

READING

Time: 30 minutes

Task 1

You are going to read an extract from an article about an unusual form of storytelling. For Questions 11–18, choose the correct answer A, B, C or D.

Unusual storytelling

'It's the seventh minute into a match and we're up against one of the top clubs in Britain. We're expected to lose. I get the ball and I'm running as fast as I can for the goal. The goalkeeper runs towards me. Do I try to get round him or shall I shoot?'

'Go round him,' calls out one voice. 'Shoot!' shout a few of the kids gathered on the floor.

I decide to shoot and I can see the ball going wide. But then I look up and see my mum blowing hard on her whistle from the side of the pitch, and the ball swings to the right and falls inside the goal post. I've just scored and we're one-nil up against the favourites.'

12 It's gripping storytelling and not a single child has moved. It also happens that every word is true, with the exception of **the bit about his** mum! The speaker is a former football player. Barry Morgan, who now works as a community relations officer in a large city in southern England.

Part of Barry's job involves visiting clubs, schools and libraries along with a professional storyteller, Rick Taylor, in order to try and reach the kids who mainly sit at the back of classrooms and don't want to take part in lessons. They want to both excite the children's imaginations and encourage them to read, and so far they are delighted with the success of the project.

24 The original idea for the project was Rick Taylor's. Over the years he had collected a huge number of folk tales and stories and had earned his living travelling around the world telling them. After a one-off event with Barry Morgan, which was a tremendous success, Taylor decided that they should try and **do more**.

'It was particularly good for the kids to have strong male role models involved. Many boys grow up wanting to be professional footballers and they'll listen to what we have to say far more readily than they would listen to their teachers. It's not just the boys who get a lot out of

it; even though a lot of the stories are football based, the girls never get bored,' says Taylor.

36 But there are other groups for whom the storytelling has been a learning process. On one occasion, for example, Barry Morgan took some young professional footballers with him to one of the storytelling sessions. The players explained to the kids how relaxing with a book before a big game could improve their performance. 'Footballers have a fairly short career,' says Morgan, 'and most of them move on to other jobs in the leisure industry, running a business or public speaking. For all these careers you need good communication skills and telling stories to a bunch of school kids is great practice for the future. When I first started playing football I had almost no self-confidence but nowadays I'm quite happy standing up in front of 500 children.'

11. Where is the speaker at the beginning of the article?

- A running on a football pitch
- B playing football with some children
- C reliving an earlier football match
- D sitting in a football stadium

12. What does 'the bit about his mum' (line 12) add to what the speaker says?

- A It's intended to praise his mother.
- B It's intended to make his listeners laugh.
- C It's important to involve your mother.
- D It's unusual for a woman to referee a match.

13. What do we learn about the children involved in the storytelling project?

- A They love reading stories in the classroom.
- B They enjoy being part of a club.
- C They are not interested in being at school.
- D They dislike having to go to libraries.

14. What does Taylor mean by 'do more' (line 25)?

- A He wanted the opportunity to earn more money.
- B He needed more stories from other parts of the world.
- C He felt the stories they told could be more successful.
- D He thought they could organise much more storytelling.

15. What is the attraction of this form of storytelling for many boys?

- A They admire the people telling the stories.
- B They enjoy listening to some good teachers.
- C They hope to become storytellers themselves.
- D They like the fact that girls are not included.

16. What did the young footballers recommend about reading?

- A It can make you play better.
- B It helps you to feel relaxed.
- C It makes you more confident.
- D It makes you a better storyteller.

17. What does the writer suggest about footballers in general?

- A They are not particularly well educated.
- B They adapt well to other professions.
- C They have trouble communicating with people.
- D They have to be prepared to look for other jobs.

18. How has Morgan benefited from storytelling?

- A He could take up another career.
- B He has become more sure of himself.
- C He became a good businessman.
- D He enjoyed meeting new people.

Task 2

You are going to read a magazine article about cyber cafes. Choose the most suitable heading from the list A–H for each part (19–25) of the article. There is one extra heading which you do not need to use.

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|---|--|--|
| A Staying in contact | D The cyber cafe may replace the office | G Office workers like the cyber cafe |
| B E-mail keeps costs down | E Costs vary during the day | H The original attraction of the cyber cafe |
| C The cyber cafe is here to stay | F Internet use is now widespread | |

CYBER CAFES

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In the early nineties in Great Britain going for a coffee and surfing the Net were new and exciting things to do. The cyber cafe was a successful mixture of two things: coffee and the Internet. Not even cold coffee and slow connections put people off from going to these cafes.

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Ten years later the picture has changed and in the 21st century millions of people can use the Internet from home, work, school or university. In many ways the Internet has become a personal playground and as for the coffee, well, there's a lot more choice of different coffee shops serving every kind of coffee you can wish for.

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So who's using the cyber cafes now that surfing the Net is as ordinary as waking up every morning? Some people say that if their computer goes wrong at home they don't bother to get it fixed. They will rely on the cyber cafe to find out what is happening in the world and to check their e-mail; they feel that there is nothing special about cyber cafes any more. These cafes are part of the cultural scene in the same way that cinemas and supermarkets are.

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One man, who is the director of a chain of Internet shops, says that although consumer demand for using the Internet has risen, home computers are no good if you are out and about or happen to be on holiday somewhere. The cyber cafe is the obvious place to go if you want to keep in touch with friends and family.

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'Most of our users are backpackers and international students checking their e-mail,' he says. 'We also operate a price structure which is good for those students who get up early. This means that the cheapest time of day is six in the morning and as the cafe fills up, the price goes up. Early evening is one of the most expensive times.'

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Cyber cafes are also popular with foreign students studying abroad. These students feel it's important to keep in touch with everyone at home and e-mail is cheaper than the telephone. Some students use the cyber cafe for as much as four hours a week and like the fact that the cafes are clean and friendly places.

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In the future it is likely that the cyber cafes will also attract people who are self-employed. With mobile phones and e-mail there's less need for traditional offices, and as more and more people in the UK choose to work for themselves the cyber cafes could become communication centres for these workers by providing the electronic support for people who neither have nor want traditional office space.

TRANSFER YOUR ANSWERS TO THE ANSWER SHEET!