

G R A M M A R

Read the following text and fill in each gap with the correct grammatical form of the verbs and pronouns given. Write your answers in the spaces below the article. The words and phrases in brackets are arranged alphabetically—make sure you use all the words in the correct order.

Spelling counts!

Daniel Fairbrother was brought to a halt by officers in Stevenage, Hertfordshire, during training for his attempt to break the world record for the fastest marathon carrying a household appliance (white goods). Fairbrother said he was on his second run carrying the fridge, which he **1 ... (hope)** **2 ... (he, help, raise)** money for Diabetes UK in June 2024, when he **3 ... (a police car, notice, turn around)**. He said: "They put their blue lights on, held up the traffic, and stopped me to find out what on earth **4 ... (go on)**. Understandably, they **5 ... (not, see)** anything like it before. One police officer wound down his window and said: 'You understand we've got to stop you. Is that a fridge on your back?'"

After Fairbrother explained his 26-mile challenge, he said the officer joked: "You do know if you **6 ... (order)** from an appliance shop, they **7 ... (deliver)** it for you?" The fridge-carrying runner added that although it was embarrassing, he did not mind at all. He continued: "I would expect the police to check on someone running about with a fridge. If I **8 ... (get, pull over)** another 10 times I **9 ... (annoy, not)**."

A Hertfordshire constabulary spokesperson told the BBC: "We **10 ... (like, wish)** Daniel all the best with training for the marathon." [1]

1.....

5.....

9.....

2.....

6.....

10.....

3.....

7.....

4.....

8.....

Proceed with the text and decide which ONE functional word best fits in each gap (11-15). Write your answers in the space provided below the text. Spelling counts!

People will call the police for the most bizarre reasons to help solve their problems— **11 ...** if the problems have **12 ...** to do with the law.

A hilarious online thread featuring police reports that were published in local newspapers has lifted the lid on **13 ...** officers have to deal with from their constituents on a daily basis. Officers were called for a number of strange reasons, including one woman complaining about her neighbour leaving the Christmas decorations up and **14 ...** person reporting the mailman for traveling from mailbox to mailbox.

Ultimately, no one was charged in any of the weird incidents reported. But they still ended up in the local newspapers **15 ...** other people to enjoy. [2]

11.....

13.....

15.....

12.....

14.....

Total Points: /15 pts

V O C A B U L A R Y

Complete gaps 1-10 in the following passage with the best answer (A-D). Circle your answers.

Book Review: *Black holes: The Key to Understanding the Universe*, by Brian Cox and Jeff Forshaw

“Black holes,” write the authors, “are perfect for learning about physics because understanding them requires pretty much all of it.” If this sounds **1 ...**, it is, but buckle up—you are in for quite a ride. Jeff Forshaw and Brian Cox are particle physicists at the University of Manchester. They have perfected the art of **2 ...** readers into the world of wacky physics, armed with the latest discoveries and **3 ...** skill at explaining them. Yes, there are equations and diagrams, but if you don’t understand a word, keep reading: the book is filled with thought-**4...** insights which require no maths.

Black holes, such as Sagittarius A, an object four-million times the size of our Sun that sits at the centre of the Milky Way, seem to **5 ...** the laws of physics. But they have much to say about the nature of reality. (Spoiler **6 ...** : in the final pages, the book asks: “Are we living inside a giant quantum computer? The evidence is **7 ...** that it may be so.”)

I gained a clearer understanding of the work of Stephen Hawking and Albert Einstein. Theoretical physics like Hawking’s work once seemed the most azure of blue-skies research, scientific research in domains where “real-world” applications are not immediately apparent. But there are tantalising signs that the biggest problem in theoretical physics and the biggest problem in technology, quantum computing, may have much to offer each other. Quantum gravity, a field that has emerged from the study of black holes, may have “an experimental **8 ...** to it,” say the authors, in a sentence of intriguing, **9 ...** understatement.

