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# B1/B2 Reading Comprehension

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Parts 1 to 5

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Length of exam: 75 minutes

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## 1. Volunteer Jobs

Read the text below and **complete the sentences with a maximum of 4 words**. Record your answers on the answer sheet. You have an example (**0**) which has been done for you.

### Using volunteer jobs for work experience

We hear it all the time.

"I'm a teen looking for my first job, but employers all seem to want experience and I don't have any. What do I do?"

We've got one word for you - *volunteer*.

Volunteering is the best way to get the experience you need to score a great teen job. You might be surprised at how easy it is to find a volunteer position that fits your interests. These five opportunities are both fun and will show potential employers that you're responsible. Not only will volunteering help you score a teen job, but it can actually help you get into college!

Are you interested in TV and movies?

If you want to be the next Katie Couric or Quentin Tarantino, then consider volunteering at your local PBS or public access station. They're always looking for people to run cameras and help out with other behind-the-scenes work. You'll meet and learn all about video production from the experts, giving you a head start on your future career.

Are you interested in working with children?

Camps, daycares and church groups offer great volunteer opportunities for teens who like to work with children. You'll need to be patient, caring and organized. Those of you thinking about a future career in teaching may want to work your way up to a volunteer position as a teacher or camp counselor. It's a great way to learn more about the ins and outs of the profession and will help you to see if you're a good fit.

Are you interested in history or science?

Call up your local museum or aquarium. You may end up helping feed the sharks or end up conducting museum tours. You may also end up helping with paperwork and other administrative work. Check to find out if there are any requirements before applying, because some museums and aquariums require that you be a certain age or have a teacher's recommendation.

Are you interested in medicine?

You can really make a difference in the lives of others by volunteering at a hospital or nursing home. Whether you help deliver food to the bedridden or play chess with bored patients, you'll be helping to improve the quality of someone's life.

<http://www.snagajob.com/resources/teen-job-experience/>

Complete the sentences with a maximum of **4 words**.

1. It's not difficult to get an appropriate **volunteer position.**

1. Volunteering improves educational prospects and helps you to get a...

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2. TV professionals can teach you techniques of...

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3. Volunteer as a camp counselor if you want a job...

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4. Some teens are too young to volunteer in...

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5. Sick people in hospital often feel...

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## **2. Trips for Teens.**

Read the following text about the three trips for teenagers and complete the table with the number of the correct trip (**1, 2, or 3**). You have an example (**0**) which has been done for you.

### **Trip 1: Amsterdam, Belgium and Paris**

Come join us for a trip that provides a thrilling mix of Europe's most popular destinations and its lesser-known marvels! Stroll along the canals of Amsterdam, and visit Anne Frank's house, all while familiarizing yourself with Dutch culture, history, and food! Learn how to make chocolate in Brussels, reflect on the lessons of history at Fort Breendonk Concentration Camp, and bike through the stunning Belgian countryside with a local guide. In Paris, soak up the City of Light as you explore the hip artistic neighborhood of Montmartre, get the best view from the top of the Eiffel Tower, go on a guided tour of the Louvre including a visit to the Mona Lisa, cruise along the Seine at sunset, and so much more. Come to know these three countries just as well as any local with this hands-on travel experience!

### **Trip 2: Costa Rica**

Join us in Costa Rica for unforgettable memories and valuable service work! We will have the unique opportunity to perform 20 hours of valuable service work in two different communities. In La Fortuna we will work alongside the local association of Boy Scouts with various projects like planting trees to promote a better ecosystem, light construction, and clean-up projects. TFT feels strongly about the impact of this organization and we contribute every year to help them continue their mission in the community.

In Sámara we work with another local association that provide supplemental educational, recreational, and career opportunities for youth with limited resources in the rural beach communities of the surrounding area. We will be helping run one of their many programs focusing on academic and artistic education, environmental consciousness, health, and socio-cultural development. Projects vary but our service work typically consist of working on art projects with the children, reading to them, teaching them English, and general upkeep of the school such as painting and light maintenance.

