**READING COMPREHENSION**

1. **Paragraph Meaning**

Directions: Read the following selections carefully. Then answer the questions asked and/or the statement under each selection by choosing one of the four possible options marked A,B,C and D.

Most people have romantic notions about pirates. They usually think of Captain Hook from Peter Pan and Captain Blackbeard from Pirates of Caribbean when they think of piracy. However, pirates are actually criminals since they attack ships while on high seas and steal their cargo. However, piracy is a different kind of robbery since it occurs outside the jurisdiction of any government.

Depending on the country they came from and depending in their intensions, pirates are called by other names such as buccaneers, marooners, corsair, fillbuster, and privateers.

A pirate belongs to a kind of sailors who apply their skills in attacking other ships in order to obtain their precious cargo, gold, or the ship itself. Pirates like the infamous Black Bart plunder ships from all nations purely for their personal gain.

Carrying official papers called Marque of Letters from a government or company, privateers acted on behalf of that government of company. For example, England may hire privateers to attack and loot the ships of a country it was at war with. Sometimes, the contents of the Marque were vague so the ship’s captain and his men were free to determine what to take from the ship or even to attack. Nonetheless, these privateers were not spared from punishment once caught even if they acted in behalf of a government or company.

Another kind of pirates is the buccaneers, Unlike the privateers, buccaneers did not carry with them official papers. They were mostly French, English, Dutch who manned ships enabling them to plunder ships on shallow waters like bays and inlets.

1. Where do people get their romantic idea of pirates?
2. Schools
3. Movies
4. Soldiers
5. Songs
6. How do buccaneers, pirates, marooners, and privateers differ?
7. In their captain’s fame or the ship’s prestige
8. In their government or company and flag
9. In their number of crew and size of ship
10. In their country of origin and intensions
11. Even if they carried Marque of Letter, why were privateers tried and punished by nations they were authorized to attack?
12. They attacked and looted the ships enemy countries.
13. They attacked and plundered their own country’s ship.
14. They usually acted beyond the task stated in the Marque
15. They forged the necessary signatures and faked the documents.

Joshua should submit a term paper in English in order to graduate as a member of the swimming team, he wanted to submit an excellent paper without giving up his favorite sport. Joshua researched the different parts of the term paper and set a deadline for each part. This would allow him to finish the paper days before the actual date of submission. He also remembered his English teacher’s advice to choose a topic dearest to them.

1. Joshua will most probably write about
2. Swimming
3. Time management
4. Being a teenager
5. Diligence in doing homework
6. By writing a schedule, Joshua will be able to
7. Spend more time swimming
8. Explore more topics to write about
9. Finish his paper before the deadline
10. Please his teacher with a well-written paper

The Renaissance painter Raphael was working in Florence at the same time as Michelangelo and Leonardo. However, his career was cut short by his death in 1520 when he was thirty-seven years old. In his life, Raphael was considered to be an artist of equal stature to both Michelangelo and Leonardo, despite being thirty-one years younger that Leonardo. Raphael’s great achievement was to create harmonious compositions including figures that appear to be full graceful movement. When Raphael was twenty-five years old, he was commissioned by Pope Julius II to decorate the room in the Vatican named the Stanza della Segnatura. In true Renaissance tradition, this fresco, The School of Athens, is dedicated to the great classical philosophers. At the centre of the painting stand Plato and Aristotle. Portrayed around them are Ptolemy, Euclid, Pythagoras, Socrates, and others.

1. The school of Athens was painted
2. To show the value of good education
3. To decorate the room of Pope Julius II
4. 12 years before Raphael’s death
5. By Raphael to rival Leonardo
6. Ptolemy, Euclid, and Pythagoras are all
7. Popes
8. Painter
9. Scientists
10. Philosophers
11. Raphael could have achieved more in his career were it not for his
12. Lack of sponsor
13. Rivals
14. Death
15. Youth

One day, a fox slipped into a village to find some food. By accident, he fell into a vat of dye. Frightened, he ran to the forest. The dye quickly dried, and the fox’s fur shone a bright blue. The other foxes did not recognize him and asked who he was. The sly fox answered, “I have been sent to be your king. Kneel before me.” Because he did not look any fox they had seen before, the foxes believed him and obeyed.

