

READING

Gapped text

EXAM STRATEGY

Pay attention to pronouns and subject-verb agreement when choosing a phrase for the missing section. For example, if the sentence before a gap has the pronoun *they* in it, then you know that the next paragraph should not refer to an *I* or a *she*.

4 Read the first paragraph of the article about Tomoko Sawada. Who does the missing phrase refer to: Robert De Niro or Tomoko Sawada? Why do you think so?

5 EXAM TASK Read the text. Choose from (A-H) the one which best fits each space (1-6). There are two choices you do not need to use.

- A not wishing to lose her identity
- B might be thinking under the surface
- C symbolized by their uniforms
- D based solely on how you look
- E dressed up as 400 different people
- F accepting people for who they are
- G lasted twenty weeks or so
- H he gained weight to prepare for

WRITING

Informal letter/email

6 EXAM TASK You have received a surprise birthday gift from an English friend who lives in another town. Write an email to your friend in which you:

- ▶ thank him/her for the gift,
- ▶ say what you like about it and what you will use it for,
- ▶ describe how you celebrated your birthday.

Write an email of at least 100 words. Do not write your own name, any dates, addresses or other personal information. Start your email in an appropriate way.



Tomoko Sawada

Tomoko Sawada is the Robert De Niro of Japanese photography. Just as ¹____ his role in *Raging Bull*, Sawada put on five kilograms before starting her 2001 self-portrait series based on formal photos used in traditional Japanese match-making. Then each week she visited a photo booth dressed as a different woman.

Adopting a low-calorie diet, Sawada gradually dropped her weight over the course of the project, which ²____.

'The easiest way to change other people's impression of you is to change your body type,' she says. The result is a delightfully startling series in which Sawada, 26, appears as thirty different people, from a pig-tailed, docile girl in a green kimono to a stylish modern woman in a black trouser suit.

'Even though you are the same person, other people's opinion of you changes, ³____, and I wanted to ask why,' she says. A chubby girl, Sawada had long felt unattractive and inferior to her thinner friends. She hit a turning point when she started masquerading as different women for an art-school assignment to make self-portraits.

Over three months in 1998 and 1999, she went back a few hundred times to a photo booth outside a subway station in Kobe, where she lives. In this way, she assembled passport photos of herself ⁴____. 'I may have been trying to prove that what's on the surface doesn't matter and what's inside counts,' says Sawada.

She also did a series in which she imitated girls known as *kogyaru*, who dress up in short skirts and platform shoes, with dark make-up and blonde hair. 'Everybody criticized them as a group for looking strange, but ignored what each of them ⁵____,' she says. 'In this society, young women are treated as if their only reason for being is their youthful looks, and that fades very quickly.'

In her current series, 'Costume', Sawada looks at what people's jobs, ⁶____, say about their place in society. So far she's disguised herself as ten different women, including a nun in a habit, a receptionist in a pink uniform and a policewoman.

VOCABULARY

Urban and rural living

1 Look at the pictures (1–4). Which type of place do you live in?



2 Which of these words would you use to describe each type of place? Complete the table. Some words may fit more than one type of place. Then, work in pairs to compare your ideas.

bustling charming congested industrial peaceful
picturesque provincial quiet remote rural
sprawling traditional trendy urban

city	
town	
village	
country farm	

3 Match the words or phrases (1–6) with their definitions (a–f).

- | | | | |
|--------------------|---|-------------|---|
| 1 residential | — | 4 suburb | — |
| 2 public transport | — | 5 outskirts | — |
| 3 high-rise | — | 6 municipal | — |

- a the system of buses, trains, etc. provided by the government or council for people to use
- b the parts of a town or city furthest from its centre
- c an area with private housing rather than offices, shops or factories
- d connected with the activities of the local government
- e a neighbourhood outside the centre where people live
- f a very tall building with a lot of floors

4 Look again at the places in exercise 1. Which type of place do the words above describe?

5 Work in pairs. Discuss which type of place you think is the best place to live and why.

Buying and renting a home

6 Read the steps to take when buying a property. Choose the correct word in each sentence (1–8).

Buying a flat or a house can be a lengthy and difficult process. Here are some steps you can take to make it easier.

