

## PAPER 1 - READING

## PART 1

You are going to read a magazine article about a woman's life. 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 Happy family life.  
 B A life-changing adventure.  
 C She thought no one needed her any more.  
 D The love that saved her life.  
 E Busy and content. But could there be more?  
 F A last-minute shyness attack.  
 G The job she really deserved.  
 H Life without the children.  
 I Seeking help.

## PART 2

You are going to read an extract from a short story. For questions 8-15 choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

It was the last day of July. The long hot summer was drawing to a close; and we, the weary pilgrims of the London pavement, were beginning to think of the cloud-shadows on the corn-fields, and the autumn breezes on the sea-shore.

As for me, the fading summer had left me out of health, out of spirits, and, to tell the truth, out of money as well. During the last year I had not managed my professional funds as carefully as usual; and my overspending now meant I had to spend the autumn cheaply in my mother's cottage in Hampstead and my own rooms in town.

The evening, I remember, was still and cloudy; the London air was at its heaviest; the distant hum of the street traffic was at its quietest. I roused myself from the book which I was dreaming over rather than reading, and left my office to meet the cool night air in the suburbs. It was one of the two evenings in every week which I spent with my mother and sister, so I turned my steps northward in the direction of Hampstead.

Events which I have yet to tell make it necessary to say at this point that my father had been dead some years, and that my sister Sarah and I were the sole survivors of a family of five children. My father was a drawing master before me. His hard work had made him very successful in his job, and because he was anxious about those who were dependent on him, he had from the time of his marriage spent far more on insuring his life than most men consider necessary. Thanks to his care my mother and sister were left, after his death, as independent of the world as they had been during his lifetime. I followed him into his profession and had every reason to feel grateful for the start he had given me.

The quiet twilight was still trembling on to the top ridges of the heath; and the view of London below me had sunk into a black gulf in the shadows of the cloudy night, when I stood before the gate of mother's cottage.

## A woman's struggle to believe in herself

0 C

Barbara Williams used to be so lacking in confidence that just going to a neighbour's house was a problem. She had chosen to give up her work as a nurse when she had children. But when the children grew up and left home, her life seemed empty and meaningless.

"I remember a neighbour inviting me round for a coffee morning. I was ready to go, but then I just couldn't leave the house because I knew that the other woman there would ask me questions and I wouldn't know what to say."

Barbara soon felt confident enough to cope with anything that was thrown at her. She had a job that she loved, enjoyed running her home and was also a popular member of a local drama group. But this summer something happened that was to make her life even more fulfilling.

1

Family life had been so rewarding. She loved her husband, Brian, and enjoyed her traditional mother's role. Brian played golf in his spare time. Barbara enjoyed sewing, and made wedding cakes for friends. "We weren't particularly well-off," she says. "But we certainly didn't go without anything."

Barbara went to see a counsellor, who advised her to go back to work. She applied for a job at a nursing home. "It was less skilled work than I'd done, but I got the job and suddenly I felt useful again."

7

In March she had impulsively answered an advertisement for volunteers to help raise money for Romanian Orphans. As a result she spent the summer on an adventure holiday in the heart of Africa and, along with nine other women, raised £1,000 for the charity. Her memories include white water rafting down the Zambezi river and being charged by a buffalo. It was an experience that changed Barbara permanently. "Although my trip to Africa pushed me to the limit physically, I'm now more confident about every area of my life."

2

By the time the children had grown up, Barbara was totally unused to adult company.

When she and Brian moved to a smaller house in a new area, she found it almost impossible to make new friends. "Whatever confidence I had just fell apart," she says.

Six years later she had the courage to do a job she was qualified for, and became a nursing sister at Exeter University Hospital. She was still underconfident, but the supportive staff there really boosted her ego.

8 At the end of the summer, the author felt

- A depressed because summer was over.  
 B generally not very well.  
 C as if he had plenty of money.  
 D unhappy because he had spent so much money.

9 The author was not going away on holiday because

- A he didn't have enough money.  
 B he wanted to spend time with his mother.  
 C he liked Hampstead.  
 D he didn't want to.

10 Before he left his rooms the writer

- A was reading a book.  
 B was working.  
 C was day-dreaming with a book in his hand.  
 D was asleep.

11 The writer describes the weather as

- A bright and sunny.  
 B rather dull and calm.  
 C clear and dark.  
 D wet and quite miserable.

12 Why does the writer mention his father?

- A Because he thinks about him a lot.  
 B Because he is central to the story.  
 C Because he is about to visit him.  
 D Because he is important to things that will happen later in the story.

13 His father insured his life heavily because he

- A was worried about his wife and children.  
 B was afraid of dying.  
 C wasn't earning much money.  
 D had a lot of debts.

14 The author describes his mother and sister as independent because

- A they didn't know what was happening in the world.  
 B they had no financial worries.  
 C neither of them were married.  
 D they were involved in world affairs.

15 Why was the writer thankful for his father's efforts?

- A Because he didn't have to work.  
 B Because he didn't have to find a home for his mother and sister.  
 C Because he had had an easy start to his career.  
 D Because he already had a good job.