

READING COMPREHENSION

PASSAGE

If it's possible for entire personality types to go in and out of fashion (remember when laid-back was in and uptight was out?) then the Nineties may well go down as the decade of Compulsive Chic.

People who used to go around saying, "I'm so disorganized", a code, as everyone knew, for "I'm so zany and creative and warm and wonderful" are piping down. The trendy plaint-if you haven't noticed-is "I'm so compulsive" (meaning: "I get things done"). At a time when being in control has become the mantra of a whole generation, being compulsive is seen as the only way to achieve all one's goals.

In fact, "compulsive" means a lot of things: ranging from the benign to the bizarre, from garden variety ashtray-emptying to nonstop shopping to the marathon hand washing of full-blown obsessive-compulsive disorder. All of these, oddly, appear to be either more in evidence or more talked about these days. Which raises a number of interesting questions.

When are compulsions-the hyper-neat house, the never-missing-an-exercise-class, the need to shopshopshop-helpful and when are they over the top? Sometimes this is so obvious; sometimes it's a fine line. What might a bout of compulsive behavior symbolize-about an individual's emotional state? About our society? And what can be done about compulsiveness when it starts running amok?

Most experts agree that ordinary, everyday, half-of-us-have-it compulsiveness is a nonproblem. "What we call the compulsive character style-the perfectly normal but slightly obsessive, meticulous, perfectionistic approach to things-is often quite helpful and productive. Occasional checking, wondering if one has forgotten something-that's normal," says Dr. Joseph DeVeugh Geiss, a director of clinical research from Summit, New Jersey.

Maybe a little better than normal. "Compulsiveness correlates with intelligence and perfectionism," says New York psychologist Loretta Walder, PhD. "It's well-represented in the professions-in surgeons, lawyers, accountants, entrepreneurs, chefs. The word is that, 70 percent of medical students have this character style-which may help to explain its good press among those who succeed in becoming doctors.

Walder claims, "What compulsive behavior' does for a person is to organize chaos and reduce anxiety. If a woman has six thousand things to do, it helps to make lists, stick to schedules, prioritize; it's okay to be a little rigid. When someone's feeling overwhelmed, the routines of doing things in a set, ritualistic pattern can prevent confusion and scatteredness. In general, any high level achievement that requires a person to be compulsive in professional life has a carryover into one's personal.

"Compulsive behavior is about control," asserts Sharon Hymer, an associate professor of psychology at New York University. "Ironically, the more compulsive the behavior, the more out of control the person probably feels deep down. However, one doesn't have to be a I compulsive type to act compulsively. Just as even the most frenetically neat people often have little pockets of chaos in their lives-overflowing closets or handbags. So the generally laid-back have areas of drivenness. There's compulsive shopping, compulsive talking, compulsive eating, dieting, exercising, party going -you name it and someone has probably worked up a compulsion around it."

Strictly speaking, most of these urges aren't compulsions in the textbook sense. There's a distinct difference involved: True compulsions usually involve some form of counting, checking or cleaning-and no fun, only a grim sense of "gotta do it." But some of the features are similar: low self-esteem, a consequent need to assert control over some facet of one's life, stress acting as a trigger-and constant uncertainty, so, that whatever one has, does or says, never quite suffices.

"Narrowing it down, the symbolism of; one's unconscious choice is almost embarrassingly obvious," says Dr. Hymer. "The compulsive eater is trying to fill up a void in her life; the, compulsive talker is saying, "I don't think anyone will listen to me, so I have to control the situation by going on and on. The compulsive cleaner or exerciser is seeking self-esteem through a

perfect body or pristine house. But it doesn't work, because too lean or too clean is never enough,"

Still, one might not be a compulsive shopper, talker, party goer. One might merely be a passionate collector, a brilliant storyteller, a bon vivant might one not ? Georgia Witkin, Ph. D., assistant clinical professor of psychiatry at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in NYC and' author of Quick Fixes & Small Comforts, suggests asking these questions: Is the behavior realistic? How does it leave you feeling afterward? What are the consequences? Is it possible to stop? And-since compulsions often start as anxiety reducers-is the hobby / passion/ compulsion covering up an underlying problem? If a person gets the feeling, he or she is winning the game but losing at real life, it's time to rethink.

