**English Reading Skills and Public Speaking: Comprehensive Test 2**

1. **Read the text below and complete the activities given below:**

# Stepwells of North-western India

During the sixth and seventh centuries, the inhabitants of the current states of Gujarat and Rajasthan in north-western India developed a method to gain access to clean and fresh groundwater during the dry season for drinking, bathing, watering animals and irrigation.

Being unique to this region, stepwells are often architecturally complex and vary widely in size and shape. During their heyday, they were places of gathering, leisure, relaxation and worship for all villagers, specially the lowest classes. Most stepwells are found dotted round the desert areas of Gujarat and Rajasthan, while a few also survive in Delhi. In Gujarat, they are called ‘vav’ and in Rajasthan, ‘baori’. As their name suggests, stepwells comprise a series of stone steps descending from ground level to the water source, normally an underground aquifer, as it recedes following the rains. When the water level was high, the user needed only to descend a few steps to reach it; when it was low, several levels would have to be negotiated.

Some wells are vast and open craters with hundreds of steps paving each sloping side, often in tiers. Others are more elaborate, with long stepped passages leading to the water via several storeys. Built from stone and supported by pillars, they also included pavilions that sheltered visitors from the relentless heat.

Thousands of wells were constructed in different areas of north- western India during the century, but the majority is not eligible for usage now; many are derelict and dry, as groundwater has been diverted for industrial. Their condition has not been improved by recent dry spells: southern Rajasthan suffered an eight-year drought from 1996 and 2004.

In Patan, the state’s ancient capital, the stepwell of ‘Rani Ki Vav’ (Queen’s Stepwell) is the finest example of current time. It was built by Queen Udayamati in the late 11th century but became silted up following a flood in the 13th century. Being 65 metres long, 20 metres wide and 27 metres deep, ‘Rani Ki Vav’ features 500 sculptures carved into niches.

Rajasthan also has a considerable number of wells. The ancient city of Bundi, 200 kilometres south from Jaipur, is renowned for its architecture, including its stepwells. One of the examples is ‘Raniji Ki Baori’, which was built by the queen of the region, Nathavatji, in 1699. Being 46 metres deep, 20 metres wide and 40 metres long, the intricately carved monument is one of 21 baoris commissioned in the Bundi area by Nathavatji.

In the old ruined town of Abhaneri, about 95 kilometres east of Jaipur, is ‘Chand Baori’, one of India’s oldest and deepest wells; aesthetically it’s perhaps one of the most dramatic. Built in around 850 AD next to the temple of ‘Harshat Mata’, the ‘baori’ comprises hundreds of zigzagging steps that run along three of its sides, steeply descending 11 storeys.

Still in public use is ‘Neemrana Ki Baori’, located just off the Jaipur–Delhi highway. Constructed in around 1700, it is nine storeys deep, with the last two being underwater. At ground level, there are 86 colonnaded openings from where the visitor descends 170 steps to the deepest water source. Today, following years of neglect, many of these monuments to medieval engineering have been saved by the Archaeological Survey of India, which has recognized the importance of preserving them as part of the country’s rich history. Tourists flock to wells in farthest corners of north- western India to gaze in wonder at these architectural marvels from hundreds of years ago, which serve as a reminder of both the ingenuity and artistry of ancient civilizations.

1. **Write short answers (IN A PHRASE) to the following questions:** 
   * 1. When did the idea of stepwells start in north-western India?

Answer:

* + 1. How long did the people of southern Rajasthan suffer from drought?

Answer:

* + 1. How many sculptures are there in ‘Rani ki Vav’?

Answer:

* + 1. Where is “Neemrana ki Baori” located?

Answer:

1. **From the following list, identify ONLY THREE factors mentioned in the text by putting a tick (√) mark on them.** If you identify more than three, o**ne (1) mark will be deducted for each extra identi**fication:

* Ram Bagh in Agra, the first Mughal garden in India, was designed by the Mughal emperor Babur.
* Most stepwells are found dotted round the desert areas of Gujarat (where they are called vav) and Rajasthan (where they are called baori), while a few also survive in Delhi.
* The stepwells are most common in western India and are also found in the other more arid regions of the Indian subcontinent, extending into Pakistan.
* Stepwells are certainly one of India's most unusual and little-known contributions to architecture.
* One of the examples of Stepwells in Rajasthan is ‘Raniji Ki Baori’, which was built in 1699 by the queen of the region, Nathavatji.
* At ground level, there are 86 colonnaded openings from where the visitor descends 170 steps to the deepest water source.

