ENGLISH READING PASSAGES TESTS

Short Advanced Reading Comprehension Test 1 With MCQs and Answers

24 questions · Choose the correct answer. Online test and answer key with explanations:
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Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 24

(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.)

The vegetarian diet is becoming increasingly popular all the time. Is the vegetarian or meat diet better? A decade ago and earlier, the impression was that a vegetarian diet was lacking in the nutrients found in meat products. Today though, through research and nutritional science, it has been proven that all the nutrients found in meat may at the same time be found in the correct vegetarian diet. Some may argue that by only consuming meat that is low in fat, meat and vegetarian diets have identical benefits. This is true only if one eats only very low-fat meat. The lack of meat is not necessarily the main benefit to the vegetarian. Vegetarians tend to eat more fruits, vegetables and grains than meat-eaters. They also tend not to use tobacco and excessive alcohol. Moreover, vegetarians tend to get more exercise.

1. **It is clear from the passage that meat and vegetarian diets have similar benefits _____.**
   A) if the term vegetarian cannot be misleading
   B) only if very low-fat meat is eaten
   C) as long as diet can take on many different variations
   D) if a vegetarian consumes the same dairy products
   E) because the term vegetarian is used to cover all facets and variation

2. **It has been alleged that vegetarians do not only benefit from not eating meat; in fact, _____.**
   A) but other factors probably include exercise and resistance to smoking and alcohol intake
   B) but the partial vegetarian eats anything except red meat
   C) this is most likely due to the low fat and high carbohydrate content of their diet as well
   D) they usually have a lower blood pressure than meat-eaters as well
   E) they also benefit from not using tobacco and excessive alcohol while getting more exercise

3. **In the past, it was claimed that the nutrients found in meat products weren't found in a vegetarian diet, _____.**
   A) but research today has proved this wrong
   B) the last major benefit of the vegetarian diet is its relationship to cancer rate reduction
   C) however, the advantages of the vegetarian diet greatly outweigh its shortcomings
   D) whether a meat-eater or vegetarian, both diets may contribute to good health with proper planning
   E) there are advantages and drawbacks to both diets

A social anxiety disorder or social phobia is the constant fear of being criticized or evaluated by other people. People with a social phobia are nervous, anxious, and afraid about many social situations. Simply attending a business meeting or going to a company party can be highly nerve-wracking and intimidating. Despite the fact that people with social anxiety want very much to be social with everybody else, their anxiety about not doing well in public is strong and hinders their best efforts. They freeze up when they meet new people, particularly authority figures. They are particularly afraid that other people will notice that they are anxious, so this fear enables the anxiety to grow and turn into a vicious cycle.

4. **Even though people with social anxiety want very much to be social with everybody else, _____.**
   A) who is conscious of the fact that people might be staring at them
   B) everyone is scared of something
   C) everyone experiences nervousness, anxiety and even inferior feelings around certain people
   D) they cannot overcome a social phobia without the patient first grasping exactly what triggers their fears
   E) they cannot achieve it because of a lack of self-confidence

5. **For someone with a social phobia, attending a business meeting or going to a company party may be highly nerve-wracking and intimidating _____.**
   A) as some people possess these feelings so deeply that their fear is considered irrational
   B) even though they realize that it is illogical and that they have a phobia
   C) because they do not want to be social with other people
   D) since a social phobia is a fear of social situations and of interaction with other people
   E) for millions of people suffer from phobias every day of their lives

6. **People with a social phobia are nervous, anxious, and afraid about many social situations _____.**
   A) and then learning how to get proper help
   B) since many symptoms go hand in hand with this terrible phobia
   C) because they are sure they are making a fool of themselves
   D) since they are afraid of being criticized or evaluated by other people
   E) for self-consciousness and anxiety rise to extremes

Although just a few years ago, most people regarded talk shows as ridiculous, now the genre is recognized and adored by many people in society. The most likely explanation for this is that the shows now have more interesting and captivating topics. The basis of most episodes of these shows has changed greatly over the past few years; the topics have moved away from large-scale social issues, like homosexuality and cancer, to relationship and familial issues, like adultery and mothers that are too teasing with their daughter's boyfriends. Many people would argue that the issues being presented now are not as interesting or captivating as the older issues.