When compulsiveness goes from being a coping style-for good or ill-and takes over the entire persona, it becomes what psychiatrists call a compulsive personality. It's the classic condition of someone who is cold, unemotional, rigid, moralistic and an unbearable perfectionist," so says Michael Liebowitz, M.D., director of the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center Anxiety Disorders Clinic.

"It's rampant right now," says Jay Lefer, M.D., associate professor of psychiatry at New York Medical College. "It's really a consequence of how people adapt to society. The hysteria was nineteenth-century Vienna: the obsessive-compulsive is late-twentieth-century America. People feel helpless in urban society-and helplessness leads to a necessity to control oneself and others. The compulsive personality develops in an attempt to protect self-esteem."

1. Which of the following would best concur with the contents of the passage ?
 - A. A compulsive person is liked by all and is a role model for others to emulate.
 - B. The urge to protect self-esteem results in the development of compulsive personality.
 - C. A compulsive person is not always meticulous and obsessive, a casual approach to things can also be there.
 - D. A compulsive behaviour in professional life has no linkage with that of a personal one.
2. All of the following is true, as per the passage, except that :
 - A. a person who is compulsive in professional life invariably becomes so in personal life.
 - B. true compulsions do not involve fun but call for seriousness.
 - C. being compulsive is the only way to achieve one's goals.
 - D. None of the above.
3. As per the passage, compulsiveness :
 - A. correlates with intelligence.
 - B. is an index of perfectionism.
 - C. is necessary for a person to achieve a high level of excellence.
 - D. All of the above.
4. According to the passage, through compulsive behaviour, a person :
 - A. loses mental balance and becomes hysteric.
 - B. loses clarity of thinking on account of anxiety and anger clouding the thought process.
 - C. organises chaos and reduces anxiety.
 - D. is given an outlet for self-assertion.
5. Which of the following best fits in as the characteristic of compulsive personality, as per the passage ?
 - A. Warm, easy going, inspiring and emulatory.
 - B. Enigmatic, puzzling, inconclusive and vague.

- C. Cold, unemotional, rigid, moralistic and an unbearable perfectionist.
- D. Imposing, dogmatic, non-secular and unbending.

6. The central idea of the passage is best represented by which of the following ?

- A. Compulsive behaviour is necessary for one to assume power.
- B. For compulsive behaviour to be beneficial, a moderate exhibition of it is needed.
- C. Emotional state of an individual is indexed by compulsive behaviour.
- D. People around have to be watchful of the compulsive behavior of a person and should not get disturbed or agitated.

7. The passage has been handled in a manner which is :

- A. objective
- B. biased
- C. not well-based
- D. disputable

8. A suitable title for the passage is :

- A. Compulsive Behaviour - A Tool For Acquiring Power.
- B. The Damage Caused By Compulsive Behaviour.
- C. Compulsive Behaviour - Reflection Of A Sick Mind.
- D. Coping With Compulsive Behaviour To Reap Benefits.

9. The passage is most likely an extract from :

- A. the description of eccentric and erratic behaviour of divisional heads, as experienced by the subordinates.
- B. the research and psychological studies on the behaviour of workaholics and go-getters.
- C. an analytical, well documented and well researched article on the tendency for one to become meticulous, perfectionist, a go-getter and safeguard self esteem.
- D. the review of a book probing the mentality of persons, who have suffered from nervous breakdowns and are wrecks.

10. Which of the following can be correctly inferred from the passage ?

- A. A balance is required for a person to behave responsibly with all members of the society.
- B. Mental stability is called for to cope with extreme situations.
- C. Unless the urge and the drive is not powerful or strong, things would not move.
- D. Being compulsive is the only way to achieve all goals, as being in control is necessary for today's generations.

