

## Listening

1



UT Track 1 Listen and complete the phrase used to agree or disagree.

- 1 I \_\_\_\_\_ they'd do that.
- 2 No, I \_\_\_\_\_ ...
- 3 Well, I'm \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 I guess you've \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Oh, I \_\_\_\_\_

/5

2



UT Track 1 Listen again and choose the best answer.

- 1 You hear a girl and her father talking about swimming lessons. How does the man feel about taking swimming lessons?
  - A He's fairly certain he'll learn slowly.
  - B He wishes he'd learnt to swim when he was younger.
  - C He's pleased that there are swimming lessons for middle-aged people.
- 2 You hear two friends talking about an online course. How does the boy feel about the online courses?
  - A He believes universities should think of better ways to promote themselves.
  - B He's attracted by the variety of courses that are available.
  - C He thinks that people should be charged money to use them.
- 3 You hear a boy and his mother talking about a smartphone app. How does the boy's mother feel about the app?
  - A She thinks the boy should remove it from his phone.
  - B She's convinced the boy will fail the test because of it.
  - C She's not convinced that it's useful for revision.
- 4 You hear two teachers talking about a first aid course. How does the woman feel about learning first aid?
  - A It's something that she's wanted to do for a long time.
  - B She doubts the course will qualify her to give first aid.
  - C First aid skills would have been useful in a recent situation.
- 5 You hear two friends talking about a TV documentary. What was wrong with the programme according to the boy?
  - A It was difficult to understand because it was in a foreign language.
  - B Although it was informative, the topic wasn't very interesting.
  - C The ideas were too complicated for ordinary viewers to follow.

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## Grammar

3

Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (ever feel) that you have too much homework and not enough free time? If you do, you're not alone because there's a growing movement of people who believe that children should have less homework. They argue that homework (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (be) always a good thing and that there's evidence to support their claims. For example, one primary school study showed that the amount of homework (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (not make) any difference to children's success at school. Another school reported that children (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (become) even more successful at school when they had less homework. There are now many schools around the world which (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (not believe) in giving homework. If this trend continues, it's likely that many children will find that they have more free time.

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4

Complete the second sentence so it has a similar meaning to the first. Do not change the word given. Use two to five words, including the word given.

- Even if I didn't like what I was studying, I always tried to do my best at school.  
Even if I didn't like what I was studying, I \_\_\_\_\_ to do my best at school. **WOULD**
- Sophie doesn't usually stay up so late. She's normally in bed by nine o'clock.  
Sophie \_\_\_\_\_ up so late. She's normally in bed by nine o'clock. **USED**
- When my parents were teenagers, they didn't have as much freedom as we do.  
When my parents were teenagers, they \_\_\_\_\_ have as much freedom as we do. **USED**
- My sports teacher was always very strict with the students. Was your teacher like that?  
My sports teacher was always very strict with the students. Did your teacher \_\_\_\_\_ like that? **BE**
- David didn't like his uniform at first but he didn't mind wearing it in the end.  
David didn't like his uniform at first but he \_\_\_\_\_ it in the end. **GOT**

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5

Complete the sentences with the verbs in the box in the correct tense: present perfect, past simple or past perfect simple. There are two extra verbs you do not need to use.

break | get | go | live | manage | tell | take

- 1 They \_\_\_\_\_ here for long. They only moved in last week.
- 2 I couldn't take part in the swimming lesson because I \_\_\_\_\_ my leg.
- 3 By the time we \_\_\_\_\_ to my grandmother's house, she'd already finished her dinner.
- 4 So far I \_\_\_\_\_ to read about half of *The Lord of the Rings* but it's taken me a long time.
- 5 Why \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ me you couldn't meet me? I waited for you for twenty minutes.

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6

Complete the text.

#### Lessons from Gandhi

Any list of the most influential people of the 20th century is sure to include Mahatma Gandhi because there are so many important lessons we can learn from him. For much of his life, he was involved in trying to solve the problems of inequality and poverty. He's most famous for leading the Indian independence movement but before that he (1) \_\_\_\_\_ spent many years defending the rights of Indian workers in South Africa. (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to that point, he had tried to work with the British rulers to achieve change. However, he realised that this (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the best way to bring about the changes he wanted. Instead, he organised peaceful demonstrations and acts of non-cooperation, which have inspired protest movements ever (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Now people (5) \_\_\_\_\_ used to the idea of non-violent protest, but Gandhi's methods were very innovative 60 years ago.

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## Reading

## Critical Thinking

**A** Have you noticed how there's so much talk about critical thinking skills these days? There are hundreds of websites and books dedicated to the topic and in some countries, you can even get a secondary school qualification in critical thinking. So, what exactly is it and why is it generating so much interest?

**B** Critical thinking means different things to different people. For some, it's about answering questions without letting your own emotions and beliefs get in the way. For others, it's about accepting that one question might have different answers. However, if we put these differences to one side, most people would agree that critical thinking describes the process of analysing and evaluating a situation in order to understand the truth. For this process to work, critical thinkers have to be self-disciplined, careful in their analysis and open to new ideas.

