Write the letter of the most suitable sentence (A-F) in the text below. There is one extra sentence, which you do not need.

MORE TIME OFF FOR STAFF IN TOUGH SCHOOLS

Teachers in Britain’s most challenging schools will be entitled to six-week paid sabbaticals under plans to be set out by the government this week.

At a time of continuing concerns about serious teacher shortages, ministers hope they will stop disillusioned and "burnt out" teachers quitting the profession early. 

...1........ They are likely to lead to action in areas where the worst shortages have led to increased workloads.

The proposals are part of a £92m package of measures to raise teaching standards through better professional development. Teachers will get more help early in their second or third year as part of a more clearly defined career ladder.

The proposals were recommended to the education secretary, David Blunkett, by the General Teaching Council.

...2........ However, the government has decided to limit them initially to those working in "challenging" schools, particularly in inner-city areas.

Sabbaticals are an opportunity to gain pedagogic, leadership or management inspiration and should have a direct impact on return. Teachers would have to get approval for their proposed sabbatical activity in order to qualify for funding.

...3........

Overall, the package, to be announced by the school standards minister, Estelle Morris, at a conference on Thursday, is likely to benefit around 70,000 teachers over the next three years.

...4........

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the second largest teaching union, the National Association of School Masters Union of Women Teachers, said: "...5...... We think this is a useful step in the right direction."

A. It will include £3,500 scholarships for around 1,000 teachers.

B. Teachers were allowed to undertake professional development of their choice.

C. The GTC believes all experienced teachers should have the opportunity to take sabbaticals.

D. In the next few days the first results of teacher union ballots will be announced.

E. Professional development is very important for our teaching profession.

F. This would help to pay for a supply teacher during their absence – of up to six weeks.
Rebuilding the Colosseum

The Colosseum is like Rome itself. After all these centuries, it never runs out of surprises. One of the latest turned up on a second-tier corridor only a few weeks ago: an amateurish but detailed drawing scratched into the wall. Experts say the graffitiist was probably a fight fan passing the wait between bouts, 1,600 or more years ago.

As trivial as the discovery may sound, it's pure treasure to Roselle Rea. She's the chief archaeologist for an eight-year, 18-million-dollar project currently underway at the mightiest of Rome's ancient monuments. When the overhaul is finished in 2003, visitors will be able to explore parts of the Flavian Amphitheater (the building's proper name) that have been out of public view for centuries – and a few that were off-limits even in the days of the emperors.

The place was falling apart. The whole outer wall – what's left of it – was at risk, according to the project's chief architect. The restorers had to mend a widening fissure that extended nearly the entire height of the north face. The foundation needed stabilizing, and some of the exterior arches had to be shored up with supplementary arches. Huge blocks of marble and ancient concrete were coaxed back into alignment, millimetre by millimetre. Since the completion of that phase last year, workers have begun scouring away centuries of soot from the outer walls to expose the monument's original golden tinge.

Big changes are continuing inside. Until the project began, only 15 percent of the Colosseum was open to the public. Now visitors can tour some 35 percent. Two years from now, when the scheduled renovations are complete, 85 percent will be accessible, including underground sections where animals were caged and gladiators prepared for battle. The topmost tier will be open again, too, giving tourists a panoramic view of the city for the first time in almost 1,500 years.

At present the Roman landmark still has room for improvement. You can stand in line two hours or more, without a trace of shade, just waiting to get in. For people too old or infirm to climb the treacherously steep main stairway, an elevator has been installed – but good luck finding it. The refreshment stands are overpriced, and the restrooms are inadequate. And always watch your wallet: despite the best efforts of police to keep a close eye on the place, a day never passes without at least one purse snatched or a pocket picked. On bad days as many as 40 such petty crimes are reported.

Far bigger problems may be on the way. The Colosseum remains first on the city superintendent of archaeology's list of Rome's most endangered monuments. It was built over an underground stream whose waters have undermined it ever since. Over the centuries the building has survived three major earthquakes, a disastrous fire and the fall of Rome. Medieval Romans used it as a garbage dump and as a quarry for the builders of St. Peter's Basilica and other churches. Today the amphitheatre marks one of the busiest intersections in the city, and a subway roars a few meters outside. The abuse adds up. Experts warn, some walls will need to be totally rebuilt within 10 years.

Some forms of wear and tear can only get worse. Last year some 2.5 million people toured the Colosseum, and the renovation is sure to attract even more. Every footstep wears away a little more of its marble floors and stairways. But that's one problem that doesn't give experts any qualms. Keeping an old monument closed to visitors is like locking a vintage car in a museum. It may be nice to look at, but if you try to start the engine, it won't work. Tourists are good for the Colosseum. They help keep it in working order.
Questions:

1. Where was the latest piece of art discovered in the Colosseum? (1)

2. How long does the current restoration project last? (1)

3. Were all the parts of the Colosseum open to the public in ancient times? (Write only YES/NO.) (1)

4. What was the problem with the foundation of the Colosseum? (1)

5. What percentage of the Colosseum will still be closed to the public when the restoration is finished? (1)

6. When was the last time visitors had a view from the top of the Colosseum? (1)

7. What kind of problem may tourists have with the lift? (1)

8. Name one smalltime crime that is common in the Colosseum. (1)

9. Give two examples of what endangers the Colosseum. (a., b.) (1)

10. What kind of work will be inevitable in the Colosseum in the next decade? (1)
FREED SMUGGLER HEADS TO OXFORD

A British woman ... released ... (0) from a 25-year jail sentence for drug smuggling in Thailand has been ............ (1) a place at Oxford University. Sandra Gregory, 35, was caught carrying heroin at Bangkok airport in 1993 and spent four and a half years in the Lar Yao prison, before being repatriated to the UK to serve out the rest of her ............ (2). Last summer she was freed after being granted a royal ............ (3) by the King of Thailand. Now Ms Gregory will take up a place in September to study geography at a college in Oxford for mature students. Ms Gregory said she thought she would be 'cheeky' and apply to Oxford, but did not ............ (4) to get a place. "I'm afraid my CV looks blotchy. I have got a criminal record and I am ............ (5) part of mainstream society so I'll not get a place" she added.

............ (6) she did. She found that the college she had chosen takes people on their individual merits – it accepts a diversity of students who have something to ............ (7). She hopes to work on environmental projects after she has completed her degree course.

" ............ (8) nowadays is much more different than it was when I was at school. Back then it was about the physical structure of the world; ............ (9) it's more about environmental issues and our relationship with the world. That's why I'm doing it – the environment is my major ............ (10). When I finish the course, I hope that I will be able to do something that makes a difference."
In this part of the test you have to complete two tasks. In both tasks
• create a coherent text in which the ideas are logically connected to each other;
• include and elaborate each of the four points given;
• use appropriate language;
• write complete sentences;
• avoid using abbreviations and slang expressions.

Part 1:
You have given up smoking. Break the good news to your English friend, who is still a heavy smoker. Write a 170-200-word e-mail letting him/her know
• when and why you started smoking;
• about the difficulties you had to face while you were addicted;
• about the positive changes in your health;
• how your friend could get rid of his/her bad habit.

Part 2:
Browsing the internet you have found an English forum where several people are sharing their opinions about school uniforms. You would like to take part in the discussion, too. In a post give your opinion in about 120-140 words writing about
• the price of the uniform;
• the comfort of the uniform;
• appearance;
• regulations in your school.