

Reading Comprehension 2. (Pre-Final test exercises)

Read the following passage carefully

Passage 1

Alfred Bernhard Nobel, a Swedish inventor and philanthropist, bequeathed most of his vast fortune in trust as a fund from which annual prizes could be awarded to individuals and organizations who had achieved the greatest benefit to humanity in a particular year. Originally, there were six classifications for outstanding contributions designated in Nobel's will including chemistry, physics, physiology or medicine, literature, and international peace.

The prizes are administered by the Nobel Foundation in Stockholm. In 1969, a prize for economics subsidized or supported by the Central Bank of Sweden was added. Candidates for the prizes must be nominated in writing by a qualified authority in the field of competition. Recipients in physics, chemistry, and economics are selected by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences; in physiology or medicine by the Caroline Institute; in literature by the Swedish Academy; and in peace by the Norwegian Nobel Committee appointed by Norway's parliament. The prizes are usually presented in Stockholm on December 10, with the King of Sweden officiating, an appropriate tribute to Alfred Nobel on the anniversary of his death. Each one includes a gold medal, a diploma, and a cash award for one million dollars.

Answer these following questions based on the text you have read above.

1. What does this passage mainly discuss?
 - a. Alfred Bernhard Nobel
 - b. The Nobel prizes
 - c. Great contribution
 - d. Swedish philanthropy
2. Why were the prizes named for Alfred Bernhard Nobel?
 - a. He left money in his will to establish a fund for the prizes
 - b. He won the first Nobel Prize for his work in philanthropy
 - c. He is now living in Sweden
 - d. He serves as chairman of the committee to choose the recipients of the prizes
3. How often are the Nobel prizes awarded?
 - a. Five times a year
 - b. Once a year
 - c. twice a year
 - d. once every two years
4. the word "outstanding" in line 4 could be best replaced by?
 - a. recent
 - b. unusual
 - c. great
 - d. established
5. The word "will" in line 4 refers to
 - a. Nobel's wishes
 - b. a legal document
 - c. a future intention
 - d. a free choice
6. A Nobel prize would NOT be given to?
 - a. an author wrote a novel
 - b. a doctor who discovered a vaccine
 - c. a composer of symphony
 - d. a diplomat who negotiated a peace settlement.
7. The word "one" in "Each one includes..." refers to?
 - a. tribute
 - b. anniversary
 - c. prizes
 - f. candidate
8. Which individual or organization serves as administrator for the trust?
 - a. The King of Sweden
 - b. The Nobel Foundation
 - c. The Central Bank of Sweden
 - d. Swedish and Norwegian Academies and Institutes
9. The word "appropriate" in "an appropriate tribute to Alfred Nobel" is closest in meaning to?
 - a. prestigious
 - b. customary
 - c. suitable
 - d. transitory
10. Why are the awards presented on December 10?
 - a. It is a tribute to the King of Sweden
 - b. Alfred Bernhard Nobel died on that day.
 - c. That date was established in Alfred Nobel's will
 - d. The Central Bank of Sweden administers the trust.

Passage 2

It was the first photograph that I had ever seen, and it fascinated me. I can remember holding it at every angle in order to catch the flickering light from the oil on the dresser. The man in the photograph was unsmiling, but his eyes were kind. I had never met him, but I felt that I knew him. One evening when I was looking at the photograph, as I always did before I went to sleep, I noticed a shadow across the man's thin face. I moved the photograph so that the shadow lay perfectly around his hollow cheeks. How different he looked!

That night I could not sleep, thinking about the letter that I would write. First, I would tell him that I was eleven years old, and that if he had a little girl my age, she could write to me instead of him. I knew that he was a very busy man. Then I would explain to him the real purpose of my letter. I would tell him how wonderful he looked with the shadow that I had seen across his photograph, and I would most carefully suggest him that he grow whiskers.

Four months later when I met him at the train station near my home in Westfield, New York, he was wearing a full beard. He was so much taller than I had imagined from tiny photograph.

"Ladies and gentlemen," he said, "I have no speech to make and no time to make it in. I appear before you that I may see you and that you may see me." Then he picked me right up and kissed me on both cheeks. The whiskers scratched. "Do you think I look better, my little friend?" he said.

My name is Grace Bedell, and the man in the photograph was Abraham Lincon.

