



## Reading 34

*You are going to read three extracts which are all concerned in some way with human behaviour. For questions 1–6, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.*

### Extract from a Book Review

Why do vast flocks of birds, driven as much by some irrepressible genetic impulse as by the dictates of seasonal change, migrate thousands of miles every year? And why do people, torn between 'the known and the new', so often oscillate between the prospect of the journey and the draw of home? Under the pretext of exploring the first question, *The Snow Geese*, William Fiennes's quirky and autobiographical first book, takes us to the heart of the second.

The story begins with Fiennes confined to a hospital bed, stricken by a curious and psychologically debilitating illness, dreaming of the comforts and protection of his family home. But when he returns to the familiarity of the old ironstone house, restlessness soon replaces homesickness. He longs to be jolted out of his introspection. Paul Gallico's novel *The Snow Goose* becomes an unlikely inspiration, and Fiennes resolves to follow the migratory path of real-life snow geese as they fly from Texas to the Canadian Arctic Circle on their annual spring voyage. It is emotional healing through the power of bird-watching, allowing him to put the past behind him. The result is an original blend of travel writing, autobiography and reportage.

1 In the first paragraph, the reviewer suggests that Fiennes' book

- A seeks to understand people's mixed feelings about travel.
- B throws new light on the migratory habits of birds.
- C rejects comparisons between human and bird behaviour.
- D fails to answer satisfactorily either of the questions it poses.

2 What do we learn about Fiennes in the second paragraph?

- A His state of health prevents him from travelling.
- B He has been inspired by a book he read in hospital.
- C He is looking for something to occupy his mind positively.
- D He has written his book as a way of overcoming his illness.

## Tools

Anthropologists often say that what distinguishes humans from other primates is the ability to use tools. Unfortunately, they don't tell us how, while using those tools, the human in question — in this case yours truly — is supposed not to mislay them continually. As a qualified bricklayer, I should say at the outset that I never have a problem with my bricklaying tools. It was drummed into me that, when not in my hand, my trowel would be stuck in the pile of mortar on the spot board, my tape would be in my left-hand pocket, my spirit level would be leaning against the brick stack and my pencil behind my right ear. If I have even the slightest temptation to put these items anywhere else, then my instructor's voice jumps out from the recesses of my memory and gives me a loud ticking-off. So these tools are always to hand.

But, with other jobs, I've never been able to get into the same kind of habit. Screwdrivers, pincers, spanners - one minute I'm using them, the next they've disappeared. I can spend more time looking for a screwdriver than actually using it. Really tidy people hang their tools on hooks fixed to a pegboard on the wall of their workshop, and draw the outline of each tool with a felt-tipped pen, so they can see where everything belongs and spot if something is missing. I admire these people immensely, but something in my character prevents me ever doing this myself. I did once get as far as buying a sheet of pegboard, but then I mislaid it.

3 The writer attributes his tidiness with his bricklaying tools to

- A his need to use them on a regular basis.
- B the fact that he has a good memory.
- C his years of experience in the trade.
- D the effectiveness of his training.

4 In the piece as a whole, the writer is

- A casting doubt on an academic theory.
- B acknowledging his own shortcomings.
- C making fun of people who are too tidy.
- D explaining how tools should be maintained.

## Book Crossing

My heart was thumping. Surreptitiously, I scanned the carriage. The train coasted into the platform, and the briefcase-clutching, umbrella-wielding crowd made its way towards the door. I slid my book - Hanif Kureishi's *Love in a Blue Time* - between two seats. A quick glance at my fellow passengers: no one saw. Off the train, and up the escalator - I increased my pace and pulled down my hat. Almost out of the station. I had done it! I had 'released' my first book. As my smile spread, I noticed rapidly approaching footsteps from behind. A tap on my shoulder: 'Excuse me, Miss,' said a kindly man, I think you left this behind.' Bother!

The Book Crossing organisation - nay, movement - claims, with 250,000 members globally, to be the largest book group in the world. Here's how it works. You register with the site ([www.bookcrossing.com](http://www.bookcrossing.com)), tag one of your books with a special Book Crossing number generated by the website, and then 'release it to the wild'. With any luck, your book will then be rescued - or, as they say, captured. The book-catcher is invited, via use of the Book Crossing code number and website, to update the travels of the book, read and exchange their impressions of it and then, in true Book Crossing spirit, pass it on.

5 In the first paragraph, the writer describes a situation in which she  
A felt short-lived satisfaction in an achievement.

B was embarrassed when her intentions were uncovered.

C became resigned to her inability to do something successfully.

D had feelings of frustration towards someone who intended to spoil her plans.

6 The organisation described in the second paragraph aims to

A promote the work of certain authors.

B encourage people to read online novels.

C provoke discussion of certain published works.

D persuade people to buy more books.

*Источник задания: CAE Practice Tests 2 (old format)*

# Reading 33 — Keys

- 1 A
- 2 C
- 3 D
- 4 B
- 5 A
- 6 C

## EXPLANATION

### Extract from a Book Review

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