

I. A) *Read the text and choose the best answer to each question:*

**The Secret of Numbers**

As the number of people pinning their hopes on winning the Lottery soars, David Jones investigates their chances of winning.

1.....

Britain's latest national sport seems to have caught the imagination of millions of people up and down the country. The first studies published, however, do seem to suggest that it is the less well-off who spend more on the Lottery. What chance do they have of winning the countless millions they dream of?

2.....

The winning numbers for all lotteries are chosen at random. Everyone has to believe that their numbers have as good a chance as any of coming up. The face is that a combination like 123456 has as much chance of coming up as any other, but people still prefer a group of numbers with a completely random sequence, such as 45 27 32 11 43 17.

3.....

Nevertheless, every week about ten thousand people do choose the number 1 2 3 4 5 6 when they play in the Lottery. Bearing in mind that the National Lottery is shared every week among all the ticket holders with the winning number, this means that when 123456 does finally come up (and it is likely to do so in the next 250000 years), the winners will receive, by today's standards, between one and four pounds each.

4.....

Now consider these numbers:

7 17 23 32 38 42    12 15 26 44 46 49

What is the difference between these 35 numbers? The answer is 17 280 000 pounds. The first number won the Lottery on 15 January and there were 133 winners – they won 122 000 pounds each. The second sequence came up in the Lottery of 10 June and was won by only a single ticket, whose happy owner won 17.4 million pounds.

5.....

The conclusion is that if we knew the secret of numbers, it would be worth quite a lot of money. Sadly, we don't – there is no statistical explanation for this difference. There is no reason why one number should be more likely to come up than another, though you wouldn't have thought so, looking at the careful way in which people choose their lottery tickets.

6.....

Again, what is the difference between the numbers 14 24 33 38 42 47 and 14 17 22 24 42 47? The answer, in this case, is life and death. The first sequence represents the numbers played every week by Tim O'Brien and Steve Sumner, until O'Brien's death last June. The second series of numbers is that

which came up the night before he died. O'Brien had forgotten to renew his ticket and, believing that he had lost his share of the jackpot (a share worth around two million pounds), he committed suicide the next day.

7.....

The numbers, however, do not match. Indeed, it is hard to see how anyone could think that they did match. All that they have in common (apart from the four numbers that they share) is a random "look", but this was enough for the unfortunate O'Brien. In fact, he had lost, or would have lost, only 54 pounds, which was the prize for matching four numbers out of six. Numbers are lucky for some but they can be fatal for others.

**1. What kind of people is the Lottery most popular with?**

- A people who dream of becoming rich
- B people in the north and south of Britain
- C people from all social classes
- D the poorer members of society

**2. Most people who play on the Lottery choose a number like**

- A 3 5 1 4 7 2
- B 2 4 6 8 10 12
- C 1 2 3 4 5 6
- D 9 8 7 6 5 4

**3. What will happen when the number 123456 wins?**

- A The winners will get enormous sums.
- B The winners will share 4 000 pounds.
- C A few people will share a lot of money.
- D A lot of people will share a lot of money.

**4. Why did the number on 10th of June win 17.4 million pounds?**

- A It was only the second time it had come up.
- B There were a lot of winners.
- C There was only one winner.
- D The lucky ticket was worth a lot of money.

**5. Why did O'Brien commit suicide? He thought**

- A he had lost the ticket.
- B his ticket had not won.
- C he had forgotten to buy a ticket.
- D he had nearly won a lot of money.

**6. In face O'Brien's ticket would have**

- A won nothing
- B won a small amount of money
- C nearly won a lot of money
- D won two million pounds.

7. What is the author saying about a lottery ticket?

- A choose it very carefully
- B know about statistics
- C choose any number
- D work out which number is likely to come up

*B) Choose the most suitable heading from the list (A -H) for each part (1 -7) of the text. There is one extra heading you do not need to use.*

- A A new craze
- B A fatal mistake
- C A slim chance
- D A waste of time and money
- E All numbers are random
- F Small gains and a big gain
- G Absent-minded
- H Magic numbers: a closed secret

II. *Choose the correct answer that best fits each space:*

**Another Comic Genius**

Robin Williams was creative and gifted from an early age. He was a(n) (1) \_\_\_\_\_ child and at school was always a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ pupil: he wrestled, ran cross-country and worked (3) \_\_\_\_\_ at his studies.

When he was sixteen his father took early retirement and (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the family to Tiborn, near San Francisco. While Robin was studying at Claremont Men's College, he (5) \_\_\_\_\_ theatre and, as a result, he abandoned his books. (6) \_\_\_\_\_ his father was at first very displeased when Robin won a full scholarship to New York's (7) \_\_\_\_\_ Juillard Drama School, he did not stand in his (8) \_\_\_\_\_. Robin stayed in New York for a couple of years then he (9) \_\_\_\_\_ to San Francisco, a city he has lived in to this day, and one for which he feels real (10) \_\_\_\_\_. For him, it's the most beautiful city in the world and a great place to (11) \_\_\_\_\_ kids.

