

SECTION I: READING COMPREHENSION**(3 marks)****A Piece of Space**

People have been collecting things for centuries. Collectible items range from stamps to old comic books. Yet, despite the specific nature of the items they collect, most collectors put significant amounts of time and effort into building up their collections. Often, their hobby goes hand in hand with a personal interest in the objects and what these objects represent.

Space memorabilia collectors are no exception. Since its early days in the 1950s, the space programme has captured people's imaginations. It's hardly surprising, therefore, that there are many space memorabilia collectors. In recent years, since the completion of the space shuttle programme, space collectibles have become even more valuable and popular.

Some collectors simply collect space items that were originally made for the commercial market. These include patches, pins and T-shirts and are reasonably priced. Yet, there are many serious collectors who have no interest in these kinds of items. For them, only items that have unique historical value will do. Original space relics are sold at space auctions, often at high prices. Take, for example, the remnants of the American flag that was planted on the moon during the first manned mission to the moon. These scraps of material, which never even left Earth, were sold for \$45,000!

There are a significant number of websites that cater to space collectors. One website, called Collect Space was set up by Robert Pearlman. Initially, his intention was to set up a modest site that would enable him to file his own collection of space memorabilia and to write about space history. In the first month, a mere 30 people visited the site. Now hundreds of thousands of people visit the site each month to find out about space auctions, discuss their latest acquisitions and read about space exploration.

So why are people so keen to purchase space memorabilia? Perhaps they are driven by a kind of nostalgia. In their desire to remember and relive the past, they use these objects to trigger fond memories. Or perhaps they simply long to own something that was held by a person who did something that they will never do. Whatever the reason, collectors like Pearlman are constantly on the lookout for that special find.

1. Read the text above and decide whether the statements 1 to 4 are true or false. Then, find the text fragment which confirms your answer in each case. Please, write "TRUE" or "FALSE" plus the text fragment (1 or two lines maximum) in the corresponding section of your answer sheet. (4 x 0.5 marks)

1. Space memorabilia became valuable in the 1950s.
2. Collectors of space memorabilia are only interested in purchasing items that were on the moon's surface.
3. A collector paid \$45,000 for the American flag on the moon
4. Robert Pearlman didn't predict what would happen to his site.

2. Complete each sentence with information from the text but using your words (about 10 to 15 words of your own per sentence). Please, DO NOT COPY literally from the text nor from the accompanying questions. (2 x 0.5 marks)

1. Many serious space collectors aren't ...
2. Space auctions cater to people who ...

SECTION II: OVERALL LANGUAGE ABILITY**(3 marks)**

3. Complete the text choosing the best option (a, b, or c) for each gap (1-15). Please, write your answers down in the corresponding section of your answer sheet. DO NOT COPY the words, only the letters using capitals (A, B, or C). (15 x 0.1 mark)

Weather

Weather influences the lives (1) __ everyone. The climate of any country depends on (2) __ position on Earth, its (3) __ from the sea and (4) __ high it is. In countries which have sea all (5) __ them, like Britain and New Zealand, winters are mild and summers are cool. There is not a huge change from one season to (6) __.

Countries near the Equator have hot weather all year with some (7) __ rain, except in deserts where it rains (8) __ little. Above the desert there are no clouds in the sky, so the (9) __ of the sun can easily warm the ground during the day, (10) __ it gets very cold at night.

People are always (11) __ in unusual weather, and pictures of tornadoes, for example, are shown on television. Strong winds and rain can (12) __ a lot of damage (13) __ buildings, and in spite of modern (14) __ of weather forecasting they can (15) __ surprise us.

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. a. from | b. of | c. to |
| 2. a. its | b. the | c. a |
| 3. a. distance | b. space | c. length |
| 4. a. so | b. how | c. very |
| 5. a. through | b. near | c. around |
| 6. a. next | b. another | c. other |
| 7. a. great | b. large | c. heavy |
| 8. a. quite | b. more | c. very |
| 9. a. heat | b. light | c. temperature |
| 10. a. so | b. but | c. and |
| 11. a. attracted | b. interested | c. keen |
| 12. a. make | b. have | c. cause |
| 13. a. in | b. to | c. at |
| 14. a. jobs | b. tools | c. methods |
| 15. a. still | b. yet | c. already |

4. Rewrite the sentences using the words in brackets in such a way that it keeps the meaning of the sentence printed before it and it includes a clear change of linguistic structure. Write your answer down (including the beginnings of the new sentences provided) in the corresponding section of your answer sheet. (3 x 0.5 marks)

1. She started drinking too much alcohol two years ago.
She has...
2. Despite having been vaccinated she caught the flu.
Although she...
3. It is possible that I finish work earlier than usual today.
I...

SECTION III: WRITING**(4 marks)**

5. Argumentative writing. It is a fact that social networks are present in our lives. Write an essay of about 150-175 words which includes two to four different arguments on the advantages and disadvantages of such a move. Please, write your answer down in the corresponding section of your answer sheet.