

Part 2

You are going to read an extract from a magazine article. Six paragraphs have been removed from the extract. Choose from the paragraphs **A – G** the one which fits each gap (7 – 12). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

When the hippos roar, start paddling!

Richard Jackson and his wife spent their honeymoon going down the Zambezi river in a canoe.

'They say this is a good test of a relationship,' said Tim as he handed me the paddle. I wasn't sure that such a tough challenge was what was needed on a honeymoon, but it was too late to go back. My wife, Leigh, and I were standing with our guide, Tim Came, on the banks of the Zambezi near the Zambia/Botswana border. This was to be the highlight of our honeymoon: a safari downriver, ending at the point where David Livingstone first saw the Victoria Falls.

7

Neither of us had any canoeing experience. Tentatively we set off downstream, paddling with more enthusiasm than expertise. Soon we heard the first distant rumblings of what seemed like thunder. 'Is that Victoria Falls?' we inquired naively. 'No,' said Tim dismissively. 'That's our first rapid.' Easy, we thought. Wrong!

8

The canoe plotted a crazed path as we careered from side to side, our best efforts seeming only to add to our plight. This was the first of many rapids, all relatively minor, all enjoyably challenging for tourists like us.

9

The overnight stops would mean mooring at a deserted island in the middle of the river, where Tim's willing support team would be waiting, having erected a camp and got the water warm for our bucket showers. As the ice slowly melted in the drinks, restaurant-quality food would appear from a cooker using hot coals. Then people would begin to relax, and the day's stories would take on epic proportions.

10

One morning, Tim decided to count the number of hippos we saw, in an attempt to gauge the population in this part of the river. Most of the wildlife keeps a cautious distance, and we were assured that, safe in our canoe, any potential threats would be more scared of us than we were of them – but we had been warned to give these river giants a wide berth. They'd normally stay in mid-stream, watching us with some suspicion, and greeting our departure with a cacophony of grunts.

11

Tim yelled 'Paddle!' and over the next 100 metres an Olympic runner would have struggled to keep up with us. The hippo gave up the chase, and although Tim said he was just a youngster showing off, our opinion was that he had honeymooners on the menu. That would certainly be the way we told the story by the time we got home.

12

At some times of the year, you can even enjoy a natural *jacuzzi* in one of the rock pools beside the falls. No permanent structures are allowed on the island – everything has to be removed when you leave.

The travel brochures say it's the world's most exclusive picnic spot. It's certainly the ideal place to wind down after a near miss with a hippo.

- A** Luckily we could make our mistakes in privacy as, apart from Tim and another couple, for two days we were alone. Our only other company was the array of bird and animal life. The paddling was fairly gentle and when we got tired, Tim would lead us to the shore and open a cool-box containing a picnic lunch.
- B** If that was the scariest moment, the most romantic was undoubtedly our final night's campsite. Livingstone Island is perched literally on top of Victoria Falls. The safari company we were with have exclusive access to it: it's just you, a sheer drop of a few hundred metres and the continual roar as millions of litres of water pour over the edge.
- C** There was plenty of passing traffic to observe on land as well – giraffes, hippos, elephants and warthogs, while eagles soared overhead. We even spotted two rare white rhinos – sadly shorn of their horns in an attempt to stop poaching. We paddled closer to get a better look.
- D** We had a 4-metre aluminium canoe to ourselves. It was a small craft for such a mighty river, but quite big enough to house the odd domestic dispute. Couples had, it seemed, ended similar trips arguing rather than paddling. But it wasn't just newly-weds at risk. Tim assured us that a group of comedians from North America had failed to see the funny side too.

- E** But number 150 had other ideas. As we hugged the bank he dropped under the water. We expected him to re-surface in the same spot, as the others had done. Instead, there was a sudden roar and he emerged lunging towards the canoe.
- F** Over the next hour or so the noise grew to terrifying dimensions. By the time we edged around the bend to confront it, we were convinced we would be faced with mountains of white water. Instead, despite all the sound and fury, the Zambezi seemed only slightly ruffled by a line of small rocks.
- G** When we'd all heard enough, we slept under canvas, right next to the river bank. Fortunately, we picked a time of year largely free of mosquitoes, so our nets and various lotions remained unused. The sounds of unseen animals were our nightly lullaby.

Turn over ►

Part 3

You are going to read a newspaper article. For questions 13 – 19, 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.

Groomed for TV

Martyn Harris looks back on his experience of being trained to appear on TV.

I am terrible on TV. I slouch, sneer, stammer, fidget, forget my lines and swallow the ends of my words. It ranks, because I know inside I am scintillating, sensitive and sincere. Television can make any fool look like an intellectual. Newsreaders can contrive to look nice and even the worst presenters can seem sensible, but I come over as a shifty subversive. The single television programme I have presented was so awful that even my mother couldn't find a good word for it. After a catastrophic radio show last year, when I addressed the interviewer by the wrong name throughout, I swore I'd never do broadcasting again.