Answer Keys

1.(B) 2.(D) 3.(D) 4.(C) 5.(C) 6.(B) 7.(A) 8.(D) 9.(C) 10.(D)

SPOT THE ERROR

11. Have the trip to Kashmir (1) / this autumn (2)/ and weave (3)/ romance in your life. (4)/ No error (5)

12. He had already sent (1) / me word (2)/ that his arrival (3)/ was scheduled for thursday (4)/ No error (5)

13. I (1)/ went to a theatre (2)/ yesterday (3)/ with some people (4)/ No error (5)

14. Having finished his breakfast (1)/ he started working (2)/ on the problem (3)/ that had been awaiting disposal for the long time (4)/ No error (5)

15. The new railway line (1)/ will greatly improve (2)/ transport and communication (3) / in eastern part of the country (4)/ No error (5)
 16. Every man, woman and child (1) / is now aware of (2) / the terrible consequences of (3)/ habit of smoking (4)/ No error (5)
 17. The rich cannot accumulate (1)/ the wealth without (2)/ the co—operation (3)/ of poor in the society (4)/ No error (5)
 18. Money (1)/ which is a source of (2)/ the happiness in life (3)/ becomes a source of peril and confusion unless we control it (4)/ No error (5)

11.(A) 12.(B) 13.(B) 14.(D) 15. (D) 16. (D) 17. (D) 18. (C)

FILL IN THE BLANK

19. After they had shouted at each other, they decided to it up.
 (a) do (b) get (c) make (d) take

ANSWER-C

20. They are very good friends and on well with each other.
 (a) do (b) get (c) make (d) take

ANSWER-B

21. The firm has expanded and they want to on extra staff.
 (a) do (b) get (c) make (d) take

ANSWER-D

22. She's good at writing stories for children and is always keen to up new plots.
 (a) do (b) get (c) make (d) take

ANSWER-C

23. As we don't have much money at the moment, we've decided to without certain luxuries.
 (a) do (b) get (c) make (d) take

ANSWER-A

24. We mustn't be late this morning because today is when the new boss is going to over.
 (a) do (b) get (c) make (d) take

ANSWER-D

25. Most of the telephone lines were destroyed in the storm last night and so it's almost impossible tothrough to anybody today.
 (a) do (b) get (c) make (d) take

ANSWER-B

26. I dare you're right.
 (a) tell (b) told (c) tells (d) say

ANSWER-D

SENTENCE IMPROVEMENT

27. The prisoner's dilemma is a fundamental problem in game theory, which demonstrates why two people might not cooperate even if it is in both their best interests to do it.

- A. fundamental problem in game theory, which demonstrates why two people might not cooperate even if it is in both their best interests to do it
 B. fundamental problem in game theory demonstrating why two people might not cooperate even if it was both in their best interests to do so
 C. problem fundamental to game theory that demonstrates why two people might not cooperate even if it is in both their best interests to do it
 D. fundamental problem in game theory that demonstrates two people who might not cooperate even if it is in both their best interests to do it
 E. fundamental problem in game theory that demonstrates why two people might not cooperate even if it is in both their best interests to do so

Answer – E

28. In 1994 agreements existed between Canada and several countries in Europe, agreements that allowed any car authorized in one participating country to be sold in any of the others.

- A. existed between Canada and several countries in Europe, agreements that allowed any car authorized in one
 B. had existed between Canada and several countries in Europe, agreements that allowed any car authorized in one
 C. existed among Canada and several countries in Europe, which allowed any car authorized in one

- D. had existed between Canada and several countries in Europe, which allowed any car authorized in one
- E. existed between Canada or several countries in Europe, agreements that allowed any car authorized in that

Answer – A

29. According to a new *Science* journal paper, the exquisite balance and near gravity-defying grace of cats extends to the way they drink.

- A. the exquisite balance and near gravity-defying grace of cats extends to the way they drink
- B. the exquisite balance and near gravity-defying grace of cats extend to the way it drinks
- C. the exquisite balance as well as the near gravity-defying grace of cats extend to the way they drink
- D. the exquisite balance and near gravity-defying grace of cats are extensions of the way it drinks
- E. the exquisite balance and near gravity-defying grace of cats extend to the way they drink

Answer – E

30. According to a new study that is the first to explain the physics of animal self-drying, wet dogs and other wet animals shake their body in such a precise and effective manner that washing machine designers are taking notice of these.

