



**Reading 1: (10 marks)****Read the following story and then answer the questions that follow.**

On my first day of work at Acrol Company, I arrived nervous and nearly half an hour late because I had missed the bus. It was then that I met Miriam Bellings, the Managing Director, who was to have an **enormous** influence on my life and career.

She was a small quiet woman. Her appearance gave the impression of a nervous person. I soon learnt, however, that her true character was calm, warm, **kind**, yet very professional. She reminded me that lateness would not be tolerated in the office. Then she explained the workings of the office to me with such clarity and accuracy, and with such patience to my questions, that I was left with the impression that she was a sort of superwoman of office management. Her **ability** to deal with several matters at once seemed almost unbelievable.

During the years I worked with her, my admiration for Miriam **increased**. She is a determined woman. I remember one day when nearly everyone in the office had gone down with the flu, Miriam managed to keep the office running smoothly without seeming stressed.

The most remarkable thing about Miriam, though, was her sensitivity towards others. Although she had never married, she seemed to have a deep understanding of family relationships, and could always tell when an employee was having problems at home. She would call you into her office and **encourage** you to talk. Not only was she a good listener, but the advice she offered was always sound as well.

All in all, Miriam is the most admirable person I've ever met. I lost touch with Miriam after her retirement, but I will always remember her as the "guiding light" in my working life, the woman who, through her example, help and advice, enabled me to be as successful as I am today.

**A. Read the story again and decide whether the following statements are (True) or (False). (5 marks)**

- 1- The writer was late for work because she was nervous. ( )
- 2- Miriam was very peaceful and patient person. ( )
- 3- When the staff got sick, Miriam kept on working in the office. ( )
- 4- Although Miriam was a good manager, she couldn't understand the employees' social problems. ( )
- 5- Karen and Miriam are still working in the same company. ( )

**B. Match the following words with their definitions. Note that there is one extra definition. (5 marks)**

( enormous - kind - ability - increase - encourage )

Definitions	Answers
make something large in size or amount	.....
huge; very large in quantity or extent	.....
give support	.....
having or showing a friendly nature	.....
making you feel worried and nervous	.....
having the skill to do something	.....

**Reading 2: (10 marks)**

**Read the following text and then answer the questions that follow.**

**A.** In the summer of 2011, a Dutch teenager named Boyan Slat went diving off the coast of Greece. Boyan was interested in experiencing the underwater wildlife of the area, but instead, he got a terrible surprise. "I saw more plastic bags than fish," Boyan says. From that day on, this amazing teenager has dedicated his life to cleaning up the world's oceans of floating plastic.



**B.** However, Boyan has a huge task in front of him. Every year, around 28 million tons of plastic enter the world's oceans. In some cases, people dump rubbish into oceans directly, but most plastic flows into oceans from rivers and drainage systems. Once there, it gets carried away by tides, and most of it gathers in five huge areas of water. The most famous area where rubbish gathers is called the Pacific Garbage Patch, which is situated between Hawaii and California.

**C.** The environmental consequences of this plastic are huge. Many marine animals accidentally eat pieces of plastic, which then get stuck in their stomachs, causing them to starve. For example, turtles often confuse plastic bags for jellyfish.

**D.** But, how can this problem be solved? First, Boyan thought about collecting the plastic using ships and fishing nets, but he soon realised that this method was too expensive and slow. Instead, he came up with an idea to install floating barriers in the ocean. In the plans he designed barriers lie on the surface of the water only, allowing fish to swim unharmed underneath. The oceans' tides then carry floating rubbish towards the barriers, where it is collected and recycled on the mainland.

**E.** The next step for Boyan was to raise money for the project. At first, this proved very difficult; not a lot of companies wanted to give money to a 19-year-old student! But after a video of him on the Internet talking about his project, he raised \$2 million! Nowadays, Boyan's foundation, The Ocean Cleanup, is doing research to see if his dream can become a reality. Many experts say his plan won't work, but Boyan recently claimed that the first platform will be built in 2020. As he says "When people say something is impossible, I like to prove them wrong."

**A. Match the paragraphs (A- E) to the suitable headings. There is one extra heading. (5 marks)**

Paragraph	Heading
.....	A terrible impact
.....	Making it possible
.....	A Shocking discovery
.....	What some scientists found
.....	Where it all ends up
.....	Finding a solution

**B. From the text, fill in the table with the missing information. (5 marks)**

the teenager's name	.....
the name of the country where he discovered the problem	.....
the teenager's foundation name	.....
the amount of money that he raised	.....
the year of building the first platform	.....



