

Skills Test Unit 8 Test A

Name: _____

Everyday English

1 Complete the dialogue with the phrases below.

Poor you How was What about It was Lucky you

Helen Hi, Stella. ¹ _____ your weekend? Did you do anything interesting?

Stella It was fantastic, thank you. We went skiing in the mountains.

Helen Wow! ² _____ ! Where did you go?

Stella We stayed with my sister and her husband. They live in the mountains.

³ _____ your weekend?

Helen ⁴ _____ a disaster! I wanted to finish my essay but I was sick all weekend!

Stella Oh dear! ⁵ _____ !

Mark: ____ / 5

Listening

2 🎧 Listen to an interview with Anita Mellows. Circle the correct answer.

Anita thinks:

- A most people get married in their twenties.
- B in your twenties, you take control of your life.
- C people should travel in their twenties.

3 🎧 Listen again. Decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 The radio interview is part of a teen chat show. ____
- 2 Our teenage years are all about growing up. ____
- 3 According to Anita, we don't have any control over our lives in our early twenties. ____
- 4 Anita met her husband in her twenties. ____
- 5 Anita's career didn't start until she was in her forties. ____
- 6 When Anita was younger, it was unusual to have babies in your early twenties. ____
- 7 Anita believes that our personalities change when we are twenty. ____
- 8 Anita is now in her sixties. ____
- 9 Anita travelled when she was twenty. ____

Mark: ____ / 10

Reading

Charles Dickens

The English writer Charles Dickens was born in 1812 in Portsmouth, England. He grew up in a large family with seven brothers and sisters. As a child he spent a lot of time reading and enjoyed being outdoors. He didn't get much formal education because he left school early and got a job in the same factory where his father worked as a clerk. His father had problems with money and had to go to prison because of his debts. Dickens tried very hard to raise some money to free his father, but he wasn't successful. His father only came out of prison when Dickens' grandmother died and left them some money.

Before Dickens became a political journalist, in 1831, he worked at the law office of Ellis and Blackmore in London as a junior clerk. He became famous in 1836, when he started writing *The Pickwick Papers*. He edited a weekly journal for twenty years, and also wrote fifteen novels, including *Oliver Twist* and *David Copperfield*. He also wrote hundreds of short stories and non-fiction articles. He wasn't just a writer, though; he also campaigned for children's rights and social reforms.

Dickens fell in love with Catherine Hogarth in 1835, and they got married a year later, in 1836. They had the first of their ten children, Charley, in 1837. This was also one of the saddest times of his life, because it was when his sister-in-law, Mary, who lived with them in London, died after a short illness. Dickens and his wife Catherine stayed together for twenty-two years, but got divorced in 1858, a year after Dickens fell madly in love with an actress, Ellen Ternan. His love for Ellen lasted until he died, in 1870.

At just twenty years old, Dickens already knew that he wanted to become famous. Later in his life, and after his death and the beginning of the 20th century, critics recognized him as a literary genius. Today, he is considered one of the most successful writers of all time.

4 Read the text about Charles Dickens and decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 Charles Dickens was one of seven children. ____
- 2 His father went to prison because of debts. ____
- 3 Dickens raised the money to free his father. ____
- 4 Dickens was a banker before he started working as a political journalist. ____
- 5 He wrote many novels and hundreds of short stories. ____
- 6 He married Catherine in 1836 and they had seven children together. ____
- 7 Their first son was born in 1835. ____
- 8 He got divorced in 1858. ____
- 9 Dickens fell madly in love with another writer, Ellen Ternan. ____
- 10 Dickens is considered to be one of the most successful writers of all time. ____

Mark: ____ / 10

Writing

5 Write a narrative about a happy and memorable day in your life. Remember to use past simple and narrative adverbs.

Follow the plan:

Paragraph 1: Introduction: what happened?

Paragraph 2: The start of the day.

Paragraph 3: Later in the day.

Paragraph 4: How you feel about the day.

Mark: ____ / 15

TOTAL MARKS: ____ / 40

Challenge!

6 Complete the text with the correct answers (a–c).

Sonny and Cher

Sonny and Cher were an American pop duo with great ¹_____ talent. They were husband and wife and they acted, sang and ²_____ together in the 1960s and 1970s. They started their careers as backing singers. ³_____ first hit songs were in 1965, and they were called *Baby Don't Go* and *I Got You Babe*. They performed together for ten years, and sold 80 million records worldwide.

Cher first met Sonny, or Salvatore Bono, who was eleven years ⁴_____ her, in 1962. They quickly became friends and ⁵_____ in love, and got married two years later. In 1965 they ⁶_____ five songs in the US top twenty music chart.

Sonny and Cher ⁷_____ a baby in 1969, but they got divorced in 1975. Sonny went on to become an actor and a political figure, and he eventually became a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, whilst Cher ⁸_____ as a solo singer. Sonny died at the age of sixty-two after a skiing accident. Cher continues to record music today.

- 1 **a** melody **b** music **c** musical
- 2 **a** entertained **b** entertain **c** entertainment
- 3 **a** There **b** They're **c** Their
- 4 **a** the oldest of **b** older than **c** older
- 5 **a** fall **b** fell **c** felt
- 6 **a** have **b** had **c** has
- 7 **a** had **b** have **c** has
- 8 **a** continued **b** continue **c** continuing