



**ENGLISH**

**LEVEL C1**

**READING**

2/5/2023

45 minutes

25 marks

Please work on both tasks.

Please write legibly.

Please write all answers with a blue or black ballpoint pen.

You may not use a dictionary.

**Write your solutions on the answer sheet.**

**Only answers that have been transcribed onto the answer sheet will be scored.**

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European Consortium for the Certificate of Attainment in Modern Languages

## READING, PART 1

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**You are going to read an article about a dangerous kind of sport. Some parts of the text are missing (1-10). Find the right parts from the list below (A-M). Write your answers in the answer box. There is an example done for you.**

### The Downhill Dynasty

Near the England-Wales border, over remote and rocky hillside tracks that have been re-routed to end ...[0]... , three siblings ride their bikes. Not an uncommon activity, the family bike ride. The exception, in this case, being that the family have often had cause to put each other's dislocated shoulders ...[1]... .

Dan, Gee and Rachel Atherton are at the forefront of the world of mountain biking. Gee, 24, is the downhill world champion (he had to have his shoulder put back by sister Rachel ...[2]... last December). Dan, the eldest at 27, is a top-10 competitor who specialises in eye-catching jumps (he reset Rachel's shoulder after she rode into a truck in California in January). And Rachel, the youngest at 21, is the downhill women's world champion and winner of last year's season-long World Cup ...[3]... recovery from the Californian accident). A decade of tearing down the world's mountains hasn't only made the Athertons the best biking family in the world - it has just about qualified them as freelance surgeons.

If the 2008 season was all thrills - Gee winning the men's downhill title in June after ...[4]... on the final bend, Rachel triumphing on the same day and becoming the first Brit to win the women's world title - 2009 has been more exciting.

"...[5]... having everyone watching," says Gee. "And magazines tipping us for wins," says Rachel, finishing his sentence. "It's because we live way out here in the country," adds Dan, "starved of attention and affection."

They moved here, to the one-shop village in 2004, buying the family home from their mother and transforming it into a bike rider's haven, ...[6]... in the front room and a bike track in the garden. They convinced a local farmer to open up his land for competitions, and now riders make the pilgrimage here from all over the country. "The willingness of British riders to travel so far to enjoy the terrain is one reason that we have had so much success in world competition recently," says Gee. "Because we don't have as many mountains, ...[7]... to find them and to train. In California or the south of France it's all there for you, but kids in the UK have to want it."

Dan was the first to "want it" - he bought Gee his first BMX when they were kids so that he would have someone to ride with, and ...[8]... Rachel to compete too - but he is the only one in the family not to have won a world title. "All my life I've looked out for Gee and Rachel," he says. "Not necessarily a good thing as a professional athlete, because you have to be quite selfish. I'm learning ...[9]... a little bit more."



Dan has had some decent results this season, but is eyeing up a grander competition. "The three of us have been approached about converting to BMX for the Olympics in London," he says. "The other two are focused on downhill, but ...[10]... quite a lot." He'll make a decision at the end of the season; meanwhile he's getting into shape in the gym the siblings built in their garage. "I'll need bigger thighs for 2012," he says.

- A with a workshop
- B she's still in
- C we have to work harder
- D it's now a memory
- E to look after myself
- F later persuaded
- G it's been on my mind
- H a bridge was built
- I *in their back garden*
- J back into place
- K after a crash
- L his closest rival crashed out
- M we are proud of



## READING, PART 2

**You are going to read an article about the history of banking in China. On the basis of the text answer the questions (1-10) on the answer sheet.**

**There is an example done for you.**

### Banking in China

To move the money, businessmen in Pingyao in northern China opened banks, the first in the nation's history. Soon branches sprang up across the country, and they began making loans. Money flowed this way and that. It was a time of new wealth, an age in which entire families came into fortunes overnight. Then, as quickly as it started, the entire system crumbled. The banks shut down and the city fell into ruin. So went the history of China's first banking capital, which bloomed here in dusty Shanxi Province in the mid-19th century. The banks tell a history of Chinese financial development, like how China started to transform from feudalism to capitalism. At Pingyao's height, 22 banks thrived on the flourishing trade, as silk and tea moved north to Mongolia and Russia from southern China, and wool went south.

Compared with the excesses of today, scholars say, the early days of banking were a time of solid business ethics. There were no toxic mortgages, no opaque financial instruments. Trust among businessmen was so strong that the banks were able to start a system of transfers, credit and check writing, the first of its kind in China. The staffs of the banks were trained to be objective and highly responsible to the accounting of the banks. Now, corruption is common and people don't place much value in moral qualities.

When the banking system collapsed before the Communist Revolution in 1949, it was not because of greed or incompetence on the part of the bankers. More important was the overthrow of the Qing dynasty in 1911 and the country's subsequent descent into warring chaos, as well as growing competition from well-financed foreign banks allowed to do business in China. The older people of the town were sad and upset. They didn't want to see the banks close because then they would no longer have any income. Everyone here depended on the banks.

The first bank in China, called Rishengchang, or Sunrise Over Prosperity, is now a museum in the town center, as are four other banks. So great is the mystique around the banks that Chinese leaders have made pilgrimages here from Beijing. To the people of Pingyao, today's leaders can learn from the old ways of doing business. Pingyao's banks had confidence, trust and good manners. This has a lot of benefits for management and financial development. The first manager of Rishengchang was 53 when he started working at the bank.

It is a myth, of course, that business dealings of that era were free of deceit and theft. The cold, dark rooms of the old banks show the paranoia that grew as piles of silver accumulated. The treasuries of the banks were vertical pits dug beneath raised platform beds. Sleeping mats covered the pits. Two or three bank employees would sit or sleep atop the mats around the clock. Fear gave birth to companies that protected the silver as it was transported from one city to another. The guards were trained in martial arts. Today, on weekends a master still teaches kung fu to children on the grounds of one of the old martial arts schools.

But the present-day financial crisis has reinforced the sense of nostalgia surrounding Pingyao, which with its 33-foot-tall walls is one of the best-preserved medieval towns in the country. The memories of former glory linger in many buildings. The families of Pingyao know all too well this old saying, "Wealth does not last for more than three generations."