

BRAT CAMP SAVED MY LIFE

1- When my parents told me about the reality TV programme *Brat Camp*, I thought it would be a laugh. I'd seen the show, which takes difficult teenagers to America for intense therapy, but didn't think it would have any effect on me.

2- At the beginning of last year I was so out of control, I had no respect for my parents or for anyone else. I'd been expelled from three schools, destroying my chances of getting any GCSEs, and yet I didn't care. The last school I went to was for teenagers with behavioural problems, but even they couldn't cope with me. My parents, Tina, 40, and Brian, 50, had **fought tooth-and-nail** with the local education authority to get the £21,000-a-year fees paid, and I threw it all away.

3- By the age of 14, I was **totally off the rails**. I spent six months just getting high and partying. And when I finally got suspended from the fee-paying school, Mum and Dad were devastated. They were so desperate that when they saw the advert for *Brat Camp*, they applied. But as far as I was concerned, I was just a normal teenager, and they were overreacting.

4-Looking back, I think it all started because I was so desperate to fit in school and was frequently bullied. I began self-cutting myself in secret. Then I got involved with drugs not to feel the pain of bullying anymore. Twice I had a bad reaction to ecstasy and ended up in hospital. **That** scared me but I still wasn't ready to change my life.

5-Two weeks later, I was on a plane to *Brat Camp*. I was shocked to find we'd camp in the desert for a month. I had no idea I might not be allowed to smoke or keep my piercing in my ears. We were made to trek for miles through the desert. We built our own fires and cooked our own food, which was meant to give us a sense of achievement. But all I did was cry.

6- Mum and Dad wrote about how they had been affected by what I'd done, and I sobbed. I felt so guilty for everything I'd put them through. I told them I was sorry and that when I came home I'd change. I was determined to turn my life around.

7- I've just started at college, where I'm studying art, and I spend my time either doing **that** or working at my part-time job in a shop, or with my family.

Lydia Rowlands.

WOMAN magazine (2006)

English Synthesis Test N :1

I-Reading Comprehension (15mks):

1-Fill in the table with the appropriate information (4mks):

Name	Nationality	Problem	Parents' decision	Purpose	Outcome(result)
Lydia	British

2-The following statements are false, correct them with specific details from the text (4m):

a)- Lydia left the school for troublesome teenagers because she did not like her classmates.

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b)- Lydia admitted her behavioural problems from the start.

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c)- Lydia started cutting herself and consuming drugs as a result of her school failure.

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d)-Lydia enjoyed her stay in *Brat Camp* .

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3-Find details showing that : (2mks)

a/-Lydia was completely ignorant of the strict discipline in *Brat Camp* .

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b/-Lydia did not take her parents decision seriously .

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4- Tick the appropriate alternative : (2mks)

a/- "I was totally off the rails " means:

*I was out of control.

*I could not recognize the way home.

*I became a drug addict.

b/-My parents "had fought tooth-and- nail" means: *They had taken off my sore teeth and dirty nails.

*They had fought fiercely.

*They had fought my enemies with Their teeth and nails.

5- What do the underlined words refer to (2mks):

a/- that (paragraph 4): refers to.....

b/-that (parag 7) : refers to

6- Do you think that the school atmosphere can affect the students' behaviour ? Justify your answer.(1mk)

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II-LANGUAGE (5mks):

Task 1: Fill in the blanks with words from the list . There are two extra words (3.5mks):

affordable – clients – wander – with – carefully – understanding – wonder- between - flights

The tourist trade is booming. With all this coming and going, you'd expect greater to develop between the nations of the world. Superb systems of communication by air, sea and land make it easy for us to visit each other's countries at an(2) cost. What was once reserved only for the very rich, is now within everybody's grasp. The package tour and scheduled(3) are not to be sneered at. But what is the sense of this mass exchange of populations if the nations of the world remain basically ignorant of each other? Many tourist organizations are directly responsible for this state of affair. They deliberately set out to protect their(4) from too much contact.....(5) the local population. Conducted tours to places of interest are(6) censored (controlled). The tourist is not allowed to see only what the organizers want him to see and not more. A strict schedule makes it impossible for the tourist to(7) on his own; and because language is a barrier, he is only too happy to be protected in this way.

Task 2: Put the bracketed words or verbs into the right tense or form (3.5) :

We might marvel at the progress made in every field of study, but the methods of testing a person's knowledge and (able)-1- remain as primitive as ever they were. It is really extraordinary that educationists (fail)-2- so far to devise anything more efficient and (rely)-3- than examinations. Exams may be a good means of testing memory , or the knack of working rapidly under extreme (press).....-4- but they can tell you nothing about a person's true skills and aptitude. As anxiety-makers, examinations are second to none. That is because so much depends on (they)-5- . They are the mark of success or failure in our society. Your whole future may (decide)-6- in one fateful day. It does not matter that you were not feeling (good)-7- or whether one's mother died ; the exam goes on.

Task 3 : Choose the appropriate alternative (3mks) :

Parisians have many grand claims for their beloved metropolis. Depending on who you talk to, Paris is famous (1. on / of / for) being a City of Art , City of Romance, City of jazz or, of course, City of Light. Really, Paris is (2. Every / all / any) of them at once. (3. Furthermore / Consequently / Although), Paris has activities to suit everyone. Whether you're a disco freak, a discerning culture vulture or a music fanatic, Paris has something(4.tailor-cut tailors-cut / cut-tailor) / for you.

Lots of European cities offer their visitors excitingly-varied night life, but none with such effortless style. The perfect Paris soirée begins with a luxurious supper and (5. ending / end / ends) enjoying pricey cocktails on the dance floor. Besides, with an (6. amazing / amaze / amazed) variation, Paris boasts the best world music scene in Europe, as well as legendary jazz and blues traditions.

III-WRITING (15mks):

Task 1: Use the notes in the table below to write a five-sentence paragraph comparing and contrasting holidays in the past with today's vacations :

Holidays in the past	Holidays in the present
-boring / lazy (at home : Playing, helping in the house chores /helping in the farm work) -lack of facilities / difficult to travel .	-exciting / active(travelling- practising sports- sightseeing) - many facilities (pools/ clubs / hotels / discos...)and accessible transport.

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Task 2: *“Advocates of virtual learning say it opens new horizons, particularly for students in rural communities where choices are limited, or for those with special needs”.*

You have just read this quote in the newspaper. You decided to send a letter to the editor in which you express your point of view. Give sound arguments to defend your opinion.

Dear editor,

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An avid reader.