Along with our meaningful service work you will explore volcanoes, jungles and beaches. We will experience the best Costa Rica has to offer while zip lining, hiking, white water rafting, sea kayaking, and much more! Pura Vida!

### Trip 3: Southeast Asia

Prepare to experience some of the best South East Asia has to offer! The trip begins in charming Luang Prabang, Laos, nestled on the Mekong River with magnificent mountainous terrain, French colonial architecture, hill tribe settlements, Buddhist monasteries, world famous waterfalls to swim in and of course Elephants all around! Charming local markets will fill every shoppers dream as we learn the best haggling techniques. From there head to Vietnam and experience the stunning beauty of Sa Pa with its renowned rice terraces and the majesty of surreal Halong Bay. We will wander through the lush terraces, get a taste of local life, and relax on the water while enjoying delicious food and unbelievable sights.

<http://www.travelforteens.com/teen-tours/discover-europe/>

Where...

<b>0</b>	can you find out about the past?	<b>1</b>
<b>1</b>	will you go on a guided tour?	
<b>2</b>	will you help to protect nature?	
<b>3</b>	will you help people learn a language?	
<b>4</b>	does it talk about buying things from the country?	
<b>5</b>	does it talk about eating?	
<b>6</b>	will you visit an area where creative people live?	
<b>7</b>	will you do adventure sports?	
<b>8</b>	will you go for a boat ride on a river?	

### 3. Is cheating ok?

Read the following students' opinions on cheating. For each question **1–8**, choose from the students below. An example (**0**) has been done for you. You may need to use a name more than once.

**Stacey**

I believe that cheating is wrong, but sometimes school can be so stressful you're tempted to look at your neighbor's paper or bring a cheat sheet. In high school, your main focus is to get good grades, so you can get into a good college. When teachers hound you with homework and give you a test on top of that, you feel the need to cheat despite any possible consequences. Many of my classmates cheat, so when you see them cheat and get good grades, you want to as well.

**Edison**

It makes me feel good when I have an opportunity to cheat then don't. In eighth grade our math teacher was way too trusting. We were taking a test and everyone got up out of their seats when he left the room. It was a big cheat fest, but I didn't. I'd like to have a report card and say, "this is my grade."

**Diane**

I have never cheated and I think it's wrong. Yet the pressure placed on this generation has forced teenagers to cheat. From the constant, "What did you get?" when grades are posted, to trying to maintain the 4.0 that elite colleges require as almost "standard," students find themselves turning to cheating. Although I'm pretty mad when I see people cheat while I study, I think part of the blame should be put on all the pressures that kids deal with. If the dog-eat-dog viciousness in the classroom would cool down, kids would not cheat. Teenagers cheat so that they can reach an artificial sense of success. But people's morals really do reflect karma: what goes around comes around. Just like in Disney movies, the good guy will win and the cheater will lose.

**Belinda**

There's no doubt that cheating is wrong. Also, it's unfortunate that so many students feel the pressure to cheat. For me, cheating is just a waste of time because it takes more effort to cheat than to study. At my school there is a lot of cheating. I've cheated in the past, but because of moral reasons, I stopped. I figured that studying and taking the test would be easier than working to cheat. But I can definitely understand the pressure to cheat. I can see why students cheat, but I don't agree with it.

**Rene Franco**

If teens cheat more than ever it's because they are stressed out more than ever. I don't know if it's right for teens to do it though. The teens who are dependent on copying papers and cheating on exams will never become used to doing things on their own. But telling students not to cheat is not a solution. Teens will continue to fold under the pressure because we have no power over how much work teachers impose on us. We can't say, "Wait, hold on, that's too much."

**Fiona Hansen**

It's so hard for me to say whether cheating is wrong or right. I think, well, cheating is OK if it's the teacher's fault. You know, if a teacher isn't making the material understandable, you have to do something to keep your grades up. But it's not OK when the motive is just "oh, I'm lazy," "I'm tired," "I don't feel like it," or "I would rather sleep in class." How can I say whether it's wrong or right when it's both? And how can I say it's right when my conscience says otherwise?

