ENGLISH READING PASSAGES TESTS

Reading Passages Advanced Level Test – Quiz (Online Exercise With Answers) 3

24 questions · Choose the correct answer. Online test and answer key with explanations:
https://englishtestsonline.com/reading-passages-advanced-level-test-quiz-online-exercise-with-answers-3/

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 24

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

The best-performing oil investment comes from trees in Malaysia, not the deserts of Saudi Arabia. Vegetable oils from palm trees are being used in products like Hellmann's mayonnaise and Snickers chocolate bars. After petroleum prices doubled in the past three years and governments encouraged renewable fuels, the use of palm oil started to grow. Right now, it is the cheapest and most efficient of vegetable oils. Palm oil, however, is not without its detractors. The growing use of palm oil as fuel may threaten virgin rainforests in Southeast Asia and quicken deforestation, raising the likelihood of legal challenges from environmentalists, say some investors. The biggest challenge to palm oil is sustainability. In other words, biodiesel aims to be environmentally friendly. Nonetheless, this would not be the case if the feedstock were only grown at the expense of virgin rainforest.

1. **It is stated in the passage that vegetable oils from palm trees _____.**
   A) are currently being utilized in the products of some famous companies
   B) are rarely produced in Southeast Asia
   C) are used just for trucks and cars as fuel
   D) cost a lot more in Europe than in Saudi Arabia
   E) don't perform well when compared with other alternative vegetable oils used at present

2. **As it is emphasized in the passage, the reason why the use of palm oil is increasing is that _____.**
   A) other vegetable oils quicken deforestation
   B) it is the most economical and efficient of all the vegetable oils
   C) the best performing oil comes from Malaysia
   D) it gives no harm to the virgin forests in Southeast Asia
   E) its price lowered sharply in the past three years

3. **One may infer from the passage that _____.**
   A) Saudi Arabia surpasses Malaysia in producing efficient palm oil
   B) palm oil has no detractors as to the environmental issues
   C) governments and investors have ignored the legal challenges of some environmentalists
   D) biodiesel is a term very different from palm oil
   E) no matter how much palm oil seems to be eco-friendly, it may be a strong cause of the end of virgin rainforests

One of the world's best-known waterfalls is Niagara Falls, on the border between Canada and the United States. Tourism was practically invented there. But the astonishing thing about Niagara's fame is how overrated it is. Niagara is nowhere near the biggest waterfall in the world. Nor is it even the longest waterfall in the United States. What is it that makes a waterfall the best? It isn't height. There are many immensely long waterfalls, some cascading thousands of feet such as Strupenfossen in Norway or Mutarazi Falls in Zimbabwe. Of course, when people go to see a waterfall they expect to see a serious amount of water. And Niagara's one claim to fame is that it is the biggest waterfall in North America in terms of volume.

4. **According to the passage, what makes Niagara the biggest waterfall in North America is that _____.**
   A) it is the longest waterfall in the region
   B) tourism reflects it as the greatest waterfall
   C) it is the most attractive of all the waterfalls
   D) it has a greater volume of water than any other waterfall in North America
   E) it has a height non-comparable to any other waterfall

5. **As is mentioned in the passage, _____.**
   A) Niagara is far superior to its counterparts in terms of its width
   B) Niagara adds much to the preservation of wildlife
   C) Niagara Falls is the most spectacular waterfall for most of the people
   D) tourists appreciate Niagara because the landscape is excellent
   E) Niagara's fame is greater than it really deserves

6. As concluded in the passage, _____.

A) Niagara is too far to visit because it is on the border

B) it's difficult to find any longer waterfalls than Niagara in the world

C) Mutarazi Falls is thought to be the biggest waterfall in terms of volume

D) tourism was invented in Zimbabwe

E) people hope to see a great quantity of water when they go to a waterfall

Stress has become a scourge afflicting not only busy executives but also teenagers. What makes it such a common conversation piece these days is the fact that it's not a proper disease but a silent debilitator that takes its toll on the body over years or decades. Chronic stress, researchers have come to agree, can lead to cardiovascular disease, diabetes, impaired cognitive function and a weakened immune system. A recent study by British researchers at University College London reported that elevated chronic stress levels at the workplace lead to an increased risk of obesity, insulin intolerance and high cholesterol. Other research has shown a correlation between chronic stress and asthma, allergies, and even the time it takes for wounds to heal.

