

VARIANT 1

- **1** Read the text and mark (✓) the following statements «True» or «False».

Plain Speaking: An Oral Biography of Harry S. Truman

Interviewer: Mr President, you said that you were going to run for re-election the first day you were President, in April, 1945. What were the reasons you decided so soon?

Harry Truman: I always knew that from April, 1945, until January, 1949, I was filling out the fourth term of Roosevelt, who was a great President. But I had my own ideas, and to carry them out I had to run for re-election and win. I knew I'd be able to win.

Interviewer: You knew?

Harry Truman: Of course, I knew. I knew the Republicans would come up with somebody like Taft or Dewey, and the people of the country weren't ready to turn back the clock — not if they were told the truth.

I had to tell them the truth. The way I'd always campaigned before was by talking to people and running for President was the same. The only difference was instead of driving to the various places, I went there by train. But it was the same. I got on a train to tell people what was going on and talk to them face to face. People knew that when you get on the television, you're wearing a lot of powder and paint that somebody else has put on your face. But when you're standing in front of them then people can tell whether you're telling them the facts or not.

I spoke to between fifteen and twenty million people. I met them face to face, and I convinced them, and they voted for me.

(by Merle Miller, New York, Berkley Books, 1974)

		True	False
1	Harry S. Truman became President in April of 1949.		
2	Truman became President after Roosevelt.		
3	Truman knew from his first day as President that he wanted to be re-elected.		
4	Truman thought Roosevelt was a great President.		
5	Truman announced his intentions of running for President from his first day in office.		
6	Truman assumed the Republican candidate would be Taft or Eisenhower.		
7	Truman's campaign for President would involve a lot of train travel.		
8	Truman wanted to make a lot of television appearances to convince people of his ideas.		
9	Truman believes he spoke to between twenty and twenty-five million people.		
10	Truman believes people voted for him because he told them the truth.		

••• **2** Complete the text with the words from the table.

Exploration of (1) sorts is rooted in the notion of (2) risks. Risk underlies any (3) into the unknown, whether it is a ship captain's voyage into uncharted seas, a scientist's research on dangerous diseases, or an entrepreneur's investment in a new venture. But what exactly pushed Christopher Columbus to embark on a voyage (4) the Atlantic, or Edward Jenner to test his (5) for an early smallpox vaccine on a child, or Henry Ford to bet that automobiles could replace horses?

Some of the motivations for taking risks are obvious — (6) reward, fame, political gain, saving lives. Many people willingly expose themselves to varying degrees of risk in their pursuit of such goals. But as the danger increases, the (7) of people willing to go forward shrinks, until the only ones (8) remain are the extreme risk-takers, those willing to endanger their reputation, fortune, and life. This is the (9) of risk: What makes some humans willing to jeopardize so much and continue to do (10) even in the face of dire consequences?

(From «The Mystery of Risk», National Geographic, Peter Gwin, June 2013)

	A	B	C	D
1	every	all	each	most
2	taking	making	asking	having
3	walk	way	road	journey
4	in	on	across	through
5	theory	science	concept	idea
6	famous	important	financial	political
7	number	circle	crowd	group
8	what	which	when	who
9	mystery	task	danger	answer
10	as	if	so	or

••• **3** Comment on the following issues.

You have just graduated from school. What are your plans for the near future? Explain:

- what occupation you would like to choose. Why?
- where you would like to study.

VARIANT 2

- **1** Read the text and mark (✓) the following statements «True» or «False».

History of Central Park

New York's Central Park is the first urban landscaped park in the United States. The idea originated in the early 1850s. The purpose was to change the European view that the Americans lacked a civic duty and didn't like culture. New York high society wanted to enjoy a landscape, among which the wealthy could parade in their carriages and socialize.

After years of debate, the park's construction began in 1857, based on the winner of a park design contest. The city bought 840 acres of an area in the centre of Manhattan. After that, about 1,600 people, schools, three churches were evicted. Thousands of Irish, German and New England-area labourers worked there.

In 1858, when the park was opened, people were ice-skating in the park. In the 1860s the park was the place of the wealthy. The first playground was installed there in 1926, it was a great success and by the 1940s Central Park was home to more than twenty playgrounds.

In the 1960s and 1970s the park's keeping was bad; despite its growing use for concerts and rallies, clean-up, and planting. During the early 1980s there was an attempt to involve New Yorkers in helping their park. Today, the park hosts millions of visitors yearly.

