ENGLISH READING PASSAGES TESTS

Short Advanced Reading Comprehension Test 32 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.)

Domino is an 18th-century dress with a long hooded cloak, maybe derived from a kind of clerical hood or the half mask with which it was generally worn. The term was also applied to a person who wore such a costume. The mask came into use with Italian Renaissance comedy, in which half masks were worn by such characters as Harlequin. The masks were later worn by aristocrats who did not wish to be recognized when taking part in plays, and the half-mask developed into a disguise. Men and women who wore dominos at masquerades and carnivals generally did so to remain incognito. The domino was also worn by women while travelling.

1. **"Hood" is a (an) _____.**
   A) folding waterproof top of a motor car, pram or carriage
   B) big hat made of fur with silk lining worn in cold weather
   C) cover placed over a machine to protect it or to protect the person using it
   D) covering made of a variety of materials used to hide the face
   E) covering for the head and neck, frequently fastened to a coat, etc. so that it can hang down at the back, or be detached, when not in use

2. **The hood of the domino may have been inspired by _____.**
   A) former hoods worn by clergymen
   B) Italian Renaissance
   C) Renaissance comedy
   D) the hoods worn by noble people
   E) the wearer of an 18th century cloak

3. **"Men and women who wore dominos at masquerades and carnivals generally did so to remain incognito."**

   "so" refers to _____.
   A) disguised themselves
   B) wore dominos with half masks
   C) wished to be recognized
   D) took part in masquerades and carnivals
   E) behaved like aristocrats

Physiologically women may be more sensitive to environmental factors such as stress, seasonal changes and social rank. And this responsiveness might help explain the high rates of depression among them. The symptoms of depression range from uncomfortable to debilitating: sleep disturbances, hopelessness, feelings of worthlessness, difficulty concentrating, exhaustion and sometimes even delusions. Few people realize just how common depression is, how severe it can be or that it is most prevalent among women. Today 20% of the female population in the developed world suffer from depression.

4. **The main thought of the text is _____.**
   A) why women are more affected by changes in the environment
   B) most people do not know how common depression is
   C) the symptoms of depression vary between a feeling of uneasiness and exhaustion
   D) men are not as sensitive to changes around them as women are
   E) the symptoms of depression and why women suffer more from it

5. **Which of the following is not an indication of depression?**
   A) Feeling exhausted
   B) Lack of sleep
   C) Hallucination
   D) Lack of self-esteem
   E) Having false opinions and beliefs

6. **In accordance with the text, _____.**
   A) the percentage of men who suffer from depression is almost nil in developed countries
   B) a woman suffering from depression cannot focus her attention on anything for a long time
   C) only women are affected by seasonal changes
   D) women with depression may have hope for the near future only
   E) at present, 20% of the female population in the world suffer from the burden of depression

7. Although the cheetah is considered an efficient hunter, only about half of its attempts to take prey are successful. The most common reason for this failure is early detection by the prey. Cheetahs do not take wind direction into account when stalking, and unlike hyenas, cheetahs do not attempt to single out handicapped or sick individuals.

We can conclude from the text that _____.

A) efficiency in hunting may not mean killing all the prey an animal is after
B) a cheetah may not find any food on windy days
C) animals suffering from a physical disability make easy prey for a cheetah
D) hyenas never prefer to kill and eat sick prey
E) hyenas cannot be detected by handicapped or sick prey

8. **According to the text, which of the following is not true?**

A) Cheetahs do not specially choose sick or disabled animals to hunt.
B) Cheetahs pay no attention to wind direction when they stalk prey.
C) Prey often escapes because it notices the cheetah too early.
D) Unlike cheetahs, hyenas try to pick out weak or sick animals.
E) It is impossible for prey to run away once a cheetah decides to hunt it.

