UBND HUYỆN CẨM GIÀNG

B. She gives them a flower.

D. She sends them a free ticket.

C. She signs one of her photographs.

GIỚI THIỆU ĐỀ THI CHỌN HỌC SINH GIỚI LỚP 9 THCS NĂM HỌC 2024-2025

Môn thi: *Tiếng Anh* Thời gian làm bài: 150 phút

A. LISTENING

1. Where are the dictionaries?		
A. behind the computers	B. on the desk	
B. C. by the window	D. on the armchairs	
2. Which evening dress does the we	oman decide to wear?	
A. the black one with long sle	eeves	
B. the long-sleeved one with	a wide belt	
C. the short-sleeved one with	a wide belt	
D. the short-sleeved one with	white flowers on the sleeves	
3. What is the man's job now?		
A. an artist	B. a businessman	
C. a photographer	D. a teacher	
4. Which calendar will the boy buy	?	
A. the one with pictures of m	ountains on it	
B the one with with boats of	on it	
C. the one with wild animals	on it	
D. the one with the girl who l	oves sailing on it	
5. What time will the writer arrive	_	
	. 3.30	
B. C. 1.45 D	. 3.15	
II. You will hear a radio intervie	w with a hallet dancer called El	ena Karnov who is talking
about her life and career. Listen a		_
6. How old was Elena when she de		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	.9 C . 11	D. 20
7. What does Elena say about the b		_,_,
A. Children enjoy it.	B. The music was unfa	amiliar to her.
C. She saw it when she was a		bout a little girl.
8. What does Elena like to do in he	•	20 0 00 0 11002 8111
A. do sightseeing	B. go to clubs	
C. go shopping	· ·	est fashion shows
9. What does Elena often do for he		22
A. She gives them a photogra		

I. Listen to FIVE short conversations and choose the correct answer to each . (5.0 points)

10. W	/hat does Elena like best about her job?
	A. appearing on television
	B. being a guest dancer with ballet companies
	C. doing something she loves.
	D. travelling to different countries
III. Yo	ou will hear part of a talk about dolls. Complete the note below with NO MORE THAN
THRE	CE WORDS for each answer. (5.0 points) (part 2 – test 1 – FCE 2)
	Dolls
	The first known dolls were found in (11) in ancient Egypt.
	The earliest dolls in the museum date from the 12 th century.
	Early European dolls were dressed like (12)
	On the 17th-century dolls, you can see details like the make-up.
	Collectors look for examples in perfect condition, with their (13)
	19th-century dolls had soft bodies and red hair.
	If you can take off the doll's hair, you may see the
	(14) underneath.
	Before the 20 th century, all dolls were little adults, not babies.
	From the 1930s, dolls were made of (15)
	ou will hear a woman called Julie and a man called Greg talking about an indoor wildlife they have visited. Listen and circle True or False. (5 points) (Pet 8- test 1 – part 4)
	hey agree that the wildlife centre building is well designed.
10. 1	A. True B. False
17 Iı	alie thought the sharks at the centre were frightening.
	A. True B. False
	alie found the building was too warm.
10. 30	A. True B. False
10 G	reg was disappointed with the number of insects.
17. 0	A. True B. False
20 G	reg only managed to see one tree frog.
20. O	A. True B. False
	A. True B. Faise
I. Cho 21	SICO - GRAMMAR ose the answer which best fits the space in the following sentences. (15 points) I. My teacher reminded me my essay carefully before handing it in. A. checking B. to check C. to have checked D. checked I. Hanh can't go to the movies with us tonight. She will have to her little sister. A. turn on B. go on C. turn off D. look after