7. **In spite of the fact that many people in society find today's talk show issues interesting, _____.**
   A) the general emotional content of the episodes has changed from sadness to anger
   B) there are many people who find the older issues much more interesting and charming
   C) there are many influences that cause extreme anger to be displayed by the guests on "talk shows"
   D) the anxiety which you experienced is gone and replaced by anger, intense anger
   E) you do not know what to expect when you are nervous and anxious

8. **Talk shows that were considered to be ridiculous beforehand _____.**
   A) are recognized and adored by many people today
   B) the emotions displayed by the guests in the newer shows are more visible
   C) usually framed some questions in a certain way
   D) but there are many psychological explanations for the increasing anger experienced by the guests on a talk show
   E) they frequently use this framing effect to try to get the response that is more favourable for the interviewer or surveyor

9. **The most likely reason why talk shows are recognized and adored by many people in society is that _____.**
   A) nothing seems awkward in these shows
   B) questions can be phrased in different ways eliciting different responses
   C) there is a strong correlation between the anger of his guests and the ratings
   D) talk shows now have more interesting and captivating topics
   E) the question is framed in such a way that any answer given to it would evoke or intensify anger

The belief that one's own nation is superior or at least the strongest helped to create a feeling of patriotism and pride among the lower classes. I believe that the spread of nationalism throughout European society was a positive development. Nationalism helped to unite people with a common history and culture. It instilled pride and confidence among nations and gave people a sense of being. Contrary to the other ideologies of the time, nationalism proposed self-sacrifice for the good of others. However, I believe that at the beginning of the 20th century, the idea of Social Darwinism corrupted it and permitted nationalism to be twisted by those who would exploit it.

10. **At the beginning of the 20th century, when the idea of Social Darwinism came onto the scene _____.**
    A) but overall it had a positive effect on European society
    B) , nationalism was corrupted and twisted by those who wanted to exploit it
    C) , it offered something to believe in when there wasn't much to believe in
    D) , there seems to be quite a bit more substantial proof on earth to support the theory of evolution
    E) because of the fact that actual samples of fossils have been collected and scientifically tested

11. It can be concluded from the paragraph that _____.

A) the time periods show differences in bone structure showing the human evolving
B) the more a creature can adapt to its environment the greater chance it has of living
C) other ideologies of the time did not propose self-sacrifice for the good of others
D) Charles Darwin had conducted extensive research into the environmental adaptations of animals
E) this theory helps to prove the theory that humans evolved from apes

12. It is obvious from the passage that nationalism, which helped to unite people with a common history and culture, _____.

A) the evidence of holding up much more
B) which can then be examined and placed along a timeline
C) which is called environmental adaptation
D) to show an increase in population called survival of the fittest
E) gave people a sense of being

In today's materialism-driven society, people are judged in every possible aspect, from their appearance, background, social status, and way of thinking to their friends and families. The necessity to be accepted and admired by others captivates the minds of many men and women of today. This quest for social acceptance becomes so real that the idea then becomes an obsession. The way we look plays a big role in our lives. It determines the way others see us and from that, it will then determine how we feel about ourselves. One main factor in our appearance is our weight.

13. The way that we look plays such a big role in our lives that _____.

A) it determines the way others see us
B) they can look good to other people
C) they don't even admire them for their inner being
D) we ourselves abuse our health and bodies
E) there have been ways and tactics created by man

14. It has been claimed by the author that _____.

A) but this applies to men as well
B) men and women are obsessed with their weights
C) your body needs to maintain itself
D) the quest for social acceptance becomes an obsession for many people
E) what makes a person beautiful is the person as a whole

15. According to the paragraph, the way we look determines _____.

A) exercising and eating right is a better healthier way to do
B) to see you are beautiful people
C) their mind, personality, attitude, being in his or herself
D) an empty-headed person who would harm themselves
E) how we feel about ourselves

The nineteenth century was a period of great change and accompanying social unrest in the British Isles. Most outstanding among the changes was the Industrial Revolution. Like everything in life, it brought good, but it brought evil as well. The Industrial Revolution combined with the expansion of the British Empire made the United Kingdom the richest and most powerful country in the world. Some of the islanders became unbelievably wealthy, but others, unfortunately, became unbelievably poor. Authors from this historical period who were aware of human suffering became social critics of what was taking place in England, of how the rich and powerful became more oppressive than before and how the very poor were even more oppressed. Among these authors were Charles Dickens and George Eliot.

