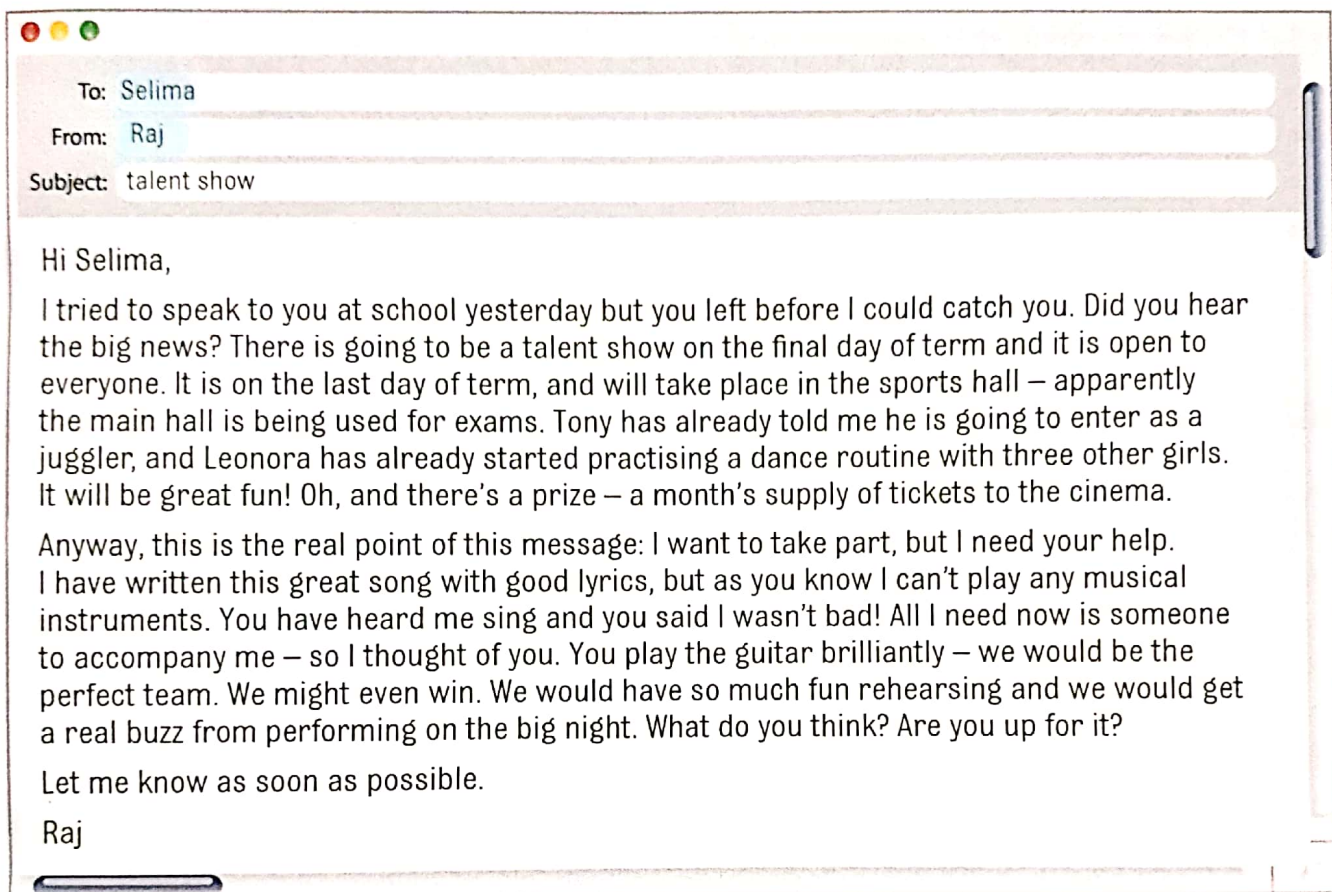


Reading paper

- ✪ Answer **all** questions in **English**.
- ✪ The **marks for questions** are shown in **brackets**.
- ✪ The maximum mark for this paper is **60**.

Text 1: Email

Read the email from Raj to his friend Selima, and then answer questions 1 to 6.



- 1 On what day will the talent show take place?
- 2 Which room in the school will be used for the show?
- 3 Who has already started preparing for the show with three friends?

[1 mark]

[1 mark]

[1 mark]

For the following questions (4 to 6), write down either A, B or C in each case.

4 Read the following statements. Which statement is **true**?

- A Tony wants to enter the show as a juggler.
- B The prize is tickets for the theatre.
- C Selima has written a song for the show.

[1 mark]

5 What is the **main point** of the **first paragraph**?

- A To ask Selima if she will perform with Raj in the show
- B To tell Selima that the exams are taking place in main hall
- C To tell Selima when and where the talent show will be

[1 mark]

6 What is the **main purpose** of this email?

- A To ask for advice
- B To entertain
- C To persuade

[1 mark]

Text 2: The longest beach

The Longest Beach in the World? Come to Bangladesh!

