Exercise 1

Read the following article about travel from London to Paris, and then answer the questions on the opposite page.

Train from London to Europe by Eurostar

With Eurostar, Paris is only three hours from London. It used to take three journeys – a trip to the airport, a flight, and then a third journey from airport to city centre. With Eurostar, it’s one journey direct from city centre to city centre. It is one of the most technologically advanced trains in the world, speeding you effortlessly at 290 km per hour through the beautiful countryside of Europe. And on Eurostar not only do you save time, but your time belongs to you. You have space. You can read, relax and even enjoy a delicious meal.

Somewhere magical

Eurostar can carry you straight to the centre of Disneyland in Paris. During the school holidays and from April to September, the direct service operates daily. At other times of the year, it runs at weekends. You can spend your journey planning the fun and with over 50 attractions for both adults and children at the Disneyland Park, there is plenty of fun to choose from. It’s a wonderful place where everybody is guaranteed an unforgettable experience.

Easy to book, easy to travel

Our friendly, multi-lingual staff are available at all times to help you, both at the terminal and on the train. To reserve your ticket, the telephone booking line is open from 08:00 to 21:00 Monday to Saturday and 09:00 to 17:00 on Sundays, or visit the website at www.eurostar.com where you will find some great ideas and useful information about destinations to help you plan your trip.

Eurostar tickets can be booked up to 90 days in advance. Whether you have booked on the telephone or the internet, we can send the tickets to your home address, or, for last-minute bookings, you can collect them at the Eurostar station just before your journey.

Do you travel a lot?

For those who travel regularly, Eurostar Frequent Traveller membership brings many benefits, such as express check-in (up to ten minutes before departure). As a member, you can also earn points every time you travel, which can be exchanged for rewards. Call 07814 113 114 for further information or an application form.
(a) How fast can the Eurostar train travel?  

(b) Apart from relaxing, what else can you do on the train? Give two details. 
   (i) ...........................................................................................................  
   (ii) ...........................................................................................................  

(c) How often does the train travel to Disneyland in July?  

(d) What does Disneyland offer for all the family?  

(e) How can Eurostar staff help if you do not speak English?  

(f) Give two ways of booking a ticket.  
   (i) ...........................................................................................................  
   (ii) ...........................................................................................................  

(g) Why is it not possible to reserve tickets in January for travel in August?  

(h) How can Eurostar Frequent Traveller members earn rewards?  

[Total: 8]
Exercise 2

Jeju Island in Korea is famous for its female divers, called the Haenyo. Read the following article and then answer the questions on the opposite page.

The women divers of Jeju

The boat speeds away from the shores of Korea’s Jeju Island. On board is Goh Soon Ja and her hand-picked team, dressed in black wetsuits with stones tied to their waists to weigh them down. They prepare themselves for the day’s work. Some of them rub water into their diving masks, while others shout at each other above the engine noise. They speak a dialect that cannot be understood by standard Korean speakers.

These are the Haenyo, the strong women divers of Jeju Island. Normally, the women occupy themselves with the household tasks but, during peak tide, they make their way to the ocean. Their nets and fishing baskets are thrown over their shoulders. When the tides are not right, they go and work in the fields.

Goh was chosen as the area leader two years ago when she was 56 years old because of her strong diving skills and experience. The oldest diver in her group is 80 years old, and today there are few divers under the age of 40. According to a recent Government survey, there are three thousand divers over the age of 60, but only two below 30 years of age. These figures are a major contrast to the 1950s when there were around 30,000 women divers on the island. New career opportunities for women are beginning to appear as the Korean mainland becomes more accessible through modern communications and better forms of transport.

The divers jump into the sea in pairs and start work immediately in the menacing darkness, collecting items from the ocean floor – octopus, sea urchin, cucumber and seaweed. After she has made sure that all the other divers are safely out of the boat, Goh throws her white float and net into the sea and dives in. The currents in this region are unpredictable, but she remains under the water for almost two minutes, finally surfacing from her 15-metre dive to let out a long breath.

Throughout history, these brave women have dealt with poverty, invasions and the loss of their husbands, by accepting responsibilities that were traditionally handled by men. The women physically rebuilt their villages, worked the land and dived for food for their families. It is still a mystery why diving became a woman’s occupation and involves very few of the island’s men. There are some who believe that women are more suited to diving; the higher ratio of fat contained in their bodies enables them to endure the freezing water better. Others believe that the female body is able to handle water pressure better than the male body.

Whatever the reason, years of tradition have led these women to adopt a dangerous occupation. Many of them have to rely on pills to control frequent headaches caused by the water pressure.
(a) How do the women weigh themselves down for each dive?

(b) How do the women spend their time when they are not diving? Give two details.
   (i) .................................................................
   (ii) ...............................................................

