

PROGRESS TEST 1 (UNITS 1–4)

Name: _____

Total: _____ out of 50

A Word formation

For questions 1 – 8, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals below to form a word that fits in the space.

Cathy Come Home

Anyone over the age of fifty-five will have little problem remembering the (1) _____ docu-drama *Cathy Come Home*, directed by Ken Loach and written by Jeremy Sandford in 1966. The gritty, black and white programme (2) _____ the struggle of a young family who were sinking further and further into (3) _____ and being failed by the system in every way. For many of the affluent viewers of the time, it was a complete revelation that people in the 1960s still had to endure such (4) _____ and they were truly shocked at the final scene when the young mother's children were forcibly taken from her in the streets to be put into care.

Since *Cathy Come Home*, the battle against homelessness has made little (5) _____. Charities and governmental projects do their best to assist those who are forced out of their homes and onto the streets, and the majority of the public are (6) _____ to their plight, but against the (7) _____ of uncertain economic times, the number of homeless people is increasing month by month. These days the public are all too aware of the problem.

Cathy Come Home recently came second in a nationwide poll to compile the most influential TV programmes of the 20th century. The central issues are (8) _____ still relevant today.

1) COMPEL

2) LIGHT

3) POOR

4) DEPRIVE

5) HEAD

6) SYMPATHY

7) DROP

8) DENY

[__/8]

B Comprehension questions

Answer these questions about the text in A.

1) What does 'failed by the system' in line 4 refer to?

2) What does the writer mean by saying, 'These days the public are all too aware of the problem'?

[__/2]

C Open cloze

For questions 1 – 8, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only one word in each space.

Crime writing

The lists of international top selling paperbacks have been dominated by American thriller writers for a long time now, but these days the top spots on these lists are (1) _____ hotly contested by an army of crime writers from Scandinavia. It seems that (2) _____ list is complete without a book by Nesbo, Mankell or others from Norway, Sweden, Denmark or even Iceland. So, what lies (3) _____ the sudden influx of detective fiction from these countries?

The Scandinavians (4) _____ probably say that this is nothing new. They have known for decades that they have some of the greatest writers in the world. No, (5) _____ is just the rest of us that have been rather late in catching up. Mankell, Nesbo and others have been writing brilliant novels for a long time but it (6) _____ the staggering success of Stieg Larsson's Millenium Trilogy, starting with *Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, to bring them to our attention. (7) _____ undoubtedly contributed to the success of these books was the backstory of the writer. Larsson finished the third book in the series but died from a heart attack at the age of 50 (8) _____ ever seeing his work in print.

[__/8]

D Key word transformations

For questions 1 – 6, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and eight words, including the word given.

1) I refuse to be pressurised into buying a bigger TV for my teenage son.

give

I refuse _____ a bigger TV for my teenage son.

2) No film has ever been nominated so many times for the Academy Awards before.

received

The film _____ for the Academy awards.

3) I am not to blame for the failure of the project.

help

I _____ the project failed.

4) Recent problems with the aircraft engine have been attributed to faulty batteries.

have

Faulty batteries _____ recent problems with the aircraft engine.

5) It was a long film but I never lost concentration.

lose

Never _____ the long film.

6) The teacher refused to consider my request to drop out of the course halfway through the term.

hear

The teacher _____ dropping out of the course halfway through the term.

[__/12]

E Writing

Write an answer to one of the following writing tasks.

1) An English magazine is running a special feature on 'foreign language films' and is looking for reviews of recent films that might be interesting for its readers. You have been asked to write a review of a recent film, not made in English, for this feature. Write your **review** explaining why you would recommend this film and how accessible it is despite the language barrier.

Write your answer in 280 – 320 words.

2) Read the two texts below.

Write an **essay** summarising and evaluating the key points from both texts. Use your own words throughout as far as possible, and include your own ideas in your answer.

Write your answer in 240 – 280 words.

Bring on the classics

Although not always popular, study of the literary classics of a student's country has always been and should remain an essential element of any school's curriculum. By studying the great writers of the past, students can learn more than just the literary conventions of the time but also find out about the times in which those writers lived. Literature is a great source of social history. Great literary works still have relevance today and learning about them will give students insight into many aspects of life in the 21st century. They should be proud of the achievements of their countrymen and this will only come through detailed study of the classics at school.

A definite turn-off

It is appalling that students are still force fed classical literature at school. This is a quick way to turn them off reading novels or going to the theatre for life! Studying classical literature has a place for those who are really interested, but the general teenager will benefit much more from a study of modern writers who are talking more directly to them in language that they can understand. If they really need to learn about the great writers of the past, perhaps shortened or adapted versions would be more accessible and make the literature classroom a more lively place.

[__/20]

TOTAL [__/50]