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Introduction

This workbook provides practice in English reading comprehension skills needed for national language examinations as well as for school assessment. It is designed particularly for those preparing to take examinations associated with the end of secondary education.

The comprehension texts have been selected to provide a range of text types that a language user at this level should be able to read and understand. The types of questions provide a range of practice covering not only those most commonly set in examinations but also others. They test your ability to understand a text as a whole, as well as the vocabulary, grammar, sentence and paragraph structure that contribute to understanding a stretch of writing.

How will you know if the level of this workbook is right for you? If you need to take examinations, whether school or public examinations, that are not set at the highest level, then this book will provide useful practice as the comprehension texts and questions set are less demanding than those in Workbook 2.

When reading, whether for pleasure, for assessment or for examination purposes, keep in mind that often you do not need to understand every single word that you read. Train yourself to approach new words or phrases calmly, using the context to try to make sense of them.

Finally, remember that answers should come only from the texts, not from what you might happen to know about the topic. Of course, any previous knowledge will obviously help you make sense of what you read, but answers to comprehension questions should come from the text itself.

A companion book - Workbooks Answer Key - provides answers to all the questions and a suggested model answer for the short writing task in each reading comprehension unit.

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Questions

1. Mention one negative result of Raisman's success at the Olympics.

(1 mark)

2. a) Does Aly manage to stay away from reading comments on social media?

b) How do you know this?

(1 mark)

3. Why will there always be some people who do not like Aly?

(1 mark)

4. How does Aly put her mother's advice into practice?

(2 marks)

5. How does Aly make herself feel attractive and at ease with herself?

(2 marks)

6. What good came out of the boys' bullying when Aly was at school?

(1 mark)

7. Why did Aly's schoolmates consider her arms 'weird and gross'?

(2 marks)

8. a) Is Aly satisfied with an apology from hate mailers?

b) Why?

(2 marks)

9. Mark the following statements as True or False and give a reason for your answer.

(4 marks)

a) Aly Raisman participated in the Olympic Games only once.

TRUE / FALSE

because _____

b) For Aly bullying started even before she became a teenager.

TRUE / FALSE

because _____

c) Aly has a good relationship with her mother.

TRUE / FALSE

because _____

d) Some who posted mean comments on Ally on social media sites wished to pick an argument with her.

TRUE / FALSE

because _____

10. Why do you think was this article written?

(2 marks)

11. What is the purpose of the first paragraph in italics in relation to the rest of the article?

(1 mark)