One fox was suspicious. He called his friends aside and told them to start barking at his command.

When the foxes started barking all together, the king joined in without thinking. The other foxes immediately recognized him for the pretender he was, and they chased him out of the forest.

1. What did the other foxes kneel before the fox and considered it their king?
2. It was different.
3. It was more ferocious.
4. It threatened to eat them all.
5. It had a shinier fur than all of them.
6. Why did the fox bark together with the other foxes?
7. It was proud.
8. It was its true nature.
9. It wanted to show its mighty.
10. It wanted to show its unity with them.

There’s no shorter of terms for innovation: sustaining innovations, incremental innovations, continual improvement programs, organic-growth initiatives, disruptive innovations, breakthrough innovations, new-growth initiatives, white-space and blue ocean strategies. But strategically speaking, all innovations fall into one of the two buckets. In one are innovations that extend today’s business, either by enhancing existing offerings or by improving internal operations. In the other are innovations that generate new growth by reaching new customer segment or new markets, often through new business models.

1. What is the main idea of the article?
2. They may be called differently, but innovations have 2 kinds.
3. Business may be of different varieties but they are united by the need to innovate.
4. The best innovations are those that benefits the people.
5. The most dynamic business models today are those that can adapt to the needs of its market.
6. Which of the following belongs to the second category of innovations?
7. Traditionally known for its engineering courses, Colegio de Madrid is offering new programs and short courses next school year.
8. Talk Dirty To Me is employing hundreds of new personal to serve more people too busy to do their own household chores.
9. Books R Us Bookstore buys Coffee and Cream Coffee Shop to try its hand on the food business.
10. Jollijoy Food is improving its delivery system through digitization.

Maraming tao ang pinanday ng mga suliranin. Halimbawa, ginawa ni Beethoven ang pinakamagaling niyang obra ng siya ay mabingi. Marami ring mga obra ang naisulat sa loob ng piitan. Naisulat ni Sir Walter Raleigh ang Kasaysayan ng Mundo nung siya ay nabilanggo ng 13 taon. Naisulat naman ni Dante Alleghieri and Divina Comedia ng siya ay nahatulan ng kamatayan ng nakakulong ng 20 taon. Ang Pilgrim’s Progress naman ay naisulat ni John Bunyan noong siya ay nakakulong sa piitan ng Bedford. Naipamalas rin ni Abraham Lincoln ang kanyang talino at katatagan noong panahon ng Civil War sa Amerika.

Tulad nila, tayo ay nakararanas ng ng mga suliranin sa buhay. Ang mga suliraning ito ang papanday at huhubog sa ating pagkatao at tatag. Kakambal ng mga suliranin na ito ay ang pagkakataon na matuto at maging mas malakas pa sa susunod na mga pagsubok.

Ang mga suliranin ay panday ng ating buhay at tayo ang bakal. Tulad ng isang bakal, maari tayong pandayin ng mga suliranin upang maging mas makabuluhan. Maari rin naman tayong matunaw at maging isa lamang bagay na walang sapat na gamit. Ito ay sapagkat ang ating mga suliranin ang makakapagpapatatag ng ating determinasyong harapin ng buong tapang anuman ang dumating sa ating buhay.

1. Ano ang pangunahing kaisipan ng talata?
2. Tinuturuan tayong maging metatag ng mga suliranin natin sa buhay.
3. Ang mapiit ng matagal na panahon ay ang pinakamalungkot na maaaring mangyari kaninuman.
4. Maraming obra ang nalikha sa loob ng piitan.
5. Tinutulungan tayo ng ating mga suliranin na manampalataya sa Diyos.
6. Ano ang dalawang bagay na pinaghalintulad sa talata?
7. Suliranin at metal
8. Suliranin at panday
9. Panday at metal
10. Sarili at panday

The influx of immigrants coupled with the replacement of low-skill jobs for American Youth by automation and technology left thousands of American youths unemployed by the late 19th century. Not surprisingly, schools were given the responsibility of dealing with the large number of untrained, unemployed, unschooled, and “un-American” youths, many of whom were now viewed as liabilities to society. Thus, the late 19th and early 20th centuries witnessed a major transformation in the role of the schools. Educational historians have argued that the three distinct agendas shaped this charging role of schools at the turn of the century: (a) the need to assimilate immigrant children into the “American” way of life, (b) the need to prepare students to be future workers in the industrial United States, and (c) the need to provide a custodial function of teaching them the behaviour, attitudes, and actions necessary for maintaining a cohesive social order.