So the most **10 ...** of sciences, which remains a mystery to many people, may hold the secrets of quantum computing, and, as well as revealing a universe “enchanted in its strangeness and logical beauty”, be “bloody useful too.” [3] [4]

- | | | | | |
|----|------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1 | A distressing | B daunting | C dismaying | D dawning |
| 2 | A hurling | B throbbing | C firing | D ravishing |
| 3 | A formidable | B sizable | C hefty | D immense |
| 4 | A provoking | B inducing | C inspiring | D promoting |
| 5 | A untie | B unblock | C undo | D unsettle |
| 6 | A alarm | B alert | C signal | D sign |
| 7 | A swelling | B rousing | C escalating | D mounting |
| 8 | A feature | B verge | C side | D view |
| 9 | A spine-tingling | B back-breaking | C eye-catching | D heart-wrenching |
| 10 | A obsessive | B abstruse | C unsettling | D onerous |

Total Points:/10pts

R E A D I N G C O M P R E H E N S I O N

Read the following article about a trip to an ancient Bornean rainforest. Complete gaps 1-10 with a suitable phrase (A-M) from the list on the following page. Three phrases will remain unmatched.

Dangling on a rope some 40 feet up, amid a labyrinth of leafy tree limbs, I looked down and questioned my sanity for asking the two men far below to hoist me into the canopy of this rainforest. One of them, photographer Tim Laman, had tied a line to an arrow and shot it over a high bough. Then he and his assistant rigged a pulley system **1** With each of their heaves, the rope squeaked and the branch above bounced precariously.

The aim of this adventure was to reach a high crotch in a 150-foot-tall Shorea tree, whose genus includes some of the world's tallest. A spot among its high branches would offer an ideal view of **2** ... in Southeast Asia. Located just below the Equator, Gunung Palung National Park is a 417-square-mile protected area that encompasses the Palung and Panti mountains in the Indonesian part of Borneo. An area around Mount Palung was first designated as a natural reserve in 1937; over the years its borders were stretched, and in 1990 the Indonesian government designated it a national park. Today it covers nine distinct forest types stacked one atop another across a series of steep slopes, **3**

Once the guys hauled me as high as they could, the rest of the climb was on me. It was agonizingly slow, nothing like the easy scramble I'd seen other primates make into the treetops. But it would be worth it, I reasoned, because of what lives in that green world overhead. All week I'd reveled in the cackles of leaf monkeys, the hoots of gibbons, and the barks of macaques, plus choruses of birds and frogs—**4** Since the canopy is home to these music makers, I hoped to glimpse something animal from a perch at their eye level.

Truth be told, I was most excited to meet the island's biggest stars: the orangutans. The flaming-orange-haired primates are the only great ape native to Asia, and the Bornean orangutan, *Pongo pygmaeus*, has long represented the soul of Gunung Palung while playing a crucial role in the health of its forests. Some 2,500 of them roam these treetops, a healthy number **5** And when Laman mentioned he could get me up into their domain, I was game.

At about a hundred feet, I was well below the top of the canopy but high enough that I could see the curve of a fog-shrouded mountain rising over densely forested parkland. I swung myself into the fork of two large limbs and settled in to admire the view and, with luck, spot something furry or feathered. Time passed. I gazed and listened expectantly. The branches gently swayed, and the whisper of leaves taunted me; otherwise, all remained quiet. More time passed. No glorious birds came to feed; no chattering primates swung by. Even the insects seemed to be on a break. I wasn't surprised—the time of day and dearth of fruit in this tree **6** Still, I was a bit disappointed that nobody was home.

Gunung Palung lies in Borneo's swampy southwest. For scientists, the park's remoteness and limited tourism are pluses: Gunung Palung presents a veritable time capsule of **7** Borneo's rainforest has been evolving for millions of years, a process that has yielded a bounty of unique flora: Consider its more than a thousand types of orchids, or its dozens of kinds of carnivorous pitcher plants, or its 3,000-plus tree species, including the towering yellow meranti that can grow taller than the Statue of Liberty.

