

Unit 1

Unit 1 Extension

1 Read the article about Albert Einstein. Match the paragraphs (1–4) with the descriptions (a–d).

- a information about different area of his life
- b a summary of his achievements
- c the writer's opinion about Einstein
- d details of his education and early career

1

Who was Albert Einstein? It is generally known that Einstein was a scientific genius and during his life he made many important contributions to the world of science, coming up with predictions and theories that have shaped the way we think today.

2

Born in Germany in 1879, he showed an early interest in and a talent for science and mathematics. He was educated in Germany, Italy and Switzerland, and after completing his PhD at the University of Zurich in 1905, he published several important scientific works: one of them dealing with the ground-breaking special theory of relativity. From then on, he was recognised as a leading scientist, taking up posts as lecturer, professor and director in prestigious universities and societies in Europe. In recognition of his work and his contribution to science, Einstein received the 1921 Nobel Prize in Physics 'for his services to Theoretical Physics, and especially for his discovery of the law of the photoelectric effect'; this discovery was pivotal in establishing quantum theory.

3

As well as being a scientist, Einstein was also an author and a philosopher. In his lifetime he published over 300 scientific works and also over 150 non-scientific works. Here are some of the philosophical sayings which are attributed to him:

- Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new.
- We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.
- Imagination is more important than knowledge.
- It's not that I'm so smart – it's just that I stay with problems for longer.
- If you can't explain it to a six year old, you don't understand it yourself.

4

Some say that Einstein is the father of modern physics and there's no doubt that he was one of the most influential scientists that has ever lived. But what's also interesting is the fact that he combined science with philosophy and that his philosophical sayings continue to give us food for thought today.

2 Read these statements. According to the text, are the statements true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 Albert Einstein went to both school and university in his homeland.
- 2 Einstein received the Nobel Prize for Physics for his discovery of the general theory of relativity.
- 3 He hadn't published any significant works before he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics.
- 4 In his lifetime, Einstein published over 450 works.
- 5 His work in philosophy was not considered significant.