11. The word "fascinated" in line 1 could be best replaced by?
a. interested b. frightened c. confused d. disgusted
12. What did Grace do every night before she went to sleep?
a. She wrote letters b. She looked at the photograph c. She read stories d. She cried
13. The word "it" in the sentence "I have no speech to make and no time to make it in" refers to? a. speech
b. time c. photograph d. station
14. The word "flickering" in line 2 is closest in meaning to?
a. burning constantly b. burning unsteadily c. burning very dimly d. burning brightly
15. From this passage, it can be concluded that...
a. Grace Bedell was the only one at the train station when Lincoln stopped at Westfield
b. There were many people waiting for Lincoln to arrive on the train
c. Lincoln made a long speech at the station in Westfield
d. Lincoln was offended by the letter

This passage is for number 16 to 20

Albert Einstein was born in 1879 in Ulm, Germany. He graduated from the University of Zurich in Switzerland in 1905. In 1905, he also did some of his most famous work in physics. In 1919 he won the Nobel Prize of Physics. Between 1919 and 1933 he lived in Germany and traveled a lot to talk to other scientists. Then in 1933, he had to leave Germany because of Hitler and The Nazi party. He moved to the United States. From 1933 until his death, he lived I Princeton, New Jersey. He died on April 18, 1955.

Based on the passage above, try to find and describe its pattern and signal as follows

Signals	Event
16. _____	_____
17. _____	_____
18. _____	_____
19. _____	_____
20. - _____	_____

I. Read the passage carefully, then choose the best answer of the following questions based on the text.

Few men have influenced the development of American English to the extent that Noah Webster did. Born in West Hartford, Connecticut, in 1758, his name has become synonymous with American dictionaries. Graduated from Yale in 1778, he was admitted to the bar in 1781 and thereafter began to practice law in

Hartford. Later, when he turned to teaching, he discovered how inadequate the available schoolbooks were for the children of a new and independent nation.

In response to the need for truly American books, Webster published *A Grammatical Institute of the English Language*, a three-volume work that consisted of a speller, a grammar and a reader. The first volume, which was generally known as *The American Spelling Book*, was so popular that eventually it sold more than 80 million copies and provided him with a considerable income for the rest of his life. While teaching, Webster began work on the *Compendious Dictionary of the English Language*, which was published in 1806.

In 1807 Noah Webster began his greatest work, *An American Dictionary of the English Language*. In preparing the manuscript, he devoted ten years to the study of English and its relationship to the other languages, and seven more years to the writing itself. Published in two volumes in 1828, *An American Dictionary of the English Language* has become the recognized authority for usage in the United States. Webster's purpose in writing it was to demonstrate that the American language was developing distinct meanings, pronunciations, and spellings from those of British English. He is responsible for advancing simplified spelling forms: *develop* instead of the British form *develope* *theater* and *center*, instead of *theatre* and *centre*, *color* and *honor* instead of *colour* and *honour*.

In 1840 Webster brought out a second edition of his dictionary, which included 70,000 entries instead of original 38,000. This edition has served as the basis of the many revisions that have been produced under the Webster name.

1. Which of the following would be the best title for the passage?
 - a. Webster's work
 - b. Webster's Dictionaries
 - c. Webster's school
 - d. Webster's life
2. The word "inadequate" in line 5 could be best replaced by
 - a. Unavailable
 - b. expensive
 - c. difficult
 - d. unsatisfactory
3. Why did Webster write *A Grammatical Institute of the English Language*?
 - a. He wanted to supplement his income
 - b. There were no books available after the Revolutionary War
 - c. He felt that British books were not appropriate for American children
 - d. The children did not know how to spell
4. From which publication did Webster earn a lifetime income?
 - a. *A Grammatical Institute of the English Language*
 - b. *The American Spelling Book*
 - c. *Compendious Dictionary of the English Language*
 - d. *An American Dictionary of the English Language*
5. In how many volumes was *An American Dictionary of the English Language* published?
 - a. One
 - b. Two
 - c. Three
 - d. Four
6. When was *An American Dictionary of the English Language* published?
 - a. 1817
 - b. 1807
 - c. 1828
 - d. 1824
7. According to the author, what was Webster's purpose in writing *An American Dictionary of the English Language*?
 - a. to respond to the need for new books
 - b. to demonstrate the distinct development of English language in America
 - c. to promote spelling forms based upon British models
 - d. to influence the pronunciation of the English language
8. The word "it" in "Webster's purpose in writing it was to demonstrate that" refers to?
 - a. language
 - b. usage
 - c. dictionary
 - d. authority

9. The word “distinct” in “...American language was developing distinct meanings, pronunciations...” is closest in meaning to? a. new b. simple c. different d. exact

10. According to this passage, which one of the following spellings would Webster have approved in his dictionaries? a. *develope* b. *theatre* c. *color* d. *honour*

II. Using all Patterns

For each paragraph, decide what the pattern is (listing, time order, comparison, or cause-effect). Write the name of that pattern. Then read the extra sentences at the bottom. Find the sentences beside the paragraph.