23. The oil price has	by 20%.		
A. raised	B. risen	C. raising	D. arisen
24. Let your name	on this sheet o	f paper. C. to be written	
A. written	B. be written	C. to be written	D. wrote
25. Fifty dollars for t	this coat a rea	asonable price	
		C. had	
			idents at each other.
		C. shouting	
	ss have been	designed by Coco Ch	nanel, because it wasn't worn till
her death.	7 5		5 1 11 3
A. wouldn't		C. mustn't	D. shouldn't
28. Study harder		D 1 '11	.1
A. if you will pass	the exam	B. and you will pas	s the exam
		D. or you will pass	
		feel equal oth	
A. up	B. on	C. with	D. to
Read the following adve	articament and mar	lz tha lattar A R C	or D on your answer sheet to
			anks from 30 to 32. (3pts)
		al (30) 3rd or	
			ve with this situation. On this
			ation in the year 2023 and look
forward to receiving your			union in the year 2025 and 10011
Should you have (32)			
Wish you and your family			•
Best regards,	, w mountain, mappy with		
	B. in	C. at	D. about
31: A. attentive			
32: A. few			
			indicate the correct option that
best fits each of the number			
Conference Room 120 ca	an be booked for mee	etings and conference	calls. First, make a reservation
request online at www.ga	zpoffice.com/confroo	m. When your reque	st (33), the system
•	-	-	if no other event is scheduled at
•	-	-	message to (34)
			rs, you will be notified that the
request has been declined	d. Note that the reserv	vations are (35)	It is therefore advisable en time slot is already reserved,
		ne. This way, if a giv	en time slot is already reserved,
you will be able to resche	-		
33. A. is received	•	C. to receive	
34. A. move your rese		B. cancel your reser	
C. change your res		D. confirm your res	ervation
35. A. our invitation to			
<u>*</u>	ts before the meeting		
C. on a first-come,			
D. The time of the	_		(- 0
II. There are five mistak	kes in this passage. F	ind and correct then	n. (5.0 points)
Line		Daggaga	

Li	ne	Passage
1		The best way to learn English is to come to class <u>regular</u> and do your homework.
2		If you miss several days of classes, for any reason, you cannot keep up with the others

3	students. The Language and Culture Centre is a serious academic program in intensive	
4	English and wants all of its students to success. Therefore, students are expected to attend	
5	all classes regularly, do all classroom assignments, meet all class requirements, and make	
6	academic progress. Students who do not meet these standards may be placed on	
7	probation. Students placed on academic probation with meet their teacher(s) and with	
8	either or both the Associate Director and Foreign Student Advisor. Students will be	
9	inform in writing of the terms and length of their probation. Students who have 30 hours	
10	of absences are in danger of being placed on academic probation. Students fail to meet the	
11	terms of their probation will be terminated from the LCC for the remainder of the	
12	semester. This will also likely result on loss of student status with the US Immigration	
13	and Naturalisation Service.	

Line	Mistakes	Correction
	00. regular	→ regularly
	36.	→
	37.	→
	38.	→
	39.	→
	40.	→

III. Give the correct form of the words in brackets. (5 pts)

41. The roads in our town are being	(WIDE)
42 . If we don't save energy, there will be of it in the future	(SHORT)
43. He didn't feel happy because he worked	(SUCCESS)
44. We must make aabout where to go.	(DECIDE)
45. I hope there won't be too much in getting a work permit	(DIFFICULT)

C. READING

I. Five sentences have been removed from the text below. Choose from the sentences A-H the one which fits each gap. There are TWO extra sentences which you do not need to use. (5.0 points)

- **A.** There are websites where people can arrange to meet up.
- **B.** If your car is this old it may need replacing.
- C. Make sure you carry out basic maintenance like checking the tyre pressure regularly.
- **D.** Try making more use of public transport.
- **E.** These problems mainly affect the city centres.
- **F.** All that extra weight will put more pressure on the engine.
- **G.** But sometimes it's difficult for us to do the right thing.

How to Save Petrol and the Environment

We all know how important it is to protect the environment. (46) _____. For example, if you're a motorist jumping in the car to go somewhere is balanced against the knowledge of how harmful each journey can be. But did you know that making a few simple changes to your driving habits will not only do less damage to our world but will also save you money and could even be good for your health?

