

**BOOK – 4 – READING/WRITING  
REVISION – UNITS 1 – 5 (PART 1)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**I. Reading Comprehension**

**A. Read the article *The Amazing Mr. Tesla*. Then choose the best answer for each question.**

**The Amazing Mr. Tesla**

**Section 1**

**1** Who invented x-rays and neon lights? The speedometer and remote-control vehicles? The answer is Nikola Tesla, the greatest inventor you may never have heard of. Nikola Tesla was born in a small town in Austria-Hungary (now Croatia) in 1856. He was born, appropriately, during an electrical storm. His father was a church official and a mathematician. His mother had little formal education, but she memorized books of poetry and invented kitchen gadgets. Tesla was only five when he created his first invention, an engine powered by twelve beetles (a type of insect).

**Section 2**

**2** At the Polytechnic School in Gratz, Tesla studied electrical engineering. In 1884, he went to the United States. He met with the electrical genius Thomas Edison, bringing a letter of recommendation written by one of Edison's European associates. It read: "My Dear Edison: I know two great men and you are one of them. The other is this young man!" Edison put him to work. Tesla developed several inventions for Edison's company, but he left the company in anger after six months. Edison had asked Tesla to develop a lighting system for street-lamps, and promised him a huge bonus. Tesla presented a solution and asked for the money. Edison refused to pay, saying, "Tesla, you don't understand our American humor." The two men became bitter rivals.

### Section 3

3 Tesla opened his own laboratory in New York City. He promoted the use of alternating current (AC) electricity and he developed motors and generators for using AC. Edison, on the other hand, championed the use of direct current (DC) and tried to convince the public that AC electricity was dangerous and expensive. Both of them tried to win the contract to supply electricity for the Chicago World's Fair. This competition is known as "the battle of the currents." Tesla got the contract to provide AC electricity for the fair. In fact, in most cases, AC is better than DC, especially when electricity must travel long distances.

4 Most people believe Marconi invented radio, but it was Tesla who developed the equipment needed for radio broadcasting. Tesla also invented x-ray machines, neon lights, and a remote-controlled boat. Unfortunately, many of his plans and inventions were destroyed in a fire in his laboratory in 1895.

### Section 4

5 In 1899, Tesla moved to Colorado Springs and built a strange laboratory. He tried to develop a machine to broadcast electrical power wirelessly, like radio waves. He accidentally created a giant display of artificial lightning, and once he knocked out the electrical system for Colorado Springs. He hoped to power devices in Paris with energy generated in Colorado. However, he was basically unsuccessful. While in Colorado Springs, he said that he heard radio messages from Mars and Venus. Newspaper reporters laughed at him for this. In fact, the inventor was hearing radio signals coming from distant stars.

6 For the next few decades, Tesla continued to invent. During World War I, he invented a type of radar to hunt submarines. He created plans for the laser and the microwave oven. He invented a "death ray" that he thought could destroy airplanes from hundreds

of miles away. He believed that this device—later known as a particle-beam weapon—would make war impossible.

### **Section 5**

**7** Tesla was certainly a genius, but he was an unusual genius. He was afraid of women's pearl jewelry. He lived in hotels, often leaving with unpaid bills. He refused to stay in a hotel room with a number that could be divided by the number three. He never married and spent much of his time alone. He began work at 9 a.m. and had dinner every night at 8:10 p.m., at the same restaurant. He would telephone his dinner order to the head waiter, who was the only one who could serve him. He dined alone, except on the rare occasions when he would have dinner with a group to meet his social obligations. He would always bring his own silverware and he ate only boiled foods. After dinner, Tesla would resume his work, often until 3:00 a.m. He claimed he only slept two or three hours a night. For exercise, Tesla walked between 13 and 16 km per day. He curled his toes one hundred times for each foot every night, saying that it stimulated his brain cells.

### **Section 6**

**8** After being struck by a taxicab in 1937, his behavior became even stranger. He spent most of his time in parks feeding—and, he claimed, communicating with—the city's pigeons. He would bring injured pigeons back to his hotel to care for them.

**9** A brilliant inventor of over 700 devices, Tesla spoke nine languages and had a photographic memory. Nevertheless, he was not a good businessman. Despite Tesla's contributions to technology, he died penniless and almost unknown in 1943. For years, he remained an obscure figure. However, in the 2000s, people became interested in him again, partly because Elon Musk introduced the Tesla, a popular electric car which he named after the inventor.