- 1 Find out how much you can **borrow/lend**.
- 2 Decide what you are looking for in a(n) **estate/property**.
- 3 Select and register with an estate **agency/office**.
- 4 Scan the newspapers and the Internet. If you see a property you are interested in, arrange a **watching/viewing**.
- 5 Have a(n) **experiment/survey** done on your future house to check its general condition.
- 6 Ask for a **sale/reduction** in price (if any defects were detected).
- 7 Pay a **deposit/saving** to secure the deal.
- 8 Take out a(n) **interest/mortgage** from the bank to finance your purchase.

7 Complete the text with the words from the box.

amenities energy-efficient flatmates housing maintenance self-contained tenancy



Here are some basic things to check before you sign a contract. Make sure you are getting your money's worth!

- What type of place are you looking for? If you are looking for a quiet property, avoid ¹ _____ estates next to busy roads and motorways!
- What kind of property can you afford? If you have to be careful about how much you can spend, a ² _____ flat with its own entrance and all mod cons is probably more than you can afford.
- Who are you going to live with? If you have to move into shared accommodation, it's important that you choose somewhere both you and your ³ _____ like.
- How close is the property to local ⁴ _____, for example, shops, cafés, parks and public transport?
- What's the landlord/landlady like? Does he/she repair things quickly? Will you have to cover all ⁵ _____ costs?
- Is the place equipped with ⁶ _____ appliances? Unless you want to run up big electricity bills, make sure it is!
- How much will you pay and when? How long is the contract? Does your ⁷ _____ agreement contain all this information?

8 Match the words (1–6) with their definitions (a–f).

- 1 utility bill
- 2 rent
- 3 communal
- 4 renovated
- 5 furnished
- 6 linen

- a having beds, tables, chairs, etc.
- b a document that requests payment for electricity, heating, water, gas, etc.
- c shared by a group of people, especially people who live together
- d sheets, pillowcases, etc.
- e money that you regularly pay so that you can use a house, room, etc.
- f repaired and decorated to look like new

9 Work in pairs. Say if you agree or disagree with the statements. Give reasons.

- 1 A self-contained flat is the best kind of accommodation for a student.
- 2 The owner of a flat should pay for any repairs or work needed on a property.

Ecologically-friendly living

10 Complete the questions (1–7) with words and phrases from the box.

compost electricity energy consumption energy-efficient heating non-recyclable waste recycling

- 1 Is paper, plastic, metal and glass collected from your house, or do you take it to a _____ centre?
- 2 Does your household use _____ from the local grid or do you generate your own power? If you generate your own, how do you do this?
- 3 What type of _____ do you use in your home (e.g. central, gas, electric, coal-fired)?
- 4 On average, how much _____ does your household generate in a week?
- 5 Which types of kitchen waste is it possible to _____? Does your family do this? Why?/Why not?
- 6 In what ways can you reduce _____ in your home (e.g. turn off lights)?
- 7 What _____ appliances do you use, if any?

11 Work in pairs. Ask and answer the questions in exercise 10. How ecologically-friendly is your home?

12 Work in pairs. Take turns to answer the questions.

- 1 What would you miss most if you had to move to a different place (e.g. from the city to the countryside)? Is there anything you wouldn't miss?
- 2 How long have you and your family lived in your current home? Does your extended family live near you? If not, where do they live?
- 3 Is your home typical for your area or is it different in some way? In what kind of accommodation do people in your area usually live?

- 4 What are the advantages and disadvantages of renting a home compared to buying one?
- 5 How would you feel about having to share accommodation with someone who isn't your family?
- 6 What are the most important features that make a home comfortable to live in? Why?