RNE Training	Reading Task 1402

10. *Установите соответствие* ***тем 1 - 8 текстам A- G.*** *Занесите свои ответы в таблицу. Используйте каждую* ***ЦИФРУ только один раз. В задании одна тема лишняя. Запишите цифры в клетки задания 10***

1. The evolution of bison
2. Safer than before, but not enough
3. The history of taming
4. A beautiful place to be saved
5. Born to be wild
6. Failed attempts to protect
7. Comparing the two species
8. Reasons to domesticate cows

A. It is likely that the modern European bison arose from the steppe bison. Recent research says it appeared as a result of an interbreeding event between the steppe bison and the ancestor of modern cows around 120,000 years ago. At one point, some steppe bison crossbred with the ancestors of the modern yak. After that, a population of steppe bison crossed the Bering Land Bridge to North America. Then the steppe bison spread through the northern parts of North America, where it lived until around 8,000 years ago.

B. The Prioksko-Terrasny Nature Reserve is one of the smallest in Russia. It covers an area of 4,960 hectares on the terraces of the Oka River valley. This is a unique area with its natural diversity of pine and mixed forests, small rivers, streams and marshes. Here you can observe the life of animals and birds in their natural habitat. The symbol of the reserve is a bison. This is a wild forest bull, which was recently on the verge of extinction. Bison youngsters grown up to two years in the reserve are sent to replenish free-living populations.

C. Though the American and European bison are close relatives, it is easy to spot clear differences in their behaviour and build. Adult European bison are slimmer in build and have longer legs. European bison tend to graze less and walk around more than their American relatives. This difference in behaviour is reflected in their build. The American bison's head hangs lower than the European's does. American bison are more easily tamed than their European cousins are. They also breed with domestic cattle more readily.

D. American bison are known for living on the Great Plains. Bisons were hunted close to extinction during the 19th and 20th centuries, but have since rebounded. The European bison owes its survival, in part, to the Chernobyl disaster. Ironically, the Chernobyl Zone has become a kind of wildlife preserve, though poaching has become a threat in recent years. The American Plains bison is no longer listed as endangered, but this does not mean the species is safe. Their fragmented herds call for active conservation measures.

E. In the middle of the 19th century people started realising how important the buffalo was. Reasons for that included not only animal cruelty, but also ecological and future resources. Someone needed to speak out, and over the years they did, but never enough at one time to count. The real extermination of the buffalo was caused by the demands of trade, aided by hunters and Indians. However, the blame really lies with the government, which in all those years permitted a few ignorant Congressmen to block the laws protecting these animals.

F. There have been several attempts to tame the buffalo, but there are a few things that stand in the way. The buffalo is very aggressive by nature; it can run up to 40 mph and can jump vertically in the air almost their entire height. Imagine trying to teach an angry, prancing sedan to stay still and respect you. All that said, there have been instances of domestic buffalo. This is possible if they are raised from calves to be only with humans. Even then, they seem to be loyal and friendly with a small set of humans, not all humans.

G. At about the same time they domesticated plants, people in Mesopotamia began to domesticate animals for meat, milk, and hides. Hides were used for clothing, storing things and for building tent shelters. Goats were probably the first animals to be domesticated, followed closely by sheep. Later, people began domesticating larger animals, such as oxen or horses, for ploughing and transportation. These are known as beasts of burden. The easiest animals to domesticate are herbivores that graze on grass, because they are the easiest to feed.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G

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11. *Прочитайте текст и заполните* ***пропуски A — F*** *частями предложений, обозначенными* ***цифрами 1 — 7.*** ***Одна из частей в списке 1 — 7 лишняя.*** *Занесите* ***цифры****, обозначающие соответствующие части предложения, в клетки задания* ***11 без пробелов и знаков препинания.***

Duration of life and its social implications

The world's population is about to reach a landmark of huge social and economic importance, when the proportion of the global population over 65 outnumbers children under 5 for the first time. A new report by the US census bureau shows **A** _____, with enormous consequences for both rich and poor nations.

The rate of growth will shoot up in the next couple of years. The **B** _____ a combination of the high birth rates after the Second World War and more recent improvements in health that are bringing down death rates at older ages. Separate UN forecasts predict that the global population will be more than nine billion by 2050.

The US census bureau was the first to sound the **C** _____. Its latest forecasts warn governments and international bodies that this change in population structure will bring widespread challenges at every level of human organization, starting with the structure of the family, which will be transformed as people live longer. This will in turn place new burdens on careers and social services providers, **D** _____ for health services and pensions systems.