Are you fed up with overcrowded beaches? If so, you could do worse than try one of the world's largely-undiscovered gems – 'Cox's Bazar' in Bangladesh.

A rich history

Named after the English Captain who brought Burmese immigrants to settle there in the 1790s, it features the world's longest unbroken stretch of beach (an incredible 120 km or 75 miles, in case you're wondering), which runs along the Bay of Bengal. Parallel to the beach, visitors will be totally captivated by towering cliffs and multi-coloured, ancient pagodas and Hindu temples. It really does offer the tourist an amazing combination of nature and history. There are also cascading waterfalls, a game park, coral islands and charming tribal villages where the old ways of doing things are still revered.

Developing fast

Don't be put off by the infrastructure either. Yes, there can be power shortages and not all hotels are yet up to the standard of many other tourist hotspots, but over 100,000 local tourists visit the area at weekends between December and February – the peak tourist season. There are now many better hotels, including a five-star one, and the airport is in the process of being upgraded from a domestic to an international one. There is also the brand new Sheik Kamal international cricket stadium, which is a stone's throw from the area known as Laboni Beach. Buildings are going up at a frantic rate and some are worried about the impact on the environment and the speed of development, but many say that with a beach this long there is space for everyone!

Ideal for one

This is really the ideal spot for the independent adult traveller who does not mind discovering things for him or herself, and can rightly claim to have been somewhere different. Just imagine a stretch of sand as far as the eye can see, crystal-clear waters and beautiful coral and seashells which can be seen on islands like St Martin's. Does this sound like the place for you? If so, book your ticket now. Bangladesh will be delighted to welcome you to its record-breaking beach.

- 7 How long is 'Cox's Bazar' beach? [1 mark]
- 8 What is the name of the sports stadium which has just been built? [1 mark]
- 9 In the **first paragraph**, the writer says the visitor will be 'totally captivated' by some of the sights. What does this mean? [2 marks]
- 10 In the **second paragraph**, the writer says buildings are going up 'at a frantic rate'. What does this mean? [2 marks]
- 11 Which of these best describes the **main point** of the **first paragraph**?
- A The beach was named after an English captain.
 - B The beach is on the Bay of Bengal in Bangladesh.
 - C The beach and surrounding area have a lot to offer the visitor.
- [1 mark]
- 12 What is the **main purpose** of this text?
- A To inform independent travellers about what the beach offers
 - B To explain the history of the beach
 - C To persuade families to visit the beach
- [1 mark]
- 13 Below is a list of statements about the information given in Text 2. **Four** of these statements are correct. Write down the **four** correct answers.
- A It was first settled in the 1690s.
 - B Cox's Bazar is the world's longest beach.
 - C There are nearby waterfalls and temples worth visiting.
 - D Locals avoid visiting the beach in December and January.
 - E There are no five-star hotels yet.
 - F The cricket stadium is near Laboni Beach.
 - G The writer gives an opinion about how suitable it is for the independent traveller.
 - H Coral and seashells can be found at St Mart ha's island.
- [1 mark]
[4 marks]

Text 3 The world of work

Read the article below then answer questions 14–19.

Work experience: a great chance to explore the world of work

Nowadays, work experience (or being an intern as it is sometimes called) is very popular among young people. There are lots of types of work experience, but in essence it usually means working for free for a business in order to advance your career. Everyone seems to want to get ahead by getting work experience on their CV.

But is it all it's cracked up to be? Working for nothing in order to gain experience certainly has its upsides. For a start, you get a chance to see what the job you are interested in is really like. What is it like to be a salesperson, or a software designer? What does marketing entail? Actually being inside a business – even if for a short time – gives you an insight about whether you are suited for that type of work. There is not much point working in banking if you can't handle figures, but you might discover that you're really good at the human side – talking to customers or handling problems, something you might not have found out unless you had tried the work out. It also helps you build skills and make contacts for the future.

However, a short work experience may also give you a false impression of the job. After all, if you do just two weeks, can that give you a proper idea of what the job is like? Another issue with the short timescale is that you may not get on well with your fellow workers – but if you worked with them for longer, or in a real work situation, you might hit it off with them perfectly well! Also, employers sometimes give interns or volunteers really boring, unimportant work. What boss is going to give you anything worthwhile when you are only there as a volunteer?

For my own part, I can see these difficulties but from my own experience I think it is worth taking the chance. I have always wanted to work with animals, so I managed to get some work experience at our local vet's. Of course, I didn't do anything very demanding, but I was able to watch as the vet examined sick animals, and I saw lots of the essential work that goes on behind the scenes, such as caring for animals who had had an operation, cleaning the rooms and cages they were kept in, and ordering medical and food supplies. It gave me a really good idea of what was involved. And I learned to be punctual and dress smartly. Such transferable skills are vital in a competitive jobs' market. I suppose another criticism is that the businesses are getting your work for free, but I believe you stand to gain much more than you lose. All experience is good experience – and will help you make informed choices in your career.