7. The passage is mainly concerned with _____.

A) how people can cope with the bad effects of stress on their bodies

B) the relationship between stress and asthma, allergies and high cholesterol

C) why people are under the risk of feeling stress in their workplaces

D) the conflicts about chronic stress among the researchers

E) the adverse impacts of chronic stress on human health

8. It is asserted in the passage that what makes stress a common issue being talked about these days _____.

A) is because it has become an irritating affliction for both active managers and teenagers

B) is that it is not a proper disease but a hidden enemy that wears the body out over the years

C) is a question that the researchers have been trying to answer for decades

D) is because it has evolved over the millennia as the body's physical and emotional response accelerated

E) is a popular matter of discussion among the experts

9. It can be inferred from the passage that according to one of the studies, _____.

A) the duration of the recuperation of an injury may change according to the levels of chronic stress

B) not all kinds of stress are bad

C) the more stressed you are the quicker you think

D) the main reason of obesity may be the chronic stress levels in the workplaces

E) there is only a little correlation between chronic stress and cardiovascular disease

Charles Dickens was born on the south coast of England, near Portsmouth, in 1812. He began writing in his early twenties and wrote his first novel, The Pickwick Papers, in 1836. He always saw himself as a crusading novelist. He had great sympathy for the poor and downtrodden and many of his books highlight the injustices to be found in the society of the time. Charles Dickens was perhaps the greatest novelist of the nineteenth century. All his novels are still in print and they present a rich canvas of life and behaviour at all levels of contemporary society. Many of his works, such as Oliver Twist, Great Expectations, David Copperfield, A Tale of Two Cities and A Christmas Carol, have been filmed, televised and presented as both straight plays and musicals, revealing the power and timelessness of his writing.

10. As mentioned in the passage, Charles Dickens _____.

A) emphasized the societal unfairness of the era in many of his books

B) was undeniably the most eminent novelist of the nineteenth century

C) was regarded as a crusading writer by his readers

D) had little interest in the people leading miserable lives in the society of his time

E) was the only child of a poor family living in Portsmouth

11. One may conclude from the passage that _____.

A) some of Dickens' novels aren't present on the shelves of the bookstores today

B) Great Expectations is the best novel of Charles Dickens

C) Charles Dickens wrote a lot of short stories and dramas concerning political issues

D) the fact that many of Dickens' novels have been adapted for the screen shows the strength and timelessness of his literary works

E) Dickens' first novel, The Pickwick Papers, didn't have impact on the literature world as much as Oliver Twist did

12. It is stated in the passage that Charles Dickens' novels _____.

A) weren't sold much in the nineteenth century

B) didn't prevent him from being forgotten

C) present a rich picture of life and behaviour at all levels of the society of his time

D) are still in print but not easy to buy because of their high prices

E) were too complex and long to be filmed, televised or presented as plays and musicals

A long line of people waiting for check-in: tired, anxious, and not a few of them close to tears. Children separated from their parents. Armed and uniformed guards who make arbitrary-seeming selections. Intrusive body searches. Personal belongings turned carelessly out of bags. A dreary atmosphere of threat and intimidation. An African state close to collapse? Not at all. This is a scene repeated in a hundred first-world cities every hour and an experience guaranteed to anyone who happens to have an airline ticket and is determined to use it. Hard as it may be to believe, air travel was an adventure and a luxury not that long ago. As for

airports, they were more like branch-line railway stations than today's industrial-sized holding and storing centers for human beings. And check-in? Check-in had still to be invented.

13. In the passage, the setting is _____.

A) an African city **B)** a railway station
C) a refugee camp **D)** an airport
E) a police station

14. As is stated in the passage, check-in procedures of the airports _____.

A) were stricter in the past
B) are only for the people who have been suspected
C) may be exhausting for the passengers
D) are more common in underdeveloped countries
E) are the most entertaining parts of travelling

15. It may be understood from the passage that _____.

A) air travel is the most adventurous and luxurious experience of all
B) there was no such thing as check-in at the airports not that long ago
C) only people without an airline ticket are searched at airports
D) people never wait in a queue during the check-in process at the airports of first world cities
E) planes are now much more comfortable than any other means of transportation

In Kashmir, it has been a year and a half since the world turned upside down. Buildings crumbled, villages slipped off mountainsides, and lakes formed where rivers once flowed. The 7.6 magnitude earthquake that hammered northern Pakistan and India on Oct. 8, 2005 took some 75,000 lives, injured 130,000 and left nearly 3.5 million people without food, jobs or homes – refugees in their own land. Almost overnight, scores of tent villages bloomed across the region, tended by international aid organizations, military personnel and jihadi groups working furiously to shelter the survivors before the onslaught of winter. Mercifully, the season was mild. Fears of a second wave of death and suffering due to the cold proved unfounded. However, in many villages, electrical lines have not been repaired, and neither have roads. Aid workers estimate that it will take years to rebuild what the earthquake took away. And for the thousands of survivors – many of them children, left maimed and bereft by the destruction – the recovery will never be complete.