"People are living longer and, in some parts of the world, healthier lives," the authors conclude. "This represents one of the greatest achievements of the last century but also a significant challenge **E** _____ population."

Ageing will put pressure on societies at all levels. One way of measuring that is to look at the older dependency ratio, **F** _____ that must be supported by them. The ODR is the number of people aged 65 and over for every 100 people aged 20 to 64. It varies widely, from just six in Kenya to 33 in Italy and Japan. The UK has an ODR of 26, and the US has 21.

1. change is due to
2. while patterns of work and retirement will have huge implications
3. which recently replaced Italy as the world's oldest major country
4. as proportions of older people increase in most countries
5. which shows the balance between working-age people and the older
6. alarm about these changes
7. a huge shift towards an ageing population

A	B	C	D	E	F

12-18 *Прочитайте текст и выполните задания* ***12-18*** *отметьте на карточке вариант, соответствующий номеру выбранного вами варианта ответа.*

Are tours really so bad?

I've always been all for independent travel and my friends often ask me: if tours are really so bad, why so many people do them?

Well, I wouldn't be so straightforward. First of all, tours provide higher quality at better value. I've always been trying to break down costs for independent travel in different cities around the world, so it might seem strange when I say that tours are actually a better value. The reality is that in most places, the absolute cheapest way to travel is independently, but that means hostel bunks and street food instead of hotels and restaurants. And in a country like China, the tours are much cheaper than independent travel at any standard.

Of course, the reason for this is that a tour provider can book 20 hotel rooms every week with one phone call, so they get amazing hotel rates that independent travellers couldn't dream of. The same is true with restaurants and even attractions, where large groups are much cheaper per person than singles. Even with a tour provider mark-up, you still get a better deal in most cases.

Another important thing for many of us is that there is little or no stress with language or culture barriers. Even in an English-speaking country, it can be confusing on your first visit, and things like finding hotels and even museums can be headaches. When in countries with other languages, the level of confusion gets multiplied, often further compounded by touts and other illegal sellers who make a living trying to steer you somewhere else. On a tour you'll always have

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an English speaker who knows the local area well between you and the potential obstacles. It's almost like having an old friend living in the area, who can tell you exactly where to go and whom to ignore.

That leads us to the next point. Tours provide security and accountability. No method of travel is 100% safe and secure, but at least when you are on a tour you know that people who know the risks are working on your behalf. Travelling on your own, if your hotel says it's fully booked, then you are out on the street. But with a tour, it's up to them to find you a new room nearby, which would be far easier ***even if it did happen***.

If you get sick or injured on your own, you are on your own, while on a tour there will be an experienced person there to help get medicine or look after you. I had a large backpack stolen off a train because the luggage area works on the honour system. Had I been on a tour, someone would likely have put everything in a secure place because their reputation depends on clients making it home with all their gear.

And last but not least, itineraries on tours are designed by professionals. Everyone obviously has different tastes when sightseeing, but that doesn't mean that independent travellers always make the right decisions. The typical first-time visitor to a big city will try to schedule 18 hours worth of sightseeing into every day, which obviously doesn't work once you get there. These tour companies that have been around for a long time tend to do a great job maximising sightseeing time but also adding in leisure time, meal time, and sleep time. In the era of ubiquitous reviews not to mention social media, these tour companies can only survive if they provide a product that people feel good about when it's done. Not only can they get you between sights more quickly, but they also know when clients prefer to relax and slow down. All said and done, I am not writing this to put you off independent travel but rather to make you look before you leap.

12. The author's travel experience is ...

1) mostly in China.
2) quite extensive.
3) strange in a way.
4) rather limited.

13.According to the article, tours may be less expensive ...

1) if you book them for a group.
2) because of individual discounts.
3) because of an agency's massive orders.
4) if you choose hostels and street food.

14.It is implied that tour travel decreases your ...

1) culture-related activities.
2) ability to speak with locals.
3) language-learning experience.
4) chances of being cheated.

15. *It* in Paragraph 5 ("... *even if it did happen.")* most probably refers to ...

1) booking accommodation.
2) looking for a new place.
3) problem with accommodation.
4) security in a hotel.

16. The author's backpack was stolen because ...

1) his luggage was unwatched.
2) it was left at the train station.
3) he was on a tour.
4) he had to buy some medicine.

17. The author believes that a sightseeing programme on organised tours is ...

1) undervalued
2) more packed
3) overrated
4) less strained

18.What does the author try to achieve in the article?

1) Describe the benefits of organised travel.
2) Compare various tour providers.
3) Persuade the reader to choose tours.
4) Warn the readers against travelling alone.

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