

Part 1

You are going to read three extracts which are all concerned in some way with scientific research. For questions 1 – 6, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

YOUNG ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALIST COMPETITION

HOW TO ENTER:

- If you're aged 16-25, we're looking for original articles of 1,000 words (or less) with an environmental or conservation theme. The closing date for entries is 30 December 2006.
- Your article should show proof of investigative research, rather than relying solely on information from the internet and phone interviews. You don't have to go far; a report on pollution in a local stream would be as valid as a piece about the remotest rainforest.
- Your article should show you are passionate and knowledgeable about environmental issues. It should also be objective and accurate, while being creative enough to hold the reader's interest. We are not looking for 'think pieces' or opinion columns.
- Your aim should be to advance understanding and awareness of environmental issues. You should be able to convey complex ideas to readers of this general interest magazine in an engaging and authoritative manner.
- Facts or information contained in short-listed articles will be checked.
- Read the rules carefully.

WRITE ANSWER

- 1 Before entering for the competition, young people must have
- A conducted some relevant research in their local area.
 - B gained a qualification in environmental research.
 - C uncovered some of the evidence in their research themselves.
 - D consulted a number of specialists on the subject under research.
- 2 The articles submitted must
- A focus on straightforward concepts.
 - B include a range of views.
 - C be accessible to non-specialists.
 - D reveal the writer's standpoint.

WRITE ANSWER

Turn over ►

EXTRACT FROM A NOVEL

Chapter One

The landing cupboard is stacked high with what Glyn calls low-use material: conference papers and research papers including, he hopes, a paper that he needs right now for the article on which he is working. All of these go back to his postgraduate days, in no convenient sequential order but all jumbled up. A crisp column of *Past and Present* magazine is wedged against a heap of tattered files. Forgotten students drift to his feet as he rummages, and lie reproachful on the floor: "Susan Cochrane's contributions to my seminar have been perfunctory" ... labelled boxes of aerial photographs showing archaeological sites are squeezed against a further row of files. To remove one will bring the lot crashing down, like an ill-judged move in that game involving a tower of line 12 balanced blocks. But he has glimpsed behind them a further cache which may well include what he is looking for.

On the shelf above he spots the gold-lettered spine of his own doctoral thesis, its green cloth blotched brown with age. On top of it sits a 1985 run of the *Archaeological Journal*. Come to think of it, the contents of the landing cupboard are a nice reflection of his profession – it is a landscape in which everything co-exists requiring expert deconstruction. But he does not dwell on that, intent instead on this increasingly irritating search.

WRITE ANSWER

- 3 The writer mentions a game in line 12 in order to emphasise
- A the difficulty in accessing some material stored in the cupboard.
 - B the poor condition of much of the contents of the cupboard.
 - C Glyn's approach to locating items stored in the cupboard.
 - D Glyn's skill in manoeuvring the material in the cupboard.
- 4 In the second paragraph, the writer makes a comparison between the cupboard and
- A the development of Glyn's academic career.
 - B Glyn's particular area of work.
 - C Glyn's way of life.
 - D the current state of Glyn's research.

WRITE ANSWER

THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING

Time was when physicists dreamed of a final theory of fundamental physics, a perfect set of equations that would describe every force and particle in nature. Today that dream is being overtaken by the suspicion that there is no such thing. Some even fear that all attempts at a deeper understanding of nature are dead ends. This will lend support to those who have long claimed that research into fundamental physics is a waste of time and money; that at best it provides answers to obscure questions which few people understand or care about.

So do these reservations undermine pure physics as a scientific pursuit? Surely, it makes no difference if the truths that physicists seek turn out to be more complex and messy than they once hoped. It could even make the search more intriguing. There are as many profound questions out there as there have ever been, and to answer them physicists need the

kind of hard experimental evidence that can only come from pure research.

Can we, therefore, justify spending the huge sums of money that such research demands? What it boils down to is whether we think the search for fundamental truths is important. This quest for knowledge is a defining human quality, but it's hard to quantify how our lives have been 'improved' by it. There have been plenty of technological spin-offs from the space race and other experiments. But the spin-offs are not the point. In showing us how the universe works, fundamental physics could also tell us something profound about ourselves. And for that, a few billion dollars would be a small price to pay.

WRITE ANSWER

5 According to the writer, technological 'spin-offs' from scientific research

- A do not justify the sums invested in it.
- B reveal the true aims of those promoting it.
- C should convince the public of the value of it.
- D should not be the main reason for pursuing it.

WRITE ANSWER

6 In this piece, the writer is generally

- A distrustful of those who doubt the value of pure research.
- B supportive of those wishing to carry out pure research.
- C sceptical about the long-term benefits of pure research.
- D optimistic about the prospects of funding for pure research.

Turn over ►