

READING

PART 1

You are going to read a magazine article about the selling of stolen goods. 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 Some people are lucky enough to find their property among useless things at the market.
B Local bars are some of the places where stolen goods can be sold.
C Despite the possibility of going to jail, thieves continue to steal.
D The police claim that they find the stolen items most of the time.
E People are not in the habit of keeping the serial numbers of their valuable property.
F Valuable items are sold at very low prices.
G Some valuable items can be found in tourist areas.
H Storage problems force burglars to get rid of stolen items very fast.

Where "hot" goods hit the market

Car boot sales, street markets and pubs are full of unmarked stolen property.

0 E 4

Pubs, street markets and car boot sales are where thieves go to sell stolen goods. While the British police try to monitor such illegal activities, they admit it is a tough battle. Owners unknowingly assist the burglars. Most households don't mark property or note down serial numbers, so even when stolen goods are recognised by owners or police it can be almost impossible to prove whose they are.

Much of the business is done in pubs. Although signs on the wall forbid drug dealing, when it comes to passing on stolen goods, many landlords turn a blind eye.

1

For most burglars, the threat of a short stay in prison comes with the territory. But for them it's worth taking the risk, since they can make excellent profits from a single night's work, even though stolen goods are usually passed on at amazingly reduced prices as they cannot be sold openly on the market.

5

Portobello Road and Bermondsey (by ancient tradition markets where the buyer is guaranteed legal ownership of the goods, regardless of their origins, providing they are bought in "good faith" and in daylight) are two London markets with a reputation for occasionally passing on high quality stolen artwork and antiques. However, victims of ordinary household, factory and office thefts are more likely to find missing goods at suburban markets or car-boot sales rather than at these high profile tourist markets.

2

A video which might sell for around £200 (a "pony" in East End slang) in the shops can be picked up for as little as £40 if it's "hot". Televisions which cost anything from £300 to £500 in the stores may be sold for less than £100. A good quality late model camera such as a Canon or an Olympus, selling for £200 in a shop, can be found in some markets for as little as £35.

6

At markets such as Hackney Wick and Brick Lane in East London, high quality household and office goods such as fridges, photocopiers, faxes and cameras can be found buried among worthless items and bric-a-brac. If you have been burgled, you may rediscover your missing goods at markets. Some victims have been able to identify goods and, with the help of the police, managed to get them handed back. If you can't, you might decide to cut your losses and buy back your stolen property. It will probably go strongly against your instincts, but at these reduced prices it might be worth it.

3

Stolen items are sold cheap because burglars need to move goods fast. Few have the space to store the stuff. They can't risk keeping much at home. Three videos under the bed would be hard to explain to the police.

PART 2

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

Work

Mark Twain pointed out that if work were so pleasant, the rich would keep it for themselves. But however much people may think they dislike work, everyone has a deep psychological need for it. Everyone wants to be valued, and wages and salaries are the visible proof that we matter.

Not all kinds of work qualify, however. No matter how worthwhile or demanding they might be, bringing up children, housework and voluntary employment are not usually seen as "proper jobs". The only "proper" job is one that provides paid employment. Being paid for a job in our society means higher personal status.

Of course we would also prefer work to be useful, pleasant and interesting—and also well paid. But you don't really have to enjoy your work to get pleasure from it. The fact that we have to overcome some difficulties, that we have to deal with doing routine tasks, in some way gives us pleasure.

For example, having to be in a particular place at a particular time, working as part of a team towards a common goal, gives us a sense of purpose. The modern workplace also provides somewhere where people can assert their identity or create a new one.

Without work many people become untidy and lazy, and find they are unable to enjoy the leisure time which is available to them. When some people retire from work, they lose their sense of value and purpose. For most of their lives their personality, self-image and status have been defined by work; without it they lose their appetite for life.

People who suddenly lose their jobs can find the situation particularly difficult. At a single stroke they lose all the advantages and status that a paid job provides. In a culture dominated by work, they are seen by those with jobs as incompetent or lazy. It is little wonder that stress and illness occur more frequently among the unemployed.

Employment is now changing, however. Information technology has already significantly altered the world of work. For many, the idea of a job for life is no longer realistic. Many people fear they will lose their jobs, and some are being persuaded to accept the possibility of part-time work. Even the workplace itself may become a thing of the past with more and more people working at home. This means that we may no longer be able to depend on work to define ourselves and our position in society, and that we will have to find new ways to give our lives a sense of value and purpose.

7 Mark Twain pointed out that

- A the rich should work more.
B work is not such a pleasurable thing.
C the rich should keep all the work for themselves.
D work makes people rich.

8 People have a deep psychological need for work because

- A they want to be rich.
B they like being told what to do.
C everyone needs money.
D they want to be valued and work proves this value.

9 A "proper job" (line 6) is one that

- A provides a salary.
B provides useful work.
C involves bringing up children.
D serves the community.

10 People don't have to "enjoy their work to get pleasure from it" (line 9) because

- A the salary makes them happy.
B they get used to the routine.
C coping with problems can be satisfying.
D they know their work is still useful.

11 The word "one" in line 14 refers to

- A the modern workplace.
B a sense of purpose.
C assertiveness.
D identity.

12 People who have no work often

- A enjoy their leisure time.
B develop a better self-image.
C have difficulty coping with the change.
D take an interest in new activities.

13 The arrival of information technology has

- A increased people's enjoyment of work.
B made work more stressful.
C made the workplace unnecessary.
D made people change their attitude to work.