ENGLISH GRAMMAR TESTS

Reading Comprehension Multiple Choice Questions Exercise 2

21 questions · Choose the correct answer. Online test and answer key with explanations:
https://englishtestsonline.com/reading-comprehension-multiple-choice-questions-exercise-2/

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 21

(Please note: The following questions are related to a specific reading passage, available solely before the first question. Remember, referring back to the reading text while answering the questions may be helpful to ensure accuracy.)

On the day of my first piano recital, I became increasingly nervous. To help me calm down, my piano teacher told me to place several cabbages in the room where I practised. I was so eager to overcome my nerves that I was willing to try anything. For the next few hours, I played to an audience of cabbages. When the time of the recital finally arrived, I was still extremely nervous. My hands felt like ice. When I finally walked across the stage, I looked out into the dark audience. I couldn't see anyone! All those people out there could just as easily have been cabbages! As I sat down to play, my hands relaxed. Before I knew it, I had played all my pieces without a mistake. For the first time, the cabbage heads applauded!

1. **On the day of the recital, the music teacher _____.**
   A) advised the writer to put cabbages in the room where he practised and play for them
   B) warned the writer not to look at the audience
   C) had no patience with the writer because he was nervous too
   D) felt nearly as nervous about the recital as the writer did
   E) couldn’t think of a way of helping the writer to stay calm

2. **The writer stopped feeling nervous _____.**
   A) because he had practised a great deal
   B) when the audience began to applaud
   C) before he walked onto the stage
   D) as soon as the concert was over
   E) when he found he couldn't see the audience

3. **In the passage, it is explained that _____.**
   A) the writer was always nervous on the day of a concert
   B) the writer played to some cabbages because there was no real audience
   C) the writer finally began to relax just before he began his recital
   D) the room was so cold the writer's hands felt like ice
   E) the writer always practised in a room where there were cabbages

Mountaineering has this advantage over most other sports: enjoyment depends very little indeed on natural ability or technical skill; it is a sport without winners and without losers. By all means, study the technique of climbing if it interests you. But, believe me, provided you go to a really good mountain country, it doesn't much matter how you climb or what you climb. There are three things that matter: look up frequently to see the way ahead; don't leave the holds you have until you have tested new ones; do all you can to help those climbing with you.

4. **As it is pointed out in the passage, mountaineering is a sport _____.**
   A) in which nobody wins and nobody loses
   B) that is not suitable for the old
   C) in which technique is not easy to learn
   D) which can be enjoyed anywhere in the country
   E) that most people are interested in

5. **When climbing, one must _____.**
   A) always follow the good climbers
   B) be careful to check that new holds are safe before leaving old ones
   C) always keep to known routes
   D) never look back
   E) try to develop one’s natural abilities

6. **The passage emphasises the fact that _____.**
   A) the techniques of climbing are of great importance
   B) there is actually not much really good climbing country
   C) climbing is not a team sport
   D) one climber should always help another
   E) few people really enjoy climbing

The desires of a child were naturally rather limited in the Victorian Era. Toys were simple and comparatively few. There were no bicycles or mechanical models; the average child "made his own fun" from very cheap materials. Really, the only shop the child dreamed of entering for his own purposes was the sweetshop. Nowadays, a bewildering variety of toys, magazines, and entertainments in a multitude of shops compete for his interest and money; and the boredom of having everything ready-made leads to a constant desire for something new.

7. **It is suggested in the passage that the modern child _____.**
   A) wishes he had been born in the Victorian era
   B) suffers from boredom in spite of all the toys
   C) develops his abilities by playing with toys
   D) is well able to amuse himself
   E) is allowed to eat too much

8. According to the passage, _____.

A) mechanical toys are essential to a child's happiness
B) a child should not be left to "make his own fun"
C) home-made toys give more pleasure than ready-made ones
D) there was a constant desire for something new
E) simple toys slow down a child's development

9. The passage emphasizes _____.

A) that a child should have money to spend on toys
B) the importance, in childhood, of a large choice of toys
C) how lucky the modern child is
D) that sweets are not good for health
E) the difference between a Victorian childhood and a present-day one

Most people were not impressed when, in 1913, the Daily Mail newspaper offered £10,000 to the first pilot to fly across the Atlantic in under 72 hours. The majority of scientists even said it could not be done. Certainly, the problems involved were many and far-ranging. Obviously, the design of the aeroplane was of great importance, but so too were the skill and courage of the pilot and the navigator; weather conditions also had to be taken into consideration. A very few enthusiasts thought it might be possible ten years later. They were wrong. A pilot received the prize just six years later.

