

## FURTHER PRACTICE 4 (READING)

### TEST 1

Read the following passage and choose the best answer to each of the following questions.

#### The History of London

The Roman invasion of Britain in 43 CE brought the pre-Roman ancient Britons under Roman rule, but it also resulted in founding the Roman's first major British settlement called Londinium, which meant "he settlement on the wide river" and in fact, the settlement was established where a bridge was built across the Thames. The area that was later called London was first believed to have served as a fort for defending the Roman army; however, archaeological digs in the area pointed to the real reason - Londinium was used for private enterprise. In 1981, the vestiges of an enormous Roman pier, which had probably been used for trade, were discovered. This ancient London was burned to the ground by a Celtic tribe in 61 CE, and then it was rebuilt, becoming the capital of the Roman province of Britannia for 4 decades. However, by the 2<sup>nd</sup> century CE, the city suffered gradual deterioration as a result of the Roman Empire's decline. It was abandoned for 3 centuries.

By the 6<sup>th</sup> century CE, the Anglo-Saxons re-established the city, then called Lundenwic, about a mile west of its original founding.

The city prospered as an international trading and political centre under a succession of English kings, but suffered opposition as well. Although the Scandinavian Vikings and the Danish would raid and besiege the city, the Anglo-Saxons ultimately maintained control of the city. The Anglos-Saxons inhabited it for centuries, and by the 10<sup>th</sup> century, they managed to make London England's largest and wealthiest city. During the Middle Age, London, then the country's centre of commerce and Westminster, the seat of the royal court and government, grew together and became central London, replacing Winchester as England's capital in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The city's population continued to grow, but the bubonic plague struck London in the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century. It was no wonder that the streets of the city were extremely filthy, and rats were a constant presence. The disease wiped out about 30% of the city's people; it did not, however, destroy the city and its political ambitions. By the late 16<sup>th</sup> century, England defeated the Spanish Armada, a large fleet of ships sent by King Philip II of Spain to protect its interests in the New World. The subduing of the Spanish Armada strengthened England's political stability and facilitated its continued growth. Even an outbreak of a hemorrhagic fever from 1665 and 1666 and a subsequent catastrophic fire in 1666 did not slacken the city's development.

The Industrial Revolution played a huge role in London's economic development, and London's expansion and urbanization in the 18<sup>th</sup> century was such that it gained prominence as the world's largest city. London's first railway in 1836 allowed people in countryside towns easy access to the city. London's metro system, the world's first underground railway transit system, eased the city's overfilled streets. The local government's priority was to provide London, whose population was 5 million by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, with the infrastructure it needed. Prosperous as the middle and upper classes were, however, the city was highly socially stratified, and the poor were crowded into slums in the eastern part of the city. The World Wars of the 20<sup>th</sup> century desolated buildings and homes across London. London rehabilitated and continued to grow after the wars, but it was believed that the lack of architectural unity resulted in the construction of buildings that were a continuum of the architectural styles. Economic restoration in the 1980s revived London's place as the world's foremost international centre. Today, the city is one of the world's leading business, political, financial and cultural centres.

(TOEFL iBT ACTIVATOR Reading - Expert)

71. The word “**deterioration**” in the passage is closest in meaning to.....  
A. arbitration      B. desecration      C. degradation      D. terrorization
72. According to paragraph 1, which of the following is mentioned as the incentive for making Londinium a settlement?  
A. The river provided water for members of the Roman army. B. The location was ideal for setting up a fortress.  
C. The site was large enough for a growing population.  
D. The area was near a river across which goods could be transported.
73. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the underlined sentence in the passage?  
A. Under one king after another, the city not only experienced hostilities, but also successes in international trade and politics.  
B. The city had problems becoming prosperous because of opposition between its kings and its enemies.  
C. It took several English kings before the city became accomplished in the areas of world trade and politics.  
D. English kings focused on preventing the city's competitions from becoming economic and political foes.
74. Which of the following can be inferred about London prior to the 10<sup>th</sup> century?  
A. It could not become the centre of commerce without the Scandinavian and the Danish.  
B. Its growing success made it a target for countries that wanted authority over the city.  
C. Its location united the Anglo-Saxons in the eastern parts of Great Britain.  
D. It was more a centre of politics than a hub for commercial activity.
75. According to the passage, Westminster contributed which of the following to the development of London?  
A. Its manpower      B. Its size and wealth      C. Its military might      D. Its administrative seat
76. The word “its” in the passage refers to.....  
A. New World      B. Spanish Armada      C. Spain      D. England