Do you really nee	ed to take the car? (47)	. If the service	is reliable you'll soon get
used to using buses and	trains. In fact, for shorte	er journeys why not take	the opportunity to get into
shape and go on foot.			
•	•	•	e occupant with the driver
_	•	rby? Why not car share	and half the cost of the
journey? (48)			
			urney so you can go to all
- ·	_		you get caught in a traffic
-	•	•	ot to brake too sharply or
			d mornings don't warm up ur car think about whether
you really need to fill up			ar car tillink about whether
			d keep your car regularly
serviced so that it runs as		()	
	• •	elp you do your bit to pro	tect the environment.
II. Read the following	passage and choose t	he best option for each	h blank to complete the
passage. (10 points)		(=4)	
			Some writers of science-
	_		52) 'Martians' as
			d that life may be possible
on Mars. The first (53)	of this is that N	Mars has seasons, just li	ke Earth. In other words,
Earth's seasons, such as	spring or summer, occu	r on Mars too. Because t	hese seasons exist, it may
be possible for (54)	and other higher life	forms to be found on Ma	rs. Astronomers also think
that perhaps a small (5	5) of water vapo	or could be found on M	Mars. In 1887, an Italian
astronomer, Giovanni S	chiaparelli, discovered n	narkings on Mars' surfac	e. These markings looked
like canals. This finding	(56) astronor	ners to believe that since	water exists on Mars, life
			fe on Mars is not possible.
			et. In 1965, the Mariner IV
			that the only forms of life
			fascinated by the idea that
there could one day be li		,, propro ressume	
51. A. puzzled	B. asked	C. wondered	D. confused
52. A. observe	B. suppose	C. believe	D. imagine
53. A. indication	B. sign	C. mark	D. trace
54. A. vegetables	B. vegetation	C. vegetarian	D. veterinary
55. A. quantity	B. amount	C. portion	D. mass
56. A. got	B. took	C. led	D. brought
57. A. others	B. another	C. other	D. the others
58. A. a little	B. a few	C. few	D. little
59. A. tried	B. attempted	C. managed	D. strived
60. A. Accordingly	B. Nevertheless	C. Consequently	D. Thus

III. Read the following passages and choose the best answer to the s. (10 points)

III. Read the following passages and choose the best answer to the questions. (10 points)

Commuting is the practice of travelling a long distance to a town or city to work each day, and then travelling home again in the evening. The word commuting comes from commutation ticket, a US rail ticket for **repeated** journeys, called a season ticket in Britain. Regular travellers are called commuters.

The US has many commuters. A few, mostly on the East Coast, commute by train or subway, but most depend on the car. Some leave home very early to avoid the traffic jams, and sleep in their cars until their office opens. Many people accept a long trip to work so that they can live in quiet bedroom communities away from the city, but another reason is 'white flight'. In the 1960s most cities began to desegregate their schools, so that there were no longer separate schools for white and black children. Many white families did not want to send their children to desegregated schools, so they moved to the suburbs, which have their own schools, and where, for various reasons, few black people live.

Millions of people in Britain commute by car or train. Some spend two or three hours a day travelling, so that they and their families can live in suburbia or in the countryside. Cities are surrounded by commuter belts. Part of the commuter belt around London is called the stockbroker belt because it contains houses where rich business people live. Some places are becoming dormitory towns, because people sleep there but take little part in local activities.

Most commuters travel to and from work at the same time, causing the morning and evening rush hours, when buses and trains are crowded and there are traffic jams on the roads. Commuters on trains rarely talk to each other and spend their journey reading, sleeping or using their mobile phones, though this is not popular with other passengers. Increasing numbers of people now work at home some days of the week, **linked to** their offices by computer, a practice called telecommuting.

