

READING COMPREHENSION

Time: 90 minutes.

Task 1. Questions 1-5 relate to the following passage. Read it and choose the alternative to complete each statement in the best way.

Solitude is a great chastener once you accepted it. It quietly eliminates all sorts of traits that were a part of you – among others, the desire to pose, to keep your best food forever in evidence, to impress people as being something you would like to have them think you are even when you are not. Some men I know are able to pose even in solitude; had they male servants they no doubt would be heroes to them. But I find it the hardest kind of work myself, and as I am lazy I have stopped trying. To act without an audience is so tiresome and profitless that you gradually give it up and at last forget how to act at all. For you become more interested in making the acquaintance of yourself as you really are, which is a meeting that, in the haunts of men, rarely take place. It is gratifying, for example, to discover that you prefer to be clean rather than dirty even when there is no one but God to care; it is just as amusing to note, however, that for scrupulous cleanliness you are not inclined to make superhuman sacrifices, although you used to believe you were. Clothes, you learn, with something of a shock, have for you no interest whatsoever... You learn to regard dress merely as covering, a precaution. For its colour and its cut you care nothing.

1. The title below that best expresses the ideas of this paragraph is
 - A Carelessness in Clothes
 - B Acting Without an Audience
 - C Discoveries Through Solitude
 - D Showing Off to Best Advantage
 - E Being a Hero to Yourself
2. A desire to appear at your best is a trait that
 - A goes with laziness
 - B may disappear when you are alone
 - C depends primarily on clothes
 - D is inhuman
 - E is evil
3. In solitude, clothes
 - A constitute one item that pleases their owner
 - B make one careless
 - C are part of acting
 - D are valued for their utility alone
 - E are tiresome

4. The desire to appear well-dressed usually depends upon
- A an audience
 - B industriousness
 - C personal pride
 - D the need for cleanliness
 - E a fondness of acting
5. The activities of everyday life seldom give us the chance to
- A learn our own peculiarities
 - B keep our best food forward
 - C impress people
 - D dress as we would like
 - E be immaculately clean

Task 2. Questions 6-10 relate to the following passage. Read it and choose the alternative to answer the questions.

It is clear today that education must become a matter of national policy. We are, indeed, in the midst of an educational revolution.

One may witness in today's society the concern for advanced technical training and the reorganization of curricula and technique in the secondary schools to provide for the gifted student. Within these concerns, we also see many advanced placement programmes with provisions for individual progress and with emphasis upon the opportunity for creativity, primarily in the technical and related fields. At present there is a widespread feeling that we have been overlooking too much potential talent, but the concern for this loss is not entirely recent. Terman called our attention to the problem many years ago, especially in his "Genetic Studies of Genius". The renewed emphasis on this idea is part of the revolution.

6. Which of the following best expresses the main idea of the passage?
- A Because we are in the middle of an educational revolution, education must clearly become a matter of national policy.
 - B Since education is clearly a matter of national policy, we need an educational revolution.
 - C It is necessary that education become a matter of national policy.
 - D Although we are having an educational revolution, we still must make education a clear national policy.
7. Which of the following is not an example of the educational revolution mentioned in the passage?
- A Concern for advanced technical training.
 - B Reorganization of curricula and technique.
 - C Advanced placement programmes.
 - D More gifted students.
8. The writer thinks that

- A education is not yet recognized to the extent it should be.
- B education for gifted students is a top priority.
- C we need an educational revolution.
- D concern for the loss of potential talent is recent.

9. Which problem did Terman call our attention to many years ago?

- A Genetic studies for children.
- B Opportunities for creativity.
- C Reorganization of curricula and technique.
- D Failure to develop the abilities of talented students.

10. Which of the following would result if the writer's suggestions were adopted by governmental officials.

- A Education for average students would be ignored.
- B There would be more emphasis on the sciences than on the arts.
- C The educational revolution would be successful.
- D The federal government would increase its role in education policy.

Task 3. You are going to read a magazine article about childhood experiences. Answer the questions by choosing from the people A-D. The people may be chosen more than once.

