

TEST 1 READING

PART 1

You are going to read a magazine article about civil law/crime. Choose from the list (A-H) the sentence which best summarises each part (1-6) of the article. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0).

- A People are taking their own steps to deal with crime.
- B Using civil law to support the police may be better than handing down heavy sentences.
- C Being free means little if you live in fear for your safety.
- D In some areas, civil law has resulted in a decrease in crime.
- E Civil law seems better able to deal with less serious offences.
- F Vigilantes have caused a number of deaths.
- G A couple of people who took the law into their hands got long sentences as an example to others.
- H A rapid increase in the rate of crimes is of extreme concern to lawyers.

Vigilantes* Outside the Law

People are beginning to question accepted definitions of crime and how it should be dealt with.

0 G

Two Norfolk vigilantes received a five-year jail term for their part in holding a local teenager on the suspicion of being a burglar and threatening him for twenty minutes. The sentence was severely and unnecessarily harsh. It was, however, a desperate attempt to hold the justice system together.

1

Throughout the country, more and more people are taking the law into their own hands and acting directly against violent and illegal behaviour. In one instance, a dozen neighbours in Yorkshire barricaded burglars in a house with broom handles and dustbin lids. Many housing estates now pay for private security patrols as a means of providing additional protection.

2

Unfortunately, vigilance is increasingly crossing the boundaries into acts of violence and revenge. There have been incidents of people taking justice into their own hands which have led to fatalities. In one known incident which took place in Wales, a man was killed by people who wrongly suspected him of handling stolen goods. Later, the perpetrators were regarded as local heroes in some quarters.

3

Imposing harsh sentences on vigilantes is not a solution and it only makes the problem worse. If one assumes that the criminal justice system has lost contact with reality, then we have to redefine crime itself. In Hackney Borough, the council has decided

to use civil law in an attempt to back up the efforts of the police.

4

In doing so, they take out court orders and injunctions against troublemakers. They also use repossession orders on grounds of nuisance in order to evict people who cause trouble. As a result, local crime rates have decreased significantly. Last year, there were 340 burglaries among the 1,000 flats on one estate in what used to be one of the toughest areas in London. In the first four months of 1993, the number of burglaries were reduced to only 11, and street crime was also extremely low.

5

Civil law is not only quicker than criminal law, it is also more effective. It does not have to prove guilt beyond reasonable doubt, but can act on a balance of probabilities. Undoubtedly, serious crimes that may lead to imprisonment should require a harsher test of reasonable doubt. The question which still remains is whether the criminal system could be cleared of whole categories of offences that are making people's lives a misery, and are considered insignificant enough by the courts to result in suspended or community sentences.

6

Once petty crimes are dealt with under civil law, civil victims will be relieved and offenders will be dealt with almost as severely as before. Civil libertarians will object to this, but social freedom is meaningless unless it includes some kind of guarantee of our right to live in safety and freedom from fear.

* Vigilante = person who independently tries to stop crime in the community

PART 2

You are going to read an extract from a book. For questions 7-13, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Later in the afternoon the sun went down. Dexter watched the gentle waves in the light wind from the balcony of the golf club. Then he put on his swimming costume and swam out to the farthest raft, where he stretched out on the wood.

There were fish jumping, a star shining and the lights around the lake were gleaming. On the dark peninsula, someone was playing the songs of the last two summers on a piano and, because the sound of a piano over a stretch of water had always seemed beautiful to Dexter, he lay perfectly quiet and listened.

The tune was happy and recent. It reminded Dexter of five years ago, when he had been at college. They had played it at a dance once, when he could not afford the luxury of dances, and he had stood outside the gymnasium and listened.

The music produced a feeling of great happiness within him. It was a mood of appreciation, a sense that, for once, he was in tune with life and that everything was producing a brightness and glamour he might never know again.

A low pale rectangle suddenly removed itself from the darkness of the island, spitting forth the sound of a racing motor-boat. Two white streams of water rolled themselves out behind it and almost immediately the boat was beside him, drowning out the sound of the piano. Dexter, raising himself on his arms, was aware of a figure standing at the wheel. "Who's that?" she called, shutting off her motor. She was so near now that Dexter could see her bathing costume, which seemed to be pink.

The nose of the boat hit the raft, and as the raft tilted he was pushed towards her and with different degrees of interest they recognized each other. "Aren't you one of those men we played golf with this afternoon?" she demanded. He was.

"Well, do you know how to drive a motor boat? Because if you do, I wish you'd drive this one so I can ride on the surf-board behind. My name is Judy Jones" - she favoured him with a silly smirk* - or rather what tried to be a smirk, for, twist her mouth as she might, it was not ugly, it was merely beautiful - "and I live in a house over there on the island."

There were fish jumping and a star shining and the lights around the lake were gleaming. Dexter sat beside Judy Jones and she explained how her boat was driven. Then she was in the water, swimming to the floating surf-board. Watching her was without effort to the eye, her arms moving her gracefully through the water.

They moved out over the lake. Turning, Dexter saw that she was now kneeling on the low rear of the now tilted surf-board. "Go faster," she called, "fast as it'll go." Obediently he jammed the lever forward and the white water came over the front of the boat. When he looked around again the girl was standing up on the rushing board, her arms spread wide, her eyes lifted towards the moon.

"It's awfully cold," she shouted. "Why don't you come to dinner tomorrow night?" His heart turned over like the wheel of the boat, and the moment he accepted her invitation, he felt as though his life had been given a new direction.

* smirk = stupid-looking smile

7 Why did Dexter like the sound of the piano?

- A Because it reminded him of his childhood.
B Because he had always liked that kind of music.
C Because music in that setting was beautiful.
D Because he was feeling restless.

8 What did the music remind him of?

- A A time when he disliked dancing.
B A night he went to a dance.
C A moment of great happiness.
D His student days.

9 What was the effect of the arrival of the motor boat?

- A It woke Dexter up.
B It suddenly disturbed the peace.
C It made him jump.
D It reminded him of where he was.

10 Why did the girl want to know if he could drive her boat?

- A So he could take her home.
B So she could ride behind it.
C Because she didn't know how to.
D Because the boat was broken.

11 Why did Judy twist her mouth?

- A Because she was cold.
B Because she was trying to look ugly.
C Because she was trying to smile in a particular way.
D Because she was doing Dexter a favour.

12 Judy swam

- A clumsily.
B elegantly.
C with great effort.
D very quickly.

13 Why did Dexter speed up the boat?

- A To make the white water come over the boat.
B To allow Judy to see the moon more clearly.
C Because he enjoyed going fast.
D Because Judy had ordered him to.