

CLASS C/ UNITS 1-5

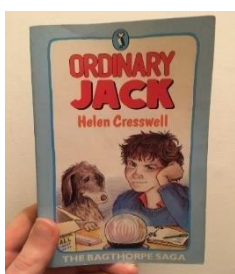
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TASK 4

(10 marks)

Read the article about Helen Cresswell , one of Britain's best children's writers, and answer the questions that follow.

Helen Cresswell



In the golden days of children's literature, Helen Cresswell was responsible for some of its most memorable titles: *Lizzie Dripping*, *A Gift from Winklesea*, and the Bagthorpe saga, of which *Ordinary Jack* is the first title. She was a strong, if mostly unacknowledged, influence on children's television, making beloved adaptations of *Five Children & It* and *The Demon Headmaster*, and authoring *The Secret World of Polly Flint* and *Moondial*.

Cresswell's work seems to typify that golden era: intelligent stories with big ideas and a dreamlike atmosphere in which anything might happen. Of her craft, she once said: "I am not an easy read, I'm old school. I have never written for the Janet and John audience." She thought Shakespeare and poetry should be read aloud to all schoolchildren, as she had done at home with her own two daughters.

Even though she wrote more than a hundred books, what is remarkable about her writing is that no two books are quite the same. Never a prize-winner but often a runner-up, she wrote stories that mixed high fantasy with great humour. The best of them are now recognised as classics that continue to appeal to generations of new readers.

Born in 1934, the middle of three children, Helen grew up in the suburbs of Nottingham. Her warm, argumentative family was later to provide plenty of copy for her popular Bagthorpe series, written about a similarly eccentric household. Cresswell's *Bagthorpe Saga* starts with *Ordinary Jack* which concentrates on the only normal member of this brilliant but wayward family. Longing to be treated as an equal, Jack poses as a prophet, pretending to have visions of events pre-planned by himself with the help of his Uncle Parker. Much chaos and knockabout comedy follow. Many more Bagthorpe adventures were to follow, culminating in *Bagthorpes Battered* , the 10th volume in a series which still sells like hot cakes.

When not writing there was always gardening, an interest inherited from her father. Starting off with a patch of bare ground, she created over the years a truly beautiful garden. Once on her own again, Cresswell totally re-designed this to become "romantic and rambling with foaming roses and clematis, pools and lots of statuary". There was also walking, painting in watercolours and collecting antiques.

Never afraid to speak her mind, Cresswell was critical of current trends in children's literature towards what she saw as excessive realism. She much preferred the gentler, more protected image of childhood explicit in her novels. Not given to false modesty, she dedicated her fourth Bagthorpe book to herself under her married name of E.H. Rowe.

A constant attender at book events, she was also as generous with her time and to her many friends as she had been with the fruits of her unpredictable but constantly entertaining imagination. She possessed a rebellious spirit and a sparkling mind. Bravely fighting cancer in her last years, she never gave up nor did she allow her humour to desert her.

1. What was people's general opinion of Helen Cresswell's influence on children's TV?

.....(1)

2. What characterises books in the period Helen Cresswell wrote? Give two details.

.....
.....(2)

3. What place did Helen Cresswell win in competitions?

.....(1)

4. What provided Helen Cresswell with inspiration for her popular Bagthorpe series?

.....(1)

5. What did Helen Cresswell do in her spare time? Give two details.

.....
.....(2)

6. What does the article tell us about Helen Cresswell's character? Give three details.

.....
.....
.....(3)

TASK 5

(5x1=5 marks)

Read the blog extracts (A-C) in which museum professionals write about why museums matter. Then answer the questions that follow.

From wellbeing to the magic of discovery, three museum professionals from across the world reveal why they love doing what they do



A. Tamsin Loveless, head of communications and development, National Maritime Museum Cornwall

Museums are magical places. They are treasure troves of interesting stuff that make us think and see the world and our place within it differently. They have the power to make us stop and wonder and show an eagerness to encounter what is new or unfamiliar, a desire to learn, to understand new things, and to know how they work. They make us want to understand what we do not and ask new questions. Also , museums display histories, timelines, and attitudes you may have never heard before, potentially altering the mindsets of people who have simply never been educated outside the mainstream culture. Seeing how a programme or an exhibit changed the life of an individual, having someone who has viewed an exhibit that is "controversial" or "painful" say: "Thank you for doing this", seeing how children are transformed by their museum experience- it's beyond words

B. Gina Allnatt, curatorial assistant; Oxford University Museum

My job is magical because I get to work with and share collections that contain amazing historical and scientific snapshots in time. They are places that collate and share human experiences. Each artefact out of the millions housed here tells a specific narrative. A vase which dates back to the 5th century provides essential clues about life in ancient Greece. One moth specimen collected in Borneo 150 years ago can give you a wealth of information through label data on topics such as climate change, evolution, history and biodiversity. I think that's pretty amazing, and it's a privilege to be able to look after and share such data.