1. **Read the text carefully and complete the activities given below:**

# Evolution of Silver Screen: from Tradition to Technology

* + - 1. Cinema is full of contradictions in many ways. It is high-tech and old-fashioned at the same time. Today's films are full of digital sound and computer-generated special effects. Hollywood movies like ‘Avatar’, ‘Inception’ or ‘Avengers’ are the finest examples of modern day technology pushed to its very limits with outstanding special effects and digital sounds. Yet they are still stored on celluloid film, the basis of which is more than 100 years old. They are also displayed with projectors and screens that seem to belong to our great grandparents' generation.
      2. Now that we are in the second century of cinema, there are moves to bring the medium right up to date. This will involve revolutionizing not just how films are made but also how they are distributed and presented. The aim is not only to produce and prepare films digitally, but to be able to send them to movie theatres by digital, electronic means. High-resolution digital projectors would then show the film. Supporters say this will make considerable savings at all stages of this chain, particularly for distribution.
      3. With such a major technological revolution on the horizon, it seems strange that the industry is still not sure what to call itself. This may appear a minor point, but the choices, 'digital' cinema and 'electronic' cinema (e-cinema), suggest different approaches to, and aspects of, the business. Digital cinema refers to the physical capture of images; e-cinema covers the whole chain, from production through post-production (editing, addition of special effects and construction of soundtrack) to distribution and projection.
      4. The effects of the new medium are revolutionary. The main selling point of digital cinema is the high resolution and sharpness of the final image. But those who support the old-fashioned approach to film point to the celluloid medium's quality of warmth. A recurring criticism of video is that it may be too good: uncomfortably real, rather like looking through an open window. In 1989, the director of the first full-length American digital high-definition movie admitted that the picture had a 'stark, strange reality to it'.
      5. Even the money-saving aspect of e-cinema is doubted. One expert says that existing cinemas will have to show the new material and not all of them will readily or rapidly furnish themselves with the right equipment. 'E-cinema is seen as a way of saving money, because print costs a lot,' he says. But for that to work, cinemas have to be showing the films because cinemas are the engine that drives the film industry.'
      6. This view has prompted some pro-digital entrepreneurs to take a slightly different approach. HD Thames is looking at reinventing the existing cinema market, moving towards e-theatre, which would use digital video and projection to present plays, musicals and some sporting events to the public. This is not that different from the large-screen TV system that was set up in New York in 1930, and John Logie Baird's experiments with TV in the late 1920s and early 30s.

1. Match each heading below to a paragraph in the text. You need to write the relevant PARAGRAPH NUMBER in the empty column beside each heading: (03)

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| --- | --- |
| **Headings** | **Paragraph numbers** |
| The plans for the future of films |  |
| Integrating other events into cinema |  |
| The contrasts of cinema today |  |
| Uncertainty about financial advantages |  |
| The revolutionary effects of digital cinema |  |
| Confusion about a name |  |

1. **Rewrite the following ‘absolute’ sentences by using ‘HEDGING’ words or phrases given in the brackets. Make grammatical changes if necessary:**

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| **May be Possibly Seems to be Can Some Generally** |

* + 1. Today's films are full of digital sound and computer-generated special effects.

Answer:

* + 1. The film industry is still not sure what to call itself.

Answer:

* + 1. The effects of the new medium are revolutionary.

Answer:

* + 1. E-cinema is not so expensive.

Answer:

* + 1. Cinemas drive the film industry.

Answer:

1. **Identify ONE GENERAL and ONE SPECIFIC sentence in the pairs given below:** 
   * 1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** The effects of the new medium are revolutionary.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The main selling point of digital cinema is the high resolution and sharpness of the final image.