16. One may infer from the passage that the 7.6 magnitude earthquake in Kashmir _____.

A) left exactly 3.5 million people without homes
B) devastated all the lands of the refugees who had settled in Kashmir before
C) killed strictly 75,000 people
D) didn't cause as much damage to northern Pakistan and India as was claimed
E) has changed the geographical and geological features of the region

17. It is stated in the passage that the weather conditions during the winter in Kashmir _____.

A) were mild, but the cold took a lot of lives
B) were mild just as the people had known before
C) showed that aid organizations were right to be afraid
D) weren't as harsh as people had feared, so the cold did not kill the survivors
E) caused a second wave of death and suffering after the destructive earthquake

18. According to the passage, for aid workers, reconstruction of what the earthquake knocked down will last for years but _____.

A) the government can't afford to rebuild the region
B) without electrical lines and roads, it is impossible to survive and work
C) the whole recovery will never be possible because of the physical and psychological damage the earthquake caused to people, especially children
D) survivors from the earthquake have already started to obtain what they had lost again
E) all the electrical lines and roads have already been repaired

Modern Formula One is a multibillion-dollar sport that couldn't function without skilled teamwork and the latest technology. This season, the Orange Arrows team is strengthening its arsenal of technology solutions to streamline collaboration between team members and boost its racing competitiveness. Along with the usual wrenches and screwdrivers, Orange Arrows engineers now utilize handheld wire-free terminals that collect, synchronize and distribute all information relating to any of the thousands of possible vehicle settings. Car and race data are downloaded from the track to Orange Arrows headquarters where they are referenced to performance databases and computer models. This allows design teams to predict what effect a modification might have and to remotely offer advice on how to fine-tune the live vehicle configurations, and thus improve the chances of victory.

19. As mentioned in the passage, Formula One today is a kind of sport _____.

A) that gives great pleasure to both the audience and the racers
B) in which the Orange Arrows team is always regarded as the favourite to win
C) which requires a skilled, cooperative team equipped with the latest technology
D) including approximate configurations and utilization of public statistics
E) of which a lot of companies just don't realize the fact that the latest technology and skilled teamwork are the basic components

20. It is stated in the passage that handheld wire-free terminals _____.

A) do not function effectively to download car and race information

B) are used by the Orange Arrows engineers to gather, organize and deliver all the data about any of the thousands of possible vehicle settings

C) have already become outdated

D) are the only technological tools required by the design teams to strengthen racing competitiveness

E) cost a great deal of money to construct

21. As it is mentioned in the passage, Orange Arrows headquarters _____.

A) is of no real use in the racing industry

B) was set up by an entrepreneur to make money from betting on races

C) is the place where car and race data downloaded from the track are referenced to performance databases and computer models

D) is where the cars are physically repaired during the races

E) builds the handheld wire-free terminals used by the engineers

Normally the streets of Oaxaca, a city of some 250,000 people in southern Mexico, are full of tourists. They come to enjoy the nearby Zapotec ruins of Monte Alban and the city's colonial churches, Indian markets and art galleries. But Oaxaca, designated a world heritage site by the United Nations, is today a much sorrier sight. For the past four months, it has been in the grip of a bitter political conflict that one local politician calls "a low-intensity urban war". The Zocalo, the main square, is permanently occupied by several thousand protestors; more are camped out around the city. They have seized several radio stations and public offices. Many streets are blocked by barricades of parked buses or corrugated iron. Angry graffiti, in red and black spray paint, disfigure many historical buildings. Not only has this conflict driven off the tourists; it also threatens the peaceful nature of the citizens in the country.

22. It is understood from the passage that Oaxaca _____.

A) is a city in southern Mexico which is visited mostly by Mexican tourists

B) has been occupied by the enemies permanently

C) normally attracts a lot of tourists with its historical and cultural sights

D) is famous for its angry protestors, most of whom are local young people

E) is one of the poorest but most democratic cities in Mexico

23. One may infer from the passage that Oaxaca _____.

A) is under the protection of the United Nations because of its importance in history

B) is a place where people often fall into political conflict

C) has a permanent traffic jam in its streets to be solved

D) is a highly urbanized city in southern Mexico

E) presents only historical tastes for the tourists

24. As is stated in the passage, the bitter political conflict in the city _____.

A) can cause the city to be removed from the United Nations' list of world heritage sites

B) has driven tourists away from the city and threatens the peace of the people living in Mexico

C) may lead many protestors to be arrested

D) weakens the political power of the government

E) does no harm to transportation and tourism in the city

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