1. Why does the author say Tesla "was born, appropriately, during an electrical storm"?

- A. Because he spent much of his life working with electricity.
- B. Because he had a stormy, difficult life.
- C. Because he had a loud, violent nature, like an electrical storm.
- D. Because he had a lifelong fear of thunder and lightning.

2. What provided the power for the first engine that Tesla built?

- A. chemicals
- B. insects
- C. batteries
- D. birds

3. According to the passage, Tesla did NOT ...

- A. invent the equipment needed for radio.
- B. open his own laboratory.
- C. detect radio signals from distant stars.
- D. transmit electrical power without wires.

4. What does the author say about the fire of 1895?

- A. It was deliberately set by supporters of Edison.
- B. It was caused by artificial lightning.
- C. It proved that AC electricity was dangerous.
- D. It destroyed Tesla's plans and inventions.

5. Which of these did Tesla believe could stop war?

- A. radar
- B. radio-controlled boats

- C. particle beam weapons
- D. lasers

6. Which of these was Tesla afraid of?

- A. women's pearl earrings
- B. room 13 at a hotel
- C. boiled food
- D. pigeons

**B. Read the statements. Write T (true) or F (false).**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Tesla and his mother both had excellent memories.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. After Tesla left his job at Edison's laboratories, the two men often cooperated despite their dislike of each other.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Nicola Tesla believed he could talk to pigeons.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Nicola Tesla designed a popular electric car.

**II. Vocabulary**

A. Choose the word or phrase from the word bank that best completes these sentences.

access	achievement	approach	assume	beverages	challenges	crave
eliminate	escalate	expert	funding	ingest	participate	perceive

- 11. A herpetologist is a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ in the study of snakes.
- 12. Sharks have an organ that allows them to \_\_\_\_\_ tiny electrical signals coming from other creatures in the ocean.
- 13. Perhaps the greatest \_\_\_\_\_ any scientist can attain is to win a Nobel Prize.
- 14. The humanities department had to lay off some of its faculty because the university reduced its \_\_\_\_\_.

15. I \_\_\_\_\_ that Oscar speaks Spanish because he bought a Spanish newspaper.

16. On a hot day, I \_\_\_\_\_ a big glass of iced tea.

**B. Match each word with the correct synonyms or definitions.**

\_\_\_\_\_ 17. absorb

\_\_\_\_\_ 18. anxiety

\_\_\_\_\_ 19. courage

\_\_\_\_\_ 20. diverse

\_\_\_\_\_ 21. ingest

\_\_\_\_\_ 22. tolerant

A. eat or drink; take in

B. the ability to deal with a difficult situation without being frightened; bravery

C. take in a liquid, gas, or other substance

D. remove; take away

E. accepting; open-minded

F. a feeling of nervousness or worry

H. advantage; benefit

I. varied; composed of different parts

J. restrictive; limiting

### III. Reading Skill

**A. Read the information in the sentences. Which ones can be inferred from the article *The Amazing Mr. Tesla*?**

\_\_\_\_\_ 23. Edison never intended to pay Tesla a bonus for his work.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 24. The author Mark Twain wrote about Nicola Tesla.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 25. Tesla was able to win the "battle of the currents."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 26. The people who had dinner with Tesla on social occasions must have found his dining habits unusual.

**B. Read these sentences of comparison/contrast based on information from the article "The Amazing Mr. Tesla." If they are written correctly, mark them C; if they are written incorrectly, mark them X.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 27. Tesla is not as famous than Edison, but his work is considered to be equally important.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 28. AC electricity differs from DC electricity, but they both have their uses.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 29. Tesla's behavior became more stranger after he was struck by a taxi.

**C. These statements from the article *The Amazing Mr. Tesla* each contain an example of bias. For each sentence, write the number of the techniques used from the list of techniques that show bias.**

1. Choosing descriptive language and vocabulary that states or implies the author's bias
2. Expressing direct criticism of the opposing point of view
3. Using adverb phrases such as in fact, in reality, and indeed to emphasize particular points
4. Claiming that the reader shares the author's bias by using pronouns like we and our

- \_\_\_\_\_ 30. In fact, in most cases, AC is better than DC.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 31. Today, the electrical energy used by our homes and businesses is AC electricity.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 32. Most people believe Marconi invented radio, but it was Tesla who developed the basic equipment needed for radio broadcasting.