READING

1 Read the magazine article and tick (✓) A, B, or C.

Australia – a great place to be

When people think of Australia, they often picture beautiful beaches, lovely weather, and lots of dangerous animals – such as salt water crocodiles and taipan snakes! It’s true that we have these things, but Australia is more interesting than you might think.

Australia is in the South Pacific and it’s the world’s biggest island. We don’t have any borders with other countries and our closest neighbours are Papua New Guinea and East Timor. Australia is the sixth largest country in the world. It’s thirty times bigger than the United Kingdom, but nearly three times more people live in the UK. In the centre of the country there is a lot of desert. Most Australians live near the coast, where the country’s biggest cities are.

There are plenty of exciting cities to visit here, including Canberra, our capital, and Sydney, which is famous for its Opera House and amazing harbour. However, it is Melbourne which is near the top of the list of the ‘most exciting cities of the world’. It has wonderful beaches, a great nightlife, fantastic shops, and lots of arts festivals and exhibitions.

Australia is a fascinating place to visit. We’re very proud of our country and we usually welcome tourists. Our way of life isn’t very formal, but we often take presents when we visit people. If someone invites you to dinner, it’s a good idea to take along flowers or wine for your host.

The good weather means we can do lots of outdoor activities. Summer lasts from December to February, and winter from June to August. However, Australia is enormous and the weather isn’t the same everywhere. The north has two types of weather – very wet and very dry! The centre stays dry all year round. But in the south, the weather changes from season to season. Summer in the south is hot, but winter can be cold, wet, and windy – you can even go skiing in the mountains!

Come and visit.

Example: Australia is the South Pacific.

A True ✓ B False  C Doesn’t say 

1 Australia has a border with Papua New Guinea.

 A True  B False  C Doesn’t say 

2 Australia is one of the six biggest countries in the world.

 A True  B False  C Doesn’t say 

3 A lot of the land in the centre of the country is desert.

 A True  B False  C Doesn’t say 

4 There are some cities in the middle of Australia.

 A True  B False  C Doesn’t say 

5 Most Australians can swim.

 A True  B False  C Doesn’t say 

6 Sydney is at the top of the list of the most exciting cities in the world.

 A True  B False  C Doesn’t say 

7 Australia is an interesting place for tourists.

 A True  B False  C Doesn’t say 

8 Australians are usually formal to tourists.

 A True  B False  C Doesn’t say 

9 Water sports are very popular.

 A True  B False  C Doesn’t say 

10 It rains in the autumn in the north.

 A True  B False  C Doesn’t say 