

Part I: Reading – Comprehension

Read the following text and answer the questions about it.

Engineering Issues Arise after Turkey Earthquake

In November 2022, after a magnitude 6 earthquake damaged more than 2,000 buildings in Duzce, northern Turkey, environment and urbanisation minister Murat Kurum underlined that the authorities were working towards making every building in the country “earthquake safe by 2035”. “We already rebuilt 3.2 million residences,” Kurum said in a social media post. “250,000 residences across 81 provinces and 992 districts are currently being transformed [to meet current regulations]. 6.6 million houses and businesses have been audited. 24 million of our citizens are currently living in earthquake-safe abodes.” These ambitious efforts, however, were not able to prevent the disaster. “On paper, Turkey’s seismic design code is up to global standards – it is actually better than most,” Turkkan said. “In practice, however, the situation is very different.” This is why, experts say, more than 20 years after the Marmara earthquake, Turkey is full of buildings constructed using sub-par materials and long-discredited construction techniques that immediately crumble when faced with a strong tremor. “This saddens me deeply as an engineer,” Turkkan said. “If we managed to get everyone on board, we could have either reinforced or rebuilt all defective buildings in the past 20 years. We could have saved at least 5,000 of the buildings that we lost on Monday from complete destruction. We could have saved many, many lives.”

Experts believe the government and local authorities could have taken further precautions to ensure all buildings were safe and earthquake design regulations are being implemented in all contexts. “For years we held conferences, wrote reports and sent them to local authorities. We told them big earthquakes will inevitably hit cities like Hatay and Gaziantep again,” Tuysuz said. “We explained to them however strong, no building built directly on a fault line can survive an earthquake – it would be torn apart. We said we should create accurate fault-line maps for the entire country and transform areas directly on active fault lines into green zones with construction bans. No one listened.” Several schools, administrative buildings, hospitals and even the headquarters of Turkey’s Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) in Hatay also collapsed on Monday.

Exercise 1: Write T (true), F (false) or NG (not given) in front of the following statements

1. Turkish authorities decided to change building regulations after the earthquake of 2022.
2. Murat Kurum became influential in the Turkish government.
3. Building standards in Turkey are not the cause of the devastation caused by the recent earthquake.
4. Not all buildings we build according to national standards.
5. Fault lines are not supposed to have building on them.
6. The last earthquake demonstrated that experts’ voices were not taken into account.

Exercise 2: Answer the following questions about the text. Use your own words

1. What did the Turkish authorities pledge to do after the 2022 earthquake? (1 pt) (2 lines max.)
2. Does Turkey have a good construction code regarding earthquakes? (1 pt) (2 lines max.)
3. Why did the last earthquake have such a devastating effect? (2 pt) (3 lines max.)

Exercise 3: Writing

Burkina Faso is in an area with a very low risk of earthquakes. Write a 10-line message to your a friend to explain him/her why it is still important for the country to have quality infrastructure. (5 pts)

Part II – Grammar

Write the number of the sentence and the letter corresponding to the correct answer. Examples: 1-A; 2-B; 3-C; 4-D (5 pts)

1. My favorite subject is _____ history, but I'm not very good at _____ math.
A) * / the B) a / a C) the / the D) * / *
2. Ankara is _____ capital of Turkey. A) the B) a C) * D) an
3. I need _____ help with my homework. Are you free? A) a few B) much C) any D) some
4. Please have _____ cake. A) a B) * C) the D) an
5. How often do you eat _____ chocolate? A) the B) an C) * D) a
6. How long _____ in Paris? A) do you live B) are you living C) have you been living D) you live
7. Anna _____ a good job. A) finds B) has found C) founded D) has been finding
8. _____ I was in Paris, I made a lot of friends. A) While B) During C) For D) In
9. I was in hospital _____ three weeks. A) while B) during C) for D) in
10. _____ my stay in hospital, the nurses looked after me very well. A) While B) During C) For D) In
11. Sarah's English is getting better. She _____ a lot of English since she _____ here. A) learnt / has come B) has learnt / has come C) has learnt / came D) learnt / came
12. 32. Mike and Jack _____ here five months ago. They _____ in this city for five months.
A) came / have been B) have come / have been C) come / were D) has come / has been
13. I _____ a new flat a few months ago. A) bought B) have been buying C) have bought D) buy
14. The phone rang _____ I was having supper. A) while B) during C) for D) in
15. I lived in Paris _____ several years. A) while B) during C) for D) in
16. David can go to bed now. He _____ his homework. A) finish B) has finished C) finishes D) finished
17. Alison _____ in Chicago, but she would like to go there one day.
A) was B) has been C) wasn't D) has never been
18. Let's have _____ ice-cream. A) a B) * C) an D) the
19. I eat _____ apple every day. A) the B) a C) an D) *
20. I'd like _____ glass of milk, please. A) the B) a C) an D) *

Part I: Reading – Comprehension. Read the following text and answer the questions about it.

