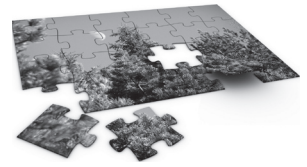


PART I: ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM WRITTEN TEXTS (70 points)

Read the article below and then answer questions 1–6.

TOY LIBRARIES TRANSFORM CHILDREN'S LIVES

Eight-year-old Lesand Lengwati has never owned a doll or a puzzle. Both her parents are dead, and the grandmother who is raising her barely makes enough money to buy food, let alone toys and games. This situation is the norm in their town of Alexandra, South Africa, where most people live in dire poverty.



5 However, a small library filled with mostly used toys from around the world has magically transformed Lesand's life. For an annual fee of sixteen cents, children can borrow two items at a time for a period of up to two weeks, but unlike most children, that is not enough for Lesand. She runs to the library almost every day, where she chooses anything from a puzzle to a children's book. These toys have given her the opportunity to experience
10 a normal childhood of fun and play.

There are currently 140 toy libraries in South Africa, and additional ones are being set up. "Kids need stimulation," explains Cynthia Morrison, president of the country's toy library association. "But many kids are so disadvantaged that they have nothing
15 before setting foot in grade school." She points out that the lack of stimulation in early childhood often results in poor language and social skills which last into adulthood. The association's website adds that toy libraries can aid the healing process for children suffering from emotional trauma, and can combat the effects of homelessness, violence, and war.

20 Not only children gain from toy libraries. In a speech at the 2009 national toy library conference, Ngw Botha, deputy minister of art and culture, noted, "When parents and children play together it strengthens the bond between them and, consequently, the family unit." Precious Mathe, head librarian at the Alexandra toy library, still recalls growing up without any toys at home. Just handling the books, puzzles, and games in
25 the library fills her with a sense of joy and wonder. "I think," she says wistfully, "that my life would have been different if I had had toys."

QUESTIONS (70 points)

Answer questions 1–6 in English according to the article. In question 5, circle the number of the correct answer. In the other questions, follow the instructions.

1. What do we learn about the town of Alexandra in lines 1–4?

COMPLETE THE SENTENCE.

It is not _____.

(8 points)

2. What information is given in lines 5–11?

PUT AN X BY THE TWO CORRECT ANSWERS.

- ___ i) How the toy library in Alexandra is run.
- ___ ii) When the idea of a toy library was first conceived.
- ___ iii) How Lesa is different from other members of the toy library.
- ___ iv) When Lesa first signed up as a member of the toy library.
- ___ v) How long the toy library in Alexandra has been operating.
- ___ vi) Who donates toys to the toy library in Alexandra.

(2x8=16 points)

3. According to Cynthia Morrison, what situations can toy libraries prevent?

(lines 12–19)

COMPLETE THE SENTENCES IN THE GRAPHIC ORGANIZER OF CAUSE AND EFFECT.

i) Families are _____.



ii) Therefore, the children have no stimulation.



iii) When they grow up, _____.

(2x10=20 points)

4. COMPLETE THE SENTENCE. (lines 20–26)

Ngw Botha explains the connection between _____

_____.

(9 points)

5. Precious Mathe is an example of how toys (—). (lines 20–26)
- can improve a person's childhood
 - are taken for granted in most places
 - can strongly affect adults
 - are popular around the world

(8 points)

6. What is the main subject of lines 12–26?

ANSWER _____

(9 points)

PART II: ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM SPOKEN TEXTS (30 points)

Answer questions 7–12 according to the broadcast. In questions 7, 9, 10, and 12, circle the number of the correct answer. In the other questions, follow the instructions. (5 points for each correct answer.)

