**INTERVIEW WRITING**

*Passage A Phil Bruff recounts his experience of sky-diving for the first time.*

Nothing can match the adrenaline buzz that you feel the first time you leap out of a plane. Hurtling two miles towards the ground is unbelievable. I haven’t felt anything like it before or since. Nothing else exists, just you and the sky.

The build up is the most terrifying aspect: the waiting, the explanation of risk factors, the suit. All of these delays really serve to heighten the tension. Did I want my jump videoed? Was it wrong that my first thought was about how my family would have a record of my last moments if anything went wrong? I decided that yes, I would like a video; I also decided that I would give my mum a quick ring, just to check how she was...

I have always been attracted to extreme sports. I love heights and used to enjoy climbing as a child, but as I progressed to adult walls my shorter-than-average limbs struggled to reach the next hold and eventually I decided I just wasn’t built to be a climber. Skiing is fun but it is very expensive and requires travel and correct conditions to get that buzz. Also, I have always been keen to push boundaries and pursue the next adventure so sky-diving seemed

a logical next step. I think we should all push ourselves in life; it can be so rewarding. I also planned to make some money for a local charity while I was at it.

The walk to the plane was over too quickly. With great efficiency I was strapped in and sat between my instructor Neil’s legs. I tried not to think about the awkwardness of the situation. My mind went back to when I was sat on my comfy sofa, reading articles about people who had done this and survived, I tried to recall the headlines but my mind went blank as the propellers whirred...

As the plane climbed I steeled myself. Statistically this was supposed to be safer than the drive up the motorway. My mind was in turmoil but that didn’t matter as the big moment had arrived. I was to go first! There was nobody ahead of me to watch and take comfort from; I was to be the pathfinder for the anxious faces I knew were seated behind me. Those others who had also abandoned the comfy sofas we all inhabit too regularly to fling themselves out of a plane! Those who were also raising money for a variety of good causes, I remembered the various names I’d seen emblazoned across their T shirts. It was time...

I scooted over to the edge and had a brief moment to marvel at what was before me. The clouds, fluffy as fleece but fragile as gossamer puffed around the plane. The ground below opened up, a yawning chasm into which I was about to fling myself. The countdown began...

Three! Two! One! And out we went, tumbling, deafened by the wind.

The free fall was only a few seconds long but was completely exhilarating. The initial moments when my senses were bombarded almost to the point of numbness, were quickly exchanged for a mesmerising peace when the chute opened. The deafening roar of the wind became a brief scream, and then the wind merely whispered as we glided... I found a kind of inner-peace and relished the tranquility of the flight I had left.

The landing was similar to one you might experience after a long zip wire at the end of a high-wire course. My heels slid across the grass as we came to a bumpy halt. Relief flooded over me as I brushed myself off and turned around to return Neil’s high-five. My time skydiving was certainly memorable; I now feel almost like part of an elite club of extreme sports enthusiasts. I have a funny feeling it won’t be my last trip plummeting to Earth from a plane...

**Question 1**

**After his experience sky-diving, a reporter for a publication called Extreme Sports**

**Magazine interviewed Phil and asked him the following three questions:**

** What made you choose sky-diving as an activity?**

** What were your thoughts and feelings about the experience?**

** What are your opinions on people engaging in extreme sports such as sky-diving?**

**Write the words of the interview, beginning with the first question.**

**Base your interview on passage A. Use your own words.**