

Read the following text about silent films, and answer the 15 questions.

BILINGUALISM

Paragraph 1

Modern scientists believe that being able to speak two languages equally well greatly benefits the mind. Recent research has shown that a bilingual person's first language and second language have a positive effect on the use of one another and also on how the mind works in general.

Paragraph 2

Before the 1960s, however, it was believed that being bilingual was a disadvantage for the mind. It was generally believed that bilinguals would have smaller vocabularies and underdeveloped mind abilities in general. Moreover, children learning two languages from a young age would be too confused to become really good at either one. Scientists studying the "problem of bilingualism" reported that bilinguals did worse in intelligence tests and had smaller vocabularies.

Paragraph 3

However, it has since been shown that the methodology of these studies was very poor and this means that their conclusions were false. First of all, they did not consider the socio-economic status and many of them gave verbal intelligence tests to poor speakers of a second language in that second language. Moreover, these studies used unscientific and subjective definitions of bilingualism.

Paragraph 4

There are several definitions of bilingualism; for example, even individuals that are learners of another language are sometimes called bilingual simply because they can speak a second language, even if they can't speak it very well. In addition, the term is also used for individuals who are just as good at two languages even though they learnt one of the two later in life as a foreign language. One definition of "bilingual" often used in scientific studies is: a person who is exposed to two languages at the same time from a very young age. But even this definition varies depending on the study and on how the subjects are selected.

Paragraph 5

In 1962, Peal and Lambert published an important study which drew attention to the importance of considering such factors as age, sex and socio-economic status, as well as of using a standardised definition of bilingualism, when selecting a sample of bilinguals to be studied. In their carefully controlled study, they found that their bilingual subjects showed significant advantages over those who spoke only one language. Since then, scientists have found several advantages of bilinguals in many aspects of language development and ability.

Source: *Preparing for Trinity ISE I*

Questions 1-5

The text has five paragraphs (1-5). Choose the best title for each paragraph from A-F below and write the letter (A-F) on the lines below. There is one title that you don't need.

1. Paragraph 1

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2. Paragraph 2

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3. Paragraph 3

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4. Paragraph 4

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5. Paragraph 5

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- A Past research on the negative influence of bilingualism
- B The mistakes of past research
- C The mental problems of monolingual children
- D The study that highlighted the importance of methodology
- E What the word "bilingual" means
- F Being bilingual is good for the mind

Questions 6-10

Choose the five statements from A-H below that are TRUE according to the information given in the text. Write the letters of the TRUE statements on the squares below (in alphabetical order).

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10.

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- A Bilinguals spend too much of their energy comparing the two languages.
- B The word "bilingualism" can have many different meanings.
- C "Bilingual" may mean "a learner of another language at any level."
- D "Bilingual" may mean "an individual who is equally good at both languages."
- E It is now believed that bilinguals have fewer mental abilities than monolinguals.
- F Generally, bilinguals do poorly in IQ tests.
- G Before the 1960s, research showed that being bilingual put the individual at a disadvantage compared to a monolingual speaker.
- H Early studies were not very scientific.

Questions 11-15

Complete sentences 11-15 with a word, phrase or number from the text (maximum three words). Write the word, phrase or number in the space provided.

- 11. Early studies employed unstandardized and subjective _____.
- 12. Many of them gave verbal _____ to speakers of a second language in that language.
- 13. A bilingual can be defined as an individual that is exposed to two languages from a _____.
- 14. The definition may vary depending _____ and on their sample selection process.
- 15. Peal and Lambert showed _____ having a standardised measure for bilingualism.