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ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE  
SCHOOL



**BBELS CAMBRIDGE FIRST CERTIFICATE**

**PRE-PLACEMENT TEST**

**Total Pages: 11 including front page, answer sheet & writing**

TOTAL TIME: 90 MINS

PART 1: READING                      25 MINS              /28 MARKS (2 marks each)

PART 2: USE OF ENGLISH            45 MINS              /40 MARKS (1 mark each)

PART 3: WRITING                      20 MINS              /20 MARKS

TOTAL MARKS                      /88

**Please scan + email your completed test to [info@bbels.com.au](mailto:info@bbels.com.au)**

**Good luck and be honest!**

## READING. 1:

You are going to read a newspaper article about a woman who has become very wealthy. Choose the most suitable heading from the list **A-I** for each part (**1-7**) of the article. There is one extra heading which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (**0**).

- A** Bigger aims
- B** Overcoming doubts
- C** Expecting little
- D** Don't just think about it
- E** The business takes off
- F** Destination decided
- G** Setting up in business
- H** From poverty to wealth
- I** A remarkable woman

# Rags to Riches

The woman who made £20m after emigrating with £5 in her pocket.

0

Imagine you'd begun a new life in a new country with only £5 in your pocket. Then four years later you sell your business for \$20m. A British woman, Susan Barnes, who once sold toys at street stalls in Britain and emigrated to New Zealand, has done just that.

1

Her road to riches began in a small terraced house in the Midlands, where she lived with her parents, factory workers Albert and Eileen. When we interviewed her, she reflected on her astonishing story. 'I wanted more: to travel,' she said. 'People would often say that I was mad and should get a job in my home town, settle down and be grateful for what I'd got. But that just wasn't me. I always wanted more than that and knew I could get it.'

2

Miss Barnes, clutching her £5, flew to Auckland, where she now lives in a mansion and works under the name Suzanne Paul. In New Zealand she became queen of the 'infomercials' – TV adverts that can last up to 45 minutes – showing off household gadgets as well as various brands of skin and hair products. Now she and her business partner, Paul Meier, 41, are selling their firm, Prestige Marketing, to the giant US-based infomercial company, the National Media Corporation.

3

'I had saved madly to go to New Zealand. I just loved the place,' said Miss Barnes, who left school at fifteen without qualifications. 'I had been there on a short stop-over once before and I just had to live there. The flight took all the cash I had, except for the £5.'

4

'When I arrived I slept on a friend's floor for a few weeks and then gave Paul a

call. A friend in England said he could probably get me some work. I told him I was the best salesperson in England and he should give me a job.' She convinced him. Their first venture together was a special pillow, which she sold in a shopping mall. Later they made their first infomercial. 'At first, there was no response at all' she recalled.

5

Miss Barnes made a big breakthrough when she hit on the idea of devising a cream that would block the sun but also give the skin a healthy look. After being marketed as Natural Glow, it became a huge seller. Other products followed, including the Suzanne Clip, a method for tying hair, named after her. She modelled it on TV and the public took her and her English accent to their hearts. As Miss Barnes's brother, Philip, says: 'The main reason for her succeeding is that she insisted on chasing a dream.'

6

Said Miss Barnes, 'I always had a desire to explore different places. Whether it was India or the English seaside, I wondered what would be there for me, so I just got up and went to have a look for myself. I went to a seaside town in England and worked in a holiday camp once. I conned the manager that I was a photographer and he took me on. I didn't know a thing about photography, but he just laughed when I told him and he kept me on. That's always been my attitude. If you want something badly enough, then just go for it and worry about what happens once you're there.'

7

'There were times, however, when I thought maybe I was wrong and everyone else was right, and I came very close to giving it all up. I remember once when I said to myself, "You're mad, girl. Go home and get a normal job." I only had two suitcases of clothes to my name. But I just pushed the thought aside and carried on with my dream.'

## READING. 2:

You are going to read part of a magazine article about a man who went on a mountain bike holiday in Mexico. For questions 1 – 7, choose the answer ( A, B, C, D ) which you think fits best according to the text. Circle A, B, C or D.

# Mountain-biking in Mexico

Organised mountain-bike holidays are fast becoming the favourite way for adventurous people to visit far-off places. It is the new type of trekking: a kind of expedition, two-wheeled rather than two-legged. The bike trekker can cover much greater distances, enjoying more views, meeting more people and, in short, packing much more into a single day. Large muscles are not essential, since anyone fit enough to tackle a trek on foot can switch to a saddle, although it's worth doing some practice pedalling at home, if only to toughen up. And, should it all get too much, then it's easy to jump in the support truck.

Six of us had signed up for this holiday in Mexico, on which we'd travel in a sweeping arc from the capital down to the south coast. We couldn't cycle the huge distance involved, so the truck would carry us from one amazing landscape to another, where we'd climb on our bikes and spend all day exploring. Large groups usually hire coaches and public transport, but our team of nine managed to squeeze into one vehicle and drive in something close to comfort.