(c) Why was Goh Soon Ja chosen to be area leader? Give two details.
   (i) ....................................................................
   (ii) ...................................................................

(d) According to the diagram, what is the total number of women divers on Jeju island today?

(e) Why are so few young women choosing to become divers?

(f) Why does Goh enter the water after all the other divers?

(g) Why do men physically have problems with deep diving? Give two details.
   (i) ....................................................................
   (ii) ....................................................................

(h) Which health problem is caused by diving?

(i) Give four details of the difficult conditions the women have to face in the water.

[Total: 14]
Exercise 3

Stefan Lofstadt and his family have a small apartment in Warsaw, Poland, that they would like to exchange for holidays with people from other countries. Stefan lives there with his father, Johann (who owns the property) and his younger sister, Eva, who is 18 years old. The apartment is situated on the second floor of a block about 2 kilometres from the city centre and the address is 23 Nowy Swiat. The family moved to the apartment when it was brand new, two years after the birth of Eva. The transport facilities to get from their home to the shops in the city are good; a regular bus service passes by every 20 minutes. There is no train and it is not possible to walk to the city centre because the road is busy and dangerous, so the only alternative to the bus is the car.

The apartment has two bedrooms, a kitchen and a lounge, which contains a table and chairs where the family eat. There is no separate dining-room. It is possible for five people to sleep in the apartment but for comfort the ideal number is four. There are facilities for washing and drying clothes. There is a telephone, computer and access to the internet at all times for no extra charge. The Lofstadt family also have a dog which, in the past, has been looked after by neighbours when they have been on holiday. However, the neighbours are old and do not want the responsibility any more. As a special request, the family would like the exchange visitors to feed and walk the dog as a condition for staying in the apartment.

The area has facilities for leisure activities within walking distance. There is a modern cinema for the family and a large supermarket. There is also a small outdoor swimming pool but this is sometimes closed, depending on the time of year. It is always open in June, July and August but for other months visitors need to check at the tourist information centre for up-to-date details. Other leisure activities are found about 30 minutes’ journey from the city where there is a national park to the west. In addition, about one hour’s drive to the east, there is a lake with a long sandy beach, ideal for walking and windsurfing.

In case of medical problems, the city hospital has an emergency department which is about 15 minutes by car from the apartment. For routine treatment, there is also a health centre situated on the outskirts of the city, about 35 minutes away.

When the exchange family arrive, they can pick up the key to the apartment from the local agency which is situated in the shopping centre next to the apartment block. The office is open from 9.00am to 6.00pm every day except Sunday. The arrival day for families is Saturday after 2.00pm to give time for the apartment to be prepared and cleaned. Departure time is 10.00am on Saturday. The agency can be contacted by telephone (1243 773201) during office hours or mobile phone (0849427523). Before the family arrive, they are advised to inspect the property by logging on to the website www.homexchange.com where there is a full description and several pictures of the apartment as well as scenes from the local area. Exchange families may also contact the agency by email at jackshome@awl.com

Imagine that you are Stefan. Fill in the registration form on the opposite page, using the information above.
Holiday Exchange Registration Form

Section A  Property details
Owner’s name ............................................................................................................................................................
Address of property ..................................................................................................................................................
Age of property ........................................................................................................................................................
Accommodation most suitable for:  2  3  4  5  6+ people (please circle one)
Facilities □ washing machine □ telephone □ television □ internet
□ computer □ garden □ garage
(please tick those available)

Section B  Local area
Public transport ............................................................................................................................................................
Leisure facilities: on foot .........................................................................................................................................
by car/public transport ...........................................................................................................................................
Full details of nearest medical facilities ...........................................................................................................

Section C  Agency details
Business hours ............................................................................................................................................................
Contact details ..........................................................................................................................................................
Property viewing at ..................................................................................................................................................

Section D
Write one sentence of between 12 and 20 words giving details of any special requests for your exchange family while they are staying in your house.
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...................................................................................................................................................................................
...................................................................................................................................................................................

[Total: 8]
Exercise 4

Read the following article about Oetzi, a Stone Age man, discovered in the mountains of Central Europe.

Thawing out the truth about Oetzi

Many thousands of years after his death, a Stone Age man found frozen in the Alps in Austria in Central Europe is slowly revealing his secrets to a global team of scientists. Despite more than a decade of high-tech efforts by experts, many questions about his life and death remain unsolved. Moreover, rumours of a deadly curse on those who found him continue to grow.

German amateur mountaineer Helmut Simon and his wife spotted 'Oetzi', as the Stone Age man has since become known, in a valley in the mountains between Italy and Austria in 1991. At first glance, they thought it was the body of an unfortunate hiker. Forensic scientists also failed to recognise the significance of the discovery on first inspection. Only recently have new methods such as DNA testing produced a clearer picture of his life.

