Part 2

For questions 16–30, complete the following article by writing the missing words in the correct box on the answer sheet. Use only one word for each space. The exercise begins with an example (0).

Example: 0 by 0

WRONGED BY HOW YOU WRITE

The handwriting of school children could spell the difference between success and failure in examinations according to research carried out by the Open University.

In a study (0) .... Dennis Briggs of the Faculty of Educational Studies, it was found that essays which were written (16) .... different styles of handwriting attracted different marks. 'The findings suggest that (17) .... is a borderline zone within examination marking where (18) .... an essay is written may be almost as important as what the essay is about,' said Mr Briggs. Five essays were double marked (19) .... the second marker unaware of the marks of the first marker. The essay scripts for the second marker (20) .... been copied out in three writing styles. Two of the styles were ones (21) .... had been the subject of continual criticism at school.

(22) .... the markers were practising teachers who (23) .... told that the effectiveness of double marking was (24) .... checked. The results showed that a 12-year old who can present an essay one way will do better, perhaps (25) .... better, (26) .... a friend who presents the (27) .... standard in terms of content but who (28) .... not or cannot make it look so attractive. The conclusion is that school children may not do as (29) .... as perhaps they could (30) .... their handwriting is untidy.
PART 1  (1 hour)

For questions 1-12, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Example: 0 A endure B experience C suffer D bear

0 A endure B experience C suffer D bear

Exam Tip

If a verb is being tested, look for structural factors, like prepositions, which are needed to produce the meaning that fits the situation.

DIAGNOSING DYSLEXIA

Approximately five per cent of the population (0) suffer from dyslexia. The (1) of the disorder is unknown and it is (2) found in people of otherwise normal intellectual ability. The condition is (3) by severe reading difficulties, with dyslexics frequently confusing letters or words. They may, for example, read or write letters, words or sentences in the wrong (4). Although the problem can be (5) with intensive instruction, sufferers usually continue to read and write poorly throughout their lives.

Traditionally, diagnosis has been made by reading experts, which means that many (6) are not formally (7) until a child is around ten years of age. Now, however, a group of psychologists in the United States believe that they have found a way of identifying in their first days of life children who will develop dyslexia. This is exciting news as early identification and (8) make early instruction possible, perhaps avoiding later problems altogether.

The research team has identified (9) differences between the brain (10) patterns of dyslexics and those of better readers. Attaching electrodes to the heads of babies just 36 hours old, they measured the size and speed of their brain responses to selected stimuli. The children were (11) and given IQ and comprehension tests every two years. At eight, reading tests were administered to identify those who were dyslexic. More than 90 percent diagnosed as dyslexic could have been singled out at birth.

This research is still in its (12), but may result in a future in which dyslexia no longer causes lifelong distress.

1 A cause B reason C result D explanation
2 A naturally B commonly C customarily D actually
3 A characterised B distinguished C marked D identified
4 A arrangement B surpassed C sequence D order
5 A defeated B cases C times D conquered
6 A instances B noted down C shown up D occurrences
7 A picked up B intrusion C intervention D put down
8 A interference B evident C distinct D signal
9 A frank B wave C pulse D precise
10 A pace B viewed C followed D inspected
11 A monitored B infancy C outset D origins
Part 3
You are going to read a magazine article. For questions 13-19, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Writing and Wishing
Felicity Price loves to write, but even with her fifth novel just out, she has yet to make a living from literature.

"By the time I finished the 180,000-word draft of my first novel, I had convinced myself that the global appeal of the book. Being the toast of international book festivals, being the toast of the literary world. But then I realized that I needed a publisher and the book was rejected. It was eventually accepted, but the end of the road. I had to cut 50,000 words, shrink it down to a more publishable size. I received letters from my editor, and then I was preparing to add the finishing touches to the book. But the first time I read the final draft, I was shocked."

Finally, with the book in hand, I was ready to send it off. The publisher was satisfied, and I was ready to give it all up for good. The only issue was that almost all of them were used, passing the book, and I decided against judging in spirit. But one particular reviewer picked it up and I was back to throwing down the pen forever.

