

1 Work in pairs and discuss the questions.

- 1 Have you ever considered studying away from your hometown? Why? Why not?
- 2 How much free time do you think you'll have as a student?
- 3 What's the most difficult thing about being a first-year student?

2 Read the text in 3 ignoring the gaps. Then write a short summary of it in Polish. Use the questions as prompts.

- 1 Co jest tematem artykułu?
- 2 Jaki cel przyświecał autorowi tekstu?
- 3 Jakie istotne informacje są zawarte w tekście?

3 **EXAM TASK** Read the text. Complete the gaps (1–6) with the sentences (a–h). There are two extra sentences.

American colleges have societies which help undergraduate students socialise and feel welcome at the very beginning of their university education. They are popularly known as Greek letter organisations.

¹_____ Usually these are the first letters of the group's motto or the initials of values important for the group.

Female and male students usually belong to separate groups. All-girl associations are known as sororities (from the Latin *soror*, which means 'sister') while men-only societies are often referred to as fraternities, or frats for short (from the Latin word *frater* meaning 'brother').

²_____ It was the Phi Beta Kappa Society, founded at the College of William and Mary in 1776. Very soon it opened its branches or 'chapters' at different campuses across the country. By the mid 19th century, there were dozens of different fraternities which opened their chapters alongside the already existing ones.

³_____ As a result, various student groups in one university were often in opposition to each other, which the professors did not approve of. To deal with the issue, The National Interfraternity Conference was set up a century ago. Its aim was to resolve conflicts, limit destructive competition and encourage various fraternities to share common interests. Luckily, these days, the competition between student organisations is limited to charity and sports events.

To become a student society member, you need to take part in the so-called 'rush week'. ⁴_____ At the same time, the organisation members can get to know the candidates. Consequently, at the end of the week, the chosen



candidates receive invitations to become members. If they accept the invitation, they can become full members after the initiation ceremony. Such a ceremony usually includes secret rituals.

⁵_____ Unique passwords, songs, meeting places or handshakes are only some of them. Others include the group emblems. Members are proud to own clothes or jewellery with the society's symbols or colours. These items may later be used in a pass-down ceremony. During such rituals new members have to compete for old emblem-decorated clothes of their senior colleagues. A lot of controversy around such rituals is caused by silly and cruel practical jokes played on the new members, known as *hazing*. ⁶_____ As a result, most universities have an anti-hazing programme and ban these harmful and meaningless practices.

- a At present, this dangerous custom is considered a crime in forty-four American states.
- b During this recruitment period, new students learn about the organisation.
- c In fact, there are quite a few other secrets shared by fraternity and sorority members.
- d In those days, the associations were very competitive.
- e It is because their names often consist of two or three Greek letters.
- f Fraternity *rush weeks* were less formal than rushing a sorority in those days.
- g Sororities and fraternities often own dormitories, known as chapter houses.
- h The first ever male organisation dates back to the late eighteenth century.

4 Work in groups. Imagine you are creating a student society. Make up its name, emblem and symbols. Write the rules and describe the rituals of accepting new members. When ready, share your ideas.