77. The author mentions the outbreaks of bubonic plague and hemorrhagic fever as.....

A. evidence that London was not the best place to live      B. proof that the city was not being managed properly  
 C. an indicator of London's resilience      D. an argument that Winchester should have become England's capital

78. According to paragraph 3, all of the following characterized London EXCEPT .....

A. its propensity to engage in war      B. the ease with which its people could travel  
 C. its extraordinary economic growth      D. the division of its population into social groups

79. The word "**stratified**" in the passage is closest in meaning to .....

A. unequal      B. entangled      C. modified      D. hierarchical

80. Which of the following statements best expresses the author's opinion about London's buildings?

A. The buildings reflected a lack of unity among the middle and upper class people.  
 B. There was a deficiency of uniformity in the architectural style of the buildings.  
 C. The buildings in the eastern part of the city looked shabby since the area was poor.  
 D. The buildings continued to inherit London's previous architectural styles.

**You are going to read a newspaper article. Six paragraphs have been removed from the article. Choose from the paragraphs A-G the one which fits each gap. There is an example and one extra paragraph which you do not need to use.**

### Wind of Change

The world's biggest wind farms are currently being constructed off the coast of Britain after a major policy decision by the government to invest time and money in renewable forms of energy. When the entire project is finished, it is estimated that almost eight percent of the electricity that the country needs will be generated in this way.

For example: (0)...D...

The wind farms themselves will consist of towers with fan-like blades at the top, arranged in groups of as many as 300. As these blades are turned by the wind, they generate electricity. The towers are tall enough to ensure that there will always be enough wind, even on the calmest days, to turn the rotor blades. The electricity generated from these turbines is fed by underground cable to the mainland, where it is incorporated into the national grid.

(81).....

The reason for the delay is due to a conservative approach to new technology as well as economic considerations. Governments are notoriously reluctant to embrace new technology which has not yet proved itself, fearing that if it were to fail, the electorate would blame them. Moreover, until recently it was cheaper to generate electricity by traditional methods. However, now that fossil fuels are becoming more expensive - and the cost of mining them is also rising - the balance has shifted.

(82).....

The way ahead is not without its problems, however. There have been a large number of complaints about wind farms on land, with critics maintaining that the tall towers and gigantic blades are an eyesore. Appearance is less likely to be a problem with offshore wind farms since they will be far enough from the coast to be virtually invisible unless the weather is exceptionally clear.

(83).....

Environmental organizations hope that the government's commitment to wind power will encourage the use of other "green" methods of producing electricity, though some technologies are less likely to be developed than others, at least in this country. The British Isles enjoy relatively few sunny days, so solar energy is hardly going to be a great success here.

(84).....

It now appears likely that funds will be made available for the necessary research, especially since the British government has made it clear that it sees no future for nuclear power. Existing nuclear power stations are to be phased out gradually, though the government has been wary of providing precise dates for decommissioning.

(85).....

In the meantime, it is encouraging to note that energy solutions which would have seemed unlikely, not to say laughable, just a few decades ago are finally starting to make an impact. It is to be hoped that this trend will continue.

(Heinle Exam Essentials CAE Practice Tests, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition)

### Missing paragraphs:

A. The most striking aspect of the project is the simplicity of the fundamental idea. Indeed, it seems odd that the principle, which has, after all, been applied to power windmills for thousands of years, has only very recently been used successfully to generate electricity on a large scale.

B. There has been little attempt up to now to persuade the general public that wind power is the technology of the future. The government no doubt hopes that when the towers are in place and people realize they are neither a threat to the environment nor aesthetically ugly, attitudes will change.

C. Some form of water power would seem a far more likely candidate for development, with tides off the coast of Britain being strong and, of course, regular. As has been the case with wind power, sizeable investment will be needed in order to produce the required technology, but the potential is certainly there.

