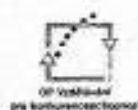




EVROPSKÁ UNIE

MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVA,
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY

INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VĚDE LÁVÁNÍ

You are going to read an extract from a novel, in which the singer in a pop group describes a meeting between the group and someone who wants to be their manager. For questions 7–14, 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**.

That first business meeting with Mae was one of the most important mornings of my life. Before she ever said a word, she left us time to be impressed by her office and, although we'd meant to be extremely cool, it impressed us all right. As her secretary opened the door, the room stretched ahead of us, not wide but almost ten metres long. For the first two-thirds, it was narrowed almost to a corridor by cupboards. Beyond them, the room opened out across its full width into silver and pale green, carpeted and furnished and full of light. And there was Mae, watching us from the depths of a huge silver armchair. We walked the length of the room, trying to look casual and wondering who the little guy beside her was. She left us time to sit down and take him in, too, before she introduced him.

'Stanley Grierson. My husband and business partner.'

Nobody said a word while Mae poured us coffee. We left the talking to Christie.

'Well?' He balanced his coffee spoon on one finger. 'Come on, persuade us. What are you offering?'

Stanley choked slightly into his coffee, as if he couldn't believe we would dare to bargain, but Mae kept a straight face. She had too much sense to answer the question directly. Instead, she waited until we were all listening and then began to talk softly, looking into her cup.

'It's hard to handle something really different, really new. If you launch it too soon, people don't know what you're talking about. If you leave it too long, it's dead. You need a special kind of nose for the *moment*, for how people are feeling and thinking. And I've got that. London's full of little Mae Griersons, all doing what I did *last year*, but none of them will ever catch up with me, because they're only copyists.'

'And now you've smelt us out?' said Job, raising an

eyebrow. 'Who are you complimenting – us or yourself?'

'You – when you did that first song the other night.' Mae was crisper now, more business-like. 'If that's the way you want to develop, Stanley and I are prepared to invest money in the band. If not, get out and stop wasting my time. You may make a living, but you'll never be anywhere near my league.'

Rollo spoke then. 'But music isn't really your area, is it? Have you got any other groups at all? And if not, why are you so keen to take us over when it's bound to be a risk?' Mae grinned. 'How about money? Anyone can do with another million or so.' Then, more seriously, 'But it's not only that. It's because I saw what you could be, I knew what the band could achieve if it was handled properly – and I want to test it out. The biggest pleasure of all is being proved right.'

'And you're sticking your neck out that far on the basis of one song? With an inexperienced singer?' said Job.

'Oh, I know that's the biggest hazard,' Mae said. 'But it's her I want. Without her, you're about as exciting as watching paint dry.' Suddenly everyone was looking at me, with their thoughts so plain I could have drawn in the speech bubbles myself. *She's only a kid. Can she take the pressure?* It was obvious they were waiting for a gesture.

I put my feet up on the table – boots and all – in among the porcelain coffee cups. Folding my arms, I said, 'Why don't we stop messing about? We all want to do business. The question is, what are you going to give us to make it worth our while? And what are you going to screw out of us in return?'

Even with half an eye on her precious coffee cups, Mae relaxed visibly. 'I like straight talk,' she said.



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OP Vzdělávání
pro konkurenceschopnost



OSSPo

INVESTICE DO KVALITY Vzdělávání

- 7 When the group arrived for their meeting with Mae, they
- A thought that her office was a rather strange place.
 - B were surprised that she didn't greet them at the door.
 - C wanted her to think they weren't keen to talk to her.
 - D were annoyed that someone else was at the meeting.
- 8 How did Mae respond to Christie's question?
- A She explained why she was so successful.
 - B She appeared to be offended by it.
 - C She seemed to have difficulty answering it.
 - D She described a problem she was facing.
- 9 What was Mae's response to Job's question?
- A She told them that they had a choice.
 - B She said that it was a stupid question.
 - C She said that the music business was unpredictable.
 - D She told them that they had very unrealistic ideas.
- 10 Mae said that the real reason why she wanted to be their manager was that
- A she had never been involved in the music business before.
 - B she was sure that she could make a lot of money out of it.
 - C she liked demonstrating that her judgement was good.
 - D she enjoyed taking risks more than anything else.
- 11 The narrator felt that everyone looked at her because
- A she didn't appear to be interested in what was being said.
 - B they were worried that she was too young to be relied on.
 - C they thought she might have been upset by Mae's previous comment.
 - D she hadn't said anything at all in the meeting up to that point.
- 12 What is meant by the phrase 'messaging about' in line 66?
- A saying things that make no sense
 - B talking without getting to the point
 - C changing decisions already made
 - D saying things without meaning them
- 13 How did Mae react to what the narrator said to her?
- A She was relieved that the narrator agreed with her.
 - B She was amused by the way the narrator spoke.
 - C She was pleased by how direct the narrator was.
 - D She was glad that the narrator disagreed with the others.
- 14 Which of the following best describes the group's attitude towards Mae?
- A They were frightened of her.
 - B They didn't take her seriously.
 - C They were suspicious of her.
 - D They didn't like her opinions.



For questions 16–30, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only **one** word in each space. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Write your word **on the separate answer sheet**.

Example:

0	<i>with</i>
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The Floating Postman

Thirty miles north of Sydney, Australia, the banks of the Hawkesbury River are thick (0) trees and there are few roads through the woodland. For most of the people who live (16), the river is the only route in and out.

The post has been delivered along the river (17) boat since 1910. Today it arrives aboard the *Hawkesbury Explorer*, (18) arrives every weekday with other vital supplies as well. On the day I went on it, David, the captain, and Holly, his assistant, (19) twelve stops to make on the 27-mile, four-hour round trip.

The river people – fishermen, retired folk and Sydney commuters – (20) shy and independent by nature. They use rainwater collected in tanks and some live (21) an electricity supply or telephones. And some are (22) keen to avoid contact with other people that they even send their dogs (23) collect supplies.

At one stop, a lively little dog trotted up to the quay on its own (24) letters and parcels were being unloaded. The dog and Holly greeted (25) other like old friends. The dog then kept watch over the supplies, waiting for its owner to pick them (26)

I became curious (27) these invisible people. Who were (28) and what was in the mysteriously shaped parcels left on the quaysides? "It's best (29) to ask," Holly said. "The people up here like to keep themselves to themselves." Indeed, one resident has named his house MYOB. "It (30) for Mind Your Own Business," Holly explained.