Data analysed from soil and water samples has already shown that Oetzi grew up in the Pustertal region south of the Alps and left his home valley when he was 20 to 30 years old. Archaeologists believe he may have been a kind of travelling healer because he used medicinal herbs. A series of short, dark, parallel lines on his chest have been identified as an early form of acupuncture used to treat his bone problems.

But even the best scientists have been unable to explain his death. In 2001, with the help of digital X-ray images, doctors detected an arrowhead in the Stone Age man's shoulder blade. DNA tests also revealed traces of blood from four different people on Oetzi's clothes. He also had a deep cut between his first finger and thumb, possibly as the result of a fight. "He could have been a tribal leader who was the victim of a political plot and assassinated by his own tribe," says Professor Walter Leitner, "or members of an enemy tribe might have attacked him and robbed him. Alternatively, in an injured state, he could simply have been overcome by the extreme weather conditions that arrive with little warning in the mountains."

Science has also been unable to explain a series of sinister accidents since Oetzi was discovered. Forensic doctor Rainer Henn, one of the first to touch the body, died in a car crash on his way to a lecture about the Stone Age man. A mountain guide, who helped when the body was found, fell to his death, and a journalist, who filmed the excavation of Oetzi, died from cancer. In October, 2004, Helmut Simon fell to his death in the Alps, after a sudden, unexpected storm broke out near the spot where he first discovered the Stone Age man.
You are going to give a talk about Oetzi to your class. Prepare some notes to use as the basis for your talk.

Make your points under each heading; the first has been done for you.

High-tech methods used to research the body
• DNA testing
• .............................................................................................................
• .............................................................................................................

Physical details of Oetzi
• .............................................................................................................
• .............................................................................................................
• .............................................................................................................

Possible reasons for Oetzi’s death
• .............................................................................................................
• .............................................................................................................
• .............................................................................................................
Do crocodiles hunt humans? It is a question that is dividing scientists, politicians and conservationists as crocodile populations grow.

Recently, newspapers reported the death of a tourist in south-east Asia after being attacked by a crocodile. Rising human and crocodile populations are being blamed for the claimed increase in attacks. However, some scientists say that there is not enough evidence to start a campaign of hunting and killing these creatures. Many experts believe that crocodiles do not intentionally attack humans. A leading conservationist gives the following example: “A few years ago, we established a mangrove swamp sanctuary in southern India when numbers of saltwater crocodiles were critically low. The area was designated a national park but it was overrun with people wanting to visit. In a mangrove swamp you can’t see a hand in front of your face, the water is so thick. Under these conditions, a crocodile can take anybody at once. The fact is that there were hardly any attacks during the ten years that we were monitoring the sanctuary. Biologically the crocodile’s instinct is to avoid humans. They don’t find us interesting as food.”

Conservationists argue that if we are not careful crocodiles could be hunted to extinction just like elephants. However, some politicians disagree and are very concerned about the increase in the crocodile population. In southern Africa, for example, there are claims that these creatures are coming more and more into areas inhabited by humans. As one leading politician states: “It is becoming impossible for certain villages to live in harmony with these deadly reptiles. Crocodiles are learning very quickly to regard humans as prey. The situation is that crocodiles have become too numerous in certain areas and this is the cause of some of the attacks. There are too many people and crocodiles in the same place.”

Experts agree that the saltwater crocodile is one of only two species worldwide which is known to attack people. The other is the Nile crocodile. Worldwide, Nile crocodile numbers have undoubtedly risen and that has added to the problems. The total population estimate is now between 250,000 and 300,000 – a big increase for a species that was facing extinction 30 years ago.

Conservationists also agree that crocodile farming, where the animals are harvested to ensure that numbers are controlled, is preferable to hunting. Farmers breed them and can sell their meat and eggs. As one conservationist says: “Crocodiles can become an economic resource for people. Communities can actually benefit from their presence, provided that the farming is done properly and scientifically.”
Exercise 6

Recently you visited an elderly relative for a week's holiday.

After the visit, you decide to write a letter to a friend about your holiday.

Your letter should be between 150 and 200 words long. Do not write an address.

In your letter you should:

- explain one problem that occurred
- say what you did about it
- describe your feelings about the visit

You will receive up to 9 marks for the content of your letter and up to 9 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.
Exercise 7

Your school/college is preparing a project about keeping animals in zoos.

Here are some comments from your friends on this topic:

“Most people have the chance to see endangered species in our zoos.”

“Animals were born to be free and live naturally.”

“We can study their behaviour better in captivity.”

“No animals are happy in a cage.”

Your teacher has asked you to write an article giving your views about the issue.

Your article should be about 150-200 words long.

The comments above may give you some ideas but you are free to use any ideas of your own.

You will receive up to 9 marks for the content of your article, and up to 9 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.