

Questions 31-36

You are going to read an article about diving. For questions 31-36, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think best fits according to the text.

Exploring the oceans

I guess the sea has always been a part of my life. I grew up on the coast and spent hours as a kid playing on the beach, although I was never that keen on being in the water. I had friends who were into surfing, and who urged me to join them, but somehow, I never shared their fascination with the sea. But everything changed when my uncle came to stay one summer, when I was about 15. Hearing him talking with passion about the joys of diving and the amazing things he had seen underwater awakened something in me. I started watching old TV documentaries and fell in love with the mystery of the oceans.

The basic training for your first dive is fairly straightforward. After an afternoon in a swimming pool learning how to use the breathing equipment, you head for the sea for your first real-life experience. That first moment of feeling the water close over your head, leaving you with just a little tube of air to keep you alive, is slightly alarming, and I thought at first that I might panic. Although we were in quite shallow water, it was still easy to feel disoriented and lose track of which way was up and which was down, but luckily the instructor stayed right beside us to make sure we were OK.

- 15 After building up some experience in my local area and getting more qualifications **under my belt**, I was completely hooked on the thrill of diving and keen to explore some of the more challenging and exciting diving locations around the world. I booked onto an organised trip and headed to Indonesia, home to tropical seas, amazing underwater scenery and exotic fish. From there, I've gone on to explore the oceans all over the world, from the Caribbean to Australia and the Pacific Islands.

When you spend time under water, you can't help but be amazed by the whole other world that exists below the waves, invisible to us most of the time. From huge, elegant creatures that move slowly and effortlessly through the water, to tiny fish that you notice only as brief flashes of colour as they turn with lightning speed and head off in different directions. And what really fascinates me is their attitude to you as you travel through their world, seeing you not as a threat but almost as one of them, to be quickly inspected and then rejected as of no further interest.

I have only once had a moment of fear, when I suddenly came face to face with an enormous shark while diving in the Caribbean. I recognised it at once and knew that this species could be dangerous. My first instinct was to ignore it, in the hope that it might not notice me and swim off in search of a more suitable food source. But the oxygen tank on my back obviously caught its eye and it moved in to investigate, swimming backwards and forwards above me until two other divers swam towards me and it decided it was time to leave.

After 15 years of diving, I have seen some wonderful and inspiring sights. But, in recent years, I have also seen first-hand the growing problem of damage to the oceans from pollution. More and more divers now give their time to help clean up the oceans that they love. I spent last summer working on a series of conservation projects in Portugal, working with a team of divers to remove all kinds

- 36 of unwanted objects from the sea bed, including thousands of small pieces of plastic. **These** cause problems with the underwater ecosystem and are particularly dangerous as fish and other creatures can eat them and then, feeling that their stomachs are full, starve to death. Let's hope the world takes action in time and manages to preserve these magical environments.



- 31 **What first led to the writer's interest in diving?**
A living by the sea as a child
B watching TV programmes
C listening to a family member's experiences
D taking up a challenge from friends
- 32 **During the training, the writer felt**
A relieved that the teacher was close to him.
B confident about using the breathing equipment.
C excited at thought of doing a real dive.
D disappointed that they didn't go very deep.
- 33 **What does 'under my belt' in line 15 mean?**
A planned
B achieved
C discovered
D created
- 34 **What does the writer find most surprising about sea creatures?**
A their amazing colours
B the speed with which they move
C their lack of fear of humans
D the way they interact with each other
- 35 **When the shark saw the writer, it**
A took no interest in him.
B became aggressive.
C showed that it was frightened.
D was curious about his equipment.
- 36 **The word 'these' in line 36 refers to**
A small pieces of plastic.
B divers.
C unwanted objects.
D conservation projects.

EXAM TASK

Questions 37-42

You are going to read an article about wood. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A-G the one which fits each gap (37-42). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

From old-fashioned to high-tech

Wood has been recognised as a valuable resource for thousands of years. It has been used as a fuel and for making all kinds of things from buildings and furniture to paper and children's toys. It is easy to produce, has many different uses and is sustainable. And now it seems it may become the super-material of the 21st century.

In the past, people chose to use wood because it was the strongest material available. However, in its natural form wood is far from perfect. **37** These qualities meant it went out of fashion in the 20th century. Instead, architects chose concrete for buildings, which is cheap and lasts a long time. For smaller items, manufacturers preferred plastic as a lighter, cheaper alternative.

However, concrete and plastic both rely on using products made from oil, and making them produces large amounts of the gases which cause climate change. This is not sustainable, and scientists are now looking for greener alternatives, which is why they are turning back to wood. But this is not wood as we traditionally think of it. The new 'modern' wood is processed into an improved material by gluing together thin sheets of wood into large, flat pieces. **38** It also has the advantage that it doesn't burn.

