Passage 8

A survey of how children spend their pocket money found that a sizable amount of it is spent on sweets, snacks and fizzy drinks. The study was based on 4,000 children who were asked to keep a diary of their purchases over a two-year period. On average the children spent $23 a week and over a third of this was spent on sugary and fatty food and drinks. The survey found marked differences in spending trends in sex and age. Boys spent less on clothes, shoes and toiletries and more on games, computer-related items and hobbies. The biggest spenders where children aged 13 to 15 years. The children spent equal sums on mobile phones and charges, and activities and objects that could be classed as educational. Both sexes spent equal amounts on music, but boys spent more on sporting activities.

22. The survey probably confirms many parents' worst fears.

True False Cannot tell

Answer

23. The survey found that boys devote a greater part of their non-food spending on sporting activities than girls.

True False Cannot tell

Answer

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24. The passage does not allow the reader to infer the amount children spend on books.

True False Cannot tell

Answer

Passage 9

Workers now caught by the top rate of income tax include university lecturers, mid-ranking civil servants and officers of local authorities, specialist nurses and sisters, police inspectors and senior officers in the ambulance and fire service. This trend means that an extra 3.5 million workers are liable for the higher rate of tax compared to 10 years ago. More than 1 million extra people pay tax at the higher rate because growth in pay has increased faster than inflation-linked tax allowances. Over the period, these allowances have been increased in line with or less than inflation, while wages have increased at a rate of more than inflation. As a result, every year more people find themselves taxed at the highest rate for the first time. The Treasury defends the trend on the basis that the increase in numbers is a result of rising incomes and living standards. Critics point out that the higher rate of tax begins at a far lower point that in other countries. In Spain, the highest rate of tax is not applied until income is 2.5 times the average wage, while in the UK the highest rate is paid by anyone who earns 1.3 times the average wage.

25. The trend to which the passage refers is of wages increasing at a rate higher than inflation.

True False Cannot tell

Answer

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26. Linking tax allowances to inflation has caused over 3 million people to pay the higher rate of tax.

True False Cannot tell

Answer

27. The cause of the increase can correctly be summarized as growth in pay having outstripped inflation-linked tax allowances, so the number of people paying tax at the highest rate has increased.

True False Cannot tell

Answer

Passage 10

Intellectual property is little more than the right to extract payment when our cultural outpourings should be free to share. In the digital world we are all authors, publishers and critics, so why should some be allowed to lay claim to our common cultural heritage and expression and enjoy the recognition of paternity? Why should the corporate media conglomerates be allowed to use copyright, patents and intellectual property laws to make criminals of thousands of users of virtual communities if they share music videos and written works? These users freely share their own work, and if all work were to be donated in this way the public sphere would be transformed into a more cultural, creative place.

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28. The author of the passage would agree that the people who write books, poems, plays and film scripts, even through they may have taken years to write them, should donate the product of their craft for free.

True False Cannot tell

Answer

29. The passage does not present an either/or scenario but allows for a balance to be struck.

True False Cannot tell

Answer

30. The word 'paternity' in the context of the passage means 'fatherhood'.

True False Cannot tell

Answer

Passage 11

Our international institutions and treaties have failed to move with the times. They were formed to provide mechanisms through which to confront common threats while protecting national interests. But interdependence and interconnectedness have advanced beyond anything imagined at that time and the global institutions have proved utterly impotent at providing effective global governance. On the one hand we have a fast emerging global economy and a spectrum of global communities but no effective global governance. All too often efforts to address the many common challenges are pulled down by narrow national interest. Collectively we have proved incapable of

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protecting the environment from the damage wreaked by individual companies and nations. Those institutions have proved powerless. The world lacks and increasingly needs mechanisms capable of protecting the collective.

31. The author believes that the world needs a new system of global stewardship.

True False Cannot tell

Answer

32. It can be inferred from the passage that we are in the middle of a global revolution.

True False Cannot tell

Answer

33. The passage is correctly classified as an example of the liberal school of political thinking. This school of thought argues that the interests of the nation state must be protected and the individual must be protected from the excesses of government.

