result for many plastic items, unfortunately.

As well as making items to sell, many skilled craftspeople offer training workshops to those wanting to experience making their own handmade items. There are all sorts of sessions available from making jewellery to crafting items from wool. Running sessions such as these goes some way to ensure that traditional skills are not lost.

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dotted lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a guide for handwriting practice. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

Exercise 5



- 14** You have recently found a website which helped you with your schoolwork, and you want to tell your friend about it.

Write an email to a friend telling them about the website.

In your email, you should:

- tell your friend how you found the website
- describe how the website helped with your schoolwork
- mention a small problem you had with the website.

The pictures above may give you some ideas, and you can also use some ideas of your own.

Your email should be between 150 and 200 words long.

You will receive up to 8 marks for the content of your email, and up to 8 marks for the language used.

[Turn over

Exercise 6

- 15** In class, you have been talking about whether it is better to have a big group of friends or just one best friend. Your teacher has asked you to write an article about it.

Here are two comments from your classmates:



I can tell my best friend everything.



Having lots of friends means having more fun!

Write an article for your teacher, giving your views.

The comments above may give you some ideas, and you can also use some ideas of your own.

Your article should be between 150 and 200 words long.

You will receive up to 8 marks for the content of your article, and up to 8 marks for the language used.

[Total: 16]

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