IV. . Read the passage, then do the tasks.

Learning a new language is always an excellent idea. It provides you incredible benefits that come with the backing of science! One of the most useful languages to learn is English. Learning a second language is one of the best ways to keep your brain active and challenged. Studies have shown that the brain undergoes changes in electrical activity and even structure and size while learning a foreign language that do not occur when learning any other type of task or skill. Learning another language offers important cognitive benefits at any age, helping to keep the mind active and even reducing the risk of mental disease and slowing mental decline later in life. When learning English as a second language, you approach new ways to think and express yourself through written and spoken words. Learning multiple languages can help you communicate more clearly in any language as you learn more about how language itself works and how to use it to promote ideas and reach out to others in a variety of social and work situations.

The world may not have a global language, but English is the default option for countless forms of communication across the globe. That's why one of the benefits of learning English is that it significantly boosts your hiring potential. In addition, it can offer you educational opportunities. If you desire access to some of the best schools like Harvard, Stanford, Oxford, Cambridge or MIT, then knowing English provides you an incredible edge. It's expected that around 2 billion people around the world will learn English over the next decade.

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A. Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

1. Leaning English can help to keep your brain sharp.
2. Your brain changes electrical activity, structure and size when you learn a new language as well as any other type of task or skill.
3. No matter what age you are, there are brain benefits of learning a foreign language.
4. When you learn a second language, you become better at communicating.
5. Knowing English can increase your chance of getting a high-paying job.
6. English gives you a great advantage when applying to some of the best schools.
7. More than two billion people will be learning English in ten years' time.

B. Choose the correct answer.

1. The passage mainly discusses _____.
   a. ways to improve your English level
   b. how to keep your mind active
   c. the advantages and disadvantages of language learning
   d. the benefits of learning English

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B. Choose the correct answer.

2. According to the text, learning English as a second language can _____.

a. have a negative effect on the brain
b. slow the mental decline due to aging
c. reduce brain function
d. lower the risk of heart disease

3. Learning multiple languages makes you a better communicator because_____.

a. you can improve your writing and speaking skills
b. you know how to get the attention of someone
c. you learn more about how to promote your ideas and make contact with others
d. you can communicate more effectively in your mother tongue

4. The word “cognitive” in the second paragraph is closest in meaning to _____.

a. mental b. intellectual
c. emotional d. subjective

5. What does the word "edge" used in the third paragraph mean?

a. point b. border c. limit d. advantage

6. All the following sentences are the benefits of learning English except:

a. it helps prevent dementia and Alzheimer’s.
b. it provides better employment opportunities.
c. it’s easy to use in communication.
d. it gives you access to the world’s best universities.

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