Cities in both Britain and the US are trying to reduce the number of cars coming into town each day. Some companies encourage car pooling (called car sharing in Britain), an arrangement for people who live and work near each other to travel together. Some US cities have a public service that helps such people to contact each other, and traffic lanes are reserved for car-pool vehicles. But cars and petrol/gas are cheap in the US, and many people prefer to drive alone because <u>it</u> gives them more freedom. In Britain many cities have park-and-ride schemes, car parks on the edge of the city from which buses take drivers into the centre.

(Extracted from Oxford Guide to British and American Culture, Oxford University Press, 2000)

- **61:** Which of the following definitions of commuting would the author of this passage most probably agree with?
 - A. Travelling for hours from a town or city to work in the countryside every day.
 - B. Travelling to work and then home again in a day within a rural district.
 - C. Using a commutation ticket for special journeys in all seasons of the year.
- D. Regularly travelling a long distance between one's place of work and one's home.

 62: The word "repeated" in paragraph 1 most probably means_____.

 A. buying a season ticket again.

 C. saying something again.

 B. doing something once again.

 D. happening again and again.

 63: The passage mentions that many Americans are willing to travel a long distance to work in order to be able to live in _____.

 A. comfortable bedrooms

 B. quiet neighbourhoods
- C. city centres D. noisy communities **64:** Which of the following is TRUE according to the passage?
- A. Britain has considerably more commuters than the US.
 - B. The US has considerably more commuters than Britain.
 - C. Both the US and Britain have a great number of commuters.

	he US and Britain save a lot of time.	
65: Which of the following is NOT true		
A. It is home to some wealthy bu		
B. It is like "bedroom communiti		
C. It is in central London.		
	sage that dormitory towns in Britain are places whe	re
people		
A. contribute to the local commu		
C. take part in local activities	D. stay for the night	
67: As mentioned in the passage, comm		
	B. cause traffic congestion on the roads on thours D. go to work at different hours	
68: The phrase " <u>linked to</u> " in paragraph A. satisfied with	B. connected to	
C. shared with	D. related to	
	o reduce the number of cars coming into town each day in t	he
US and/or Britain EXCEPT	reduce the number of ears coming into town each day in t	110
A. car pooling/sharing	B traffic lanes for car pooling	
	D. free car parks in the city centre	
70: The word "it" in the last paragraph i	refers to	
A. travelling together	B. car pool	
A. travelling together C. driving alone	D. petrol/gas	
sentence printed before it (5 points). 71. Although the play received good not be Despite		10
72. No students in my class can speak E She speaks		
73. She asked an assistant how much the	he Colombian coffee cost.	
She asked, "	?"	
74. Follow these safety instructions or y ⚠ If you	you may get burnt.	
75. It's thought that the accident was car	nused by human error.	
The accident is	•	
II. Write a letter to invite a penpal from	om Australia to celebrate The Lunar New Year with yo)u
in Vietnam. You should write about 1	100-120 words. (10 points)	
In your letter, you should:	,	
- invite the friend,		
- introduce the activities you and	I your friend can do at Tet	
-	•	
- remind the friend to bring suital	-	
You may begin and end the letter as f	follows:	
Dear Daisy,		
17		
Yours,		

III. "Us Writexan	ing te a	F F t p	ace ara	ebo gr	ok apl	is of	a w ^c al	vasi bou	te d ut 1	of 1 140	tim)	ie f 160	for 0 w	se vor	eco rds	na s to	lar ez	y s	ch	00	l si	tud				usi	ng s	spe	cifi	c d	etai	ls ai	nd	
	• • • •	• • •	• • •	• • •		• • • •	• • •	• • •	• • • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •		• • •	• • •	• • • •	• • •	• • •	• • • •	• • • •	• • • •	• • • •	• • • • •	• • • •	••
• • • • •	• • • •	• • •	• • •	• • •		• • • •	• • •	• • •	• • • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •		• • •	• • •	• • • •	• • •	• • • •	• • • •	• • • •		• • • •		• • • •	• •
			• • •	• • •			• • •	• • •			• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •		• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •		• • •	• • •		• • •			• • • •		• • • •		• • • •	• •
			• • •	• • •			• • •	• • •			• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •		• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •		• • •	• • •		• • •			• • • •		• • • •		• • • •	• •
• • • • •			• • •	• • •		• • • •	• • •	• • •			• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •		• • •	• • •		• • •	· • • •	• • • •	• • • •		• • • •		• • • •	••
			• • •	• • •			• • •				• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •			• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •			• • •		• • •					• • • •		• • • •	• •
			• • •				• • •	• • •				• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •				• • •															