As a result of these developments in wood technology, wooden buildings are now being put up all over the world and there is a race to build the world's tallest wooden skyscraper. Candidates include the Mjøsa Tower in Brumunddal, Norway. It is 85 metres high, with 18 storeys, and includes a hotel, private homes and offices. **39**

In the future, wood could also be used instead of glass. Scientists in Sweden have found a way to remove the natural colour from wood. This process

produces a strong, thin material, like glass, which you can see through. But it is a more sustainable material than glass, and is also good at keeping warmth inside buildings. **40**

Even more exciting is the idea that wood might one day replace plastic. Sulapac, a company in Finland, is working on breaking wood down into the basic plant materials it is made of. They then mix this with glue that is made from other plants, to produce a material that looks very much like plastic. The company is hoping to start selling its environmentally friendly drinking straws soon. **41** But, as they are made of wood, they will break down and disappear if they end up in the oceans. Similar wood-based materials could be used to make clothes, cars and even aeroplanes.

42 This is due to a material processed from wood that can be made into very thin sheets which are extremely strong and allow electricity to pass through them. This makes it ideal to use in electronic devices. Some companies, including the American computer firm IBM, are already using this material in their computers and electronic products, and scientists believe its use will increase over the next few years. It seems the future might indeed be made of wood!



- A** This means less energy is needed for heating, which is good for the environment.
- B** They will look and feel like the ones we are used to.
- C** This 'hi-tech' material is stronger than steel, yet also light and easy to work with.
- D** It seems that wood has a lot more uses than we realised.
- E** And wood could even move into the digital world.
- F** It does not last very long, becomes weak when it gets wet and burns easily.
- G** It is made mainly of wood, although there are some concrete parts to give increased stability.

Questions 43-52

You are going to read an article about young businesspeople. For questions 43-52, choose from the sections (A-D). The sections may be chosen more than once.

Which writer

- | | | |
|---|----|----------------------|
| made a decision about how to run their business while at college? | 43 | <input type="text"/> |
| mentions an initial difficulty with funding? | 44 | <input type="text"/> |
| experienced a health benefit from setting up the business? | 45 | <input type="text"/> |
| was surprised at the speed of their success? | 46 | <input type="text"/> |
| mentions experience with a similar business in the past? | 47 | <input type="text"/> |
| feels grateful for help from a family member? | 48 | <input type="text"/> |
| was concerned about a loss of financial security? | 49 | <input type="text"/> |
| felt angry about a rule? | 50 | <input type="text"/> |
| warns about the amount of work involved in starting a new business? | 51 | <input type="text"/> |
| runs a business which helps with people's education? | 52 | <input type="text"/> |

Social enterprise

Are businesses just about making money? It seems not, as more and more people are choosing to set up businesses that also bring social benefits. Four young businesspeople tell us about their work.

A

Melissa Evans

I worked in a supermarket and I was horrified at the amount of food that was thrown away every day – literally dumped into rubbish bins! Then, one day, a guy asked if he could have some of the food. He was obviously poor. My colleague refused, saying we weren't allowed to sell or give the food away. That really annoyed me – it was such a waste! I had some money saved up, so I set up the Social Food Store. I persuaded local supermarkets to give us food they were throwing away. This food goes into our store, then customers can come and shop for free. I couldn't believe how quickly we built up our customer numbers. People like it because it feels like a normal shop, not a charity. All the staff are volunteers, and we get funding from the local government. It's great to feel I'm helping people.

B

Dan Rudofsky

I'd always wanted to set up my own company, but when I went to business school, I was alarmed that what we learnt was all about profit. It was as if nothing else mattered. That was when I made up my mind that I would do things differently. I did some research and came up with the idea of Light Up. It's an online lighting store, selling lights and lamps. For every item we sell, we donate a solar-powered lamp to a charity, for children in developing countries with no electricity at home. Light is incredibly important because it allows kids to study and improve their lives. The business is doing well. I've worked incredibly hard, but I know it wouldn't have been possible without the support and generous start-up loan my dad gave me. Hopefully, I'll earn enough to pay him back one day!

C

Helen Sousa

Homelessness is a huge problem in my city, and when I lost my job two years ago, I decided to do something about it. I had managed restaurants before, so I set up the Street Café. We're a normal café during the day, and we use the profits from this to offer free meals to homeless people in the evenings. All our staff have been homeless themselves. They often have mental health problems or a low level of education, which make it difficult for them to find other work, but I think everyone deserves a chance. We struggled to get people to invest in the business at first, but it soon became clear that it was a sound business idea. I would encourage more people to set up companies like this, although they should be aware of the long hours they'll need to put in at first!

D

James Walker

I definitely believe in breaking the rules and doing something different. Three years ago, I had a high-paid job in banking. But I started suffering from anxiety because of the stress, so I quit my job and went back to college for a year. I then set up my own business, Planet Beauty, an online store selling cosmetics and beauty products. I must admit I was nervous about giving up a regular salary, and my experience wasn't really relevant to the cosmetics industry, but I was determined to make a success of it and help the planet, too. Everything we sell is plastic free and safe for the environment, and we donate 40 percent of our profits to environmental charities. I enjoy much more job satisfaction now than I ever did in my old job, and I feel much better in myself, too!