

TEXT BOOKLET

Cambridge English Skills Test Schools

Reading

SAMPLE TEST

SUITABLE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CANDIDATES

PART 3

TEXT FOR QUESTIONS 3 – 7

ARTIST GEORGIA O'KEEFFE: THE MOTHER OF AMERICAN MODERNISM

Georgia O'Keeffe, one of America's most famous artists, was born in 1887. Growing up on a farm with her six brothers and sisters, she was a creative girl who loved nature and animals. As a teenager, she became interested in painting and took private art lessons with a local artist. Georgia discovered watercolor painting and knew she wanted to become an artist.

After studying fine arts in Chicago, Georgia moved to Texas and became an art teacher. While teaching at a small college, she continued painting and became interested in the modern ideas of an artist called Arthur Dow. He showed her the importance of composition, which is the way an artist uses shapes, colors and size. Georgia continued teaching and started trying new colors and compositions.

Georgia started to develop her own special style. She wanted to 'fill the space in a beautiful way' and show her feelings through her art. She made several drawings and sent them to a friend in New York City. Her friend gave the drawings to a famous photographer and art gallery owner named Alfred Stieglitz, without saying anything to Georgia. Stieglitz loved the drawings and displayed them in his gallery.

When Georgia found out about her drawings, she was quite upset, but went to New York to meet Stieglitz. His gallery was well known and she couldn't believe he had sold all of her drawings at a high price. Stieglitz asked her to create more for a new exhibition at his gallery. So, Georgia left her teaching job and moved to New York to paint professionally. She learned about photography and modernism, and she made large-sized paintings of flowers and plants.

The amazing thing about her paintings, which she didn't usually sign, is the incredible size of the flowers and the bright colors. Her work often shows fine details of the flowers, almost like a photograph. By the 1920s, Georgia was recognized as one of the most important American artists of the time. The 'mother of American modernism', as she is sometimes called, continued painting her whole life, even after going blind. Her work can be seen in museums around the world.

PART 4

TEXT FOR QUESTIONS 8 – 12

PLAY TO WIN

16-year-old Harry Moore writes about his hobby, tennis.

My parents have always loved tennis and they're members of a tennis club. My older brother was really good at it and they supported him – taking him to lessons all the time. So I guess when I announced that I wanted to be a tennis champion when I grew up, I just intended for them to notice me. My mother laughed. She knew I couldn't possibly be serious; I was just a 4-year-old kid!

Later, I joined the club's junior coaching group and eventually took part in my first proper contest, confident that my team would do well. We won, which was fantastic, but I wasn't so successful. I didn't even want to be in the team photo because I didn't feel I deserved to be. When my coach asked what happened in my final match, I didn't know what to say. I couldn't believe I'd lost – I knew I was the better player. But every time I attacked, the other player defended brilliantly. I couldn't explain the result.

After that, I decided to listen more carefully to my coach because he had lots of tips. I realised that you need the right attitude to be a winner. On court I have a plan, but sometimes the other guy will do something unexpected so I'll change it. If I lose a point, I do my best to forget it

and find a way to win the next one.

At tournaments, it's impossible to avoid players who explode in anger. Lots of players can be negative – including myself sometimes. Once I got so angry that I nearly broke my racket! But my coach has helped me develop ways to control those feelings. After all, the judges have a hard job and you just have to accept their decisions.

My coach demands that I train in the gym to make sure I'm strong right to the end of a tournament. I'm getting good results: my shots are more accurate and I'm beginning to realise that with hard work there's a chance that I could be a champion one day.

PART 6

TEXT FOR QUESTIONS 15 – 19

STUDYING AND SWIMMING

by Sara Overmars, aged 16

I first went swimming when I was only three years old. It was good to start when I was so young because at that age you are less likely to be frightened of getting in the water. (15) _____ That's probably why it's always seemed fun to me. Now I swim every day and I find that it gives me time to think and it helps me to relax.

Each time I swim, I try to go faster than last time. I think I'm succeeding because last year, when I was 15, I became the 400m champion in my region. (16) _____ For example, swimming practice takes two hours every night, and I go twice every Saturday. I also have to do workouts in the gym every day. Another thing that takes up my time is competitions as there are races every week from September to the end of July.

After training, it's hard to do any studying because I'm so tired. (17) _____ The way I do it is by writing down all the schoolwork I have to do and all my training times into a weekly timetable, which I have to follow. It's normal for me now, but it does mean I don't have much free time. I just try to do my schoolwork as soon as I get it. And I go out with my friends whenever I can find a free moment. (18) _____ That's something my

grandmother taught me to do before I did so much swimming.

My sport has taken me all over Europe for competitions. (19) _____ I'm really excited about that. I'd also like to study at university, maybe in the U.S.A., but for now, I just have to think about getting faster in the pool.

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