* + 1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Hollywood movies like ‘Avatar’, ‘Inception’ or ‘Avengers’ are the finest examples of modern day technology pushed to its very limits with outstanding special effects and digital sounds.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Today's films are full of digital sound and computer-generated special effects.

* + 1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Now that we are in the second century of cinema, there are moves to bring the medium right up to date.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The aim is not only to produce and prepare films digitally, but to be able to send them to movie theatres by digital, electronic means.

* + 1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** This may appear a minor point, but the choices, 'digital' cinema and 'electronic' cinema (e-cinema), suggest different approaches to, and aspects of, the business.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Digital cinema refers to the physical capture of images; e-cinema covers the whole chain, from production through post-production (editing, addition of special effects and construction of soundtrack) to distribution and projection.

* + 1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** HD Thames is looking at reinventing the existing cinema market, moving towards e-theatre, which would use digital video and projection to present plays, musicals and some sporting events to the public.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ This view has prompted some pro-digital entrepreneurs to take a slightly different approach.

1. **Write the SYNONYM words or phrases of the underlined words in the statements by choosing from the given box below :**

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| **Disconfirmation Organizers Tough plastic Electronic Repeated Technologists Modern** |

* + 1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Digital** cinema refers to the physical capture of images.
    2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ A **recurring** criticism of video is that it may be too good: uncomfortably real, rather like looking through an open window.
    3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ This view has prompted some pro-digital **entrepreneurs** to take a slightly different approach.
    4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Yet they are still stored on **celluloid** film, the basis of which is more than 100 years old.
    5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cinema is full of **contradictions**.

1. **Analyze the VISUAL TEXT given below by taking help from the GLOSSARY. Then, read the following statements carefully. Write “T” if the statement is TRUE, “F” if the statement is FALSE and “N/G” if the statement is not mentioned in the visual text:**

|  |
| --- |
| C:\Users\Teacher\Downloads\Graphic text 1(1).jpg |

Glossary

**Pothole:** a depression or hollow in a road surface.

**Pavement:** footpath, walkway

**Sub base:** A layer of graded base which forms the load bearing structural part of a path below the surface.

**Crack:** split, break; a line on the surface of something which has a split without breaking apart.

**Asphalt:** Combined mixture of bitumen and fine dust used as a surface course on shared paths.

**Expand:** enlarge, extend, develop

**Void:** hole, gap; a completely empty space.

**Subsequent:** following, upcoming; coming after something in time

**Edge:** border, boundary, extremity; the outside limit of an object, area, or surface.

**Crumble:** fall down, fall to pieces, fall apart, collapse; break or fall apart into small fragments, especially as part of a process of deterioration.

**Carve:** cut (a hard material) in order to produce an object, design, or inscription.

**Jackhammer:** a portable pneumatic hammer or drill.

**Rectangle:** a plane figure with four straight sides and four right angles, especially one with unequal adjacent sides, in contrast to a square.

* + 1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Potholes develop when water seeps below the road surface, freezes and expands.
    2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Ice creates a void under the soil when it is melted.
    3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The tires get flat when it falls into a pothole.
    4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ While the vehicles move on the road surface it cracks the pavement.
    5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ “Frost heaves” is caused when water push up on the cracked pavement.

1. **Read the following text and complete the activities given below:**

**Sleepy Teenagers**

Fourteen years old Mariam is fond of sleeping. She says, “I have to be at school early in the weekdays, so in the weekends, I should get to sleep as long as I want.” But on the other hand, Mariam’s mom disagrees with her point of view. She insists that Mariam should get up at the same time every day so that her body will get used to being up early.

According to Saba (2015), both Mariam and her mom are right. Sleeping late on the weekends, which means sleeping more than two hours past the time a person would normally wake up, can greatly disrupt the body’s sleep/wake cycles. Sleeping late in the mornings makes it harder to fall asleep at night. Staying up later at night makes the body tired so that it becomes even harder to get up the next morning. Waking up and going to bed at close to the same times every day makes it easier for the body to get the rest it needs.

However, most teenagers simply do not get as much sleep as they need. Medical Science suggests that teenagers need close to 9 hours of sleep, and most adults need 7 to 8 hours of sleep each night. But studies have shown that the average teenagers only get 6 to 7 hours of sleep on school nights. As a result, they become overtired.