When you trek by bike you use a four-wheel-drive back-up truck. The vehicle carries all the heavy gear between overnight stops. This can be a mixed blessing, however, as those riding at the rear of the group can get fed up with having a noisy engine roaring away just behind their back wheel. Destinations are also dictated by the transport. There's no point riding off into the wilderness if the support truck can't get there too.

Companies offering mountain-bike holidays have quickly realised that it involves much more than using long-established walking routes such as the ones in Nepal, most of which are totally unsuitable for bikes. So, in the past few years,

they have completely re-thought not only the routes, but also the countries in which they operate. Morocco and Spain are now favourites, with Mexico quickly gaining in popularity.

Our ride began with a tough climb through a forest onto the shoulder of a volcano. It shouldn't have been too exhausting, but the heat, combined with an altitude of more than 3,000 metres, left us sweating and fighting for breath. Hot and sticky, we dived into a fast, narrow descent and encountered dust. Not the normal sort of dust; this dust lay as deep as snow. It obscured even the biggest boulders, drifted into corners and billowed in dense clouds in which it was hard to breathe, let alone see which way to steer.

Emerging into a small town, we instantly became the focus of everyone's attention as we rode through the market square. We waved, assuming the locals were impressed that we'd ridden over the volcano. It was not until I looked in the mirror in my hotel that I understood why they'd been looking at us so intently. The black volcanic dust had stuck to my sweat and formed a crisp crust that covered my legs, shorts, shirt and especially my face. I had two white circles around my eyes where my sunglasses had been.

We stayed at hotels, which is quite normal when you go on a mountain-bike trek, simply because you usually travel closer to civilisation than you do when walking. You're also much more likely to need one, especially one with a hot shower. In ten days' cycling, we camped for just three nights and, although I enjoy tent life, that really was quite enough. And yet the times I felt closest to Mexico were when we rode to places visitors rarely see: too rough for adventurers in rental cars and simply too far from anywhere for walkers.

- 8 According to the writer, compared to walking, mountain-biking is more
- A enjoyable.
  - B intensive.
  - C adventurous.
  - D exhausting.
- 9 What does the writer say about the organisation of the holiday?
- A The bikers would cycle from the capital to the coast.
  - B Some of the distance would be covered on local buses.
  - C They would complete the journey by truck.
  - D Certain days would be spent exploring after leaving the capital.
- 10 What does the writer mean by 'this can be a mixed blessing' (lines 27-28)?
- A It can be extremely useful not to carry everything on a bike.
  - B There are advantages and disadvantages to this arrangement.
  - C It is good to mix riding on a bike and being in a truck.
  - D Some people did not agree to having a truck with them.
- 11 The destinations being offered by companies providing mountain-bike holidays
- A can be extremely unsuitable.
  - B need to have adequate roads.
  - C have all been tried and tested over many years.
  - D are usually also popular with walkers.
- 12 On the ride over the volcano, the writer
- A was more tired than he expected to be.
  - B found the top was cooler than the forest had been.
  - C had to stop from time to time.
  - D kept crashing into large boulders.
- 13 When the bikers arrived in the small town, the local people
- A cheered them on excitedly.
  - B gave them a warm welcome.
  - C stared at them as they went past.
  - D were amazed at what had been achieved.
- 14 How did the writer feel about this holiday?
- A He would have preferred to have spent more time camping.
  - B He was glad he went mountain-biking rather than walking.
  - C He felt that more hotels should have had hot showers.
  - D He occasionally found it a lonely experience.

**USE OF ENGLISH**  
**PART 1**

Read the text below and decide which answer **A, B, C** or **D** best fits each space.

There is an example at the beginning **(0)**.

**Example :**

**0**    **A** belief            **B** idea            **C** view            **D** thought

**HOME SECURITY**

Contrary to popular **(0)** ... most burglaries take **(1)** ... during the day. The quick dash you **(2)** ... to the shops before they close or to **(3)** ... the children from school are ideal opportunities. Burglars know about these things and what time they are **(4)** ... to occur. The garage door which you **(5)** ... open because you didn't have time to shut it before you drove away is as **(6)** ... as an invitation card.

Your best protection is to make **(7)** ... that when the burglar does come to your house, he decides it is not worth the **(8)** ... of breaking in. Your precautions have to be good enough to put him **(9)** .....

For most people the first **(10)** ... to better security is to frighten themselves **(11)** ... really believing that their house could be burgled. And **(12)** ..., if it happened, would be pretty unpleasant. Anyone who has suffered the **(13)** ... can tell you that the shock of finding your **(14)** ... home vandalised is at least as painful as the actual financial **(15)** ... you suffer.

