

EXERCISE D

a. Rewrite each sentence, beginning as shown, so that its meaning stays the same.

1. We were amazed to find no one was hurt in the accident.

Much to _____.

2. Her failure to be punctual is what brought about her dismissal.

It is her failure _____.

3. If he were to ask you to move to Italy, would you do it?

Should _____.

4. He's always interrupting whenever the teacher is explaining something new.

I wish _____.

b. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given in bold type. Do not change the word given.

1. There are times when she finds fault with everything I do. I don't like it one bit.

I can't stand _____ (IT)

2. People think the politician was involved in the scandal.

The politician _____ (HAVE)

3. We seldom think about the consequences of our actions.

Hardly _____ (THINK)

4. They are likely to react badly to the news.

There _____ (BOUND)

EXERCISE A

Read the following passage carefully, then circle the right answer:

When my sister Laura turned twelve, Father suddenly decided, correctly enough, that our education had to be improved. He wanted us taught French, Mathematics, and Latin – brisk mental exercises that would act as corrective for our excessive dreaminess. Geography too would be bracing. Although he'd barely noticed her for over two years, he decreed that our former tutor, Miss Goreham, had been too lax, and her musty, rose-tinted ways must be scrubbed away. Pleasant as she was, there had been little, if any, furtherance in our development during her tenure.

In the place of Miss Goreham, he engaged a man called Mr. Erskine, who'd once taught at a boys' school in England but had been packed off to Canada, suddenly, for his health. He did not seem at all unhealthy to us: he never coughed, for instance. First of all, he gave us tests, to determine what we knew. Not much, it appeared, though more than we saw fit to divulge. He then told Father that we were nothing short of deplorable, and it was a wonder we were not cretins. We were not exactly “basket cases”, but we had developed slothful mental habits that affected our academic performances – we had been allowed to develop them, he added reprovingly.

He ordered a large stack of exercise books, the cheap kind with ruled lines and flimsy cardboard covers. He ordered a supply of plain lead pencils, with erasers. These were the magic wands, he said, by which we were about to transform ourselves, with his assistance. Much to our annoyance, Mr. Erskine said that the library, our favourite room in the house, was too distracting for us. He asked for and received two school desks, which he installed in one of the extra bedrooms; he had the bed removed, along with all the other furniture. He brought all the books he needed from the library and placed them on a bookcase he'd brought himself. The door was locked with a key, and he had the key. In his view, the stark surroundings would foster our capacity to focus. Now we would be able to roll up our sleeves and get on with it.

Mr. Erskine methods were direct. He was a hair-puller, an ear-twister. He would whack the desks beside our fingers with his ruler, and the actual fingers too, or cuff us across the crack of the head with exasperation. His sarcasm was withering, at least to me: Laura frequently thought he meant exactly what he said, which angered him further. He was not moved by tears; in fact, he seemed to enjoy them.

We could not complain about Mr. Erskine to Father. He was bent on breaking us in at any cost. After all, wasn't Mr. Erskine acting on Father's say-so? He said he was. But we did complain to Reenie, our housekeeper. Father had asked Reenie to stay out of the whole situation. Not that Reenie was willing to step in on our behalf: she knew her own position in the house was in jeopardy now that we were growing up. But when Laura came to Reenie with welts on the palms of her hands, Reenie decided that was the last straw and she confronted Mr. Erskine. She was told to mind her own business. She was the one who spoiled us, said Mr. Erskine. She'd spoiled us with overindulgence and babying and now it was up to him to repair the damage she had done.

**INSTITUTO DE ENSEÑANZA SUPERIOR
EN LENGUAS VIVAS “J. R. FERNÁNDEZ”
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CANDIDATE N°:

Callista Fitzsimmons, my father’s lover, could have been of help, but we could see which way the wind was blowing. Father had chosen a course of action, and it would have been a tactical mistake for her to meddle. In her own precarious position, she knew better than to talk to Father about anything that might upset him. We never forgave her for her silence and her impartiality.

Adapted from *The Blind Assassin*, by Margaret Atwood.

- 1) Why was Miss Goreham fired as the girls’ tutor?
 - a) She had never paid any attention to the girls in over two years.
 - b) The girls had not achieved a high academic standard.
 - c) She was not a pleasant person.
 - d) She had been too harsh in her methods.

- 2) What was Mr. Erskine’s first appreciation of the girls’ academic level?
 - a) The girls had learning disabilities.
 - b) They had been neglected.
 - c) It was pointless to teach them.
 - d) They had great potential

- 3) Why did Mr. Erskine remove all the furniture from the bedroom?
 - a) He wanted more room for his books.
 - b) He didn’t like the furniture.
 - c) He believed it would help the girls to study better.
 - d) He wanted to annoy the girls.

- 4) When did Reenie decide to intervene?
 - a) When she was told she had spoilt the girls.
 - b) When she saw signs of physical abuse in the girls.
 - c) When the girls complained about Mr. Erskine.
 - d) When Father asked her to.

- 5) When asked for help, what did Callista Fitzsimmons decide to do?
 - a) To stand up for the girls.
 - b) To take her own course of action.
 - c) To avoid taking sides.
 - d) To talk to Father about the problem.

EXERCISE B

Choose ONE of the following and write between 250 and 300 words on it:

A) A popular magazine has invited readers to send in articles for their series “The Generation Gap”. Readers are invited to write an **ARTICLE** entitled: “Parents and children: a love and hate relationship.” Write your **ARTICLE**.

B) A friend of yours would like to change schools and he has asked you for advice. Write a **LETTER** to him/her recommending him/her a school you know well. In the letter you should include the following information:

- a) Location.
- b) Facilities.
- c) Academic standards (homework, tests, international exams).
- d) The teachers.
- e) Why you recommend this school.

Write your **LETTER**.

B) A school magazine is organizing a special writing contest. Readers are invited to submit stories starting with the following sentence: “I remember my school days were the best days of my life.” Write your **STORY**

EXERCISE C

Read the following text carefully and choose the most appropriate alternative A, B, or C below for each blank

“Voyage To The Bottom Of The Ocean”

I’ve often wondered why (1) that humans (2) distant planets, while we still know (3) about the oceans here on Earth. So it was something of a dream (4) true when I was invited (5) researchers filming the Mariana Trench for the first time.

Fascinated, I watched on the TV screen as the ten-foot submarine descended to 10,898 metres, (6) point in the world. All of us above on the mother ship were (7) excited as the tiny vessel’s video camera showed it (8) the bottom of the Pacific, at what (9) a snail’s pace.

(10) it touched the ocean bed, which the submarine’s lamp (11) to be like a smooth, brown-red desert. The water was totally still, and at first (12) seemed to be moving, but suddenly we (13) a sea slug, and then a shrimp. The scientists were over the moon, and I shared (14)

1	A. is it	B. it is	C. was it
2	A. started to explore	B. have started to explore	C. might have started to explore
3	A. that much	B. so much	C. so little
4	A. come	B. coming	C. comes
5	A. for joining	B. with joining	C. to join
6	A. the deepest	B. much deeper	C. the deeper
7	A. completely	B. tremendously	C. utterly
8	A. had approached	B. would approach	C. was approaching
9	A. looked like	B. looked as if	C. seemed like
10	A. At the end	B. At last	C. At the last minute
11	A. revealed	B. had revealed	C. was revealing
12	A. something	B. nothing	C. anything
13	A. detected	B. found out	C. spotted
14	A. their delight	B. in delight	C. its delight