Reports on COVID origin reignite conspiracy theories about virus

COVID-19's origins remain hazy. Three years after the start of the pandemic, it is still unclear whether the coronavirus that causes the disease leaked from a lab or spread to humans from an animal. This much is known: When it comes to COVID-19 misinformation, any new report on the virus's origin quickly triggers a relapse and a return of misleading claims about the virus, vaccines and masks that have reverberated since the pandemic began. It happened again this week after the US Department of Energy confirmed that a classified report determined, with low confidence that the virus escaped from a lab. Within hours, online mentions of conspiracy theories involving COVID-19 began to rise, with many commenters saying the classified report was proof they were right all along. Far from definitive, the Energy Department's report is the latest of many attempts by scientists and officials to identify the origin of the virus, which has now killed nearly seven million people after being first detected in the central Chinese city of Wuhan in late 2019.

Nevertheless, others in the US intelligence community disagree, and there is no consensus. Many scientists believe the likeliest explanation is that the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 jumped from animals to humans, possibly at Wuhan's Huanan market, a scenario backed up by multiple studies and reports. The World Health Organization has said that while an animal origin remains most likely, the possibility of a lab leak must be investigated further before it can be ruled out. People should be open-minded about the evidence used in the Energy Department's assessment, according to virologist Angela Rasmussen. However, she said that without evaluating the evidence contained in the classified report, there is no reason to challenge the conclusion that the virus spread naturally. "We can and do know what the scientific evidence shows," Rasmussen tweeted Tuesday. "The available evidence still shows zoonotic emergence at Huanan market."

Many of those citing the report as proof, however, seemed uninterested in the evidence. They seized on the report and said it suggests the experts were wrong when it came to masks and vaccines, too. "School closures were a failed and catastrophic policy. Masks are ineffective. And harmful," said a tweet that has been read nearly 300,000 times since Sunday. "COVID came from a lab. Everything we skeptics said was true." Many of the conspiracy theories contradict each other and the findings in the Energy Department report. (402 words)

Adapted from Aljazeera <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/3/1/reports-on-covid-origin-reignite-conspiracy-theories-about-virus>

Exercise 1: Write T (true), F (false) or NG (not given) in front of the following statements (3 pts)

1. Nobody knows the origin of COVID-19 for sure.
2. The pandemic claimed the lives of millions of people.
3. The virus was detected for the first time in Asia.
4. COVID-19 came from a Chinese dog.
5. Conspiracy theory does not value scientific evidence.
6. According to conspiracy theory, governments did well in closing public places.

Exercise 2: Answer the following questions about the text. Use your own words

1. Does new information reduces conspiracy theories? Why? or Why not? (1 pt) (2 lines max.)
2. Was the spread of the COVID-19 virus caused by voluntary human action? Justify your answer. (1 pt) (2 lines max.)
3. What is a conspiracy theory you have personally heard of? (2 pt) (3 lines max.)

Exercise 3: Writing

In your opinion, what is the best strategy to convince people that COVID-19 is real? (6 to 10 lines; 3 pts)

Part II – Precis Writing

Write a precis of the text. (to 20%; 5 pts)

Part III – Grammar

Write the number of the sentence and the letter corresponding to the correct answer. Examples: 1-A; 2-B; 3-C; 4-D (5 pts)

1. The house ... I live in is very beautiful.
A) * B) who C) where D) whom
2. Mary... go out last weekend.
A) did not B) do not C) not D) never
3. This is the house ... I was born.
A) in B) where C) when D) why
4. Would you like ... water?
A) a B) some C) an D) no
5. I know ... I want to do in the future.
A) that B) this C) which D) what
6. She knows ... you are a liar.
A) what do/do B) that C) which D) where
7. I'm ... class ... eight other students.
A) in/for B) at/of C) in/with D) at/off
8. Where ... you going tonight?
A) do B) is C) does D) are
9. ... summer, I play tennis ... Sundays.
A) In/in B) At/on C) In/on D) At/in
10. Malia ... French and German.
A) speaks B) are speaking C) speak D) to speak