11. _____ The kitchen in Mila’s new house had many problems. The first was the sink. The water did not go down the drain. And finally, there was also a problem with the refrigerator. Water came pouring out and it made a terrible mess. Pattern _____

12. _____ Mila had a terrible time in her new house last week. On Monday, the sink was not draining well. She had to call the repair company. Next, on Wednesday, the stove broke. The repair person had to come back to her house. The repair spent many hours working in Mila’s house that week. Pattern _____

13. _____ Mila thought the problem with stove was serious. But then she found out that the refrigerator problem was worse. The stove was not easy to fix. But the refrigerator was much more difficult. It was also much more expensive to fix the refrigerator. Pattern _____

14. _____ Mila had difficult week because of all the problems in her house. She couldn’t cook any food because the stove did not work. And then, all her food was ruined because her refrigerator broke. She had to throw it all away. Mila was very upset. She almost decided to sell her new house. Pattern _____

Sentences:

- a. The refrigerator problem was also much messier then the sink.
- b. And then, on Friday, the refrigerator made a terrible mess.
- c. Mila decided to buy a new stove and a new refrigerator.
- d. Another problem was with the stove. It did not get very hot
- e. She could not wash her dishes because of the broken sink.

III. Read the passage carefully and try to answer following question

1 We can read of things that happened 5,000 years ago in the Near East, where people first learn to write. But there are some parts of the world where even now people cannot write. The only way that they can preserve their history is to recount it as sagas—legend handed down from one generation of story-tellers to another. These legends are useful because they can tell us something about migrations of people who lived long ago, but none could write down what they did. Anthropologists wondered where the remote ancestors of the Polynesian peoples now living in the Pacific Island came from. The sagas of these people explain that some of them came from Indonesia about 2,000 years ago

5 But the first people who were like ourselves lived so long ago that even their sagas, if they had any, are forgotten. So archeologists have neither history nor legends to help them to find out where the first “modern men” came from.

9 Fortunately, however ancient men made tools of stone, especially flint, because this is easier to shape than other kinds. They may also have used wood and skins, but these have rooted away. Stone does not decay, and so the tools of long ago have remained when even the bones of the men who made them have disappeared without trace.



Source: Robin Place. *Finding Fossil Man*

Comprehension

Give short answers to these questions in your own words as far as possible. Use one complete sentence for each answer

- How can anthropologists learn about history of ancient people who have not left written words?
- Why did ancient men prefer to use flint for making tools?
- Give another word or phrase to replace these words as they are used in the passage: preserve (line 3), recount (l 4), migration (l 5), anthropologists (l 6), remote (l 7), decay (l 14), without trace (15)
- Try to write three short sentences on the history of early man using the following words in each sentences:
 - ✓ Written records
 - ✓ Sagas
 - ✓ Stone tools

Read the passage carefully, if it is necessary, you may have to read twice or three times. After you read, work on the comprehension and its composition.

THE FACTS



Editors of newspapers and magazines often go to extremes to provide their readers with unimportant facts and statistics. Last year a journalist had been instructed by a well-known magazine to write an article on the president's palace in a new African republic. When the article arrived, the editor read the first sentence and then refused to publish it. The article began: 'Hundreds of steps lead to high wall which surrounds the president's palace.' The editor at once sent the journalist a telegram instructing him to find out the exact number of steps and the height of the wall.

The journalist immediately set out to obtain these important facts, but he took a long time to send them. Meanwhile, the editor was getting impatient, for the magazine would soon go to press. He sent the journalist two urgent telegrams, but received no reply. He sent yet another telegram informing the journalist that if he did not reply soon he would be fired. When the journalist again failed to reply, the editor reluctantly published the article as it had originally been written. A week later, the editor at last received a telegram from the journalist. Not only had the poor man been arrested, but he had been sent to prison as well. However, he had at last been allowed to send a cable in which he informed the editor that he had been arrested while counting the 1084 steps leading to the 15 foot wall which surrounded the president's palace.

Comprehension

- Did the journalist immediately set out to get the facts after receiving instruction from his editor?
- Did he send them at once or not?
- Was the editor getting impatient or not?
- How many telegrams did the editor send?
- What did the editor threaten to do?
- Was the last telegram answered or not?
- Was the article omitted from the magazine, or was it printed in its original form?
- When did the journalist send a telegram?
- Why had he been imprisoned?

Missing Lyric (^ ^,)

There must be more to Life than This by Freddie Mercury

There must be more to life than this

There must be more to life than this

How do wein a world without love

.....all those broken hearts

And tocrying faces

There must be more to life than living

There must be more

Why should it be just a of black or white

There must be more to life than this

Why is this world so full of

People everywhere

And we what we

People for their human

But we just saying c'est la vie

So this is life

There must be more to life than killing

A way for us to

What good is life, in the end we all must die

There must be more to life than this

There must be more to life than this

There must be more to life than this

I and for a world with love

Then we can all just live in peace

There must be more to life, much more to life

There must be more to life, more to life than this.

1. What is the theme of this song? (score :10)
2. What is meant by the word *more* from “there must be more to life”? (10)
3. How do you explain this song related to your life as a human being? (20)
4. How do you explain the phrase “but we just go on saying c'est la vie”? (15)

I am learning all the time. The tombstone will be my diploma. ~Eartha Kitt
Man Jadda Wajada