

الاسم:	مسابقة في مادة اللغة الانكليزية
الرقم:	المدة: ساعتان ونصف

Part One: Reading**(Score: 11/20)**

In the following selection, Rob Burgess presents problematic cases of teenagers who, because of domestic problems, are pushed to leave their homes and get exposed to various possibilities. Read it carefully, and then answer the questions that follow.

Runaway Teens

- 1 When Simon Armstrong was fifteen, he was chased down the street he lived on by his school principal and his class teacher. They had been asked by his strict father and mother to force and return him to the school from which he had absented himself since the age of twelve. A few months later, having just turned sixteen, he left home. He moved in with four other guys, waited tables for a living and eventually disappeared to Britain, where he lost contact with his parents for more than two years. "They were both crushed," admits Armstrong, now thirty-six and managing a busy café in Melbourne.
- 2 Twenty years on, tales like this are more common, and many are even more disturbing, as children are doing it earlier than expected and in a far more reckless style. Just last month, a family contacted police when their 12-year-old daughter, Amy Huynh, took a taxi to Spencer Street Station without telling them, bought a ticket and boarded a train for Sydney. Huynh was back home safely four days later, but for many families the heartache lasts much longer, if not forever. The National Missing Person's Unit says that of the 30,000 people reported missing each year, over half are under eighteen.
- 3 The adolescent-parent relationship has always been unstable and conflicting, but since 1990 when Australia ratified the UN Convention of the Rights of Children (CRC) things have become tougher for parents. Federal legislation enacted to comply with the convention makes it almost impossible for parents to trace runaway children. Authorities are forced to protect the child's privacy if the child does not wish to be found.
- 4 Joan Strohfeldt, whose daughter left home at fifteen, is now president of Parents Lobbying Empowerment Against Systematic Exclusion (PLEASE), a group based in Bundaberg, Queensland. The group aims to "change the imbalance in the present legislation relating to children and families" to give parents greater rights to protect their children from what it calls the "influence of the criminal elements who prey on our young people".
- 5 Besides seeking changes to privacy legislation to allow parents to track down escaping children, PLEASE complains that the government provides kids with an incentive to run away in the form of Centre-link benefits. "We still don't understand why parents and friends can't be asked questions by Centre-link. Even if they don't tell us where our children are, they could at least get our side of the story," says Strohfeldt. Authorities say that the benefit system is set up for those who need it and there are a huge number of kids with legitimate reasons for being on the run.
- 6 Open Families in Australia, an outreach charity that works with homeless youth across Australia, says around 80% of the children it helps are homeless as a result of family breakdown. Chris Jones, senior manager of home-based services for the Salvation Army's Westcare centre in Sunshine says the laws are not without purpose. Children who shelter behind them are often fleeing physical, sexual, or emotional abuse. "Emotional abuse and neglect are hard to quantify and see. It's often to do with people's frustration at not knowing how to deal with things. It's just as damaging as physical and sexual abuse," she says.
- 7 Sydney-based author and *Good Weekend* columnist Stephanie Dowrick also left home early, but can look back on her past with the benefit of years of studying psychotherapy. "Nobody leaves a really great situation prematurely. My mother died when I was only eight. My father remarried a year later, and I had quite a difficult relationship with him and with my stepmother. There was a lot of tension in the house, and I had no way of dealing with that. "
- 8 As a result, she chose to leave home at sixteen after completing university entrance to study law while working full-time as a law clerk. "I was really struggling, emotionally and financially, but I couldn't have stayed home either," she says. "Living in a flat, I took reasonable care of myself, went to work and did the minimum of study. But I felt very unattached, and that's dangerous. You can find yourself taking risks when you don't feel anyone is observing your life lovingly." She warns, "A lack of genuine understanding often drives people away. Emotional, physical and sexual abuse all drive adolescents away. So does coldness and self-pity or indifference from the parents. "

9 Dowrick comments, "It's essential for parents to try to be realistic about why the children run away and not just blame them. Professional help can be incredibly useful here. Small changes in attitude can make a substantial difference. If there is no actual abuse, and there is at least some goodwill on all sides, miracles can happen even with just three or four sessions."

10 Veteran street-worker, Les Twentyman, says he often listens to outraged anxious parents searching for their children. "They think we can wave a magic wand to repair years of mistakes," he says. "But often kids beg us not to tell their parents where they are." Twentyman has spent a quarter of a century pounding Australia's inner-city pavements looking for kids in crisis. It's a tough environment, and not one a teenager would stay in voluntarily. "I've buried 58 kids in the last eight years," he says. Yet the group does have its success stories. Twentyman points out that Open Families has got 8000 kids back to school and 300 through university since 1989. And when the child involved consents, reunited families are still the ideal.

11 "We frequently get parents and kids together in a non-threatening environment – in a restaurant or at a barbecue – and get both sides to list their grievances," says Twentyman. "But we've only got 26 street workers. We'd need 5000-6000 right around Australia to sort this problem out."