16. Even though the United Kingdom became the richest and most powerful country in the world, _____.

A) it describes the conflict and battle between these two groups
B) the gap between the rich and the poor increased after the Industrial Revolution
C) the factory workers and miners lacked basic human rights and their idea and beliefs were discarded
D) political candidates gave false hopes and promises so as to sway the opinion of people
E) a change for the good of the workers was provided

17. The most significant change of the nineteenth century was the Industrial Revolution, _____.

A) claiming that their support of the radical movement would improve their lives
B) which would be used to rebuild estate and support political actions
C) being a radical, improvement, alter and modernization
D) which had modern opinions and ideas to alter the outcome of society
E) which brought both good and evil in life

18. It is easy to comprehend from the paragraph that the improvement of industry in the British Isles _____.

A) wanted change and reform
B) caused social unrest as well
C) which forced society to choose what side would represent them
D) caused conflict in which people would only associate with individuals
E) despite the vast obstacle there was

19. Witnesses report many, many different shapes and sizes of UFOs, even shape-changing ones. The famous "Two bowls joined at the rim" shape is reported frequently, but reports of objects shaped like cigars, squares, balls, triangles, rings, and GUITARS are also common. Many of these reports are of objects from far away, but reports of close encounters also exist. Some of the most interesting sightings are reported on or near the ground. Often the person claims that the ship left a mark or something on the ground; this is called a "Trace Case".

According to the paragraph, _____.

A) these reports, however, have to be separated from others
B) a study of these reports shows that they are random and have no pattern
C) these reports have come from people living in rural areas
D) claims of witnessing a UFO have come from considerate, reliable people
E) some of the most interesting sightings are reported on or near the ground

20. **According to the paragraph, although many of the reported UFOs were seen from far away, _____.**

A) there were also reports of close encounters
B) they claim they have been a part of the Alien Brotherhood
C) the U.S. Air Force attempted to study UFOs
D) the UFOs did not represent a threat to the United States
E) they never considered any of this to be a unique phenomenon

21. **Although there were many reports about different shapes and sizes of UFOs, _____.**

A) men learned a great number of things from doing this project
B) there are many people out there studying these sightings, and reports
C) the famous "two bowls joined at the rim" shape was reported frequently
D) all of the UFO stuff is just abnormal weather conditions
E) are just waiting to be found out

22. In the 1600s, when tobacco was introduced by John Rolfe, tobacco suddenly became the major source of income for most of the colonists. The economic prosperity of the colonies was primarily dependent on the amount of tobacco produced. The growing of tobacco required a large amount of land, with a large stable workforce. The increased demand for a large, stable workforce combined with the availability of African slaves led to the use of slavery in the colonies.

It can be concluded that the economic prosperity of the colonies was primarily dependent on the amount of tobacco produced _____.

A) and therefore on a large, stable workforce
B) but planters of tobacco had an abundance of land and a shortage of labour
C) but the servants were running away from their masters' farms
D) which was a major factor in the consideration of slaves on the plantation
E) because tobacco was a plant that exhausts nutrients from the soil

23. **The growing of tobacco in the colonies _____.**

A) needed only a small amount of land and a few workers
B) was the ideal form of labour that would be most beneficial to the productivity of any crop
C) required both a large amount of land and a large stable workforce
D) had a tradition of farming, and main agricultural skills
E) needed to be educated on certain agricultural techniques

24. **It can be inferred from the paragraph that _____.**

A) modern farming methods led to the rotation of crops
B) planters had to know how to make the land most productive
C) the slaves would only require to be educated once
D) the African slaves also had other characteristics
E) the need for a large, stable workforce to grow tobacco helped lead to the use of slavery in the colonies

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