### Lia Dun

Many of my classmates don't think cheating is a moral issue. There is so much pressure to get into college that no one cares if it's wrong. In fact, even though I think cheating is wrong, the fear of getting caught and ruining my grades is a stronger motivator not to cheat than my integrity.

Taken from: <http://www.layouth.com/is-cheating-ok/>

Use the first letter of the student's name to answer the questions.

- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| <b>S</b> - Stacey  | <b>R</b> - Rene  |
| <b>E</b> - Edison  | <b>F</b> - Fiona |
| <b>D</b> - Diane   | <b>L</b> - Lía   |
| <b>B</b> - Belinda |                  |

Who....

<b>0</b>	thinks that teachers should be more suspicious?	<b>E</b>
<b>1</b>	doesn't cheat because of what might happen?	
<b>2</b>	thinks that cheating teens won't be self-sufficient?	
<b>3</b>	believes that unethical behaviour has consequences?	
<b>4</b>	believes honesty is more satisfying?	
<b>5</b>	thinks that cheating is harder than studying?	
<b>6</b>	says that bad teaching can excuse cheating?	
<b>7</b>	has considered cheating?	
<b>8</b>	now disagrees with what he/she used to do?	

#### 4. Ultimate Frisbee

Read the article about Ultimate Frisbee, a sport. For questions **1-5**, choose the correct answer (**A, B, C or D**). The first one (**0**) has been done for you as an example.

##### **This Australian athlete says it's time to take ultimate frisbee seriously**

Michelle Phillips is one of Australia's elite athletes. She's represented Australia internationally numerous times, and last year she was the captain of an Australian team. But you probably haven't heard of her. That's because she plays ultimate frisbee, a sport which started in America in the late 1960s but still isn't that well known.

##### **Players call their own shots**

Ultimate frisbee, or ultimate as it's often called, is a fast-paced, seven-on-seven game played with a plastic disc — the kind you might have thrown around on the beach. It's played mixed-gendered at the highest level of the sport, and you score by catching the frisbee in your end zone. Most importantly, the sport is self-refereed, even when played at international tournaments like the world championships. Players call their own fouls, and any disputes on the field are resolved by those involved.

Phillips discovered ultimate frisbee in 2006, during her first year of university, and says she became entirely devoted to it after embracing its sense of community. "In the early days, I played a lot of social tournaments, and within a few months of playing, I had friends all over Australia," she says. "As I kept playing, the thing that really started to mean more to me was the spirit of the game — which is the whole nature of the sport being self-refereed. As a player, you not only call your own fouls, but at a basic level you're responsible for upholding the rules and for playing in a way that shows high sportsmanship. It was just mind-blowing to be in a sport where that is the culture."

##### **Family recognises a 'natural talent for frisbee'**

Her father Rod Phillips says it was clear from the beginning that his daughter was very committed to ultimate frisbee. "Michelle takes most things quite seriously, whether it be learning to ride a motorbike, learning to speak Arabic, skydiving, or raising bees," he says. "She had a natural talent for frisbee — she's fast, she's very athletic; she's got an amazing vertical leap and she's an exquisitely good judge of where the disc is going."

Just two years after discovering ultimate frisbee, Michelle made it onto the Australian women's team. In the years since, she's played in the UK, Japan, America, Italy, the Philippines, Colombia, Singapore, the Czech Republic and Canada. She coaches the Australian Under-24 Women's team, trains several junior players, is setting up a

women's coaching development program, and is working with Cambodia's first women's frisbee team. If that weren't enough, she also has a day job as a manuscript editor.

### **The ultimate challenges**

Unlike athletes representing Australia in more conventional sports, ultimate players have to pay their own way — footing the bill to travel interstate for training camps, and overseas for international tournaments like the World Games. "As soon as I started playing world's campaigns, it became a lot harder," Phillips says. "A world's campaign could cost us as individual players anywhere between \$4,000 and \$10,000, depending on the number of training camps and how long the campaign was."