Questions

A. Answer each of the following in 1-4 sentences of your own.

1. What had provoked Simon Armstrong to skip school since the age of 12? What did this act eventually lead to? **(Score: 01)**
2. What makes children in the above selection leave their homes in the first place? Provide at least two causes to support your answer. **(Score: 01)**
3. How did the UN Convention of the Rights of Children indirectly encourage children to escape home? **(Score: 01)**
4. In reference to paragraphs 6, 10 and 11, describe the role of Open Families charity in helping both runaway kids and their families. **(Score: 01)**

B.

1. What type of introduction does the writer use? What purpose(s) does this type serve? **(Score: 01)**
2. How does the writer achieve credibility? Justify your answer with evidence. **(Score: 1.5)**
3. Describe the writer's tone (other than serious/formal) in paragraph 10. Support your answer with evidence. **(Score: 1.5)**

C. Identify the pattern of each of the following: **(Score: 01)**

1. Sentence 3, paragraph 1, "A few...left home."
2. Sentence 3, paragraph 2, "Huynh was ...not forever."
3. Sentence 1, paragraph 8, "As a result, she chose to....as a law clerk."
4. Sentence 8, paragraph 8, "So does ...from the parents."

D. In the above reading selection, Rob Burgess quotes the opinion of some experts concerning the present legislation related to runaway children and their families. Scan paragraphs 3 through 6, copy the table, and then, using phrases, fill in the chart below with appropriate information as indicated. **(Score: 02)**

Expert	Position/Title	Claim / Point of view
Joan Strohfeldt		
Chris Jones		

Part Two: Writing

(Score: 09/20)

Because adolescence is a very critical and sensitive transitional stage in teenagers' lives, guidance, support and understanding are greatly needed to protect children and help them solve their expected problems. Discuss the above statement, focusing on the case of a teenager who was able to overcome his/her obstacle(s) or problem(s) with the help of others (teachers, parents, organizations, etc.). Develop your answer in an essay of 250-300-word essay of unified, coherent and properly sequenced paragraphs. See that, in your introduction, you put your reader in the general atmosphere of your topic and clearly provide a thesis statement; and that each of your body paragraphs starts with a topic sentence which you back up with relevant supporting details. Draft, revise, and proofread your essay.

(Score: 05 for ideas and organization; 03 for language and style; 01 for tidiness and legible handwriting)

Part of the Q	Answer Key	Mark
	Competencies: - Utilize reading strategies - Develop literal and interpretive comprehension of written discourse - Produce transactional writing	
I-A-1	Simon had tried many times to escape from school since he was 12 due to his strict parents who always asked his principal and teacher to use force to bring him back to school every time he escaped. Eventually, when he turned 16 he ran away from home and lived on his own.	01
I-A-2	Some of the cited causes are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family breakdown / Lack of attachment • Fleeing sexual, physical, emotional abuse and neglect • Lack of genuine understanding • Coldness, indifference, and self pity 	01
I-A-3	It contributed indirectly through legal protection of children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of children's privacy and the right to leave their family • Impossibility of parents' tracing their run-away children 	01
I-A-4	Open Families charity group, that employs street workers to search for homeless children in the inner-city pavements across Australia, has got 8000 kids back to school and 300 through college since 1989, and reunited families when children consented by getting them together in a restaurant or a barbecue and allowing both to list their complaint and objections.	01
I-B-I	The introduction is an anecdote/ real-live example. It draws the reader's attention and introduces the topic of teenagers who run away as a consequence of family breakdown. Moreover, it arouses reader's curiosity and interest and provides background information.	01
I-B-2	The writer achieves credibility through the use of many pieces of evidence like facts, statistics, experts' opinions and live examples. N.B. Students are expected to produce examples from the text, either by paraphrasing or by mentioning the number of the paragraph. Two are enough to be mentioned with their justification.	1.5
I-B-3	The writer's tone is pitiful, sympathetic, critical, and a bit sarcastic. Twentyman <u>pities</u> parents who are searching for their lost children, for he describes them as "anxious parents", but he is <u>critical</u> and <u>sarcastic</u> when he says, "They think we can wave a magic wand to repair years of mistakes." Moreover, he is <u>more sympathetic</u> with the runaway kids as he says, "But often kids beg us not to tell their parents where they are" and "It's a tough environment, and not one a teenager would stay in voluntarily" and "I've buried 58 kids in the last eight years. Finally, he <u>gives a sign of hope and relief</u> as he talks about the success of Open Families in getting 8000 kids back to school and 300 through university since 1989 and reuniting families if children consent. N.B. Two adjectives are enough to describe the writer provided that evidence is given	1.5
I-C-1	Time Order (When)	0.25
I-C-2	Time order (four days later) , Contrast (but) ,Comparison (much longer),	0.25

I-C-3	Result (As a result); Time Order (after ...while)			0.25
I-C-4	Comparison (so does...); Cause / Effect			0.25
I-D	Experts	Position	Claim	02
	Joan Strohfeldt	President of PLEASE	*Changing the imbalance in the present legislation * Giving parents greater rights to protect their children * Protesting against governments' motivation that pushes children to escape N.B. Any of the above answers is correct.	
	Chris Jones	Senior manager of Salvation Army	Fleeing from physical, sexual, or emotional abuse due to parents' inability to deal with their children	
N.B.0.5 for each answer				
II-A	Ideas and organization			05
II-B	Language and style			03
II-C	Tidiness and legible handwriting			01