

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Reading Comprehension

The nature versus nurture debate is one of the oldest issues in psychology. The debate centers on the relative contributions of genetic inheritance and environmental factors to human development. In plain English is a child bad or good because he or she was influenced by the people, and places that he or she grew up in (nurture), or are we born with something in our DNA that determines if we will grow up to be good or bad (nature). Some philosophers such as Plato and Descartes suggested that certain things are inborn, or that they simply occur naturally regardless of environmental influences (nature). Other well-known thinkers such as John Locke believed in what is known as *tabula rasa*, which suggests that the mind begins as a blank slate. According to this notion, everything that we are and all of our knowledge is determined by our experience (nurture).

For example, when a person achieves tremendous academic success, did they do so because they are genetically predisposed to be successful or is it a result of an enriched environment? Today, the majority of experts believe that behavior and development are influenced by both nature and nurture. However, the issue still rages on in many areas such as in the debate on intelligence.

By Kendra Cherry

1. Describe the two main arguments in this passage? \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. What 2 inferences (educated guesses) can be made about John Locke and Plato? \_\_\_\_\_
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3. What is the author's tone (what adjectives would you use to describe the author e.g. neutral, positive, negative, biased, historical) ? \_\_\_\_\_
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4. What type of passage is this (e.g. news article, novel, textbook, biography, autobiography, poem)? \_\_\_\_\_
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5. What type of style is in this passage? (Come up with adjectives to describe how its written e.g. historical, informative etc.) \_\_\_\_\_
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6. What will the author describe next? (don't say 'nothing') \_\_\_\_\_
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7. The phrase "tabula rasa" in line 8 means? \_\_\_\_\_
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8. The phrase "genetically predisposed" in line 12 means \_\_\_\_\_
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Mr Stevens, I am outraged that you can sit there and utter what you have just done as though you were discussing orders for the larder. I simply cannot believe it. You are saying Ruth and Sarah are to be dismissed on the grounds that they are Jewish?’

‘Miss Kenton, I have just this moment explained the situation to you fully. His lordship has made the decision and there is nothing for you and me to debate over.’

‘Does it occur to you, Mr Stevens, that to dismiss Ruth and Sarah on these grounds would be simply – *wrong*? I will not stand for such things. I will not work in a house in which such things can occur.’

‘Miss Kenton, I will ask you not to excite yourself and to conduct yourself in a manner befitting your position. This is a very straightforward matter. If his lordship wishes these particular contracts to be discontinued, then there is little more to be said.’

‘I am warning you, Mr Stevens, I will not continue to work in such a house. If my girls are dismissed, I will also leave.’

‘Miss Kenton, I am surprised to find you reacting in this manner. Surely I don’t have to remind you that our professional duty is not our own foibles and sentiments, but the wishes of our employer.’

‘I’m telling you, Mr Stevens, if you dismiss my girls tomorrow, it will be wrong, a sin, as any sin ever was one and I will not continue to work in such a house.’

From Kazuo Ishiguro’s “*The Remains of the Day*”

9. The word ‘utter’ in the first paragraph means? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. What warning does Miss Kenton make to Mr. Stevens? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. What inferences can you make about Miss Kenton and Mr. Stevens? \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. What type of passage is this (e.g. news article, an essay, novel, textbook, biography, autobiography, poem)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

13. What type of style is in this passage? (Come up with adjectives to describe how its written) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

14. What is Mr. Stevens rationale for dismissing the girls? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

15. What is the purpose of this passage? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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16. The best title for this passage would be \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Coffee has played an important role in many societies throughout modern history. In Africa and Yemen, it was used in religious ceremonies. As a result, the Ethiopian Church banned its

consumption until the reign of Emperor Menelik II of Ethiopia. It was banned in Ottoman Turkey in the 17th century for political reasons, and was associated with rebellious political activities in Europe. Noted as one of the world's largest, most valuable legally traded commodities (after oil), coffee has become a vital cash crop for many Third World countries. Over one hundred million people in developing countries have become dependent on coffee as their primary source of income. Coffee has become the primary export and backbone for African countries like Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, and Ethiopia as well as many Central American countries.

A coffeehouse in Palestine (1900). Coffee was initially used for spiritual reasons. At least 1,000 years ago, traders brought coffee across the Red Sea into Arabia (modern-day Yemen), where Muslim monks began cultivating the shrub in their gardens. At first, the Arabians made wine from the pulp of the fermented coffee berries. This beverage was known as qishr (kisher in modern usage) and was used during religious ceremonies.

Coffee became the substitute beverage in spiritual practices where wine was forbidden. Coffee drinking was briefly prohibited by Muslims as haraam in the early years of the 16th century, but this was quickly overturned. European travelers to the Near East brought back stories of the unusual dark black beverage. By the 17th century, coffee had made its way to Europe and was becoming popular across the continent. Opponents were overly cautious, calling the beverage the 'bitter invention of Satan.' With the coming of coffee to Venice in 1615, the local clergy condemned it. The controversy was so great that Pope Clement VIII was asked to intervene. Before making a decision however, he decided to taste the beverage for himself. He found the drink so satisfying that he gave it Papal approval.

Despite such controversy, in the major cities of England, Austria, France, Germany and Holland, coffee houses were quickly becoming centers of social activity and communication. In England 'penny universities' sprang up, so called because for the price of a penny one could purchase a cup of coffee and engage in stimulating conversation. By the mid-17th century, there were over 300 coffee houses in London, many of which attracted patrons with common interests, such as merchants, shippers, brokers and artists. Many businesses grew out of these specialized coffee houses. Lloyd's of London, for example, came into existence at the Edward Lloyd's Coffee House.

From Aytoun Ellis' *"The History of the Coffee Houses"*

17. What contribution to coffee consumption did Pope Clement VIII make?\_\_\_\_\_

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18. What beverage did coffee replace as a spiritual drink?\_\_\_\_\_

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19. By the mid-1700s there were how many coffee houses in London?\_\_\_\_\_

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20. What famous business grew out of a coffee house?\_\_\_\_\_

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21. What type of style is in this passage? (Come up with adjectives to describe how its written)\_\_\_\_\_

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22. In what year did coffee come to Venice? \_\_\_\_\_  
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23. How did the European travellers describe coffee in their stories? \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

24. What Ethiopian emperor overturned the ban on coffee \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

25. According to the passage what countries in Africa export coffee? \_\_\_\_\_  
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