ĐÁP ÁN, BIỂU ĐIỂM

Câu		Đáp án + B	siểu điểm + Hu	rớng dẫn chấn	n	Điểm				
A. LISTE	NING	•				'				
т	Tổng 5 điểm	. Mỗi câu trá	à lời đúng cho	1 điểm		5 điểm				
I	1A	2C	3D	4B	5A	1x5				
II	Tổng 5 điểm	. Mỗi câu trá	ỉ lời đúng cho			5 điểm				
11	6B	7A	8C	9 <u>C</u>	10B	1x5				
			i lời đúng cho			7 - 4.2				
III	11. graves	12. their/	13. original	14. maker's	15. plastic	5 điểm				
		the owner	clothes	name(s)		1x5				
	Tổng 5 điểm		l À lời đúng cho	<u> </u> 1 điểm		5 điểm				
IV	16. F	17. F	18. T	19. T	20. F	$1 \frac{3 \operatorname{dicin}}{1 \times 5}$				
B. GRAM	IMAR + VOCA				120.1	1110				
2, 01111			rả lời đúng cho							
	21. B	22. D	23. B	24. B	25. A]				
I	26. C	27. B	28. B	29. D	30. A	15 điểm				
	31. C	32. B	33. A	34. D	35. C	1x15				
	Tổng 5 điểm	. Mỗi câu trá	ỉ lời đúng cho	1 điểm						
	Line	F	Error	Cor	rection					
	1	00. regular		→ regularly	I	-				
II	2	36. others		→ other	→ other					
11	5	37. success	1x5							
	8	38. inform		→ succeed → informed	1	1				
	11	39. fail		→ failing	•	-				
		40. on	-							
	14		7 11 1 - 4 / 1	→ in						
		. Moi cầu tra	ả lời đúng cho	1 diem						
	41 widened					5 điểm				
III	42 shortage									
	43. unsuccess	sfully				1x5				
	44. decision									
	45. difficulty									
C. READ	1 0	7.5%		4 112						
•			i lời đúng cho		.	5 điểm				
I	46. G	47. D	48. A	49. F 5	5 <mark>0.C</mark>	1x5				
II	Tổng 10 điển	n Mỗi câu ti	rả lời đúng cho	ı 1 điểm		10 điểm				
11	Tong to then	n, with Cau U	a ioi dung che	, i uicili		1x10				
	51. C	52. D	53. A	54. B	55. B					
	1		1 20.11			1 1				

	56. C	57. A	58. D	59. C	60. B								
	Tổng 10 điểm	ı. Mỗi câu trả	lời đúng cho 1	điểm		_							
Ш													
111	61. D	62. D	63. B	64. C	65.C	1x10							
	66. D	67. B	68. B	69. D	70.C								
D. WRITI	NG												
	71. Despite th	e fact that the	play received g	ood notice, not	many								
	people went to	see it											
	* *		nost fluently of a	ıll students in n	ny class								
01	_	_											
			does the Colomb	00									
	74. If you don't follow these safety instructions, you may get burnt.												
			to have been cai	ised by human	error.								
	* Form: (1 p												
	1	et form of a let											
	* Task fulfilli	` -	,	information									
II		organized	with all relevant	miormation		10 điểm							
11		_				10 dicili							
	*Language: (5 points) - accurate grammar												
	- appropriate vocabulary												
	* Form: (1 p	,											
	1	et form of a pa	•										
	* Task fulfill	\ _	,										
III			ge with all releva	int information		15 điểm							
111		organized.											
	*Language: (7 points) - accurate grammar												
		priate vocabul	ary										
			Tổng toàn bài			100							
						điểm							

Khi thấy học sinh làm bài theo cách khác, giám khảo thảo luận, nếu thấy đúng vẫn cho điểm tối đa

TRANSCRIPT

PART I

One. Where are the dictionaries?