9. **"Cheetahs do not take wind direction into account" implies that _____.**

A) it is difficult to find prey on windy days
B) wind probably slows down cheetahs' speed
C) wind helps prey to escape more easily
D) wind probably carries cheetahs' smell to their prey and so they easily become aware of cheetahs' presence
E) it is likely that wind carries the smell of the prey away and so cheetahs cannot find them

Whether you have a family member who is born or becomes handicapped, or you yourself become disabled, it is vital to feel your grief for what could have been. Until you experience all your anger, sadness, fear, and guilt over your lost dreams, you will be closed off to the possible gifts offered by the new reality. It is a great challenge to live with your loss, especially if the diagnosis means further disablement, or even death, is likely. Often, it is not only the handicapped person who has lost their previous life choices, but also their immediate family. However, many handicapped people and their family members describe the wonderful love and aliveness that can be experienced in what may seem like unlikely situations.

10. **Which of the following titles would be suitable for the text?**

A) Living with Disability
B) If You Become Disabled
C) Unlikely Situations
D) Lost Life-Choices
E) Love and Aliveness

11. **Which of the following statements is correct?**

A) If you become disabled one day, it will be only you to suffer from it.
B) Feeling grief for the handicapped only makes matters worse.
C) In some cases, the condition of the disabled person may get even more serious.
D) Fortunately, disablement alone cannot cause death.
E) A person who has lost his dreams because of disablement is to live alone all his life.

12. **The author has used "previous life choices" for _____.**

A) people born handicapped
B) people who do not take the challenge to live with their loss
C) people who have never had any dreams
D) family members who do not experience love and aliveness
E) people who become handicapped sometime later in their lives

In the palmy days of the '70s and '80s, almost the entire working population in Libya was on the government payroll. The flow of oil revenues had ensured that the vast bulk of the population lived comfortably, even if no one put in much effort at their nine-to-two jobs before going home to sleep. Housing was practically free, and the government threw up endless apartment blocks and modern houses for all who needed them. Water and electricity came without charge. This unbounded largesse was already being trimmed back in the late '80s, but the sanctions, while not savage enough to cause misery on the scale of circumstances in Iraq, brought harder times. Soon there was a black market price for the Libyan dinar, which had long enjoyed rock-solid stability, and it started to slide.

13. **The passage is about _____.**

A) the fact that the Libyan dinar has always been dependable and stable
B) the economy of Libya at present
C) the wealth of the working-class in Libya in the 21st century
D) the apartment blocks and modern houses built between 1970 and 1980
E) the weakening of the economy starting from the 1980s in Libya

14. **Which of the following may have happened when the economy started to decline?**

A) Prices of things such as food, clothes dropped.
B) New free housing projects were put into practice.
C) The working population on government payroll weren't affected at all.
D) Government salaries were frozen.
E) More people applied to work for the government.

15. Which of the following statements is not correct?

A) The sanctions did not cause as much misery in Libya as they did in Iraq.

B) The Libyan population did not pay any money for the water and electricity they used before the late 1980s.

C) The national income of Libya was mainly from oil between 1970 and 1980.

D) Only the people working for the government benefited from the national revenue between 1970 and 1980.

E) We can infer that the population lived not only comfortably but also quite lazily between 1970 and 1980 due to the prosperous economy of the country.

The common cold is a mild, contagious viral infection of the upper respiratory tract (nose, throat and larynx). The common cold is most prevalent during the winter. It is estimated that about 50% of all people acquire colds during the winter, while only about 20% are infected during the summer. The disease is also more prevalent among certain age groups. Pre-school children average from 6 to 12 colds a year, while their parents have about 6 colds a year. Other adults average only 2 or 3 a year. The principal cause of the common cold is a group of 50 to 60 different viruses known as rhinoviruses. In addition to rhinoviruses, which seem to account for the majority of common colds, certain other viruses have also been associated with the disease. Since so many viruses cause the common cold, it is unlikely that artificial immunization, that is any medication to prevent it, will be probable for some time. A natural form of immunity does exist, but an individual must be infected with all of the many cold-producing viruses before he is truly immune to the disease. Evidence of natural immunity is the fact that colds occur less frequently in older persons. This is the result of immunity acquired from cold infections in the past. It also reflects their lessened contact with small children, a major source of infection.