D. This is in line with the target the government set itself of producing ten percent of Britain's electricity from renewable - wind power being the most significant of these - by the year 2010. Environmental groups have hailed the government's commitment and are claiming that the future is definitely looking greener as far as energy is concerned.

E. It has been pointed out by those who fear the terrible consequence of an accident that this is only a small step in the right direction. Even when the existing power stations are shut down, the huge problem of disposing of the radioactive materials from them will still have to be solved.

F. Another cause for concern is voiced by wildlife organizations, fearful that migrating birds could crash such as Denmark suggests this is unlikely, but the government has promised to monitor the progress of a pilot scheme at present in operation off the coast of Wales.

G. Britain is not being particularly revolutionary in placing its trust in wind power. In fact, there is very little risk involved. The country is fortunate when it comes to this particular source of energy - it has a great deal of wind all year round. In a few years Britain may well become a world leader in offshore wind exploitation.

## TEST 2

**Read the following passage and choose from the film (A-H) to each question. Some of the films may be chosen more than once.**

Which film ...

71. is about a person who moves to another part of the country for work?	.....
72. concerns people for whom work is the only thing that matters?	.....
73. has people bringing different values to another community?	.....
74. is successful largely because of a young actress?	.....
75. has a young woman mixing with women much older than herself?	.....
76. shows how a new situation can change a person's character?	.....
77. might be rather dull if it were not for the scenery in it?	.....
78. is about two men in love with another man's wife?	.....
79-80. from what we read, does not contain a romantic or love theme?	.....

### Film A

*Stealing Beauty* is a moving and often very amusing film, which owes its charm to an intelligent script and a magnificent performance by Liv Tyler. The film 19-year-old Lucy, played by Tyler, moves from the USA, following the death of her mother, to stay with family friends in a farmhouse in Italy. The house is owned by Ian Grayson, an artist, who is to paint her portrait. Lucy, however, has a hidden agenda; she wants to see the boy she fell in love with four years earlier and to learn the identity of her real father, clues to which lie in one of the poems written by her mother.

### Film B

*August* is set in a country house in North Wales during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century when a group of people gather at the home of the Davis family. The visitors are the tyrannical Professor Alexander Blathwaite, the absentee owner of the estate, and his second wife, the much younger American, Helen. They waste little time in imposing their London ways on the rural inhabitants, including Ieuan, brother of Blathwaite's first wife, and the professor's plain daughter, Sian. Ieuan falls passionately in love with Helen although she shows no interest in him. Sian conceals a secret love for the local doctor, Michael Lloyd, who is also in love with Helen. Ieuan tries to find comfort in drink and, in a series of tragicomic episodes, the ordered calm of the household begins to disintegrate.

### Film C

*Dead Man* is a cowboy film with a difference, breathtakingly shot in black and white. In the film William Blake, an honorable accountant, has come to the west to take up a job which fails to materialize. A stranger in town, he finds himself alone and without money, and so begins a chain of encounters which lead this law-abiding citizen into crime. The central theme of the film is that life is unpredictable and that unexpected circumstances can completely change the course of a person's life.

### Film D

*Denise Calls Up* is a funny and thoroughly modern story about a group of young Americans whose lives are based totally on work. Their days consist of talking on mobile phones, answering taxes and watching computer screens. Lunch dates are made and missed, parties are organized but never attended, and the friends even fail to turn up at the funeral of one of their pals (killed in a car accident while talking on her car phone). Then along comes Denise, an outsider to the group. She has an urgent personal problem, but will she be able to find enough time in her busy schedule to deal with it?

### Film E

*A Month by the Lake* is based loosely on a romantic story by H.E.Bates. In the film Vanessa Redgrave plays Miss Bentley, an independent and impetuous middle-aged woman, who travels to a resort by Lake Como in Italy following the death of her father in 1935. There she meets and falls in love with fellow holidaymaker Major Wilshore, an eccentric but likeable man. After various unsuccessful dates, it seems unlikely that the romance will ever really get going until a couple of other people begin to show more

than a passing interest in the pair. If the film is unremarkable in its content, it makes good use of its beautiful Italian locations.

