

- A** Most of the letters from home contained just everyday events concerning my parents and their friends.
- B** We had been corresponding for 29 years but had never met.
- C** It didn't matter how short or untidy they were as long as they were letters.
- D** Notes are appreciated, but how much better to have a year's supply of news!
- E** Poor handwriting can spoil your enjoyment of a letter.
- F** But instead of harming the relationships, letter writing seemed to improve them.
- G** She and my son have penfriends of their own in Texas, organised by my penfriend.
- H** More important, if she hadn't replied, we would be the poorer for it.

Part 3

You are going to read a magazine article in which five people talk about railway journeys. For questions 16–30, choose from the people (A–E). The people may be chosen more than once. When more than one answer is required, these may be given in any order.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Which person or people

- | | | | |
|--|----|----------------------|-------------------------|
| found on returning years later that nothing had changed? | 16 | <input type="text"/> | |
| was unsure of the number of passengers on the train? | 17 | <input type="text"/> | |
| enjoyed the company of fellow passengers? | 18 | <input type="text"/> | |
| found the views from the train dramatic? | 19 | <input type="text"/> | 20 <input type="text"/> |
| welcomed a chance to relax on the trip? | 21 | <input type="text"/> | |
| was never disappointed by the journey? | 22 | <input type="text"/> | |
| has a reason for feeling grateful to one special train? | 23 | <input type="text"/> | |
| travelled on a railway which is no longer in regular service? | 24 | <input type="text"/> | |
| regretted not going on a particular train trip? | 25 | <input type="text"/> | |
| used to travel on the railway whenever possible? | 26 | <input type="text"/> | |
| learnt an interesting piece of information on a train journey? | 27 | <input type="text"/> | |
| took a train which travelled from one country to another? | 28 | <input type="text"/> | |
| says that the railway had been looked after by unpaid helpers? | 29 | <input type="text"/> | |
| was once considered not old enough to travel by train? | 30 | <input type="text"/> | |

On the rails

Five celebrities tell Andrew Morgan their favourite memories of railway journeys.

A Andrea Thompson – Newsreader

I fell in love with the south of France a long time ago and try to get back there as often as I can. There's a local train from Cannes along the coast which crosses the border with Italy. It takes you past some of the most amazing seascapes. It never matters what the weather is like, or what time of the year it is, it is always enchanting. Out of the other window are some of the best back gardens and residences in the whole of France. You feel like someone peeping into the property of the rich and famous. The travellers themselves are always lively because there is an interesting mix of tourists and locals, all with different itineraries but all admirers of the breathtaking journey.

B Raj Patel – Explorer

I have enjoyed so many rail journeys through the years, but if I had to pick a favourite it would be the Nile Valley Express, which runs across the desert of northern Sudan. The one misfortune in my youth, growing up in South Africa, was missing out on a family train journey from Cape Town to the Kruger National Park. I was regarded as being too young and troublesome and was sent off to an aunt. When I came to live in England as a teenager, I still hadn't travelled by train. London Waterloo was the first real station I ever saw and its great glass dome filled me with wonder.

C Betty Cooper – Novelist

I am indebted to one train in particular: the Blue Train, which took my husband and me on our honeymoon across France to catch a boat to Egypt. It was on the train that my husband gave me a pink dress, which I thought was absolutely wonderful. Someone happened to mention that pink was good for the brain, and I've never stopped wearing the colour since. What I

remember about the journey itself, however, is how lovely it was to travel through France and then by boat up the Nile to Luxor. It was, without a doubt, the perfect way to wind down after all the wedding preparations.

D Martin Brown – Journalist

We were working on a series of articles based on a round-the-world trip and had to cross a desert in an African country. There wasn't a road, so the only way we could continue our journey was to take what was affectionately known as the Desert Express. The timetable was unreliable – we were just given a day. We also heard that, in any case, the driver would often wait for days to depart if he knew there were people still on their way. When it appeared, there was a sudden charge of what seemed like hundreds of people climbing into and onto the carriages – people were even allowed to travel on the roof free. During the night, the train crossed some of the most beautiful landscapes I have ever seen. It was like a dream, like travelling across the moon.

E Arisu Mezuki – Actress

I imagine most people's favourite impressions of trains and railways are formed when they are young children, but that's not my case. I was brought up in Singapore and Cyprus, where I saw very few trains, let alone travelled on them. It wasn't until I was a teenager that trains began to dominate my life. I made a film which featured a railway in Yorkshire. Most of the filming took place on an old, disused stretch of the line which had been lovingly maintained by volunteers. That's where my passion for steam trains began. When we weren't filming, we took every opportunity to have a ride on the train, and, when I went back last year, it was as if time had stood still. Everything was still in place, even the gas lights on the station platform!