- A. wet dogs and other wet animals shake their body in such a precise and effective manner that washing machine designers are taking notice of these.
- B. wet dogs and other wet animals are shaking their bodies in so precise and effective a manner that washing machine designers are taking notice of this.
- C. wet dogs and other wet animals shakes their bodies in a precise and effective manner so as to cause washing machine designers to take notice of this.
- D. wet dogs and other wet animals shake their bodies in such a precise and effective manner that washing machine designers are taking notice of this.
- E. wet dogs and other wet animals shake its body with such a precise and effective manner that washing machine designer is taking notice of this.

Answer – D

31. Citing well known challenges to the long term care insurance industry, MetLife has said that it would stop underwriting new long term care policies of individuals since December.

- A. MetLife has said that it would stop underwriting new long term care policies of individuals since December.
- B. MetLife said that they would stop underwriting of new long term care policies for individuals from December.
- C. MetLife is saying that it will stop underwriting long term new care policies for individuals after December.
- D. MetLife said that it would stop underwriting new long term care policies for individuals after December.
- E. MetLife said it would be stopping underwriting new long term care policies for individuals after December.

Answer – D

32. Preliminary studies at Harvard and Ohio State, among other institutions, suggests that engaging students in class through a device as familiar to them as a cell phone increase its understanding of material that may otherwise be conveyed in traditional lectures.

- A. suggests that engaging students in class through a device as familiar to them as a cell phone increase its understanding of material that may otherwise be conveyed in
- B. suggest that to engage students in class through familiar devices to them as a cell phone increases their understanding of material that may otherwise have to be conveyed in
- C. suggest that engaging students in class through a device as familiar to them as a cell phone increases their understanding of material that may otherwise be conveyed in
- D. suggests that engaging students in class through a device so familiar to them as a cell phone will increase its understanding of material that may otherwise be conveyed in
- E. suggest that while engaging students in class through a device as familiar to them as a cell phone increases the understanding of material that may otherwise be conveyed from

Answer – C

33. Like cabbage, brussels sprouts does well if it is shredded and mixed with a tart apple, lemon juice, and a dressing of Dijon mustard and mayonnaise.

- A. Like cabbage, brussels sprouts does well if it is shredded and mixed with a tart apple, lemon juice, and
- B. As cabbage, brussels sprouts do well if they are shredded and mixed with a tart apple, lemon juice, and
- C. Like cabbage, brussels sprouts do well when they are shredded and mixed with a tart apple, lemon juice, as well as
- D. As cabbage, brussels sprouts does well if they are shredded and mixed with a tart apple, lemon juice, and
- E. Like cabbage, brussels sprouts do well if they are shredded and mixed with a tart apple, lemon juice, and

Answer – E

34. In the Music Box volleyball game, players can hit the ball with their hands while they are on their side of the net, but they have to butt it with their heads to hit it over the net.

- A. ball with their hands while they are on their side of the net, but they have to butt it with their heads to hit
- B. ball with their hands while it is on their side of the net, but they have to butt it with their heads to hit
- C. ball using their hands while it is on their side of the net, but they have to butt them with their heads for hitting
- D. ball with their hands while it is on their side of the net, having to butt it with their heads to hit
- E. ball with their hands while they are on their side of the net, but they have to butt those with their heads to hit

Answer – B

CRITICAL REASONING

35. A public health official reported that 60 percent of the children at summer school have never had the measles or chicken pox, and that of this 60 percent not one child has ever been observed to eat the cheese served in the school lunches. From this he concluded that children who abstain from cheese products will protect themselves from most childhood disease.

Each of the following, if true, would strengthen the official's argument EXCEPT:

- (A) Medically speaking, whatever serves to inhibit measles and chicken pox will generally inhibit the entire spectrum of childhood diseases.

- (B) The observations the official carried out were extremely accurate, and all those observed to abstain from cheese at school did, in fact, abstain.
- (C) The children's eating habits are the same at school as anywhere else, and those who abstain from cheese products at school do so in general.
- (D) Recent research has pointed to a deficiency in cheese products as one of the major causes of measles and chicken pox infections.
- (E) Most cheeses and cheese products harbor bacteria that are known to be causative agents for many childhood diseases,
- Ans d

36. The cause of the peculiar columnar growth pattern displayed by junipers growing near burning underground veins of lignite coal has never been convincingly explained. Until recently, the accepted theory posited that the abundance of carbon monoxide in the local atmosphere caused the columnar growth. However, a new theory holds that the cause is the persistent heat present near these underground fires which, while not intense enough to inflame the trees, can nonetheless change their normal growth pattern.

