Reading Task 1

Read the text. For questions 1-8 circle the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

A LIFE LIST BRINGS FOCUS

1. Two years ago Ms Rachel Hubbard, a preschool teacher in Salem, Oregon, created what is known as a life list, a contract with herself stating dozens of goals she hoped to accomplish before she died (build a house for Habitat for Humanity, read “Pride and Prejudice”, etc) and posted it online. “I just felt like I was slowly getting older and was looking around saying ‘Well, I haven’t really done a whole lot with my life yet,’” she recalled.

2. But once she began the journey prescribed by her list, it quickly became an addiction. “Earn a master’s degree” (No. 5) - check. “See a dinosaur fossil” (No. 27) - check. As for her latest challenges, “become quadri-lingual” or “swim with dolphins”, well, she is only 25. “Hey, I am accomplishing things with my life,” she said, “even if it’s little by little.”

3. The life list has become popular and it is the perfect way for anxious professionals who have no time to take part in spiritual quests in a productivity-obsessed age. If Aristotle were alive, he would admire the efficiency of a master list in which the messy search for meaning in life is turned into a simple grocery list: “get a tattoo”, “learn to surf ”.

4. Multiple life-list oriented Web sites have formed, inviting strangers to share their lists and offer mutual encouragement. “People are dying to make this list, and most haven’t been given a chance since grade school,” said Josh Petersen, a founder of the Robot Co-op, a Seattle company that runs the Web site 43Things.com , which since 2004. Has enrolled 1.2 million members who post their life lists, find others with similar goals and encourage one another to check them off. Sky diving ranks 24th in popularity; losing weight, unsurprisingly, is first.

5. Caroline Miller, a life coach and motivational-book author in Bethesda, Maryland, asks that her clients create their own list of 100 things to accomplish. “What it does is give you a road map for your life,” she said. “To check items off your list gives you a sense of self-efficacy, or mastery.”

6. Gary Marcus, a psychology professor at New York University, agrees that people are happiest when making progress toward clear-cut goals, but said that those who set unreasonable goals (or overly ambitious timelines to meet them) set themselves up for stress. “We feel happy when we make progress toward our goals, anxious when we don’t,” he said.

1. What did Ms Hubbard do with her life list?

1. She presented it on the Internet.

2. She arranged a new one for her school.

3. She posted it to other teachers.

2. Why did Ms Hubbard make her life list?

1. She wanted to read more books.

2. She was getting bored with her life.

3. She wanted to accomplish some goals.

3. So far, she has managed to check off

1. all 78 goals.

2. 24 goals out of 78.

3. some of her goals.

4. Who are life lists (as presented in paragraph 3) perfect for?

1. anxious people with obsessions

2. busy people with little time

3. all people obsessed with spiritualism

5. Paragraph 3 also suggests that Aristotle would admire

1. comparison between a life list and a grocery list.

2. simplifying the complex question of meaning in life.

3. forming life-list oriented Web sites.

6. What we learn in paragraph 4 is that members of the Web site 43Things.com contact and help people who

1. share similar goals.

2. ranked sky diving as goal 24.

3. want to lose weight.

7. Why are Caroline Miller’s clients asked to make a 100-goal list?

1. to check off the items they all want to accomplish

2. to check which clients listed similar goals

3. to make themselves feel good after checking items off

8. In paragraph 6, Gary Marcus warns about stress threatening people who

1. are not ambitious when making progress toward goals.

2. create goals and deadlines they cannot achieve.

3. are too anxious to have clear-cut goals

II Read the text and for questions 1-8 circle the correct answer (A, B or C).

Serena Williams From diapers to tennis skirts

The youngest of five daughters born to Richard and Oracene, Serena and the rest of the Williams family moved from her birthplace of Saginaw, Michigan, to Compton, a suburb of Los Angeles, California, when she was a baby. An economically depressed area, Compton is a rough, often violent neighborhood, and the Williams sisters occasionally witnessed exchanges of gunfire. An avid fan of tennis, Richard Williams envisioned his daughters as champions even before they were born. He bought books and instructional videotapes, teaching himself and his wife how to play tennis so they could then teach their daughters. Both Serena and Venus showed promise at a very early age, prompting their outspoken father to begin making predictions about their future success in the tennis world. Coached by her father, Serena entered her first tennis tournament at age four and a half, and her father recalls that, over the next five years, she won forty-six of the next forty-nine tournaments she entered. She and Venus both excelled in the highly competitive preteen circuit in Southern California. Before reaching their teen years, the sisters had begun attracting attention far beyond the borders of their home state. They received offers for endorsement1 deals from sporting-goods companies and invitations to prestigious tennis camps. In 1991 Richard Williams withdrew2 the girls from junior tournaments, a decision that was widely criticized by tennis insiders. The junior circuit is accepted as the conventional path to tennis stardom, but Richard wanted to protect his daughters from the intense competition and from what he perceived as racial hostility from other players. Richard invited teaching pro Rick Macci—to come to Compton and watch his daughters play tennis. Macci came, and he was impressed by the sisters’ skill and athleticism. He invited them to study with him at his Florida academy, and soon after, the family relocated to the Sunshine State. The proceeds from a clothing endorsement contract for Serena and Venus allowed the family to purchase a home in Palm Beach Gardens, not far from the tennis school.

*1endorsement - an occasion when someone famous says in an advertisement that they like a product*

*2 withdraw – (here) stop someone from taking part*

1. What was the new place where the Williams family came to live like?

A. dangerous B. lively C. peaceful

2. The word **avid** describes a fan in the text. It means

A. passionate B. pessimistic C. pleasant

3. Who did Mr. Williams buy instructional material for?

A. for his daughters B. for Oracene and himself C. for the coach

4. Who was Serena’s first coach?

A. Oracene B. Richard C. Rick

5. When did the sisters become famous outside California?

A. before they were teenagers

B. when they were in their teens

C. when they moved to Florida

6. Why did Mr. Williams withdraw his daughters from junior tournaments?

A. They had to learn.

B. They would get hurt.

C. They would be mistreated.

7. What does the word **hostility** mean?

A. blackness B. hospitality C. unfriendliness

8. Why did the Williams family move to Florida?

A. It was near the new tennis school.

B. Macci gave them a new house.

C. They had sold their family house.

LISTENING (January 2021.)

1.1 The British singer Tracey Horn of the duo *Everything but the Girl* describes how her parents met. For sentences 1–4, decide if each statement is true or false and put a tick (√) in the appropriate box. Write your answer to question 5 in the space provided.

TRUE FALSE

1. Tracey’s father was called Richard.  

2. Tracey’s father was a member of the Royal Air Force.  

3. Tracey’s mother wrote letters to her future husband before she met him.  

4.Tracey grew up in central London.  

5. How long did Tracey’s father keep the photograph of his wife in his wallet? ………….……………………………………………………………………………

1.2 The Indian Nobel-prize winning molecular biologist Venki Ramakrishnan talks about his arrival to the USA from India. For sentences 1–4, decide if each statement is true or false and put a tick (√) in the appropriate box.

TRUE FALSE

1. Ramakrishnan was still a teenager when he moved from India to the United States.  

2. Ramakrishnan says that he was a nerd when he was young.  

3. Ramakrisnan attended a rally against the war in Iraq.  

4. He used to buy his clothes in Benetton stores.  

WRITING

You have found an internet site advertising a summer scout camp in Scotland organised by Scouts International. As the number of participants is limited, write an e-mail to Mr John Smith to enrol at the camp.

In your e-mail

**• give two reasons why you want to join the camp**

**and**

**• explain which two activities you would like to participate in and why.**

Write 40–60 words. Do not write your name.