Among the first botanists to inform the Western world's imagination about these marvels was an Italian named Odoardo Beccari, who visited the island in 1865. He was 21 years old and fresh from university when he arrived in Borneo to wander its "great forests." To Beccari, the jungle seemed a riot of plants ruthlessly scheming and strategizing. He marveled at how orchids and other flowering plants made their way into the upper stories of the mightiest trees to reach the sunlight and used

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their brilliant colors, peculiar shapes, and powerful odors to attract insects that helped them pollinate and propagate. “To ensure success,” Beccari wrote, “**8** ... , every sort of deceit, every kind of cruelty.”

The temptation might be to assume that this complex ecosystem flourished **9** But people have been living on Borneo for at least tens of thousands of years. The oldest known figurative painting—thought to depict a wild cow-like animal—was found in a Bornean cave and dated to at least 40,000 years ago. And as seafaring advanced, traders from throughout Asia, and later Europe, flocked to the island for its trees, minerals, and animals.

Today the list of resources extracted from Borneo reads like a modern plunderer’s shopping list: timber, gold, diamonds, bauxite, coal, natural gas, and animals poached for the pet trade or traditional medicine. But the most devastating losses **10** ... , including oil palm farms, which yield a substance widely used in packaged foods and other products. Drought-related fires have also depleted old-growth trees, and in the late 1990s, political and economic turmoil in the region fueled an explosion of illegal logging and mining. All told, it’s estimated that Indonesian Borneo lost nearly a third of its forest from 1973 to 2010. [5]

- A** weren’t ideal for wildlife spotting
- B** one of the last remaining intact lowland rainforests left
- C** considering they’re critically endangered
- D** because there were no humans to disrupt it
- E** that offers a glimpse into Borneo’s past
- F** nature uses every possible artifice
- G** to lift me to a place few humans get to visit
- H** all backed by the hums and whines of insects
- I** what the island was like for millennia
- J** a living forest unlike any other on Earth
- K** have come with the conversion of forest to agriculture
- L** a species that’s crucial to the vitality of the whole region
- M** moving up from mangrove swamp to mossy mountaintop forest

Total points:/10pts

L I S T E N I N G C O M P R E H E N S I O N

You will hear a report about the use of lasers for the historical exploration of the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. For questions 1 to 5, circle one correct answer according to the information you hear. You will hear the text only once. [6]

1. Andrew Tallon's approach to the study of the Notre Dame Cathedral is unique because _____.
 - a. he has developed a special technique to uncover hidden elements of its architecture.
 - b. he wants to find out who exactly built Notre Dame by comparing it to other medieval structures.
 - c. he has created the most accurate and detailed laser measurements of the building.
 - d. his main aim is to try to understand the builders' thinking and construction approaches.
2. To produce extremely accurate and realistic models of cathedrals, Tallon has to _____.
 - a. take scans from at least 50 different locations in and around the building.
 - b. place the tripod with the laser precisely above the centre of the cathedral choir.
 - c. match the scan with a panoramic photograph taken from the same location.
 - d. scan the same elements using different colour settings for the laser.
3. The laser scans produced by Tallon at Notre Dame reveal that the western end of the cathedral _____.
 - a. is not symmetrical in the layout of its elements.
 - b. contained columns and aisles of different architectural styles.
 - c. was originally planned to accommodate a few dwelling chambers.
 - d. was constructed with a significant time lag compared to other parts.
4. The Gallery of Kings on the western facade is almost 3 metres out of plumb because _____.
 - a. it was built on the remains of an existing structure.
 - b. it was designed to align with the three massive doorways.
 - c. it was constructed on unstable ground that started moving.
 - d. it was planned based on incorrect calculations.
5. Tallon's scans have revealed that the flying buttresses extending from the external walls of Notre Dame _____.
 - a. were added later to ensure internal balance.
 - b. stabilized the upper part of the building.
 - c. were designed to support the vaults in the ceiling.
 - d. have moved only slightly in 800 years.

Total points: /5pts

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