**C** Surprisingly, critical thinking is not a new concept. In fact, it originated in the teachings of the ancient Greek philosophers more than two thousand years ago. They were concerned that ordinary citizens automatically believed their leaders without asking themselves whether they were right or wrong. However, these philosophers thought it was important for a society to know the truth, and that was only achievable by asking the right questions. This belief has been held by many of the brightest thinkers ever since. Without it, we might still think that the sun orbits the Earth or that the Earth is flat.

**D** Despite the importance of critical thinking in human history, the situation changed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the industrial revolution. More children than ever had access to education, but they studied subjects which were useful for industrial society, like maths and English. Although students learnt in large groups, there were few opportunities for critical thinking. Students were generally expected to be passive learners, learning facts and taking tests. They would sit in rows and only speak if they were spoken to by the teacher.

**E** This way of teaching has endured for over 150 years and is still common today. However, a growing number of people now believe that school leavers need different skills to overcome the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Among them is the ability to ask the right questions to achieve a better understanding of the world around us. This means not just accepting that what you are told is the truth. It also means being able to work on your own to find answers and solve problems. Not only that, but students should also be able to work with others by contributing to arguments in a constructive and meaningful way.

**F** As a result, teachers are now thinking about how they can promote critical thinking skills in teenagers. For example, in many classrooms, students are no longer required to sit passively, memorising facts and figures. Instead, they are asked to speculate, share experiences and give opinions. In fact, even the classrooms themselves are changing. Nowadays you're more likely to find collaborative spaces where students sit in small groups, use tablets and work on projects. It's an exciting time in education and it will be interesting to see how the next generation of thinkers turns out.

7

Read the article and match paragraphs with summaries.

- |   |  |      |
|---|--|------|
| 1 | Critical thinking is believed to have its roots in an ancient society. ____                  | 1. F |
| 2 | The difficulties faced in the new millennium require a new way of thinking. ____             | 2. B |
| 3 | The skills being learnt today may be useful in solving the problems of tomorrow. ____        | 3. C |
| 4 | Although definitions of critical thinking may vary, they do have some things in common. ____ | 4. D |
| 5 | Critical thinking skills were seen as less important for industrial society. ____            | 5. E |

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8

Read the article. For each question, choose the answer which you think fits best according to the text.

- Which definition of critical thinking is the most commonly accepted?
  - Criticising other people's work and studies.
  - Answering difficult questions in an unemotional way.
  - Attempting to get the best possible answer to a question.
  - Understanding that questions can have several different answers.
- What point is the writer trying to make about the ancient philosophers?
  - They didn't think leaders were capable of telling the truth.
  - Their beliefs about the world were usually mistaken.
  - Our understanding of the world has been improved by their ideas.
  - They were the most important thinkers in the history of the world.
- How does the writer feel about education in the 19th century?
  - Not enough young people had the opportunity to go to school.
  - There was much more discipline than there is in modern schools.
  - Young people were not expected to participate actively in their education.
  - It was a good way of encouraging students to think critically.
- What does the writer say about education in recent years?
  - More and more students are choosing to work on their own.
  - There are many challenges in education that still haven't been overcome.
  - There is growing support for the teaching of critical thinking skills.
  - Many people still aren't convinced about the value of critical thinking skills.
- What does the writer mean by 'promote critical thinking skills' in the final paragraph?
  - Encourage the growth and development of critical thinking skills.
  - Give students the opportunities to get better jobs in the future.
  - Give critical thinking skills more importance than they deserve.
  - Encourage students to be more critical of their teachers.

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## Vocabulary

9

Choose the correct word to complete the sentence.

- 1 Even when we weren't playing well, our football **coach / lecturer / instructor** was always encouraging.
- 2 Most university **graduates / certificates / degrees** in the UK take three years but some of them, like medicine, take longer.
- 3 I tend to go to the library if I have to **pass / take / revise** for an exam because I can concentrate better.
- 4 A lot of primary school teachers think they have too many **lecturers / pupils / graduates** in their classes.
- 5 A recent survey has revealed that you need a driving **licence / certificate / qualification** for around 20% of jobs.

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10

Complete the sentence.

- 1 My brother \_\_\_\_\_ up all the bread making his sandwich and there was none left for me.
- 2 Although Ian has missed a few weeks of class, he can \_\_\_\_\_ up with the rest of the class if he works hard.
- 3 Would you mind \_\_\_\_\_ up a bit? I can't hear a word you're saying.
- 4 Look! My dad's fallen asleep in his chair. Let's \_\_\_\_\_ up behind him and scare him!
- 5 If the weather doesn't improve, they'll \_\_\_\_\_ up cancelling the race.