(from an article written by Sarah Waxman)

		True	False
1	The purpose of building Central Park was to give New York high society a place to show off their carriages and socialize with their friends.		
2	The design of Central Park was based on European design.		
3	Central Park was built on vacant lands in the centre of Manhattan.		
4	The first area of the park to be opened was for ice-skating.		
5	In the middle of the nineteenth century Central Park was used mostly by the wealthy.		
6	The final phase of the park's construction was delayed by budgets constraints.		
7	Workers from Ireland, Germany and England were hired to build Central Park.		
8	In the 1960s and 1970s, the Park's maintenance declined due to its use for concerts and rallies.		
9	In 1980 a massive movement was made to maintain the Park better.		
10	By 1940 more than twenty children's playgrounds were in Central Park.		

••• **2** Complete the text with the words from the table.

Beethoven's life was as complex (1) his art. Similarly, his music «takes at times the majestic flight of an eagle, and (2) creeps in rocky pathways,» as an 1810 review in the Parisian *Tablettes de Polymnie* reported.

This description especially befits Beethoven's most intimate creations, the string quartets and piano sonatas — vehicles that served as a testing ground for his new ideas. Nevertheless, (3) of his 32 sonatas are both accessible and beloved — especially the ones that have nicknames: the (4) *Moonlight* (Beethoven never called it that, and found its overblown eminence annoying); the tragic *Pathétique*; the wistful *Les Adieux*.

(5) their dearth of hummable tunes, Beethoven's sonatas grip us and refuse to (6) go. This is often due to his brilliant treatment of the (7) materials — there is genius hidden in the architectural scaffolding. (8) example, his use of small musical cells as building blocks that reappear throughout a work in myriad combinations is a prominent feature even in his (9) first piano sonata, Opus 2 № 1. It (10) with a rising arpeggio that is methodically shortened and fragmented as it is repeated. With every contraction the theme gains in energy, until it is whittled down to a single, explosive note — which triggers a dramatic release, like a sharp quill freeing the air from an inflated balloon.

(From «His Intimate Creations», Stuart Isacoff,
Wall Street Journal, 2010)

	A	B	C	D
1	so	as	not so	if
2	when	then	that	what
3	little	more than	many	lesser
4	dreams	dreamy	dreamed	dreamt
5	According to	Despite	In spite	As to
6	let	make	want	ask
7	easiest	smallest	simplest	tiniest
8	For	In	As	If
9	some	very	every	each
10	opens	finishes	creates	follows

••• **3** Comment on the following issues.

Imagine your dream house and why you want to live there. Explain:

- what the house looks like,
- what special qualities the house has.

VARIANT 3

- ... **1** Read the text and choose the correct item for each statement below.

Thunder and Lightning

Imagine a water droplet high above Earth. It is in a cloud among millions of other water droplets. As this water droplet falls on Earth, it gets bigger collecting more moisture. When the droplet is about the size of a pea, it splits. This action causes an electrical charge.

If the droplets fall to Earth, the electrical charge is small and has no effect. If they get swept by air currents, the process begins again. They become more charged with electricity.

The electrical charge becomes so strong that it has to discharge itself. The result is a spark. It may leap from a cloud to the ground in one-tenth of a second. We know it as lightning.

When lightning flashes, the air is suddenly heated then it quickly cools. These changes in the air cause the cracking sound of thunder. During a storm, we see lightning first, then wait to hear the thunder because light goes faster than sound. We see the lightning as it happens, but the sound of the thunder may take some seconds to reach us, depending on how far away the lightning was. The sound of thunder is an echo from the sound waves bouncing off Earth or off the clouds.

1. A cloud contains
 A millions of water droplets
 B electricity, thunder and rain
 C electrical charges that become lightning
2. Electricity is generated when
 A clouds collide, releasing water droplets
 B droplets divide
 C high winds blow the clouds rapidly up into higher air
3. The «crack» of thunder is really
 A clouds colliding above the Earth
 B suddenly cooling air
 C the result of the lightning sparking the water droplets
4. Which of these statements is true?
 A We see lightning as it happens.
 B We hear thunder and see lightning together.
 C We hear thunder before we see lightning.
5. The article says that
 A lightning is more dangerous than thunder
 B the rumbling sound of thunder is made by the collision of clouds
 C sound waves bouncing off Earth make the noise we call «thunder»
6. Which of these statements is true?
 A Light travels faster than sound.
 B Sound travels faster than light.
 C Light and sound travel at equal speeds.