- |                  |               |             |              |
|------------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. A imaginary   | B imaginative | C fantastic | D mythical   |
| 2. A classic     | B model       | C superior  | D spoilt     |
| 3. A quickly     | B easily      | C hard      | D fast       |
| 4. A drove       | B travelled   | C fetched   | D moved      |
| 5. A discovered  | B found       | C performed | D succeeded  |
| 6. A However     | B Although    | C Moreover  | D As         |
| 7. A admired     | B known       | C famous    | D respectful |
| 8. A way         | B road        | C route     | D track      |
| 9. A arrived     | B stayed      | C lived     | D returned   |
| 10. A attraction | B nostalgia   | C affection | D connection |
| 11. A grow       | B grow up     | C rise      | D raise      |

**III. Complete this text using the correct form of the verbs in brackets.**

I have been going to the cinema ever since I was a child, but I rarely (1)\_\_\_\_\_ (go) to see cartoons. In fact, I (2)\_\_\_\_\_ (not/see) a cartoon for about five years. The last time I (3)\_\_\_\_\_ (see) a cartoon at the cinema was when I (4)\_\_\_\_\_ (take) my two sons, who (5)\_\_\_\_\_ (be) now twelve years old, to see Walt Disney's Fantasia. They (6)\_\_\_\_\_ (be) only seven at the time and so they (7)\_\_\_\_\_ (look) forward to seeing a cartoon at the cinema. "I hope this (8)\_\_\_\_\_ (be) good," said Tony. "I (9)\_\_\_\_\_ (want) some coke and popcorn!" said Terry.

"OK, OK," I said. "I (10)\_\_\_\_\_ (get) you some coke and popcorn. But let's go, or we'll be late!" It was the first time I (11)\_\_\_\_\_ (take) the boys to the cinema. We (12)\_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the theatre together before, but never to the cinema. I (13)\_\_\_\_\_ (buy) them some coke and popcorn as I (14)\_\_\_\_\_ (promise). As they (15)\_\_\_\_\_ (watch) the film they (16)\_\_\_\_\_ (crunch) their popcorn noisily and slurped their coke. We had only been watching the film for ten minutes or so when Tony (17)\_\_\_\_\_ (say) in a loud voice, his mouth full of popcorn, "This is boring!" On the screen at that moment an orchestra (18)\_\_\_\_\_ (play) a piece of classical music; there had been no violence and no one had appeared with a laser gun yet. Is that why they didn't like it?

**IV. Use the word in capitals at the end of each line to form a word that fits in the space in the same line:**

Robin Williams likes San Francisco because no one makes a fuss about (1) _____ him.	<i>SEE</i>
"I've been there so long they're getting a bit (2) _____ with me," he told (3) _____ . "I got my first big break when I made a guest (4) _____ in Happy Days on TV in the 70s."	<i>BORE</i>
Williams was a (5) _____ actor right from the start. However, his first movie Popeye was a critical (6) _____ . He was also drinking too much and his (7) _____ was looking shaky.	<i>REPORT</i>
There were three or four (8) _____ <i>inside him trying to get out,</i> " says his manager. He found a new (9) _____ when he married Marsha Grace.	<i>APPEAR</i>
Their relationship began when she made an (10) _____ to become nanny to Williams' first son, Zach.	<i>SUCCESS</i>
	<i>FAIL</i>
	<i>MARRY</i>
	<i>PERSON</i>
	<i>DIRECT</i>
	<i>APPLY</i>

V. *Some of the lines are correct, and some have a word which should not be there. If a line is correct, put a tick (✓). If a line has a word which should not be there, write the word:*

### City Pollution

- |       |     |                                                                 |
|-------|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| _____ | 1.  | Since the introduction of the motor car at the beginning of     |
| _____ | 2.  | this century, our roads have become more and more congested     |
| _____ | 3.  | and our cities has increasingly polluted. In Mexico City,       |
| _____ | 4.  | for example, where there are over two million of                |
| _____ | 5.  | cars, children are quite used to smog alerts. It is said that   |
| _____ | 6.  | the damage being caused to children's lungs is the same as that |
| _____ | 7.  | from smoking the two packets of cigarettes a day.               |
| _____ | 8.  | Seen from up the air, cities such as London and Los Angeles     |
| _____ | 9.  | appear to be covered in a blanket of cloud that is, in a fact,  |
| _____ | 10. | the haze of pollution. Car manufacturers and city planners are  |
| _____ | 11. | now hard working to try and control the number of vehicles and  |
| _____ | 12. | improve the way they run to make them less bad polluting. One   |
| _____ | 13. | major advance forward has been the development of the electric  |
| _____ | 14. | car. Using batteries, these vehicles are able to move quietly   |
| _____ | 15. | around cities creating very little of pollution.                |

VI. *Match words from list A with words from list B that have a similar meaning.*

<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>
displeased	fondness
model	unhappy
affection	destroy
stop working	fond of
raise	fantastic
keen on	abandon
abandon	stingy
great	ideal
insane	bring up
mean	give up
desert	retire
ruin	mad