#### Film F

The oddly named *How to make an American Quilt* tells the story of Finn, an American graduate student, who heads off to spend her summer vacation with her grandmother and great grandmother. Soon she is introduced to a group of elderly ladies who spend much of their time together sewing. The work they are producing is useful for her studies on women's handicrafts but the stories Finn is told about their youth, family histories, loves and marriages soon prove far more interesting than their sewing skills. Meanwhile her own love life is in difficulty as she cannot choose between her good, reliable boyfriend and an incredibly attractive newcomer.

(adapted from *How to pass FCE - Exam practice in Reading*)

#### Read the following passage and choose the correct sentences from A to G the one which fits each gap.

Traditionally, children have begun studying foreign languages at secondary school, but introducing them earlier is recommended by some educationalists. (81).....

The obvious argument in its favour is that young children pick up languages much more easily than teenagers. (82)..... The greater flexibility of the primary timetable allows for more frequent, shorter sessions and for a play-centred approach, thus maintaining learners' enthusiasm and progress. Their command of the language in later life will benefit from this early exposure, while learning other languages subsequently will be easier for them. (83).....

(84)..... Primary school teachers are generalists, and may not have the necessary language skills themselves. If specialists have to be brought in to deliver these sessions, the flexibility referred to above is diminished. If primary language teaching is not standardized, secondary schools could be faced with a great variety of levels in different languages within their intake, resulting in a classroom experience which undoes the earlier gains. There is no advantages if enthusiastic primary pupils become demotivated as soon as they change schools. However, these issues can be addressed strategically within the policy adopted.

Anything which encourages language learning benefits society culturally and economically, and early exposure to language learning contributes to this. (85).....

{adapted from IELTS15 Academic Student's Book}

#### Missing sentences:

- A. They may also gain a better understanding of other cultures.
- B. There are some people who state their objections to this policy for several reasons.
- C. Young children's innate abilities should be harnessed to make these benefits more achievable.
- D. Their brains are still programmed to acquire their mother tongue, which facilitates learning another language, and unlike adolescents, they are not inhibited by self-consciousness.
- E. There are, however, some disadvantages.
- F. This policy has been adopted by some educational authorities or individual schools, with both positive and negative outcomes.
- G. On the contrary, the proponents of this policy have their own arguments.

### TEST 3

#### Read the following passage and choose the best answer to each of the following questions.

#### CLOTHING AND COSTUME

The ancient Greeks and the Chinese believed that we first clothed our bodies for some physical reasons, such as protecting ourselves from the elements. Ethnologists and psychologists have invoked psychological reasons: modesty, taboo, magical influence, or the desire to please. Anthropological research indicates that the function of the earliest clothing was to carry objects. Our hunting - gathering ancestors had to travel great distances to obtain food. For the male hunters, carrying was much easier if they were wearing simple belts or animal skins from which they could hang weapons and tools. For the female gatherers, more elaborate carrying devices were necessary. Women had to transport collected food back to the settlement and also had to carry babies, so they required bags or slings.

Another function of early clothing - providing comfort and protection - probably developed at the same time as utility. As human beings multiplied and spread out from the warm lands in which they evolved, they covered their bodies more and more to maintain warmth and to carry objects in our clothes. And like our hunting - gathering ancestors, most men still carry things on their person, as if they still needed to keep their arms free for hunting, while women tend to have a separate bag for carrying, as if they were still food - gatherers. But these two functions of clothing are only two of many uses to which we put the garments that we wear today. There is a clear distinction between attire that constitutes 'clothing' and attire that is more aptly termed 'costume'. We might say that clothing has to do with covering the body, and costume concerns the choice of a particular form of garment for a particular purpose. Clothing depends primarily on such physical conditions as climate, health, and textile, while costume reflects social factors such as personal status, religious beliefs, aesthetics, and the wish to be distinguished from or to emulate others.