A bookstore invited me to do a book signing. And I was on a high again. The sale manager showed me to a little table where people would queue to meet me. The author of the book they were clutching. I sat down and tried to fight off the stress of being at the event. They did pass me by. At last, someone came up to the table. My heart skipped a beat. "Where is the new Jamie Oliver book, please?" "Sorry, I don't work here."

I held up hopefully. They flipped polite-interest, then headed purposefully in the direction of the cooking section. Finally, five books sold and autographed, including one to a friend. But at least the bookshops where you go for signings have your books prominently displayed. I admit that I went around other bookstores looking for any sign of my novel and pushed it towards the front of the display but I stood no chance against celebrity narrators.

Getting published is an emotional rollercoaster. So why do it? Hardly for the fame and certainly not the fortune. The best part of writing a novel is being tucked away in a room with a good CD on the stereo and a laptop recording every word you write — and rave. It's much more fun than journalism because you don't have to worry about facts getting in the way of a good story. You can improve on real people, or merge several into one multifaceted anti-hero, you can embellish a true story and the characters you create can take over and almost tell the story themselves. Sure, sometimes you have to force yourself to do it. I've been known to go to the dentist just to put off the hour when I have to start a new chapter. But once I get going, I don't want to stop.

There is one other compelling reason to sit in front of the computer for endless hours until your back aches and your brain hurts — and that's your readers. There is nothing more gratifying than being stopped in the street by someone wanting to tell you how much they enjoyed your book and asking you about one of the characters in such detail they seem to think it was real. But you rarely get to experience such joy for very long. "I loved it so much I lent it to my friend," they go on to say. "And she lent it to..." You grind your teeth, counting lost sales as it gets passed from one reader to the next because that's the next thing to worry about — will it sell?

Even if booksellers agree to stock your novel, writing fiction may not pay well unless you hit the big time, but writing on commission — that is being asked to write a book on a specific subject — certainly helps make ends meet. I've written several books on commission, including a fictional history of Lake Togeto and a company history. Providing you are dealing with a subject which is interesting, writing on commission can be both professionally and financially rewarding, paying you a more realistic rate for your labour, not hard when your fiction earns you less than a dollar an hour. But you need to write more than one commissioned book a year to make the equivalent of a full-time wage, and then you won't have any time left to write a novel.

In the end, it's not about the money or public recognition. Let's face it, few authors are asked to sell their wedding photos to a women's magazine. Writing novels isn't a ticket to a celebrity circus, which is hardly surprising when you have to spend all your productive time locked away in your study, writing in an anonymous isolation, but it does bring its own rewards. The joy of writing is in the creation of something that has a life of its own and that can give pleasure to others. But just the same, it would be nice to make the top spot on the best-seller list just this once.
13 How did the writer feel about the process of getting her first novel published?
A She resented having to abandon the book and begin another.
B She felt she had been misled about the book’s potential success.
C She had last-minute doubts about the marketing of the book.
D She was dismayed that her writing was not as good as she had believed.

14 Which phrase in paragraph two is echoed by ‘throwing down my pen forever’?
A the bubble burst all over again
B what leapt out at me
C to give it all up for good
D decided against indulging in self-pity

15 What are we told about the writer’s experience during the book signing event?
A She felt reluctant to attend this promotional event in person.
B She was surprised by the amount of interest shown in her book.
C She was resentful that her book was not clearly on display.
D She tried to remain optimistic despite being ignored.

16 The writer compares fiction writing to journalism in order to emphasize
A the greater amount of public admiration that fiction writers receive.
B the point that fiction allows writers more creative freedom.
C the limitations journalists face when they want to criticize people.
D the effort it requires to make certain news stories appealing to readers.

17 What point does the writer make about some of her readers in paragraph five?
A They frustrate her when they allow their friends to borrow her books.
B They are harder to please because they are familiar with her previous work.
C They often bother her at inappropriate moments.
D They do not appreciate the effort that is required in writing a novel.

18 What is the writer doing in the penultimate paragraph?
A discouraging people from taking up novel writing
B explaining the pros and cons of writing commissioned books
C specifying which kinds of commissioned books are worth writing
D criticizing the publishing industry for the way it treats writers

19 In the last paragraph, the writer draws a comparison between ‘the celebrity circuit’ and
A public recognition.
B productive time.
C anonymous isolation.
D the top spot.