In 2015, when the Australian Football League tested 150 female athletes from a range of different sports, all three of the ultimate players invited to attend ranked in the top 10. But not everyone takes you seriously when you say you're an elite frisbee player. "It's a real challenge, both for female athletes and for athletes playing ultimate," Phillips says. "The external community doesn't necessarily respect the sport that much, and it's easy to carry that and then not feel like you're an athlete."

She says she just ignores comments that ultimate frisbee isn't a real sport, or that it's not important enough to be in the Olympics. "It's actually quite arbitrary why we consider some sports real sports and others not," she says. "Most of the time it comes down to how long that sport has existed. There's no reason why kicking a ball around on the ground with your feet is more of a sport than throwing a disc around with your hands. "In both cases, you're moving objects around with your body, working together as a team, running and being physical, and that's what the sport is."

While some people might question how much time and energy Phillips has poured into ultimate frisbee over the years, she says she has learnt so much from the unusual sport. "It has been a huge part of my life that I've devoted to ultimate and devoted to it as my single focus," she says. "But I don't think that I've wasted 11 years of my life playing sport. I was very shy when I started playing. "Nowadays I would confidently coach a clinic with five participants or 500 participants — it doesn't faze me at all; I've grown so much as a person because of sport and because of being a leader in sport."

Source: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-12-11/michelle-phillips-wants-ultimate-frisbee-sport-taken-seriously/9226550?pfmredir=sm>

**Example:**

0. Michelle Phillips....
  - A. invented a sport.
  - B. is a famous sportswoman.
  - C. is not well-known.**
  - D. has played once for Australia.
1. In Ultimate Frisbee...
  - A. speed is not important.
  - B. players decide on match conflicts.
  - C. the fastest team wins.
  - D. there are referees at the world champion level.
2. Michelle...
  - A. wants to become a referee.
  - B. makes a lot of fouls.
  - C. enjoys the social side most.
  - D. creates the rules.
3. According to the text, Michelle...
  - A. would like to change her career.
  - B. is a junior team player.
  - C. played abroad before becoming an international.
  - D. quickly became a top frisbee player.
4. What is true about women frisbee players?
  - A. Internationals are paid well.
  - B. They are fitter than most other sportswomen.
  - C. The public respects them.
  - D. They train more than football players.
5. Because of her ultimate frisbee career, Michelle...
  - A. has improved her personal skills.
  - B. has played in the Olympics.
  - C. regrets taking up the sport.
  - D. can also play other sports well.

## 5. My Favorite Object

Read the text below and **complete the sentences with a maximum of 4 words**. The first one (**0**) has been done as an example for you.

### **Book of memories**

By Keshia Wright, Long Beach Polytechnic

I stand outside safely with my family near. We watch our home and all of our priceless possessions slowly become worthless. We watch the firemen try their best to save what they can from our house full of memories. But it's too late; we can tell already that by morning nothing will be left but ashes and smoke. I'm crying on the outside, but I know I haven't lost everything.

Before running out of the house, my first instinct was to grab everything I could. But, the fire was already getting far out of control, so I grabbed the one thing that I knew held most memories; a three-ring binder. I know you're probably thinking, what good is a three-ring binder; it could easily be replaced, right? Wrong! Inside this one binder are my most cherished poems, pictures, awards, notes from my friends, letters from my family ... everything I would need to stay on my feet and remain happy during this time of tragedy, no matter where our next step would lead us.

This whole book is important to me, but my favorite thing inside is a notebook full of poems. A year ago I was on the Greyhound bus and I sat next to this one guy who wrote song lyrics and played a guitar. He let me listen to his CD that he had made before he left and he shared some of the lyrics with me that he was in the process of writing. Then he asked me if I wrote. I told him I didn't and then he started encouraging me by telling me how easy it was and that writing helps you to organize your feelings. It didn't really occur to me to start writing until a week later when I was coming back on the Greyhound. Turns out I was really good at it. I shared my songs and poems with my brother who really liked them. So, for my 15th birthday he bought me a notebook where he wanted me to write down all my poems inside. The notebook is half way full and every poem has a meaning and a story behind it.