Man:

As this is your first visit to the library, I'll show you round. As you can see, shelves are clearly labelled according to subject. Most books you may take home with you but some, such as foreign language dictionaries, must stay in the library. These can be found over there behind the computers and it's best if you take them to the desks by the window and study them there. Or you can use these armchairs if you prefer to sit somewhere more comfortable.

Now listen again.

Two. Which evening dress does the woman decide to wear?

Man: Why are you taking so long to decide what to wear tomorrow night? The black dress with the long sleeves will be fine!

Woman: Mmm... Long sleeves are a bit uncomfortable, but yes, it's a nice dress. Trouble is,

I've lent my short-sleeved dress to Angela. That would be perfect, it's a long dress with a wide belt... Anyway, let's see what I've got here . . . this one, also black, short- sleeved - but it's got white flowers on the sleeves.

Man: Why don't you phone Angela and get your dress back?

Woman: Yes, I think I will. [Pause]

Now listen again.

Three. What is the man's job now?

Man: When I was young, I used to paint. I always dreamed of being an artist, painting pictures for a living. But I didn't do very well at school and so I left early to join my dad working in the family photography business. After a few years of that I got bored, and felt I wanted to go back and study. That's when I did my degree and teacher training, and I've taught photography ever since, although I still paint in my spare time.

Four. Which calendar will the boy buy?

Boy: Mum asked me to buy her a calendar. Shall I get this one with pictures of mountains, or this one with boats on it?

Girl: She loves sailing, so get that one. I like that one with wild animals, but I don't suppose Mum would. And you can't get the one with mountains because she had that last year.

Boy: Yes, I know. I'll get the one you suggested then.

Five. What time will the writer arrive at the bookshop?

Man: All fans of Peter Robbins should go to the South Street book store tomorrow afternoon, where Peter will sign copies of his book *Love of Life* and answer s. He is expected at a quarter past two and promises to stay until half past three, when he has to leave for another appointment. Get there as soon as you can because, if it's anything like Peter's last visit, queues will start to form at quarter to two or even earlier. Don't miss this opportunity to meet everyone's favourite writer.

Now listen again.

PART II

Interviewer: My guest today is the star of the London Ballet Company, twenty-two-year-old Elena Karpov. Elena, you were born in Bulgaria. Did you always want to be a dancer?

Elena:

Well, I was a very lively little girl, so at the age of seven my mother sent me to gymnastics classes. When I was nine, I went on to ballet lessons and from that moment I knew that I wanted to spend my life dancing. Two years later, when I was eleven, I won a place at the New York Ballet School. **Interviewer:** So you had to move to the United States. Did you miss your family?

Elena: Oh yes. At first it was difficult being away from home and not knowing a lot of English. But it taught me how to look after myself and not to depend on others. There were other Bulgarian students there, and we actually found it quite easy to learn enough English to take part in the lessons with the other students.

Interviewer: Tell us about your latest role with the London Ballet Company. Elena:

Elena: I'm going to dance the part of Cinderella. It's a story about a poor girl who marries a

handsome prince. My parents used to read it to me when I was little. I'd never seen the ballet before, but I already knew the music really well. I'm sure children will love the ballet.

Interviewer: What do you do when you're not practising or performing?

Elena: Before I joined this company I spent two weeks going round London as a tourist. I don't have time for sightseeing now, but I love trying on the latest fashions with my friends. I'm always buying new jeans and trainers! I'm not too keen on discos and nightclubs - I dance enough during the day!

Interviewer: You must have lots of fans.

Elena: Quite a few! They always ask for a photograph of me, but unfortunately I don't have many to give away. I sometimes sign their programmes instead, and if I can I give them one of the flowers I've received from the audience. They always ask for tickets, but of course that's not possible.

