



# Reading 3

## EXERCISE 1

*You are going to read an article containing information about seven comedians appearing at a large annual arts festival in the UK. For questions 26-40, choose from the reviews (A-G). The reviews may be chosen more than once.*

### **Top Comedians at this Summer's Festival**

This year's festival offers a wide variety of stand-up comedians for visitors to choose from. Here is our pick of some of the best of them.

#### **A Sarah Millican**

Millican took home the best newcomer award at the festival two years ago and her career will be the model for the many aspiring comics making their debuts at this year's festival. Millican followed up that success with television appearances on some popular prime-time shows as well as her own radio series. Her new show, Chatterbox, only her third full-length show, will go on to become her first national tour this autumn. Audiences love her combination of warm northern chat and her frank jokes.

#### **B Jennifer Coolidge**

The festival wouldn't be complete without at least one US movie star braving a month of live audiences, and this year it's Jennifer Coolidge, best known to a generation of teenagers as Stifler's mom in the American Pie series. A talented comic actress, Coolidge makes her festival debut this year with a noisy show about pop culture, show business and men. No one quite knows what to expect, but it should be worth a visit.

#### **C Shappy Khorsandi**

Now with a bestselling book to her name and an increasing television profile Shappy Khorsandi is likely to be one of the most popular acts at the festival, as her popularity is not restricted to any generation, and she has a talent for making men as well as women feel comfortable. Past shows have relied heavily on her Iranian heritage and her father's story; this year, expect to hear a lot more about her current personal life. Her recent divorce and life as a single mother have provided her with plenty of raw material, but for Khorsandi the personal and political are always comically tangled.

## **D Robin Ince**

Taking time out from his stage and radio collaborations with the scientist Brian Cox, Robin Ince returns to the festival, offering fans who enjoy his winning combination of intellectual curiosity and explosive liberal views a choice of two shows. A committed supporter of the “Free Fringe”, a collective effort to resist the dominance of the big venues and sponsors, Ince will be offering his shows free. These are *Robin Ince Asks Why?* and *Carl Sagan Is Still My God*, the latter being a homage to the American astrophysicist and popular science writer.

## **E Ardal O'Hanlon**

It may be hard not to think of him first and foremost as Father Dougal, the character he played in the popular TV drama series, but O'Hanlon began as a stand-up comic and is one of the most accomplished live performers you'll find at the festival. Fresh from performing in the US last year in a triple bill with two other Irish comics, O'Hanlon's live act ought to be compulsory viewing for any aspiring comedian; a friendly, slightly bewildered air masks a sharp intelligence, and his mastery of timing and delivery is a joy to watch. This is a new show for the festival and, as with his festival show last year, it is the prelude to a nationwide tour in the autumn.

## **F Susan Calman**

Former corporate lawyer Susan Calman has been a favourite among Scottish comedy fans and discerning festival-goers since giving up her day job four years ago, but this year the secret is well and truly out. The diminutive Scot, now a regular on radio's *News Quiz*, has moved to a bigger venue, with a new show in which she considers her own childhood. She's passionate about political comedy often publicly regretting the lack of effective political satire in Britain.

## **G Emo Philips**

In only his fourth appearance at the festival, the remarkable Emo Philips brings the show he is currently touring across the US, *Please Witness My Act*. The man described by *Psychology Today* as “stand-up comedy's zany godfather” last visited in 2001, when he out-sold every other act at the festival. Over the past 35 years, Philips has won a devoted cult following, with his strange persona and his skillful jokes - three of them made it into a recent magazine list of *The 75 Best Jokes of All Time*. A true original, he may puzzle the mainstream, but his fans will be thrilled to see him back.

**About which comedian is the following statement made?**

This comedian appeals to people of different genders and ages.	26	
This comedian is critical to the current state of their favourite type of comedy.	27	
This comedian will do a show nationwide for the first time later this year.	28	
Anyone who wants to be a comedian should watch this person in action.	29	
This comedian has also had some success as an author.	30	
It's this comedian's first appearance at the festival.	31	
You don't have to pay to go to this comedian's show.	32	
This comedian won a prize at a previous festival.	33	
This comedian uses difficult experiences from their own life in shows.	34	
This comedian was previously employed in a legal profession.	35	
Among a certain group this comedian is better known for working in films.	36	
This comedian might not appeal to everyone.	37	
Many young comedians would like to imitate this person's career.	38	
This comedian recently did an overseas tour with some other comedians from their country.	39	
This comedian has recently worked on radio and in the theatre with another well-known person.	40	

*Источник задания: Всероссийская олимпиада школьников, региональный этап  
2012/13*

# Reading 3 — Keys

26 C  
27 F  
28 A  
29 E  
30 C

31 B  
32 D  
33 A  
34 C  
35 F

36 B  
37 G  
38 A  
39 E  
40 D

## EXPLANATION

### A Sarah Millican

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