C1.3
UNIT 5

Exercise 1

For questions 6–16, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0). Write your answers IN CAPITAL LETTERS.

The Importance of Architecture in Modern Society

Architecture has always played a fundamental role in shaping the way people live. Although buildings are often judged by their appearance, there is much more to them than (0) **THAT**.

A well-designed building should meet the needs of **(1**) _____ uses it, regardless of their age, background or physical abilities. This is particularly important in public spaces, where everyone should feel welcome and comfortable.

Architects must also consider the relationship between a building and its surroundings. (2**)** _____ is constructed in a particular location can have a considerable impact on the local environment and community. For this reason, careful planning is essential.

Modern technology has made it possible to design structures that were previously unimaginable. Some of (3) _____ are inspired by natural forms, while others challenge traditional ideas about space and materials. Nevertheless, technology alone cannot guarantee a successful outcome.

There are architects who believe that buildings should be designed for future generations, not just for (4) _____ who will use them today. This approach requires a long-term vision and an understanding of how societies may change.

Sustainable architecture is another area in which considerable progress has been made. Many buildings now incorporate systems that reduce energy consumption, although not (5) _____ all are equally effective.

It is also worth remembering that architecture is not simply about creating impressive structures. What matters is whether people can identify with (6) _____ they see around them and feel that these spaces belong to them.

Ultimately, architecture should serve society as a whole. It is not enough to design buildings that look attractive; (7) _____ is equally important that they should be accessible, practical and environmentally responsible. Only by taking all these factors into account can architects create spaces that benefit everyone, rather than the (8) _____ who can afford to use them.

Exercise 2

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. **Do not change the word given.** You must use between **three and six words**, including the word given.

0. I was responsible for managing the department while my manager was on holiday.

FORT

I had to **hold the fort for** my manager while he was on holiday.

1. The news of his sudden resignation was an enormous shock to everyone in the company.

BRICKS

_____.

2. My parents are extremely angry with me because I forgot my sister's birthday.

DOGHOUSE

_____.

3. The organisation's financial structure is so weak that it could collapse at any moment.

CARDS

_____.

4. James hasn't decided whether he wants to accept the job offer abroad.

FENCE

_____.

5. Your explanation of why the project failed was absolutely correct.

NAIL

_____.

6. The hotel we stayed in was fairly ordinary, with nothing particularly special about it.

MILL

_____.

Exercise 3

You are going to read four extracts from articles about architecture. For questions 1–5 choose from the extracts A–D.

The changing face of architecture

_____.

For centuries, architects have been concerned primarily with creating structures that are visually impressive, functional and capable of standing the test of time. However, the growing awareness of environmental issues has forced the profession to reconsider its priorities. Contemporary architects are increasingly expected to take responsibility for the ecological consequences of their designs.

One approach that has gained considerable attention is biophilic architecture, which seeks to establish a stronger connection between buildings and the natural world. This can involve incorporating vegetation into building facades, maximizing natural light and using materials that have a limited environmental impact. Nevertheless, critics argue that some supposedly sustainable projects are little more than marketing exercises. A building covered in plants, for instance, is not necessarily environmentally friendly if its construction requires enormous amounts of energy. Ultimately, the challenge is to move beyond superficial solutions and develop buildings that genuinely contribute to the well-being of both their occupants and the wider environment.

_____.

The restoration of historic buildings presents architects with a particularly complex dilemma. On the one hand, there is an understandable desire to preserve architectural heritage and maintain a connection with previous generations. On the other, buildings must often be adapted to meet the demands of modern life.

Architects working on restoration projects frequently discover that the original structure contains unexpected weaknesses. Addressing these problems without compromising the building's historical character requires

considerable ingenuity. In some cases, modern technologies can be introduced almost invisibly, allowing buildings to meet contemporary safety and energy standards without losing their distinctive appearance.

Yet the question of how far intervention should go remains controversial. Some specialists believe that any significant alteration amounts to an unacceptable interference with history, whereas others maintain that refusing to adapt historic buildings may ultimately condemn them to abandonment.

_____.

Architecture is sometimes discussed in terms of technical innovation, visual impact and construction costs. Yet its influence on people's everyday lives is arguably much more profound. The spaces in which we live and work can affect our mood, concentration and even our relationships with others.

Research into architectural psychology has highlighted the importance of factors such as ceiling height, color, acoustics and spatial organization. Open-plan offices, for example, were initially praised for encouraging collaboration and communication. However, subsequent experience has revealed that they can also undermine concentration and create considerable stress, particularly when employees have little control over their immediate surroundings.

This suggests that architects should resist the temptation to follow fashionable design trends without considering how people will actually use a space. A successful building should not simply impress visitors; it should also respond sensitively to the needs of those who inhabit it.

_____.

The introduction of digital technologies has transformed the way architects conceive and develop buildings. Sophisticated computer programs now allow designers to create complex structures that would have been extremely difficult, if not impossible, to construct using traditional methods.

One particularly significant development is parametric design, whereby architects use algorithms to generate and modify architectural forms according to specific parameters. This has opened up possibilities for experimentation, enabling designers to explore shapes and structural solutions that might otherwise never have been considered.

However, technological progress has not eliminated the need for human judgement. Indeed, the abundance of digital possibilities can sometimes encourage architects to prioritise visual complexity over practical considerations. A design may look spectacular on a computer screen but prove prohibitively expensive or difficult to maintain once built. Technology, therefore, should be regarded as a means of enhancing architectural creativity rather than replacing professional expertise.

Which extract mentions...

1. the possibility that an architectural approach may be adopted for promotional purposes rather than for its genuine benefits?

2. the danger of allowing aesthetic considerations to take precedence over the practical requirements of a project?

3 the difficulty of making improvements to a building while retaining its original identity?

4. the need to consider the impact of architectural decisions on people's psychological and social well-being?