16. The common cold is more usually seen in _____.

A) people who are artificially immunized

B) people who become naturally immune to disease

C) parents with small children

D) small children

E) all adults

17. According to the passage, artificial immunization against the common cold is unlikely to be available soon because _____.

A) the common cold is not caused by one specific virus

B) there is no medication to fight against the common cold

C) the common cold is a very contagious virus infection

D) people will now and then come into contact with others who have the common cold

E) the common cold is an infection of the nose, throat and larynx

18. "The disease is also more prevalent among certain age groups" means that _____.

A) certain age groups are likely to suffer from the disease more frequently

B) the disease is milder as you get older

C) the disease can be really serious among certain age groups

D) the disease is not very common in adults

E) the disease lasts longer at a certain age

Art criticism is the description, interpretation, and evaluation of works of art. Art criticism has been a distinct profession just since the 19th century. It grew from two modern institutions - commercial art galleries and newspapers. The art galleries, which first appeared in Paris when the French Academy was no longer able to handle all the work produced by French artists, provided a marketplace for works of art. The newspapers published articles about art for an interested audience. The gallery system and regular art criticism in newspapers freed painting from official patronage and made it a part of public life. Criticism differs from the expertise and other kinds of art scholarship, even though the critic may call on specialists in X-ray, spectrograph, or other kinds of physical and chemical analysis to date a work of art or to determine the materials or method used in its production. Criticism often uses data from iconography and art history. Knowledge of artistic tradition is established by art history, and an artist's originality, for instance, is measured by the ways in which he departs from tradition. Criticism is not always verbal; museums and patrons who preserve and buy some works, and ignore or destroy others, are also engaged in criticism.

19. Commercial art galleries _____.

A) had come into existence even before art criticism became a profession

B) were started by French artists since the French Academy was too busy to spare time for them

C) were set up with the financial support of newspapers

D) were started by the French Academy when too many artists started to produce pieces of work for the Academy to deal with

E) served the purpose of encouraging French artists without any financial expectations at all

20. Which of the following is not correct?

A) Art galleries appeared as a part of the marketplace in the 19th century.

B) Readers interested in painting welcomed the publishing of articles on art in newspapers.

C) We can infer that art critics have never been as specialized as experts of other kinds of art.

D) Help from other branches of science may be necessary to date a piece of art.

E) Studying artistic tradition is within the scope of art history.

21. According to the passage, which of the following is not directly engaged in art criticism?

A) Newspapers
B) Art critics
C) Museums
D) X-ray specialists
E) Influential people like patrons

22. Secularization, as it has developed since the Middle Ages, has consisted in substituting for supernatural and theological explanations, natural and reasonable ones. This change is one of the most profound affecting mankind and forms the basis of modern democratic government and of our scientific-technological age. In a society based on the divine right of kings, there could be no genuinely democratic government in the modern sense. Democracy is built on the idea that the individual has a right to judge political issues for himself.

According to the passage, with the rise of democracy _____.

A) supernatural ideas have given way to technological ones
B) scientific and technological progress has been neglected
C) secularization has lost its traditional meaning
D) the individual has lost many of his former rights
E) the traditional concept of the "divine right of kings" has vanished

23. It is argued that the process of secularization _____.

A) has had no impact on the concept of monarchy
B) goes back to pre-medieval times
C) has led to systems of democratic government
D) has no relevance to the exercise of individual rights
E) has failed to overcome superstition and magic

24. In the development of modern society, _____.

A) medieval institutions have not been neglected
B) democracy has been of little significance
C) technological supremacy has been the ultimate aim
D) the impact of secularization has been of fundamental importance
E) individual rights have been curtailed

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