Childhood Memories

Four successful people look back at significant events in their childhood

A. COLIN

When I was eleven years old, my dad inherited quite a large amount of money from a distant relative. It was typical of him that he decided to use the money to take a whole party of local kids to Disneyland in Florida for three days. Fortunately, I was able to go as well, which was tremendous. In those days, you had to buy tickets for each ride and so we made a checklist of them all and ticked them off one by one until we'd been on every one. They still had a donkey train and a canoe ride back then. My friend Eric bought a funny hat with his name on the front and then kept wondering how, all over Disneyland, random people knew his name and kept saying, 'Hi, Eric!' My family will never let me forget how I ordered a bowl of potato chips on room service at the hotel, which cost them a staggering \$20. They were good chips, though!

B. MARILYN

Most teenagers' parents have normal jobs, you know like working in an office or being part of a company, but not my mum. She lives for her work and makes spur-of-the-moment decisions. When I was a teenager, it almost felt as if I was the parent and she was the child, as I tried to talk her out of whatever her latest scheme involved. You see, my mum's an archeologist. She travels round the world finding exciting things in old ruins, and because she was always on the move, so was I!

Sometimes I used to wonder if we'd ever settle down and lead a normal family life, but we never did, which is a shame really. Of course, now I'm going to make sure that I don't do the same to my daughter.

C. JEREMY

I suppose being twins, my brother and I were always regarded as a single unit and we did do everything together. From an early age, we were into inventing things, especially things which exploded like rockets, although I don't ever recall any actually leaving the ground. We were keen on Maths at school and bought a computer when we were eleven years old. It was the best time for getting into computers because there was very little software about in those days, so if you wanted to make the computer do anything, you had to write it yourself. Before long we were selling the stuff we'd written to software companies. I don't think we knew how to turn our interests into money at that stage, having no commercial experience. But we soon found plenty of people who did know, but couldn't handle the technical side. We haven't looked back since.

D TANYA

When I was a teenager, my parents used to send my brother and me off to a week-long summer activity camp each year. Actually, we went to the same place five years running. I think it was because they wanted us to do something outdoors rather than have us sitting in front of a computer screen at home. And it was certainly challenging, if you consider we learnt to do things like climbing and caving. It wouldn't suit all kids, but for us it was great. We found out how to fend for ourselves and we met lots of people from around the world. I'm still in touch with some of them by e-mail even now. Looking back, I guess it cost my parents a lot of money, but as far as I'm concerned it was a good investment because it really broadened my horizons.

Which person mentions		
11		being particularly close to a family member?
12		his/her intention to act differently from a partner?
13		enjoying the fact that something was difficult?
14		a way of making sure that he/she did not leave anything out?
15		an act of great generosity?
16		an opportunity to be creative?
17		getting in touch with people who could be of help?
18		regret at what may have been missed?
19		someone who found something puzzling?
20		someone else making a decision with his/her wellbeing in mind?
21		learning to be more independent?
22		purchasing something which changed his/her life?
23		someone who is unpredictable by nature?
24		something which is no longer available?

INTEGRATED READING AND WRITING

Task 4. (A) Read the following newspaper article and fill in the gaps with the linking box given in the box which help you organize a written text.

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DOES PRISON WORK?

There are several generally accepted beliefs about prison. **(26)** , that prison is a social defense against anti-social people. **(27)** , it keeps us safe. **(28)** , that prison punishes wrongdoers through their loss of freedom. **(29)** , that it teaches convicts the error of their ways, so that when they are released, they can enter back into daily life as law-abiding citizens.

(30) , there is growing evidence that prison is not always the best solution to the problems that we face. Several scientific studies have shown that prison is not nearly as beneficial to society as we might imagine. There are several explanations for this.

The terrible conditions in most prisons mean that imprisoned criminals rarely receive a positive education. **(31)** , they spend their time inside with other prisoners who teach them the tricks of their trade. **(32)** , when they are released, it's very difficult for them to find a job, so they often feel that they have no choice but to reoffend. It's the only thing they know. **(33)** the truth is that they are more likely to commit crimes again when they are released than if they hadn't been sent to prison in the first place.

As a society, we have to pay attention to the results of these findings. **(34)** , we may be a lot safer if we give criminals the ability to gain the practical skills they need to get a job and live successful, productive lives, rather than locking them away. There is a little proof that prison works. Perhaps now is the time for us to take important decision regarding our system of punishment. **(35)** , we need to give it more thought. It could be a matter of life and death.

TRANSFER YOUR ANSWERS TO READING COMPREHENSION TO ANSWER SHEET

9 -11-е классы

READING COMPREHENSION ANSWER SHEET

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