10. When the Daily Mail offered a prize in 1913 for flying across the Atlantic, _____.

A) there were few aeroplanes that could stay in the air for more than 72 hours
B) many enthusiastic amateurs were eager to try
C) the majority of scientists thought it could be done
D) almost no one believed it was possible to do this within the next ten years
E) the general public was very interested in the scheme

11. The £10,000 prize offered by the Daily Mail in 1913 _____.

A) was shared by the pilot and navigator
B) was never won
C) was won ten years later
D) was received even earlier than some enthusiasts expected
E) aimed at encouraging better aircraft design

12. The passage points out that _____.

A) before the Atlantic could be crossed by plane, many factors had to be considered
B) the prize of £10,000 was actually not worth very much
C) the majority of scientists were extremely interested in the project
D) the Daily Mail was impressed by the courage of the pilot who received the prize
E) weather conditions were favourable on the day of the flight

13. It is a mistake to assume that "educational" programmes on television are likely to be boring. In fact, as long as these programmes are made in a rich and creative manner, there is no doubt that they can and do draw the attention of people, especially young people. Perhaps some of the best examples of successful educational programmes are those which deal, for instance, with ancient historical sites, environmental problems, wildlife, geography, or the strange world at the bottom of the sea.

In the passage, the term "wildlife" _____.

A) is used to indicate the behaviour of young people
B) refers to animals, birds and other living beings in nature
C) signifies the living conditions of primitive people
D) means a large unused piece of land
E) refers to prehistoric times

14. Some people seem to think that _____.

A) only those programmes concerned with historical and geographical subjects can be fascinating
B) television does not give enough importance to the problems of youth
C) educational programmes on television are of little interest
D) a lot of money is needed to make a good educational programme
E) young people are more interested in educational programmes than their elders

15. In the passage, it is emphasized that a good educational programme _____.

A) has more influence on people if it is shown on television
B) should in the first place be concerned with history and biology
C) should involve young people and encourage them to study the natural world
D) can contribute a great deal to people's awareness of environmental problems
E) is one that is made creatively and contains a great deal of interesting material

16. Nowadays, in England, tea is quite the most popular and also the cheapest of all drinks. People drink their tea in different ways. Some like it with sugar, some without. Some drink it with milk, some with lemon; yet, one way or another, just about everyone drinks tea. This, however, has not always been the case. During the last century, when tea was very expensive, it was kept locked up and the lady of the house had the key. Tea drinking then was quite a ceremony, reserved for the evenings. At breakfast, everyone drank beer!

Compared with the past, in England today _____.

A) more and more people prefer tea to beer
B) tea is regarded as a luxury
C) tea is very cheap and commonly available
D) sugar is becoming less and less popular
E) people don't care about the quality of tea

17. It is obvious from the passage that _____.

A) English people have always regarded tea as better than beer
B) over the years, the popularity of tea in England has increased tremendously
C) drinking tea with lemon is only a recent habit in England
D) like tea, beer also is an extremely popular drink
E) English people are no longer fond of ceremonies

18. In the passage, it is explained that _____.

A) in England today people have different habits of tea drinking
B) in the past, in England, only the wealthy were able to drink beer
C) at breakfast, English people also like to drink beer
D) English people mostly prefer to have their tea in the evening
E) in England, usually, a ceremony is held in the family before the tea is served

Elizabeth parked the car and then went into the busy station to meet Jane, who was going to spend the weekend with her. Elizabeth's friends often came for the weekend, but there was something a little different about Jane's visit. She and Jane hadn't seen each other for 15 years. While at the university, they had shared a flat together for 2 years, but then each had married, and Jane and her husband had lived abroad a great deal. Elizabeth began to ask herself: "Will we even be able to recognize each other after all these years?" Right then, she saw Jane walking towards her and smiling straight at her with the old, unforgettable smile, quite unchanged.

19. The first thing Elizabeth noticed about Jane when they met at the station was _____.

A) that she had become quite old
B) how well she was looking
C) that she had not forgotten how to smile
D) her smile that had not changed
E) that she had already been married

20. Elizabeth's friendship with Jane _____.

A) went back to their university years
B) lasted only for two years when they were at the university
C) ended soon after they had each married
D) has always been envied by all their friends
E) found its best expression in their weekend visits to each other

21. Elizabeth is worried _____.

A) because Jane's husband may have changed a great deal after all these years
B) in case she won't be able to find a place to park the car
C) about Jane and her husband who are going to live abroad
D) in case Jane will change her mind about coming for the weekend
E) in case, after a separation of so many years, they may both fail to recognize each other

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