



Exercise 2

Read the article about four young people (**A–D**) who are trying to make a living from creative work. Then answer **Questions 7(a)–(i)**.

Trying to make a living from creative work

A Pedro

When I left art school, I was determined to become a professional artist, but I had very little money, so for a while I worked in a café and painted in my free time. It was tough but typical for someone at the start of a career in art. Eventually, I decided to paint full time and give myself six months to produce enough work for a solo exhibition. I took a financial risk by hiring a local art gallery, but my paintings sold well, and I realised how effective setting a deadline can be for an artist. Following the exhibition, some collectors asked me to do more paintings for them, and various reviews of my work were published. At 23, I thought I was definitely heading for a successful artistic career. Then, gradually, people stopped buying my paintings, and I had to go back to café work and painting part time.

B Akiko

I began making short films at university, and they were so well received by fellow students I became convinced I had the necessary qualities to be a film director. After graduating, I worked for a while as an unpaid assistant on various film projects. Not having a regular income was hard, but in the film world, as in other artistic fields, people are expected to work for free when they're starting out. It's not right but that's how things are. As time went on, I picked up some paid work and I now spend most of my time directing advertisements for various agencies. It's definitely not what I want, but it pays for my own personal film projects. These days, I'm so busy making films, either for money or for myself, that, unfortunately, I have little time for anything else, like taking holidays.

C Hassan

After I left school, I did a photography course – I didn't know what else to do. When the course finished, my teacher, a professional photographer, offered me a part-time role as her assistant. She didn't pay me enough to live on, which was why I eventually quit, but without her encouragement, I would never have become a photographer. I developed a passion for photographing changes in my neighbourhood – construction projects, for example, which often, sadly, make things worse for local residents. I've always posted work online, and it's frequently generated strong reactions. I used to read all the comments, but I realised that wasn't doing me any good, so I now ignore them. Recently, I've been doing some photography for fashion magazines. It's not really my thing, but it pays well and I only have to produce a limited number of photos each time. Then I can get back to my main interests.

D Zaneta

Becoming a musician wasn't something I had any choice about. I always knew it could be a struggle financially, but I have no other skills, and I've known since I was 14 that I'm talented musically. My main focus is on the band I co-founded, and we play our own songs whenever possible. We're getting some fans through playing live and online, but we finance ourselves by playing pop favourites at weddings, parties and company events. We try to plan ahead – we're touring next month – but life for a band like ours is unpredictable, and unless things improve dramatically in terms of our income, I will never be able to support a family, for example. Having said that, not knowing what I'll be doing in three months' time or whether I can continue to make a living like this doesn't seem to hurt my creativity; it's quite the opposite, in fact.



Question 7

Which person ...

- (a) says that **not** having a secure job can bring certain advantages? [1]
- (b) regrets the impact that their work has on other aspects of their life? [1]
- (c) appreciates some support they were given? [1]
- (d) suggests that young creative people are often treated unfairly? [1]
- (e) emphasises the value of establishing specific targets? [1]
- (f) thinks they paid too much attention to the views of other people? [1]
- (g) expresses frustration at having to do work for other businesses? [1]
- (h) suggests that only one type of work was an option for them? [1]
- (i) admits to being over-confident at one stage? [1]

[Total: 9]

