Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

SKILLS TEST 3 & 4

READING

1 Read the article quickly. Tick [✓] the seven topics which are mentioned in the article.

Embarrassing parents

Parents are so embarrassing. At least, that's what a recent survey has revealed. On average, teenagers are embarrassed by their parents up to 14 times a week.

Apparently, 20% of teenagers feel so bad about their parents, that they don't want their friends to meet them. As many as 10% don't even want to be seen in public with their mothers and fathers. So, what terrible things are parents doing to make their children feel this way?

One of the worst things, according to the survey, were the clothes that parents wore. About a quarter of teenagers thought their parents were completely unable to dress properly, had bad hair (or no hair), or looked too old.

Even worse are parents who consider themselves to be cool, and think they can wear young people's clothes. Generally, parents are thought to have awful taste in music and make bad jokes. Above all, parents should never show affection for each other in public (for example, holding hands).

What are some of the reasons that teenagers feel this way? Perhaps the main reason is that teenagers are trying to create their own identity. Ideally, they want to create one that is separate from their parents, and one which is similar to their friends. So anything that their parents do, teenagers will automatically think of as wrong, or old-fashioned, and want to do something new. Importantly, teenagers are making a choice about what kind of person they want to be, and also, which group they want to belong to. Mostly, teenagers feel a strong need to fit in with people of their own age.

One really embarrassing thing that some parents do is to try and be their teenage children's best friends. These parents might think that they are being really cool, but they forget that what most teenagers need is a sense of growing independence. They don't want to be friends with their parents. They naturally want to grow up, and away from them. Unfortunately, this means that many teenagers will not want to enjoy the same fashion, music or humour as their mothers or fathers, or spend time hanging out with them in public. Similarly, a lot of teenagers will feel very awkward about being friends with their parents, or sharing personal information on social media.

However, it's also true that many teenagers want to look like they are independent, but at the same time, they still need the support of their parents. For example, they might need their parents to give them a lift to school, but they want to be dropped off just around the corner, out of sight of their friends. That way, they can still get help from their mums and dads, but it won't look like they are dependent on them.

1 research into what embarrasses teenagers ☐
2 the age that most children start being embarrassed by their parents ☐
3 the things parents do which embarrass their children ☐
4 what kind of person teenagers want to become ☐
5 how many teenagers want to be like their parents ☐
6 who teenagers want to be similar to ☐
7 what parents can do to become cool ☐
8 teenagers want to be more in control of themselves and their lives ☐
9 why teenagers don't want to be friends with their parents ☐
10 why teenagers don't want to be completely independent ☐

☐ 7

2 Read the article again. Mark these sentences T (true) or F (false), or DS (the article doesn't say).

1 Teenagers feel awkward because of their parents about twice a day. ☐
2 Generally, teenagers like their parents to look fashionable. ☐
3 Most parents have no sense of humour. ☐
4 Teenagers want to copy their parents. ☐
5 Teenagers spend more time with their friends than their parents. ☐
6 Some parents try to be too close to their teenage children. ☐
7 Teenagers don't want to be controlled by anyone else. ☐
8 Teenagers neither want nor need any practical help from their parents. ☐

☐ 8

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SKILLS TEST 3 & 4

LISTENING

3 **Listen to Gary and Jo discussing a problem. Put the ideas in the order Gary finally chooses.**

a get warm ☐
b start a fire in the fireplace ☐
c get some light ☐
d light the lamp ☐
e collect some wood ☐
f collect some paper ☐
g go outside ☐
h light the candle ☐

8

4 **Listen again. Choose the best answer.**

1 Some companies are asking unusual questions at job interviews to
A see how imaginative candidates are.
B make candidates want to leave the room.
C see how well candidates can discuss things in teams.

2 Jo's question is designed to test how well people can
A invent new things.
B survive in difficult environments.
C analyse a problem and come up with real solutions.

3 What does Gary focus on first?
A He needs to make sure he is warm.
B He wants to make sure he looks after the other people in his group.
C He would discuss things with the other people in his group.

4 It's not a good idea to light the fireplace first because
A it's too difficult to do that with one match.
B it wouldn't keep people warm.
C it would be difficult to see where the paper and wood is.

5 Why isn't it a good idea to light the candle first?
A If Gary wasn't careful, the wind could blow it out.
B He couldn't take it outside.
C People would be in the dark if he went outside.

6 Why is Gary happy with his solution?
A He is proud that other people will be safer because of him.
B He feels he has made the right choices, in the proper order.
C He feels that he has been very imaginative.

7 Why does Jo think Gary is wrong?
A He didn't think clearly enough about the problem.
B He forgot the most important part of the solution.
C She couldn't understand his solution.

7

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SKILLS TEST 3 & 4

WRITING

5 Write a short essay (190–220 words) about one of these statements. Use the tips below to help you organise your essay.

1 'These days, schools don't do enough to teach children how to be imaginative.'

2 'Parents shouldn't try to control teenagers.'

- Write a short introduction to the topic.
- Give one or two points to support the statement.
- Give one or two other points to argue against the statement.
- Write a conclusion, giving your own opinion.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

20

SPEAKING

6 Work in pairs. Look at the ideas below, showing different personal qualities. First, talk to each other about why successful people need to be these things.



7 Now work together and decide which is the most important quality for being successful in life. Try to use emphasising language to help make your point.

People need to be **so** confident when they …

It's **such** an important idea to be …

I **do** believe that …

20

TOTAL SCORE 70

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