

Exam-style task

PART 5

Questions 1–10

- Read the text below and choose the correct word for each space.
- For each question, mark the letter next to the correct word – A, B, C or D.

Balmoral Castle

Scotland is a land famous for its old castles. One of the best known of (0) is Balmoral, on the river Dee in the north-east of the country. It (1) to the British Royal family, who have spent their summer holidays here (2) over 150 years. The (3) Queen's great-great-grandmother, Victoria, bought it in 1852.



She and her husband, Prince Albert, loved the (4) air, the wild countryside and the friendly local people. At Balmoral she could forget the worries and responsibilities of (5) both the Queen of England and also the ruler of the largest empire the world had ever seen.

In 1861, at the (6) of only 42, Prince Albert died. The Queen was heartbroken. She (7) black clothes for the rest of her life and (8) rarely seen to smile in public. However, she continued to return to Balmoral Castle, (9) she could walk or ride in the beautiful landscape of the Scottish Highlands and remember the happy times she (10) spent there with her husband.

Example answer:

- | | | | | |
|----|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| 0 | A this | B that | C these ✓ | D they |
| 1 | A owns | B is | C has | D belongs |
| 2 | A for | B since | C during | D from |
| 3 | A now | B today's | C actual | D present |
| 4 | A strong | B high | C fresh | D picturesque |
| 5 | A doing | B making | C having | D being |
| 6 | A years | B period | C age | D time |
| 7 | A dressed | B wore | C put | D invested |
| 8 | A was | B were | C had | D made |
| 9 | A why | B which | C where | D who |
| 10 | A has | B had | C did | D was |

Hints and tips for Reading Part 5

What you have to do

- Read a text with ten gaps in it (and an example).
- Look at four multiple-choice items for each question and choose the correct word for the gap.
- The four multiple-choice options are generally the same category of word, e.g. they are all nouns or all prepositions.

How to approach it

- Before you answer the questions, read through the whole text so that you understand the topic and the general meaning.
- Look at the example answer (0).
- When you are choosing an answer you may need to read the whole sentence.

- If you are not sure of an answer, check each option: does it sound right in this space?

How to prepare yourself

- When preparing for Reading Part 5 (and Paper 1 in general) it is a good idea to learn words **in groups**, e.g. *to be interested in history*; *to change your mind*; *to work hard*.
- Reading Part 5 tests vocabulary, and also grammatical points such as prepositions, pronouns, connectors and quantifiers (words like *a, one, some, any*).
- Make your own 'gap-fill practice exercises'. Find a short text in English and select some words you want to test. Copy out the text, putting gaps in place of these words. Exchange exercises with other students, then correct each other's work.

Answers

1 D 2 A 3 D 4 C 5 D 6 C 7 B 8 A 9 C 10 B