The existence of which of the following would provide the strongest support for the new theory?

- (A) A columnar juniper growing in an atmosphere of intense heat and an absence of carbon monoxide
- (B) A normal juniper growing in an atmosphere of intense heat and an absence of carbon monoxide
- (C) A columnar juniper growing in an atmosphere of normal heat and a high concentration of carbon monoxide
- (D) A normal juniper growing in an atmosphere of intense heat and a high concentration of carbon monoxide
- (E) A columnar juniper growing in an atmosphere of intense heat and a high concentration of carbon monoxide

ans. A

37. In a nature reserve in India, people are sometimes attacked by tigers. It is believed that the tigers will only attack people from behind. So for the past few years many workers in the reserve have started wearing masks depicting a human face on the back of their heads.

While many area residents remain skeptical, no worker wearing one of these masks has yet been attacked by a tiger.

Which of the statements below, if true, would best support the argument of those who advocate the use of the mask?

- (A) Many workers in the nature reserve who do not wear the masks have been attacked recently by tigers.
- (B) Workers in other nature reserves who wear similar masks have not been attacked recently by tigers.
- (C) No tigers have been spotted on the nature reserve in recent years.
- (D) Many of the workers who wear the masks also sing while they work in order to frighten away any tigers in the area.
- (E) The tigers have often been observed attacking small deer from in front rather than from behind.

Ans a

38. Although statistics and definitions are inexact, educated guesses put the number of refugees worldwide at well over 10 million. The overwhelming majority prefer to return to their native land than to emigrate to a foreign one. The millions of refugees from Afghanistan are sufficient proof: Despite the toll the war and subsequent fighting have taken on their country, very few have applied for permission to emigrate.

Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the argument above?

- (A) Most refugees are as reluctant to emigrate as are the refugees from Afghanistan.
- (B) The refugees from Afghanistan fled what they considered political oppression rather than economic disaster.
- (C) Most of the children born to refugees prefer to remain in their adoptive country rather than return to the land their parents left.
- (D) Although refugees flee their homes for a variety of different reasons, the overwhelming majority are looking for improved living conditions.
- (E) The number of refugees worldwide has risen dramatically over the last ten years.

Ans a

39. Toughened hiring standards have not been the primary cause of the present staffing shortage in public schools. The shortage of teachers is primarily caused by the fact that in recent years teachers have not experienced any improvements in working conditions and their salaries have not kept pace with salaries in other professions.

Which of the following, if true, would most support the claims above?

- (A) Many teachers already in the profession would not have been hired under the new hiring standards.
- (B) Today more teachers are entering the profession with a higher educational level than in the past.
- (C) Some teachers have cited higher standards for hiring as a reason for the current staffing shortage.
- (D) Many teachers have cited low pay and lack of professional freedom as reasons for their leaving the profession.
- (E) Many prospective teachers have cited the new hiring standards as a reason for not entering the profession

The correct answer is D.

40. A cost-effective solution to the problem of airport congestion is to provide high-speed ground transportation between major cities lying 200 to 500 miles apart. The successful implementation of this plan would cost far less than expanding existing airports and would also reduce the number of airplanes clogging both airports and airways.

Which of the following, if true, could be proponents of the plan above most appropriately cite as a piece of evidence for the soundness of their plan?

- A. An effective high-speed ground-transportation system would require major repairs to many highways and mass-transit improvements.
- B. One-half of all departing flights in the nation's busiest airport head for a destination in a major city 225 miles away.
- C. The majority of travelers departing from rural airports are flying to destinations in cities over 600 miles away.
- D. Many new airports are being built in areas that are presently served by high-speed ground-transportation systems.
- E. A large proportion of air travelers are vacationers who are taking long-distance flights.

The correct answer is B.