



## Reading 7

*For questions 1–6 sort out the parts of the text and put them in the correct order. There is one extra paragraph that you do not have to use.*

### Poetry

- A The people who grew up to be like this were people who were familiar with silence. Houses a hundred years ago must have been relatively quiet places - places conducive to meditating upon the shivering little bird on the bare branch of the tree outside in the bleak midwinter evening. Added to this was a culture centred on books.
- B Some of us believe that we should try to keep alive the memory, at least, of what once was. We can still read the old poems there on the yellowing paper even though the audience for whom they were intended has largely disappeared. As an effort in this direction our website offers a little introductory tour of the graveyard of English poetry.
- C So people who wanted music would have to play an instrument. Those who wanted to chatter would have to invite people over and start chatting. It was till the entertainment industry, whose influence went so deep, managed to ensure that no one any longer would have an ear for music or poetry. After all, who needs it, if we have TV?
- D In its day poetry was kept alive by a certain sensibility that many people in the middle and upper classes had. These were people who could travel out into the countryside and just sit and listen to the birds singing and the wind gently whistling through the leaves or marvel at the ever-changing shapes of the passing clouds.

E Long before it was possible to cheaply reproduce and widely distribute either images or sounds, the printing press had made it possible for a culture to spring up which revolved around the written word. Now things have changed. People grow up with a constant exposure to music and chat and TV images. The extent of it creates a psychological need for this kind of noise.

F The consensus seems to be that poetry is dead. It was great in its time, but its time is past. Who reads poetry now, for God's sake? No music, no video clips, no pin-up poets - absolutely nothing attractive about poetry whatsoever.

G The house seems empty and time seems to pass in a deathly way without it. When no one any longer was able to take pleasure in silence there ceased to be an audience for poetry and the art form we had known for some 3,000 years died. Since it is dead why don't we just leave it to rot in its grave?

1	2	3	4	5	6

# Reading 7 — Keys

1. F
2. D
3. A
4. E
5. G
6. B