C. Anna Hansen, head of research; Jamtli museum, Östersund, Sweden

The magic of working in our museum is that your job is about creating a brighter world. Very few jobs are about trying to make our community better and making people feel better about themselves – but that's our main mission. In these times of change, confusion and disorder, museums are places that provide stability and security. We work quite a lot with the cultural and creative industries, helping self-employed businessmen improve their products by inviting them to use our collections and help them develop original and unusual ideas. We work with people recovering from mental health problems, providing a calm and inviting space with no demands. We have an open nursery school where parents (and grandparents) can bring their children to play, learn about heritage and meet new friends. We do so many things that really matter to people.

Adapted from: <https://www.theguardian.com/culture-professionals>

Which museum professional says that museums ...?	
1. can act as an anchor in times of storm	_____
2. display alternative perspectives on history	_____
3. foster creativity and entrepreneurship	_____
4. evoke a sense of curiosity in visitors	_____
5. are vehicles for storytelling	_____

TASK 6

(5x2=10 marks)

Read the text and questions below. For each question, choose the correct answer A, B, C or D.

The Greek prime minister demanded time and over again that the 2,500-year-old Parthenon marbles be returned to Athens and repeated an offer to loan some of his country's treasures to the British Museum in an attempt to broker a deal. Kyriakos Mitsotakis said that the sculptures, also known as the Elgin marbles, belong in the Acropolis Museum at the foot of the Periclean masterpiece. The leader made the

proposal ahead of talks in London with the British prime minister. Boris Johnson who was in office at the time, had previously ruled out returning them on the grounds that the antiquities were acquired legally.

Mitsotakis said: “Our position is very clear. The marbles were stolen in the 19th century; they belong in the Acropolis Museum, and we need to discuss this issue seriously”. The marbles were removed from the Parthenon temple more than 200 years ago by Lord Elgin, then British ambassador to Constantinople in circumstances that have prompted one of the world’s most famous cultural rows and have long been the subject of dispute.

Mitsotakis said he would raise the issue with Johnson when the pair met next for talks that could shape future relations between the two countries. “Being unwilling to discuss the topic seems to me, given the context of everything that has been happening in terms of the return of cultural treasures, to be rather an anachronistic approach,” he added. “It would be a fantastic statement by what Boris calls Global Britain if they were to move on this and look at it through a completely different lens.”

The Greek government has been encouraged by what Mitsotakis also described as a “pivotal step” this September by the UN agency’s advisory committee promoting the return of cultural property. “For the first time, it unanimously adopted a decision recognising that the ‘case has an intergovernmental character and therefore the obligation to return the Parthenon sculptures lies squarely on the UK government,’” he said. Successive British governments have argued that calls for the marbles’ return are a matter for the British Museum to decide, since the treasures have been displayed there since 1816.

The Greek government’s case for the repatriation of the marbles seems to be further justified by revelations of water damage in the Duveen galleries where the “exiled” sculptures that once decorated the Acropolis are exhibited. A leaky roof has meant the carvings have been off-limits to the public for more than a year, with the British Museum’s website noting that “due to regular maintenance works” its Greek rooms are “temporarily closed”.

Athens had been hoping that as a classicist who visits the country where his father owns a summer villa, Johnson would take a milder approach to the issue. However, the British prime minister dismissed the appeal for their return to Greece earlier this year, telling the Greek newspaper Ta Nea: “I understand the strong feelings of the Greek people – and indeed Prime Minister Mitsotakis – on the issue. “But the UK government has a firm, longstanding position on the sculptures, which is that they were legally acquired by Lord Elgin under the appropriate laws of the time and have been legally owned by the British Museum’s trustees since their acquisition.”

Athens has long called for the reunification of the sculptures, displayed in museums across Europe but mostly in London, arguing that their removal was illegal and seeing the marbles in their original place is integral to understanding the artworks in the context of the Acropolis. Research on museum visitors has concluded that the average visitor

does not make meaningful connections between the randomly acquired objects held and displayed by encyclopedic museums. However, what lies at the heart of the Greek case is that Greek people all over the world consider the marbles to be the most important link, symbolically, between the modern Greeks and their ancestors.