Select the correct answer for questions 14 and 15.

14 Which of the following types of job is **not** mentioned in the article?

- A Banking
- B Marketing
- C Selling
- D Teaching
- E Designing software
- F Being a vet

[1 mark]

15 What is the **main point** of the **first paragraph**?

- A To explain what work experience is
- B To say that work experience is very popular
- C To explain what a CV is

[1 mark]

16 In the second paragraph, the writer says that work experience 'certainly has its upsides'. What does this mean?

[2 marks]

17 According to the article there are good points and bad points about work experience. List **five good points** and **five bad points**.

[10 marks]

18 In the **fourth paragraph**, the writer says that 'such transferable skills are vital in a competitive jobs' market'.

Which statement below best describes what the writer means?

- A The writer is making the point that getting a job is almost impossible.
- B Skills you learn from work experience can be important when lots of people are going for the same jobs.
- C The writer is making the point that you must learn new skills when you start a new job.

[1 mark]

19 In the **last paragraph** the writer says 'all experience is good experience'.

What does this mean?

[2 marks]

Text 4: In search of Scylla's cave

Read the text below and answer questions 21–30.

The following extract is taken from a collection of travel writing called 'From here to there.' In the extract, the writer is trying to find a mythical cave apparently once the home of a monster named Scylla, and is questioning some local fishermen.

'The cave!' I shouted down to them. 'Where's the cave?' They looked up, startled. I realized that I was so sure I would find the cave that I hadn't even asked, 'Is there any cave near here?' or some such general question. 'The cave? Where?' I yelled again. The fishermen were clearly annoyed to be disturbed. They turned their backs. I persisted. 'The cave! Please, the cave?' hoping that my very clumsy Greek pronunciation would be understood. I saw the two men confer, witnessed an irritated shrug. Obviously they thought I was a crazy tourist, and I caught the word '**Antonis**' (Anthony). Then in final exasperation before he turned back to his **eel**-spearing, one of the men gestured at the cliff behind me. Turning, I could just make out the corner of some sort of balcony with an iron railing projecting beyond the branches of an ancient olive tree, high up the crag. With growing excitement I hurried down the tarmac road until I found a footpath leading up the hillside. The path zigzagged back and forth, and hadn't been used recently for I pushed through cobwebs spun between the bushes. The fat spiders reminded me of Scylla, sitting in her lair waiting to seize the passing victims, for I *knew* that I was on the right track.

The path brought me to a short flight of steps, and these led me up on to the concrete balcony which I had noticed earlier. The balcony was something to do with a church, for there was a crude cross made of two extra pieces of the metal rail welded together, and a large bell was hung on a frame of metal pipes. A tiled roof had been built out from the cliff face as a sort of porch, and at the back of the balcony were two small windows and a brown painted door led into the cliff face. On closer inspection I saw that the door was set in a section of man-made wall which had been constructed to fill in the overhang of rock. Above the door was a large iron key on a nail. I unlocked the door and, feeling like **Alice** walking through the looking glass, stepped inside.

I was standing in a cave. It had been turned into a chapel, but the shape and atmosphere of the original grotto were not masked in any way. Its walls were grotesque. They were blobbed and runnelled like melted wax and streaked with smoke from the offertory candles. The highest point of the cave was about fifteen feet and it was some twelve feet deep and about thirty feet wide, a gloomy hole scooped in the cliff face. It was the perfect den for Scylla.

Scylla: a monster who appears in Greek myths and legends

Antonis: the cave is now called St Anthony's cave

eel: a type of fish with the appearance of a snake

Alice: the girl from *Alice through the Looking Glass* by Lewis Carroll, who enters a strange world through a mirror

Tim Severin

- 21 The title given to the extract in the book is 'In search of Scylla's cave'.
Explain why this is a suitable title, given the first line of the extract. [2 marks]
- 22 What is the **main point** of the **first paragraph**? [1 mark]
- A To tell the reader about the difficulties in finding the cave
 - B To tell the reader about the legend of Scylla
 - C To tell the reader about eel fishing
- 23 In the **first paragraph**, there are **a number of things** that suggest the writer is in the correct place. Give **two** examples. [2 marks]
- 24 At the end of the **first paragraph** the writer says the 'fat spiders reminded me of Scylla'. How does he feel about this? [1 mark]
- A Frightened
 - B Pleased it's the right place
 - C Disappointed
- 25 In the **second paragraph**, the writer says he felt 'like Alice walking through the looking glass.' What does this mean? [3 marks]
- 26 In the **third paragraph**, the writer describes the features of the cave.
List **five things** he mentions. [5 marks]
- 27 In the **third paragraph**, the writer describes the walls as 'grotesque'.
What does this mean? [1 mark]
- A They were ugly and unpleasant.
 - B They were decorated brightly.
 - C They were enormous.
- 28 In the **third paragraph**, the writer is certain he has found Scylla's cave.
What does he say that makes this clear? [1 mark]