- |           |                     |                 |                    |                     |
|-----------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>1</b>  | <b>A</b> part       | <b>B</b> way    | <b>C</b> place     | <b>D</b> action     |
| <b>2</b>  | <b>A</b> do         | <b>B</b> take   | <b>C</b> go        | <b>D</b> make       |
| <b>3</b>  | <b>A</b> collect    | <b>B</b> pick   | <b>C</b> take      | <b>D</b> catch      |
| <b>4</b>  | <b>A</b> probable   | <b>B</b> surely | <b>C</b> possible  | <b>D</b> likely     |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>A</b> forgot     | <b>B</b> left   | <b>C</b> let       | <b>D</b> put        |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>A</b> well       | <b>B</b> much   | <b>C</b> good      | <b>D</b> fine       |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>A</b> clear      | <b>B</b> sure   | <b>C</b> safe      | <b>D</b> care       |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>A</b> alarm      | <b>B</b> trap   | <b>C</b> risk      | <b>D</b> threat     |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>A</b> off        | <b>B</b> out    | <b>C</b> up        | <b>D</b> away       |
| <b>10</b> | <b>A</b> lesson     | <b>B</b> point  | <b>C</b> part      | <b>D</b> step       |
| <b>11</b> | <b>A</b> into       | <b>B</b> to     | <b>C</b> with      | <b>D</b> of         |
| <b>12</b> | <b>A</b> which      | <b>B</b> that   | <b>C</b> what      | <b>D</b> then       |
| <b>13</b> | <b>A</b> state      | <b>B</b> fact   | <b>C</b> knowledge | <b>D</b> experience |
| <b>14</b> | <b>A</b> well-known | <b>B</b> usual  | <b>C</b> familiar  | <b>D</b> regular    |
| <b>15</b> | <b>A</b> price      | <b>B</b> loss   | <b>C</b> lack      | <b>D</b> cut        |

## USE OF ENGLISH: PART 2

Read the text below and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only one word in each space. There is an example at the beginning (0).

### YOUNG SKATER

I was born and brought **(0)** ...**up**..... just outside Bristol and **(1)** ..... the ages of seven and fourteen, I spent far more of my walking hours on the ice rink **(2)** ..... I did at home.

When I was six, we went to Bournemouth on holiday and saw an ice show and from **(3)** ..... on I was hooked. **(4)** ..... was on that same holiday that we met a man who told us that an ice rink was **(5)** ..... built in Bristol. As soon as it was opened, I **(6)** ..... skating lessons and I never looked back.

Within a couple of years, I was skating **(7)** ..... three hours before school, **(8)** ..... lunchtime and then **(9)** ..... the evening again. **(10)** ..... the time I was nine, I was doing this at **(11)** ..... three or four times a week.

Mum and Dad used to **(12)** ..... it in turns to **(13)** ..... me up at 5 a.m. with a cup of tea. Fortunately I wasn't the **(14)** ..... one in the family needing all this attention because I had two elder brothers **(15)** ..... were already doing their own thing. One was a musician and both were sportsmen.

### USE OF ENGLISH: PART 3

For questions **1-10**, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Use the word given and other words to complete each sentence. You must use between two and five words. **Do not change the word given.** There is an example at the beginning (0).

Example:

- 0** I haven't enjoyed myself so much for years.  
**since**

It's years... *since I've enjoyed* ..... myself so much.

- 1** We couldn't sleep because of the noise from the discotheque.  
**prevented**

The noise from the discotheque.....  
sleeping.

- 2** She's never been to the circus before.  
**time**

It's the..... to the circus.

- 3** The accident make it impossible for him to work.  
**able**

Since the accident he ..... work.

- 4** When she heard that she'd won, she began to cry.  
**broke**

When she heard that she'd won, she .....  
tears.

- 5** My parents don't like me to stay out late at night.  
**disapprove**

My parents ..... out late at  
**night.**

- 6** It was a waste of time writing that letter.  
**needn't**

I ..... that letter.

- 7** There is room for five passengers in our car.  
**big**

Our car ..... five  
passengers.



8 He was very lucky that he wasn't punished for what he did.  
**get**

He was very lucky to ..... what he did.

9 He was like my father in many ways.  
**reminded**

He .....my father in many ways.

10 He was good enough to be a professional player but he gave up the game.  
**could**

He ..... a professional player but he gave up the game.



Mark /20

**BBELS FCE PRE-PLACEMENT TEST ANSWER SHEET**  
**READING**

**RAGS TO RICHES**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

**MOUNTAIN BIKING IN MEXICO**

- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.

**USE OF ENGLISH**

**PART 1**

**HOME SECURITY**

- |    |     |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 9.  |
| 2. | 10. |
| 3. | 11. |
| 4. | 12. |
| 5. | 13. |
| 6. | 14. |
| 7. | 15. |
| 8. |     |

**PART 2**

**YOUNG SKATER**

- |    |     |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 9.  |
| 2. | 10. |
| 3. | 11. |
| 4. | 12. |
| 5. | 13. |
| 6. | 14. |
| 7. | 15. |
| 8. |     |

**PART 3 TRANSFORMATIONS**

- |    |     |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 7.  |
| 2. | 8.  |
| 3. | 9.  |
| 4. | 10. |
| 5. |     |
| 6. |     |