EXERCISE 8

Instructions: Read this letter written by a young soldier during World War 1 carefully and then answer the questions that follow. Record your answer on the answer sheet by choosing one of the options. The young man who wrote this letter left his mother to join the war against the Kaiser (which means the leader in Germany), against her wish. He was only fifteen and lied about his age to join the army as he was keen.

17/10/1914

Dear Ma,

I am sorry to leave you like this but it is every man's duty to fight for the future. Also, I knew that Pa would be proud of me and I want a crack at the Kaiser.

I made it through to the army and they say I am a good shot. Still, I am toyed around and left out much of the time. They are yet to kit me as there is lack of uniforms here. Boss says I'm a good notch but armed only with a pistol and dagger. We are cramped by a dozen men in each bell tent. Food, horrible and the drill is harsh.

Lads are great though and can warm even the coldest of the hearts. Their company makes all the shortcomings appear trivial. I enjoy being around them.

When I set off on the ship, filled to the brim, I felt a twinge of guilt. So I snatched a quill and wrote to you, owing you an apology. Just as am about to finish this letter, I could see the French coastline brushing against the murky sea and the lads singing carols to their heart's content. It is warming my soul.

By the time this letter reaches you, I will be on a jam-packed train with a few humbugs to savour.

See you soon.

Fondest Love,

Samuel

17/10/1914
France

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1 **What does "Kaiser" mean?**

A. A war
B. A soldier
C. The enemy
D. Leader in Germany

2 **What is the young soldier apologising to his mother for?**

A. For being naughty
B. For eating humbugs
C. Joining the army and leaving without her permission
D. Going out on a camping trip with his friends

3 **How old was the soldier at the time of writing this letter?**

A. Fifteen
B. Sixteen
C. Twenty One
D. Difficult to tell from the letter

4 **When was this letter written?**

A. During World War II
B. 1914, World War I
C. 1944
D. 1953

| 5 | **What is every man's duty according to the young soldier?** |

    A. Fight against the Kaiser
    B. Making one's father proud
    C. Fight for the future
    D. Joining the army

| 6 | **Why is the soldier yet to be kitted?** |

    A. There is a concern that he could be too young to join the army
    B. Because his mother has not approved him joining the army
    C. There is a shortage of kits
    D. He is yet to be fully trained

| 7 | **Which of the following best describes the conditions in the army camp?** |

    A. Punitive
    B. Lenient
    C. Merciful
    D. Indulgent

| 8 | **What made the soldier feel guilty as he set off on the ship carrying soldiers?** |

    A. Bad companions
    B. Not telling his mother about him joining the army
    C. Not making his father proud of him
    D. Circumstances that can only be described as twinge

9 **What according to the soldier could warm even the coldest of the hearts?**

    A. The food being served at the camp
    B. The soldiers he is accompanying
    C. Seeing the French coastline
    D. Writing to one's mother

10 **Where was the soldier just as he was finishing writing this letter?**

    A. On the ship, about to set off
    B. French coastline
    C. In France
    D. In an army camp

ANSWER SHEET

	A	B	C	D			A	B	C	D
1	A	B	C	D		6	A	B	C	D
2	A	B	C	D		7	A	B	C	D
3	A	B	C	D		8	A	B	C	D
4	A	B	C	D		9	A	B	C	D
5	A	B	C	D		10	A	B	C	D