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11

Complete the sentences with one word from each list in the correct form.

criticise | decide | experienced | qualify | wrong

against | as | for | in | with

- 1 There's nothing \_\_\_\_\_ taking a year off before university. In fact, it can be a very positive experience.
- 2 Some parents \_\_\_\_\_ the school \_\_\_\_\_ not allowing girls to wear trousers.
- 3 If you want to \_\_\_\_\_ an engineer, you need to get practical work experience as well as a degree.
- 4 Mrs Johnson has been a careers adviser for twenty years so she is very \_\_\_\_\_ helping young people choose the best career for them.
- 5 It's a shame you \_\_\_\_\_ studying law at university. I think you would be an excellent lawyer.

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12

Choose the correct word or phrase to complete the text.

#### Beating exam stress

For many (1) **degrees / undergraduates / qualifications / graduates**, life can seem like one exam after another. This can be extremely stressful so we recommend that students are as organised as possible. Firstly, this means giving yourself as much time as possible to revise – you don't want to (2) **end / hurry / catch / dig** up revising everything the night before an exam. The second thing you need to think about is the space where you'll be working. It's essential that you're able to (3) **interested / pay attention / decide / concentrate** on your revision, so make sure it's comfortable and that there are no distractions. Apart from revising your notes, we'd also recommend that you practise (4) **making / passing / giving / taking** old exams under timed conditions. Finally, we suggest that you give yourself plenty of breaks. You'll get tired (5) **for / of / on / in** studying if you spend too long at your desk so take a break and do something relaxing.

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## Speaking

13

Complete the missing words. The first letter is there to help you.

A: I think it would be a good idea if there was a school science club.

B: (1) A \_\_\_\_\_! That's a great idea. We could ask Mr Fenton to organise it.

A: I'm not so (2) s \_\_\_\_\_ (3) a \_\_\_\_\_ that. I thought it would be better if we set it up ourselves.

B: Do you (4) r \_\_\_\_\_ (5) t \_\_\_\_\_ so? It sounds like a lot of work.

A: Yes, you're (6) r \_\_\_\_\_ (7) a \_\_\_\_\_ that but it would be good experience.

B: I (8) s \_\_\_\_\_ (9) s \_\_\_\_\_, but where would we start?

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14

For each of the sentences, respond with at least two sentences giving your reasons and/or examples.

1 I'm not sure that many students like doing work experience because you're just working for nothing.

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2 I think a lot of young people would like online courses because they're more interactive and engaging than traditional courses.

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3 I'd imagine that most students like going on field trips because it gives them a chance to get out of the classroom.

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4 Students probably prefer working in groups because it's really boring when you have to work alone.

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5 Voluntary teaching is quite popular and I think it's because students like the idea of helping younger ones.

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## Use of English

15

Write a form of the word in capitals in each gap to complete the text.

## Forest Schools

When a friend recently told me about forest schools, I looked at him in

(1) \_\_\_\_\_. 'What on earth is a forest school?' I asked him. It turns

BELIEVE

out that there are a number of forest schools around the world but they are (2)

\_\_\_\_\_ new in the UK. However, they are well-organised and the

RELATE

teachers usually have special (3) \_\_\_\_\_. They have been trained to

QUALIFY

organise safe outdoor spaces and they can teach pupils a great deal about the

countryside.

I recently attended an open day at a local forest school and it was very

(4) \_\_\_\_\_ indeed. What was interesting was how the teachers used the

INFORM

natural environment to teach other subjects. For example, one of the teachers, who was a

(5) \_\_\_\_\_, was showing teenagers how to use maths in order to build a tree

MATHS

house. It certainly looked a lot more fun than my maths classes.

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16

Complete the second sentence so it has a similar meaning to the first. Do not change the word given. Use two to five words, including the word given.

1 Hans has taken the decision not to spend the holidays at his grandparents' house.

Hans has \_\_\_\_\_ the holidays at his grandparents' house.

AGAINST

2 I went to London Zoo last weekend. It was my first time at a zoo.

I went to London Zoo last weekend. I \_\_\_\_\_ a zoo up to that point.

NEVER

3 He's already invented an excuse for not going to the concert.

He's already \_\_\_\_\_ an excuse for not going to the concert.

UP

4 Danny didn't listen carefully to the teacher so he didn't know what the homework was.

Danny didn't know what the homework was because he \_\_\_\_\_ the teacher.

PAID

5 I want to make a cup of tea but there's no milk left.

I want to make a cup of tea but someone \_\_\_\_\_ the milk.

USED

/5

## Writing

17

Read the essay question. Imagine you have written your first paragraph, introducing your essay and stating your opinion. Rewrite sentences 1–5 using the words and phrases given to complete paragraph 2, explaining why shorter school days would be better for students.

Shorter school days would be better for both students and teachers. Do you agree?

because | in my view ... so | I would argue that ... as | such as | this is why

- 1 Shorter school days would be better for students. They would have more time for after-school activities.  


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- 2 Some after-school activities are important for teenagers' development. Some examples of after-school activities are volunteering and doing sports.  


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- 3 Students would also benefit from a shorter school day. They would not get so tired.  


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- 4 Many students are exhausted by the end of the day. They find it difficult to do their homework well.  


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- 5 Young people do not spend enough time with their families. Shorter school days would also be good for family life.  


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