1. Which of the following changed the role of schools during the early 20th century?
2. Crime rate increase
3. Climate change
4. Lack of teachers
5. Youth unemployment
6. According to the article, which of the following is NOT part of schools’ changing role at the turn of century?
7. Preparation
8. Innovation
9. Custodial
10. Assimilation

A new Kansas State University study suggest that beets could help keep out heart healthy. The research reveals that eating two to three medium size of these red roots (or drinking 16 oz. of beet juice) increases blood flow to muscles by 38%. A boost this big can lower high blood pressure and improve mobility in people with heart failure. And even if you don’t have a pre-existing condition, adding beets to you daily diet may prevent future heart issues, researchers say.

1. What can we infer in the article?
2. The color of beets maybe the reason why it is good for blood circulation
3. Beet juice is better than beet roots
4. People with high blood pressure move a lot until they expire from fatigue
5. People with high blood pressure experience poor blood circulation
6. How can beets improve the mobility in people with heart failure?
7. Beets decrease muscle fatigue
8. Beets increase blood circulation in their muscles
9. Beets reduce a person’s carbohydrates intake
10. Beets make people crave less for sweets
11. Which of the following is NOT true?
12. Beets may stop a person from having heart illness
13. Beets are advisable only to those with heart issues.
14. Beets are good for us regardless of our heart condition
15. Beets can be made into a juice drink

It’s hard to pin down exactly when chocolate was born, but it’s clear that it was cherished from the start. For several centuries in pre-modern Latin America, cacao beans were considered valuable enough to use as currency. One bean could be traded for tamale, while 100 beans could purchase a good turkey hen, according to a 16th century Aztec document.

1. According to the article, why has chocolate been valued always?
2. It has always been expensive
3. Only the rich could afford it before
4. It was used as a currency
5. It has always been a symbol of love and courtship
6. Which of the following is NOT true?
7. Nobody knows exactly when chocolates started to be favorite
8. Chocolates were once considered without value.
9. People could buy things using chocolate beans as money
10. The Aztecs have written records since the 16th century
11. **Logical Organization of Ideas**

DIRECTION: The following section consist of paragraphs whose parts are presented in scrambled order. Read each group of sentences and decide what should be the best order in which to put the parts so that form a well-organized paragraph.

1. Ang stress ay may kaugnay din nag alit. Sinasabing kapag ang isang tao ay nakakranas ng stress, mas madali itong magalit at mas madali ring kapitan ng sakit.
2. Maraming pananaliksik ang nagsasaad na maaaring dulot ng paangmatagalang stress sa kalusugan ng isang tao.
3. Pangalawa, maari din silang makaranas ng iba pang suliranin sa kalusugan tulad ng alta presyon (high blood pressure) at sakit sa puso.
4. Una, bumababa ang immune system ng mga taong madalas na nakakaranas ng stress, dahilan para madalas silang magkasakit.
5. Aling pangungusap ang dapat pumangatlo?
6. Alin sa mga pangungusap ang dapat mahuli?

1. An interesting formation of exposed roots adds to the impression of the tree’s character and maturity.
2. The branches must flow up and around the tree like a spiral staircase, forming a balanced pattern around the trunk.
3. There are three main factors in creating balance in a bonsai design: the root spread, the form of the trunk, and the arrangement of the branches.
4. The trunk should taper or narrow to the tip.
5. Which should be the first sentence?
6. Which should be the last sentence?

**Answer key:**

1. B
2. B
3. A
4. A
5. C
6. B
7. D
8. C
9. D
10. C
11. A
12. A
13. A
14. C
15. D
16. B
17. A
18. B
19. B
20. C
21. B
22. D
23. C
24. C
25. B