Being overtired leads to a number of problems. Some of them are minor and some are very serious. Ahmed (2012) opines that missing out on sleep can make someone feel grumpy and irritable. Moreover, it can make it harder for the person to handle stress or to control their emotions; they may find that they get angry or feel sad more easily than others. Over time, losing sleep contributes to depression, weight gain, acne, and a less-effective immune system, making it easier for the person to get sick. Being tired greatly affects memory and it also becomes harder to do well in school for a teenager. In addition, it also affects energy levels and coordination and makes it harder for the person to do well in sports and other activities.

A common concept is that teenagers are lazy because they want to sleep all the time. But several studies suggest that the teenagers themselves are not to blame. Their brain chemistry is telling them to stay up late and sleep late in the mornings. According to medical science, a brain chemical called melatonin tells the brain when to start feeling sleepy. This chemical is produced in a teenager’s brain later in the evening that it is for children and adults. So, Mariam’s parents might start feeling sleepy at 10 pm, but Brooke is still wide awake. In the mornings, the adults wake up with their brains ready to go, but a teenager’s brain does not get the same chemical ‘wake up’ signal until a couple hours later.

Teenagers may not have a lot of control over their schedules and what time they have to be at school each day, but there are several things they can do to make sure they get the best sleep possible. First of all, they need to go bed around the same time each night and wake up around the same time each morning. And they also need to make sure not to sleep more than two hours later than the time they normally wake up. Secondly, they should avoid drinking beverages that contain caffeine, such as coffee and soda, after 4 pm. In addition, they should also avoid alcohol, tobacco and sleeping pills. Thirdly, they should take some physical exercise during the day. Lastly, it can be suggested to keep lights low in the evening to help trigger the brain into being sleepy and use bright lights in the morning to signal to your brain to wake up.

1. **Identify and list TWO PROBLEMS OF BEING OVERTIRED from the text in the given space below (in a PHRASE):**

1. **Identify ONE FACT and ONE OPINION in the pairs of statements given below:** 
   * 1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Sleeping late in the mornings makes it harder to fall asleep at night.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** According to Saba (2015), both Mariam and her mom are right.

* + 1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Mariam says, “I have to be at school early in the weekdays, so in the weekends, I should get to sleep as long as I want.”

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Studies have shown that the average teenagers get 6 to 7 hours of sleep on school nights.

* + 1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** A common concept is that teenagers are lazy because they want to sleep all the time.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ According to medical science, a brain chemical called melatonin tells the brain when to start feeling sleepy.

* + 1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Medical Science suggests that teenagers need close to 9 hours of sleep, and most adults need 7 to 8 hours of sleep each night.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Ahmed (2012) opines that missing out on sleep can make someone feel grumpy and irritable.

1. **Complete the summary by using WORDS OR PHRASES from the text. Change the forms of the words if necessary:**

Teenagers nowadays are having a clash between their timings of sleeping and other activities. They lack control over their **(i)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for reaching school everyday. Only by going to bed **(ii)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ both in night and the morning everyday will resolve this. They also need to **(iii)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that they do not sleep more than two hours later than they usually do. **(iv)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the evening also hampers regular sleep cycle, for which, they need to strictly **(v)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ tobacco or any other sedatives. Practicing **(vi)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a day can help to maintain a proper and healthy sleep cycle. Keeping lights dim in the evening helps to **(vii)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to doze off at night and **(viii)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the morning helps brain to be boosted up for starting the day.

1. **Suppose that you are going to give a presentation in the class. Now, prepare an outline using information from the text ‘SLEEPY TEENAGERS’. Suggest a TOPIC and write SPECIFIC PURPOSE. Central idea is given. Prepare 2 SLIDES for your presentation:**

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| **Topic: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **General Purpose: To argue.**  **Specific Purpose: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**  **Central Idea:** Though it is tough for teenagers to maintain a balance between proper sleeping schedule and other activities due to biological reasons, some strategies can be followed to cope up with this problem. |

**Slide 1:**

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| **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |

**Slide 2:**

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THE END