Interviewer: What's been the best thing that's happened in your career so far?

Elena: Well, I've been a guest dancer with ballet companies in Moscow and Vienna, and I appeared twice on television in Bulgaria and met the president! I shall never forget that! But the most satisfying thing for me is that I'm paid for doing what I really enjoy dancing!

Interviewer: Elena, thank you for talking to us.

Elena:

[Pause] Thank you.

PART II

Dolls have always fascinated me, and that's why, five years ago, I was delighted to be offered the job of running a doll museum.

Dolls have existed for thousands of years, and the earliest dolls we know about were found in graves in ancient Egypt. I only wish we could get one or two for our museum, but we haven't unfortunately got anything as old as that in the museum. All the same, we have got examples from Europe from the twelfth century, but my favourite early dolls are actually from the seventeenth century. They interest me not just because they are early, or fairly early, but also because of the clothes they're wearing. They have their original clothes, and from them we know what the owners wore, since dolls in those days were always dressed like their owners. They were made of the only material readily available for things like this at the time: solid wood, and they were painted in great detail. In fact, on the best examples, like the ones in the museum, the detail includes the seventeenth-century make-up.

Dolls like these were very expensive then, and only the very rich could afford them. These days, they're popular with collectors and if you want one today, you have to pay anything up to ten thousand pounds for a doll in perfect condition from this time! By the way, what makes them so valuable is that, as far as a collector is concerned, a doll is only worth collecting if it is in perfect condition, and that means having the original clothes.

Doll collecting has become very fashionable since the museum opened, with people interested in dolls from every period, including later dolls. There's great interest in nineteenth-century examples, when dolls were no longer made of wood, but began to have soft bodies and real hair. They were very delicate and few have survived, meaning such a doll would be worth about two thousand pounds, perhaps a bit more. Later, in the nineteenth century, you could often take off the doll's hair. If you can, you can often see the maker's name underneath, and of course the right one increases a doll's value.

There was a really big change in dolls at the beginning of the twentieth century. In the museum we have one of the earliest examples, from about 1909, of a doll that's a model of a baby. Previously all dolls, the earlier ones, were little adults. That's just one of the changes that have occurred in the last hundred years. Another, again, is to do with what dolls are made of. Although dolls with soft bodies

continued, after about 1930, plastic began to be used. In fact, dolls from the 1930s and 40s are now very popular with collectors, some of them selling for very, very high prices.

PART IV

Greg: Hi Julie. Wasn't the indoor wildlife centre fantastic? I've never seen such an amazing building, with its glass walls and all those different floors.

Julie: Hi Greg. Didn't you find it tiring though, walking up so many stairs, and it was so hard to find your way round? That's not what I call good design.

Greg: I didn't really think about that.

Julie: It was an interesting start down in the basement, where it was so dark that I didn't see the sharks at first in the water behind the glass.

Greg: They were quite scary. You must know how dangerous they are.

Julie: Only if you're silly enough to swim with them! Anyway, what did you think of the temperature in the building?

Greg: It has to be so high in there because of all those tropical trees growing. They need a lot of heat.

Julie: I suppose so. It felt really uncomfortable to me. I loved the banana trees though. Those butterflies right at the top of the building were amazing - so huge and colourful. But I thought there would be a lot more insects to see. There were hardly any really.

Julie: Just as well! Who wants to see a load of insects! I don't find them especially interesting at the best of times. Did you manage to see any tree frogs? They're so cute.

Greg: I spent ages hunting for them. They manage to hide by having skin that looks like part of a tree and they lie still without moving. I couldn't find a single one.

Julie: Yeah, they're not stupid - making sure they can't be seen by hungry birds! I really can't wait to go back 'cos there was just too much to see.

Greg: I'd like to read more about the wildlife before I think of going back there. Don't you think we'd enjoy it more if we knew more about the animals?

Julie: I'm not so sure really.