Until now, that is. I have my first novel out next month, which is called *Do It Again*, and the PR people inform me you just have to get out there and promote it. Scotland one day, the south coast of England the next. It's going to be hectic and I have to get my act together. Which is how I find myself being scrutinised for televisual potential by two svelte creatures from Public Image Ltd, while cameraman Alastair focuses on my trembling upper lip. Public Image is the outfit which has been teaching MPs how to look good on TV. They also groom executives from major companies in everything from corporate presentations to handling broadcast interrogation, but as far as I'm concerned, if they can make politicians look like real people, they are good enough for me.

'He blinks a lot, doesn't he?' says Diana, the speech specialist, studying my image on a video monitor. 'And the crossed legs look defensive. But the voice isn't bad.' Jeannie, who is introduced to me as Public Image's 'charisma consultant', takes a step backwards to study the general posture. 'Needs to get his bottom back in the sofa. And the jacket makes him look a bit deformed. Where does he get his clothes from?'

'Honesty is the most important thing,' says Diana. 'We don't want to turn people into actors. We want to bring out the personality. And of course speech is most important too. Lots of politicians don't breathe properly, so they have to shout. They give themselves sore throats and polyps on the vocal chords. Breathe from the diaphragm and you can speak quite loudly and for quite a long time without strain. Then most importantly, there are the three

E's: Energy, Enthusiasm and Enjoyment. And do try to stop blinking.'

And so, as I breathe from the diaphragm, clench my eyelids apart and desperately try to project honesty as well as the three Es at once, the camera rolls. 'Today we are visiting the home of Martyn Harris,' says Diana dishonestly, 'a journalist who has recently published his first novel *Do It Again*. So, what can you tell us about the plot, Martyn?' 'Umm ...' A long pause. 'Errr ...' A longer pause. 'Tec hee, hargh ...' An asinine giggle. 'All right Alastair,' says Diana patiently, 'we'll try that again.'

We try it again, many, many times, each time chipping away at another tic and mannerism and gaucherie. On the second run-through, my crossed legs keep bobbing up and down, which makes me look as if I want to run away (I do, I do). On the third run they are uncrossed, but my hands are clenched in my lap. On the fourth I have wrenched my hands from my lap, but now they are fiddling with my ears. On the fifth, I'm throwing away the ends of my sentences, which sounds as if I think my audience is thick (I don't really).

Television does curious things to your face, dragging it towards the edges of the screen. If you have a long face, as I have, it makes you look like a cadaverous mule. It emphasises the darkness of lipstick and eyeshadow, so make-up should be minimal, and used mainly to soften facial shadows. Does Diana think it is wicked, I wonder, to mould politicians in this way? 'As soon as anyone gets on telly these days, we expect them to be as good as the professionals, because that's where we get our standards from. It's unfair, but that's the way of the world. As for the ethics, I leave that to others and get on with my job.'

And it's a job she does very well, because on the final run-through, after three hours or so, I really don't look too bad. Steady gaze, breathing from the diaphragm, no twitches, no blinking. Not a consummate professional in the business, but not bad.

I'm brimming with honesty, energy, enthusiasm and enjoyment and I'm talking a lot of twaddle, but you'd hardly notice. When you watch politicians on TV, you'll see a lot more just like me.

- 13 The writer believes that one reason he is terrible on TV is that
- A he doesn't make enough effort to perform well.
 - B he can't help being rude to interviewers.
 - C his personality seems unappealing to viewers.
 - D his personality differs from that of newsreaders and presenters.
- 14 The writer has become involved with Public Image Ltd because
- A he wants to find out what such companies do.
 - B he has been told that it is in his interests to do so.
 - C he is intrigued by the work they do for politicians.
 - D he has been told that the company is good at promoting novels.
- 15 Diana and Jeannie both say that one of the writer's problems when appearing on TV concerns
- A the way he sits.
 - B the clothes he wears.
 - C the way his eyes move.
 - D the way he moves.
- 16 What does Diana tell the writer about politicians?
- A They are usually reluctant to tell the truth.
 - B They often fail to realise that they are shouting.
 - C They are frequently nervous when they appear on TV.
 - D They frequently speak in a way that is harmful to them.
- 17 The writer believes that his response to Diana's first question sounds
- A insincere.
 - B silly.
 - C rude.
 - D predictable.
- 18 When the writer asks Diana about her job, she
- A says that she is only interested in doing it well.
 - B admits that sometimes it results in people looking foolish.
 - C says that it frequently involves frustrations.
 - D agrees that it is hard to justify it.
- 19 In the final paragraph, the writer concludes that
- A he has underestimated how challenging appearing on TV can be for politicians.
 - B he has learnt how to sound convincing without saying anything meaningful.
 - C some people can be trained to do absolutely anything.
 - D viewers are more perceptive than is generally believed.

Turn over ►