True False Cannot tell

Answer

Passage 12

The Environmental Commissioner of the European Commission wants to introduce tough new limits for the omissions of carbon dioxide for all new vehicles. She wants mandatory maximum levels of emissions for all new cars by 2012. Manufacturers are lobbying against a mandatory limit and prefer a voluntary target

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for average emissions that is lowered annually, year on year. The luxury brand manufacturers are lobbying hardest, as they consider a mandatory limit to represent the greatest threat to their operations. The Industrial Commissioner has proposed a compromise that favours voluntary targets but will also commit manufacturers to realizing improvements in tyre performance, the introduction of emission-reducing speed management systems, and greener manufacturing and recycling of vehicles. European car makers believe that many jobs will be lost if the Environmental Commissioner gets her way. The 20 Commissioners who make up the Commission will have to decide.

34. The author sees the issue as a test of the Commission's green credentials.

True False Cannot tell

Answer

35. Members of the Commission are split over the decision.

True False Cannot tell

Answer

36. The passage contains a tautology.

True False Cannot tell

Answer

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Passage 13

So many people ask why children aren't taught grammar and punctuation at school. Many of our teachers today have been produced by the same education system that they now teach in, so the simple answer is that they can't teach grammar and punctuation because they have never learnt it themselves. There have in recent years been meaningful improvements in the level of functional literacy among school leavers, but at the other end of the spectrum universities are complaining about the poor writing skills of undergraduates. These complaints are not raised because of a failure by students to correctly use the subjective clause or to err by leaving participles dangling, but far more fundamental failures in, for example, the use of apostrophes and capitalization. Most commentators describe errors of grammar and punctuation as irritating. To become irritated one must first recognize the error, and the majority of people, including many teachers, do not have a sufficient grasp of the rules to realize that a mistake has been made.

37. Most people don't object to bad grammar and punctuation.

True False Cannot tell

Answer

38. You can infer from the passage that you can only break a rule of grammar if you know the rule in the first place.

True False Cannot tell

Answer

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39. The author would agree that bad grammar might be an irritant for a small number of purists but otherwise it does not matter.

True False Cannot tell

Answer

Passage 14

El Niño, the cyclic warming of the Pacific Ocean, is largely responsible for the recent worldwide period of higher than average temperatures. February was the sixth warmest since records began in 1880, but January's record high means that the two-month period was the warmest worldwide. The averages were obtained by combining land and ocean surface temperatures. The only exceptions were areas of the Middle East and central areas of the United States, which did not experience record temperatures. Some of the largest temperature increases occurred in high latitudes around the Artic Circle, where wildlife has responded to the early spring-like weather. Should March not follow the trend and a wintry spell return, some of the species that have woken early from hibernation or started breeding prematurely may experience problems.

40. The passage can be correctly summarized as describing the world's two warmest winter months since records began.

True False Cannot tell

Answer

41. China did not experience record temperatures.

True False Cannot tell

Answer

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42. If the average had been based only on land temperatures rather than land *and* ocean temperatures, the result would have been cooler.

True False Cannot tell

Answer

Passage 15

The Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee is discussing the next shift in interest rates. A month ago, every commentator would have predicted an increase, but since then two big trends have emerged, one international the other national, and no one now expects a rise. Instead the talk is of cuts, but for the time being anyway it is probably too early to say when a cut might be made. There has been a series of downbeat figures across the Eurozone. Italy and the Netherlands are officially in recession and manufacturing figures for Germany are in contraction. The French economy may be even weaker than generally perceived. As far as the UK is concerned, figures for the retail and housing sector suggest they have both slowed and demand for manufactured goods is following the global decline. Meanwhile, the price of services has risen above the level of inflation and in line with rising wage costs.

43. The international trend referred to in the passage relates to disappointing data from Europe.

True False Cannot tell

Answer

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