

SKILLS TEST 7 & 8

READING

1 Read the article quickly. Choose the best summary (1–7) for each paragraph (A–G).

A teen deterrent?

A There is a sound which can only be heard by young people. It is so high, that people over the age of 25 cannot hear it at all. However, for teenagers, it's one of the most annoying sounds in the world.

B Recently, in the UK, a special device has been invented – an alarm which uses this special sound. The makers claim that it can deter young criminals. In many cities around the UK, it's common to see bored teenagers hanging out near shops, or in parks. Most don't get into any trouble. But some end up committing crimes, like fighting other people, painting graffiti on walls, or breaking windows or phone boxes. The alarm is designed to make these teenagers want to go away.

C The person who invented the alarm, Howard Stapleton, said that he had had the idea when his 17-year-old daughter went into a shop, and a group of other teenagers outside were very rude to her. He tested different sounds, and found out that teenagers could be made to go away from an area if they heard a special type of noise.

D Other people in the area have started using these sound alarms. Thousands of shops across the UK have now taken them up. Many people have been very happy with the results. They explained that the number of crimes had gone down and their areas had ended up safer and nicer to live in.

E However, there are problems with the alarm. Perhaps the biggest is that the sound deters everyone under the age of 25 – not just

criminals. For example, it can make very young children feel sick. Some mothers have said that it had made their children cry, and they couldn't play outside any more.

F Other people think that the alarms are a very bad idea, because they create areas where it is not possible for young people to go to and spend time in. Not all teenagers are criminals, but the alarm treats them as if they are.

G Other teenagers have turned the special alarm into an advantage. They have made it into a special ringtone for their mobile phones. Because only young people can hear it, they can now get text messages or phone calls in class without their teachers hearing anything at all!

- 1 These alarms have had a positive effect. ☐
- 2 Some teenagers are using the special sound in a new way. ☐
- 3 There is a special noise that teenagers don't like. ☐
- 4 The alarms punish good teenagers, as well as bad teenagers. ☐
- 5 How someone had the idea to create the alarm. ☐
- 6 There is an alarm that makes teenagers want to leave a place. ☐
- 7 Some parents are upset with the alarm. ☐

☐ 7

2 Read the article again. Mark these sentences T (true) or F (false), or DS (the article doesn't say).

- 1 Teenagers can hear more than people over the age of 25. ☐
- 2 In the UK, most crimes are committed by teenagers. ☐
- 3 The person who invented the alarm had a daughter who was a criminal. ☐
- 4 The alarm became quite popular in the UK, and people said it was a good idea. ☐
- 5 The alarm isn't popular in other countries. ☐
- 6 The alarm only deters teenagers. ☐
- 7 The alarm isn't fair, because it doesn't make a difference between good and bad teenagers. ☐
- 8 Teachers are now using the alarm to make their teachers go away. ☐

☐ 8

SKILLS TEST 7 & 8

LISTENING

3  Listen to a conversation between Hugh and Emma. Decide who has each opinion, Hugh (H) or Emma (E).

1 Americans always speak with a loud voice.

2 Americans eat unhealthy food.

3 Not everyone from the US is the same.

4 Watching films is a good way to understand people from a different country.

5 Many Americans are friendly, and eat well.

6 English people are friendly and pleasant.

7 Some English tourists don't behave nicely when they are abroad.

8 Not everyone from one country is the same.

8

4  Listen again. Choose the correct answers.

1 Emma says that tourists come to her city because of

A the summer weather.

B the history of the place.

2 Hugh thinks that the burger and pizza places are popular because

A Americans like that kind of food.

B there aren't any local people there.

3 Hugh says that the Americans he saw were

A not friendly with him.

B talking loudly.

4 Hugh says that watching American films means that he

A is familiar with the way Americans talk.

B doesn't like Americans.

5 Emma says that when she went to the US,

A she had a good relationship with people.

B not all the people were loud.

6 Emma says that some English tourists

A don't like travelling.

B only think about themselves.

7 Emma believes that

A not all people from one country are the same.

B English people shouldn't go to other countries.

7

SKILLS TEST 7 & 8

WRITING

5 Write an article about people from your country (150–180 words). Use the questions and ideas below to help you.

- How would you describe people from your country?
- Do you think most people are like that?
- What do people from other countries usually think about the people from your country?
- Why do they think this?

20

SPEAKING

6 Work in pairs. Look at the photos below. They show crimes being committed. Take turns to describe your photo, and say what you think is happening. Then, decide together which crime is the most serious.



7 Work in pairs. Imagine that you saw or heard about the situations in photo A or B. Take turns to give your news, react and ask for more details. Use the useful language below.

You'll never guess what ...

You won't believe what happened ...

I heard a really (sad / scary ...) story about ...

There was a story in the paper the other day ...

Tell me.

What?

Really?

That's awful.

No way!

20

TOTAL SCORE

70