Adapted from: <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign>

1. The Greek Prime Minister offered to _____ in return for the Parthenon marbles.

- A. give away artefacts from the Acropolis Museum to the British Museum
- B. allow the British Museum to borrow artefacts from the Acropolis Museum
- C. set up a treasures exchange programme between the two countries
- D. engage in a public debate about the repatriation of stolen cultural treasures

2. The removal of the Parthenon marbles has caused _____.

- A. controversy
- B. hostility
- C. aggression
- D. confusion

3. The Greek Prime Minister thinks that Johnson's approach to the issue is _____.

- A. obsolete
- B. sensible
- C. meaningless
- D. bizarre

4. What is the purpose of paragraph 4?

- A. to stress that the Greek government has demanded the return of the marbles
- B. to criticise the fact that successive British governments have argued against the return of the marbles
- C. to analyse why no British government has ever agreed to return the marbles
- D. to explain why the decision taken by the UN agency's advisory committee is a significant one

5. The most impassioned argument for the return of the sculptures is that _____.

- A. they are strange and out of place in the British Museum
- B. if they remain in the damp galleries of the British Museum, they will be damaged
- C. the pieces represent a vital part of Greek heritage

D. the removal of the Parthenon sculptures represents the destruction of a unique and beautiful whole

TASK 7

(15 marks)

Read the following article about the pros and cons of investing in cryptocurrencies. Write a summary about the drawbacks of cryptocurrencies.

Your summary should be about 100 words long (and no more than 120 words long).

Cryptocurrency- A blessing or a curse?

No matter where you land on the financial spectrum — a traditionalist who favours hard cash or an investment specialist — you’ve most certainly heard of cryptocurrency. Cryptocurrency has become increasingly popular over the past few years and Bitcoin is one of the oldest and most popular cryptocurrencies that exist. So, if you’re asking yourself, “Is Bitcoin worth investing in?”, understanding the pros and cons of Bitcoin can help.

One of the biggest advantages of cryptocurrency is that it often sees no borders, and Bitcoin is no exception. A major benefit of Bitcoin is that it’s a very accessible and versatile currency. This makes spending money in another country and exchanging for other currencies easier, with a bonus of having little to no fees applied.

When Bitcoin was created by Satoshi Nakamoto, a limit was set of 21 million bitcoins that could ever exist, which is why some regard Bitcoin as being absolutely scarce. This scarcity is what makes Bitcoin so valuable, but also what makes its prices vary so much. Bitcoin’s extreme volatility is perceived as bad by investors, because it brings about market chaos, uncertainty, and loss.

Cryptocurrency, and Bitcoin especially, has a reputation for being a completely anonymous form of payment, free from tracking and interference. However, if you look a little closer, you’ll see that these digital currencies reveal a lot more information about you than you might think. This makes bitcoin both a blessing and a curse. All Bitcoin transactions are stored publicly and permanently on the network, which means anyone can see the balance and transactions of any Bitcoin address and there is transparency. The identity of the user behind an address remains unknown unless the same Bitcoin address is used over and over to receive money from other users; then every one of them will detect that the others have sent them money. This means privacy cannot be preserved.

Bitcoin is a decentralized currency, meaning it's not regulated by a single government or central bank. Theoretically, this gives users autonomy and control over their money because the price isn't linked to government policies. However, even though a decentralized currency can be viewed as one of the benefits of cryptocurrency, it can also be considered a disadvantage, since it means investing in Bitcoin is not regulated. Unlike a currency that's regulated by a central bank, Bitcoin transactions are under no one's supervision and they don't come with legal protection which makes them susceptible to scams.

Another issue to ponder over is the fact that there is a no refund policy. A Bitcoin transaction cannot be undone ; it can only be refunded by the person receiving the funds. This means investors should be extremely cautious about who they choose to do business with since transactions are irreversible and final so nothing can be done if the wrong amount is sent or if it's sent to the wrong recipient.

Four years ago, cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, were a vague concept to most people. Over the years they have gained legitimacy and are becoming more mainstream, with firms like Microsoft adopting their use for transactions. However, their use is still not widely accepted which puts a limit on where you can spend your money, unlike using a credit or debit card.

As a digital technology, cryptocurrencies will be subject to cybersecurity breaches, and may fall into the hands of hackers which increases the risk of financial fraud. Mitigating this will require continuous upkeep of security infrastructure, but we are already seeing many players dealing with this directly and using enhanced cybersecurity measures that go beyond those used in the traditional banking industries. Whatever the case, though, cryptocurrency exchanges are vulnerable to cyber-attacks, which could lead to an irreparable loss of your investment.

So, is it smart to invest in Bitcoin? Although there are some great benefits of cryptocurrency and pros of Bitcoin specifically, many people still view it as a risky investment. But, just like any investment, investing in Bitcoin requires you to do your research ahead of time.

Adapted from: <https://mint.intuit.com>

TASK 7

(15 marks)

You recently attended a concert by your favourite band and were impressed by the performance. Write an email to your English-speaking friend to tell him/her about it. In your email, you should:

- say how the concert lived up to your expectations
- describe the general atmosphere
- explain how the experience made you feel

Your email should be between 150-200 words long.

TASK 8

An English Language Magazine is asking for articles in response to the following statement:

Books have lost their importance as a source of information and entertainment. To what extent do you agree ?
Give reasons to support your opinion.

Write an article giving your views. Here are two comments from your classmates:

Reading stimulates the imagination and broadens the mind.

I'd rather watch the movie than read the book- it's so much faster and easier to remember!

Your article should be between 200 and 250 words long.

