MISCELLANEOUS ENGLISH TESTS

Reading Comprehension MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 09

15 questions · Choose the correct answer. Online test and answer key with explanations:
https://englishtestsonline.com/reading-comprehension-test-9/

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15

(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.)

Jesse Owens was one of the world's most famous track stars. The newspapers of his day called him "the world's fastest human." This was because he could run faster and jump further than any other man of the time. He was born in 1913. As the son of a poor black family with six other brothers and sisters, he had a very difficult early life. He was close to death many times during his youth, due to illness. However, the care of his mother and father helped him to pull through each time. He started running and training in school and while in college at Ohio State University, he entered a national competition. During this competition, he set or equalled four world records. In 1936, the Olympic Games took place in Germany. This was the Germany of Hitler, who did not believe that any race of people was superior to the Germans. Jesse won the gold medal for each of the events he entered during the games and became one of the most popular athletes in the world.

1. **Hitler _____.**
   A) did not believe that his athletes could win the races
   B) was in power when the 1936 Olympic Games were held
   C) resented the people of the German race
   D) had Jesse train at Ohio State University
   E) allowed Jesse to enter the national competitions of the Olympic games

2. **Jesse Owens _____.**
   A) was brought up in poverty
   B) started to train for the Olympic games when he was a youth
   C) started to run because his mother and father pulled him through
   D) first competed in the Olympic Games
   E) ran faster than anyone could jump

3. **According to the passage, _____.**
   A) Jesse was the only black athlete to have obtained an Olympic medal
   B) Jesse caused Hitler to worry about his athletes
   C) Jesse was one of the world's most popular athletes
   D) Jesse is the only man to have set four world records
   E) Jesse's world records were a result of the care he got from his parents as a child

Cosmetics have been used for thousands of years to enhance the appearance of people and also to help keep them clean and healthy. We know that cosmetics were commonly used in ancient Egypt. Many beautiful jars and bottles, which held oils and perfumes, have been found and can be seen in museums. Men, in some primitive tribes and societies, also paint their faces and bodies. This is usually done to signify that they hold a high rank. Sometimes, however, it is used to indicate that the people of that group are participating in some form of ceremony. Today, in our society, cosmetics are primarily used to improve the appearance of people and to make them appear healthy. Obtaining cosmetics today is not difficult. Many are made affordably from synthetic materials and vegetable oils.

4. **Cosmetics have been _____.**
   A) made of synthetic fibres since ancient times
   B) found in jars in museums
   C) used for the body only in modern times
   D) for ceremonies
   E) used by people since ancient times

5. **Cosmetics not only make people look good but also _____.**
   A) cure diseases in our society
   B) establish the social rank of people
   C) help maintain the appearance of health
   D) can be used in place of vegetable oils
   E) are placed in museums

6. **Egyptians used jars and bottles _____.**
   A) to hold both synthetic materials and vegetables
   B) to give primitive tribes cosmetics to try out
   C) to place into their museums
   D) both for decoration and for holding their cosmetics
   E) to help them with their cleaning

When Christopher Columbus set sail in 1492 from Spain, his destination was not America. In fact, he did not even know that the vast American continents existed. His purpose in sailing west was to reach the Indies more quickly than other ships, which used a route around Africa. The Indies were a source of wealth for Europeans during those days. The treasures of spices, silks, and so on were greatly valued by Europeans but were extremely difficult to obtain. When Columbus reached the islands that are now known as the West Indies, he believed he had reached Asia and he called the people living there 'Indians'.

7. **In 1492, Columbus _____.**
   A) wished to go to America
   B) started travelling towards Asia
   C) travelled by way of Africa to Asia
   D) wanted to become rich by sailing to America
   E) was looking for the treasures of America

8. Spices, silks and other treasures _____.
A) were found around the world
B) were taken to Asia to be sold
C) were from the West Indies
D) from Asia were brought to Europe
E) from Spain were taken to the Indies

9. Columbus believed _____.
A) the destination for Europeans was Asia via America
B) Europeans should become rich
C) the riches of the West Indies were better than those of Asia
D) Spain could be reached via the Asian route
E) he was headed for the Indies

In order to make the first clock, one had to first divide the day into hours and minutes. The Babylonians were the first to divide the hour into 60 minutes and the minute into 60 seconds. The Egyptians created shadow clocks, which later became sundials. Later, the hourglass came into use. These were usually timed for one hour. The Greeks and Romans later used water clocks, which were called clepsydras and were also used by the Chinese. The first mechanical clocks were developed in Europe in the 1300s. These were improved, and in 1656, a Dutchman designed the first pendulum clock, which was more accurate than the other clocks of the time. After World War II, the atomic clock was developed and is still the world's most accurate clock. Quartz crystal clocks, and the quartz watches that became popular in the 1970s, are also extremely accurate, second in accuracy only to the atomic clock.

10. The first clocks _____.
A) were made by the Babylonians
B) were based on a one-hour schedule
C) could only be made after the day had been divided into time periods
D) were the clepsydras
E) cannot be considered true clocks

11. Today _____.
A) the sundials of the Egyptians are used instead of the atomic clock
B) quartz crystals are much more dependable than the atomic clocks of WW II
C) mechanical clocks are used in Holland
D) hourglasses can be designed for up to one hour
E) historians think that the Babylonians are responsible for the trend towards measuring time

12. The Chinese _____.
A) taught the Greeks how to tell time
B) learned how to tell time from the Greeks and Romans
C) used the same type of water clock as the Greeks and Romans did
D) preferred the clepsydras to mechanical clocks
E) used sundials before the Egyptians

During the Gulf War, the extent of the development of television and radio news broadcasting became very apparent. CNN reporter Peter Arnett provided live coverage of the situation in Baghdad, the capital city of Iraq. The telephone lines, which were constantly open and filled with minute-by-minute reports of the unfolding events, served as the primary means of communication. Although they were not granted complete freedom in the use of their television cameras, the scenes they were able to broadcast were viewed worldwide with interest and astonishment. People all over the world were able to follow the events of the war as they occurred, right from their living room television sets.

13. The Gulf War was the first war in which _____.
A) the telephone was used by broadcasters
B) the world saw the events of a war on TV
C) there was moment-by-moment coverage of a war which was shown on television
D) the CNN reporter Peter Arnett was able to give coverage of a real war to television viewers
E) television cameras were used to show the results of a war

14. According to the passage, Peter Arnett was _____.
A) the only television reporter in Iraq during the war
B) present in Iraq during the whole period of the war
C) sent written reports of what was going on
D) given complete freedom to use his television cameras
E) the CNN reporter who told the world what was happening in the capital of Iraq

15. According to the passage, telephone lines _____.
A) were never cut off
B) served to give all the news
C) were closed during the war
D) were used only by the Iraqi army
E) were the only means of communication in the country

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