A PROFESSIONAL SWEEPSTAKES* WINNER

7. According to Ruth, what is the secret of her success at winning sweepstakes and contests?
- All her life, she has had a lot of luck.
 - She has a scientific method that helps her win prizes.
 - She works hard at entering sweepstakes and contests.
 - She spends a few hours a week sending in entries.
8. What is the difference between a sweepstake and a contest?
COMPLETE THE SENTENCE.
In a sweepstake, you don't need _____.
9. Ruth concentrates mainly on sweepstakes (—).
- although it's harder to win a sweepstake than a contest
 - because it's easier to enter a sweepstake
 - because there is less competition in a sweepstake
 - although the prizes in contests are usually bigger

* sweepstakes = סוג של הגרלה

10. Which kind of sweepstakes does Ruth say she is most likely to win?
- i) Sweepstakes that are only for people living in a certain geographical area.
 - ii) Sweepstakes that people can enter more than once.
 - iii) Sweepstakes that have a very limited amount of time to send in entries.
 - iv) Sweepstakes that don't have very exciting prizes.

11. What does Ruth do with the prizes she doesn't want? Give ONE answer.

ANSWER _____

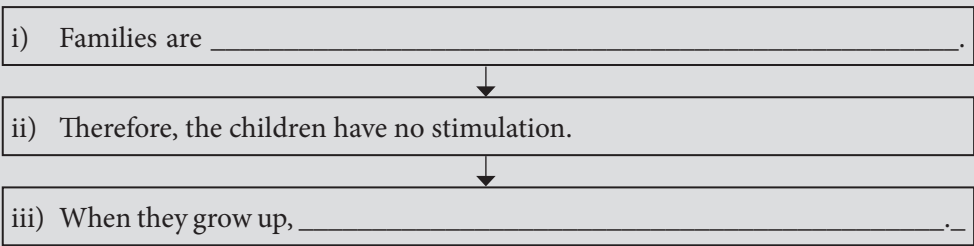
12. What is ONE problematic aspect of some contests and sweepstakes?
- i) The prizes are so small that they are not worth entering.
 - ii) There is almost no chance of winning them because there are so many entries.
 - iii) They aren't run fairly, so only friends and relatives of the organizers win prizes.
 - iv) The winners never actually receive any prizes.

BAGRUT STRATEGY # 3 — TIMELINES OF CAUSE AND EFFECT

To complete some timelines or graphic organizers, all you have to do is list events in chronological order; that is, in the order in which they took place. Some timelines, however, focus specifically on **cause and effect**. In those timelines, an event must, of course, be listed in the order in which they happened, but that's not enough. There must also be a logical connection between all the events; that is, each event must be the reason that the event after it took place. For example, question 3 asks:

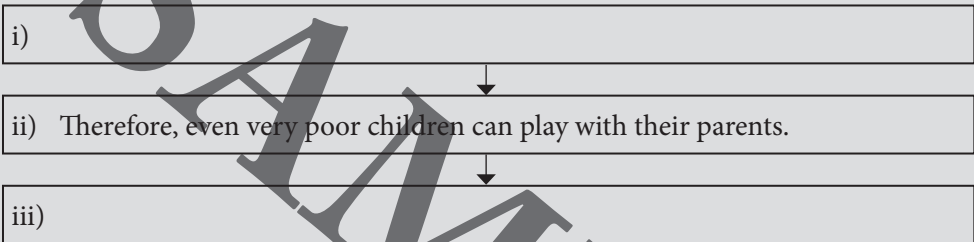
According to Cynthia Morrison, what situation can toy libraries prevent?
(lines 12–19)

COMPLETE THE SENTENCES IN THE GRAPHIC ORGANIZER OF CAUSE AND EFFECT.

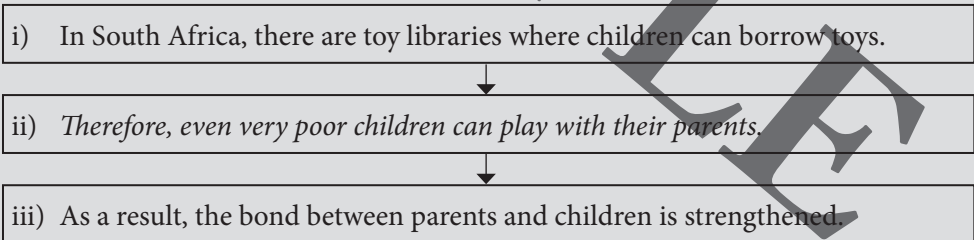


In line i, you must write an event which is the reason or cause for children having no stimulation (the event in line ii). In line iii, you must write an event that happens because children have no stimulation.

