

DOS AND DON'TS

- Read the whole text quickly. Don't stop to think about individual words.
- Read each question carefully. Decide what information is required.
- Look at the part of the text where the information you want should be.
- Choose the option you think is correct. Look for evidence.
- Check your answer by trying to eliminate the other three options.
- Make a sensible guess if you are still not sure. Don't leave any questions unanswered.

1 You are going to read a magazine article about two people who shared a flat. For questions 1–7, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text. Use the *Dos and Don'ts* above to help you.

THE perfect FLATMATE

WHEN I was twenty-one, I came to live in London. I shared a damp basement flat with a beautiful ex-art student from Brighton. Her name was Sam. She had long brown hair and a slim figure that I was madly jealous of. She ate three chocolate bars for breakfast every morning.

I used to lie in bed looking at her eating and getting dressed, wondering how she could possibly consume so much sugar without losing her teeth, her figure or her complexion. She'd put on her make-up in under a minute, throw on whatever clothes happened to be lying around the room, and rush off to work looking like a model on the cover of a fashion magazine. Like me, she was just an art teacher in a secondary school.

ON the other hand, I used to put on weight if I even smiled at a bar of chocolate. I'd already lost several upper teeth, my face was spotty, and I looked like a heavyweight boxer whatever I wore.

MY morning reaction to Sam was always the same. I'd shut my eyes, pull the blankets up over my head and force myself back to sleep. I knew that I really ought to get up too and make use of the early start to have a shower, iron my blouse, polish my shoes, paint my nails and eat something for breakfast.

BUT I have never been what you'd call a morning person. The teaching job I was doing at the time was the only period of my life, thank goodness, that I've had to be anywhere by 8.30 a.m. Anyway, I needed a few extra comforting dreams after the shock of seeing Sam looking so beautiful. Going back to sleep to shut everything out, and using my bed as a favourite means of retreat became an addiction – my worst habit.

OF course, I overslept and was late for work every single day of the week. Eventually I was told if things didn't improve I might be given the sack. So I gave up my job, and soon after I got married. I blame it all on Sam and her beauty.

- 1 The writer of the passage wished
 - A she had Sam's job.
 - B she was called Sam.
 - C she looked like Sam.
 - D she was an art student.
- 2 In the mornings Sam used to
 - A take a long time to put on her make-up.
 - B get ready for work very quickly.
 - C choose her clothes carefully.
 - D lie around before going to work.
- 3 The writer went back to sleep in the mornings because
 - A she couldn't face the day ahead.
 - B she was always tired.
 - C she always went to bed late.
 - D she had no reason to get up.
- 4 The writer got to work late because
 - A she always had a big breakfast.
 - B she spent a long time getting ready.
 - C she wasn't keen on her job.
 - D she didn't get up in time.
- 5 Eventually the writer left her job because
 - A she wasn't very good at teaching.
 - B her employer dismissed her.
 - C she got married.
 - D she knew she couldn't get to work on time.
- 6 The writer felt that Sam was
 - A too tidy for her.
 - B a very fortunate person.
 - C a good person to share a flat with.
 - D unsympathetic towards her.
- 7 What do we find out about the writer of the passage?
 - A She didn't get on with her flatmate.
 - B She lacked self-confidence.
 - C She paid great attention to her appearance.
 - D She was a well-organised person.