The next thing of importance inside this binder are my awards. I have so many awards and all of them bring back memories. I have awards from the president (both Bill Clinton and George W. Bush) and I love showing these off, I don't know what I would do if these ever got lost.

Then there are my pictures. There are snapshots of me, my friends and my family. It just reminds me of all the fun we've had. There are so many memories in one picture. I have pictures when I graduated from the 8th grade, when my brother graduated from the 8th grade, and when my older brother graduated from high school. I love

taking pictures and I put my favorite ones in the binder. It makes me smile just to look back and reminisce on old times.

Last but not least, in my notebook are notes that were passed during class. They are organized according to the first one that was written to the last one. Every now and then I go back and read them from beginning to end and can't help but laugh. They show how I have changed and grown over time. These notes take place over a course of four years so they hold a lot of memories and show how I've matured.

Well my house didn't really catch on fire, but if ever it did this would definitely be the first thing I would grab. It has the most valuable, non-replaceable, priceless memories in it. Everything else in my house are all "material things" and I know over time would be replaced. But you could never get back memories. And some memories are easily forgotten, so it helps to have a picture, note or poem as just a hint or a reminder.

Source: <http://www.layouth.com/essay-contest-my-favorite-object/>

<b>0</b>	The family loses everything because the firemen arrive	<b>too late.</b>
<b>1</b>	Keshia rescued an object full of	_____ for her.
<b>2</b>	A bus passenger let Keshia read his	
<b>3</b>	Keshia's brother was impressed by her	
<b>4</b>	She is especially worried about not having her	
<b>5</b>	She doesn't save all her photos, only her	
<b>6</b>	She finds it funny to go through her notes covering	
<b>7</b>	Unlike memories, she says that objects can	

## Answer Key

### 1. Volunteer Jobs

<b>0</b>	...volunteer position
<b>1</b>	(great) (teen) (first) job (with children)
<b>2</b>	video production/run cameras
<b>3</b>	in teaching/as a teacher/(working) with children/teaching children
<b>4</b>	(some) museums and aquariums/a museum or aquarium
<b>5</b>	bored

### 2. Trips for Teens

<b>0</b>	will you go on a guided tour?	<b>1</b>
<b>1</b>	will you help to protect nature?	<b>2</b>
<b>2</b>	will you help people learn a language	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	does it talk about buying things from the country	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	does it talk about eating?	<b>3</b>
<b>5</b>	will you visit an area where creative people live	<b>1</b>
<b>6</b>	will you do adventure sports?	<b>2</b>
<b>7</b>	will you go for a boat ride on a river?	<b>1</b>

### 3. Is cheating ok?

0	thinks that teachers should be more suspicious?	E
1	doesn't cheat because of what might happen?	L
2	thinks that cheating teens won't be self-sufficient?	R
3	believes that unethical behaviour has consequences?	D
4	believes honesty is more satisfying?	E
5	thinks that cheating is harder than studying?	B
6	says that bad teaching can excuse cheating?	F
7	has considered cheating?	S
8	now disagrees with what he/she used to do?	B

### 4. Ultimate Frisbee

0.	C	1.	B	2.	C	3.	D	4.	B	5.	A
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### 5. My Favourite Object

0	The family loses everything because the firemen arrive	too late.
1	Keshia rescued an object full of	<u>memories for her</u>
2	A bus passenger let Keshia read his	(song) lyrics
3	Keshia's brother was impressed by her	songs and poems
4	She is especially worried about not having her	Award(s) (from the president(s))
5	She doesn't save all her photos, only her	favorite ones
6	She finds it funny to go through her notes covering	four years
7	Unlike memories, she says that objects can	be replaced