Here is another example. The text on page 17 says, “In a speech at the 2007 national toy library conference, Ngw Botha, deputy minister of art and culture, noted, ‘When parents and children play together it strengthens the bond between them and, consequently, the family unit.’” The following timeline of cause and effect could be given:



The reason that very poor children can play with their parents is that they can borrow toys from toy libraries. The result of the play is that the bond between parents and children is strengthened. Therefore, the correct answers are:



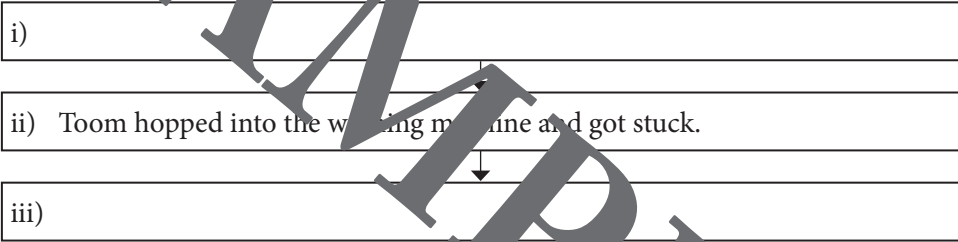
Remember! Events do not always appear in the text in the order in which they must appear in a timeline.

BAGRUT STRATEGY PRACTICE

Read the paragraphs below and on page 23 and answer the questions.

1. A thirty-eight-year-old Australian man had to be rescued by firemen after becoming stuck in a washing machine. It all began with an innocent game of hide-and-seek that Robin Toom was playing with his children. Without thinking too hard, Toom hopped into the washing machine, but to his dismay, he soon discovered that he was unable to get out. The unfortunate man sat in the machine for an hour with his knees pressed against his chest before firemen managed to free him.

COMPLETE THE GRAPHIC ORGANIZER OF CAUSE AND EFFECT.



2. The time has come for companies to crack down on difficult managers. The latest surveys show that abusive bosses don't just harm employees, but also their company. In a poll of 180 workers in a variety of fields, 33 percent of bullied workers admitted that they didn't put in maximum effort, 30 percent confessed to purposely working slowly or making mistakes, and 29 percent took off sick time even when they weren't ill. In comparison, only 9 percent of employees who were not abused reported not putting in as much effort as they could, 6 percent worked slowly or made mistakes on purpose, and 4 percent improperly took sick leave. In other words, happier workers mean a more efficiently run company, which, of course, leads to a higher profit.

COMPLETE THE SENTENCES IN THE GRAPHIC ORGANIZER OF CAUSE AND EFFECT.

i) Bosses _____.



ii) Many employees don't put in maximum effort, work slowly, make mistakes purposely, and take off extra sick time.



iii) The company _____.

3. A man who has been attempting to lose twenty-three kilograms by mowing lawns has almost reached his goal. Within less than four months, he has lost an impressive nineteen-and-a-half kilos, and he is confident that he will soon lose the rest. The weight loss started in July, when Darrell Nelson of Coon Rapids, Minnesota put an advertisement in a local newspaper offering to mow people's lawns free of charge. Many people responded to his ad, and Nelson was soon mowing as many as nine lawns a week. All that mowing obviously helped him burn a lot of calories.

COMPLETE THE SENTENCES IN THE GRAPHIC ORGANIZER OF CAUSE AND EFFECT.

i) Darrell Nelson _____.



ii) He put an ad in the newspaper offering to mow people's lawns.



iii) There were _____.



iv) Nelson is _____.