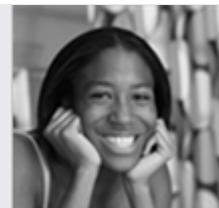


## Part 1

Read the article from a magazine and choose the best answer, A, B or C.

**Lexi: the language learning app which helps you learn cool words!**

If you've been following the latest technology news, you must have read about 17-year-old Marcy Carlton. She is the founder and CTO (chief technical officer) of Lexi, the new language learning app which has recently been valued at \$50,000,000, and is the talk of Silicon Valley.



Lexi is an app which helps language students learn new words. You may think that this is nothing new – there are, after all, hundreds of language learning apps which you can download. However, Lexi has become a hit because it tells users how cool the words are. So students can either learn words which are useful for their school studies or words that are just cool; users who have successfully learnt more of the cool words have a higher status on the app's social network.

Marcy says that she first developed the app because she wanted something to help her learn new words when she was studying Spanish at school. It took her little more than three months to create the app but when she showed it to her friends, they were unimpressed. She realised that they weren't talking about the app itself but the words she had used. When she started to include words which were more 'exciting', her friends soon became more interested. Before long, Lexi had been downloaded by thousands of youngsters and it was being talked about all over Facebook and Twitter.

Despite its success, Lexi has been controversial. Recently a group of language teachers criticised the app, saying that it doesn't take languages seriously and that you can't be a successful language learner if you just learn the fashionable words. However, Marcy disagrees with the critics and says that if it wasn't for Lexi, many children would not be learning languages at all. She strongly believes that if you want someone to learn something, it has to be fun. And no one can say that Lexi isn't fun – we haven't stopped using it in our offices this month!

So what does the future hold for Marcy? She's one of a growing army of young developers who've made a lot of money before they've even finished school and some might say she's achieved more than most people would in a lifetime. Despite that, Marcy says that for her it's just the beginning and she hopes to develop more apps that will inspire people to learn. She's also aware that software development is dominated by men and, as a woman, she's looking forward to being part of

- 1 Why has Lexi been a success with students?
  - A Because it helps them learn new words.
  - B Because you can download it free.
  - C Because you can learn fashionable words.
- 2 How did Marcy's friends first respond to her app?
  - A They weren't very interested in it.
  - B They thought it would help them learn Spanish.
  - C They thought she spent too little time working on it.
- 3 What is the main criticism of the app?
  - A It doesn't help people learn at all.
  - B It doesn't help people learn what they really need to learn.
  - C It's fun and learning shouldn't be fun.
- 4 What does Marcy want to do next?
  - A She'd like to finish school and then decide.
  - B She'd like to make even more money.
  - C She'd like to create more apps for learning.
- 5 What is the purpose of this article?
  - A To advertise Lexi.
  - B To inform readers about the developer of Lexi.
  - C To warn readers about the problems with Lexi.

## Part 2

Read the blog post and choose the sentence A–F which best fits each gap. There is one extra sentence which you do not need.

**The future of our planet**

We hear a lot about climate change and how it is going to devastate the earth. Scientists predict a number of negative effects, which will change our lives for the worst. **(6)** \_\_\_\_\_ Meanwhile, sea levels are slowly rising and in the future they will cause flooding, resulting in homelessness and perhaps wars. For young people like me, the future is worrying.

However, while I was doing an internet search for a project on climate change, I found some articles and reports that talked about the 'greening of the planet'. I was interested because I thought they would give advice on dealing with climate change. **(7)** \_\_\_\_\_ Although they agree it might be a problem in the future, they suggest that there are a number of positive effects that we are experiencing right now.

The first is that because the Earth is warmer we do not need to use as much fuel. It costs less to heat our houses and because we use less fuel, carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will be reduced. Furthermore, warmer weather means that fewer people suffer from illnesses like colds and flu. **(8)** \_\_\_\_\_ This really surprised me because we all hear that a lot of trees in rainforests are being cut down so we imagine that it is becoming less green. In fact, some scientists have shown that places that were once desert now have rivers and vegetation.

However, I still have some doubts about the claims that climate change is a good thing. Firstly, it seems that there will only be positive effects if there is a small change in temperature. Scientists accept that there will be bigger changes in temperature in the next 100 years so any benefits will disappear in our grandchildren's lives. **(9)** \_\_\_\_\_ For example, colder countries spend less on fuel but hot countries may need to use more fuel in order to keep buildings cool. Similarly, while colder countries will have fewer illnesses, there will probably be an increased threat from tropical diseases in the hotter ones.

These articles and reports remind us that it is important to understand and consider all the facts. **(10)** \_\_\_\_\_ There have already been some significant changes and no one knows what will happen in the future. I still strongly believe that climate change is something we need to get control of now so that Earth is a safe and comfortable place for many generations to come.

- A Another important point is that the Earth has actually been getting greener in recent years because there has been more rain.
- B However, it does not mean that we can afford to ignore human-made climate change.
- C We are already experiencing some consequences, such as the melting of the polar ice caps and increased temperatures.
- D Flu is a serious disease that kills thousands of people every year.
- E However, I was surprised to see that there are some people who believe that climate change may not be a bad thing.
- F Secondly, some countries will benefit more than others.