Even in early human history, costume fulfilled a function beyond that of simple utility. [80A] Costume helped to impose authority or inspire fear. A chieftain's costume embodied attributes expressing his power, while a warrior's costume enhanced his physical superiority and suggested he was superhuman. Costume often had a magical significance such as investing humans with the

attributes of other creatures through the addition of **ornaments** to identify the wearer with animals, gods, or heroes. [80B] In more recent times, professional or administrative costume is designed to distinguish the wearer and to express personal or delegated authority. [80C] Costume communicates the status of the wearer, and with very few exceptions, the aim is to display as high a status as possible. Costume denotes power, and since power is often equated with health, costume has come to be an expression of social class and material prosperity. [80D]

A uniform is a type of costume that serves the important function of displaying membership in a group: school, sports team, occupation, or armed force. Military uniform denotes rank and is intended not only to express group membership but also to protect the body and to intimidate. A soldier's uniform says, 'I am part of a powerful machine, and when you deal with me, you deal with my whole organization.' Uniforms are immediate **beacons** of power and authority. If a person needs to display power - a police officer, for example - then the body can be virtually transformed. Height can be exaggerated with protective headgear, thick clothing can make the body look broader and stronger, and boots can enhance the power of the legs. Uniforms also convey low social status; at the bottom of the scale, the uniform of the prisoner denotes membership in the society of convicted criminals.

Religious costume signifies spiritual or superhuman authority and possesses a significance that identifies the wearer with a belief or god. A successful clergy has always displayed impressive vestments of one kind or another that clearly demonstrate the religious leader's dominant status.

(*Delta's Key to the Next Generation TOEFL Test Advanced Skill Practice for the IBT*)

71. According to the passage, psychological reasons for wearing clothing include.....

A. protection from cold weather      B. the availability of materials  
C. prevention of illness      D. the wish to give pleasure

72. According to the passage, what aspect of humanity's hunting - gathering past is reflected in the clothing of today?

A. People cover their bodies because of modesty.      B. Most men still carry objects on their person.  
C. Women like clothes that are beautiful and practical.      D. Men wear pants, but women wear skirts or pants.

73. The phrase "**these two functions**" in paragraph 2 refers to.....

A. hunting and gathering food      B. transporting food and carrying babies  
C. maintaining warmth and carrying objects      D. displaying power and social status

74. Which sentence below best expresses the essential information in the underlined sentence in paragraph 3? Incorrect choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.

A. Clothing serves a physical purpose, while costume has a personal, social, or psychological function.  
B. We like clothing to fit our body well, but different costumes fit differently depending on the purpose.  
C. Both clothing and costume are types of attire, but it is often difficult to distinguish between them.  
D. People spend more time in choosing special costumes than they do in selecting everyday clothing.

75. The word "**ornaments**" in paragraph 4 is closest in meaning to.....

A. layers      B. words      C. feathers      D. decorations

76. It can be inferred from paragraph 4 that the author most likely believes which of the following about costume?

A. We can learn about a society's social structure by studying costume.  
B. Costume used to serve a simple function, but now it is very complex.  
C. The main purpose of costume is to force people to obey their readers.  
D. Costume is rarely a reliable indicator of a person's material wealth.

77. The word "**beacons**" in paragraph 5 is closest in meaning to.....

A. signals      B. lights      C. inventions      D. reversals

78. Why does the author discuss the police officer's uniform in paragraph 5?.....

A. To describe the aesthetic aspects of costume      B. To identify the wearer with a hero  
C. To suggest that police are superhuman      D. To show how costume conveys authority

79. All of the following are likely to be indicated by a person's costume EXCEPT.....

A. playing on a football team      B. being a prisoner      C. having a heart condition      D. leading a religious ceremony

80. Look at the four options [80A], [80B], [80C] and [80D], which indicate where the following sentence could be added to the passage. Where would the sentence best fit? **Such power is seen clearly in the judge's robes and the police officer's uniform.**

A. [80 A]      B. [80B]      C. [80C]      D. [80D]

**Read the following passage and choose the correct paragraphs from A to G the one which fits each gap.**

#### THE BOAT OF MY DREAMS

This week, the Summer Boat Show in London is a resplendent with fine yachts, bristling with new technology. Nearly all are descendants of the hull-shape revolution that took place 25 years ago. By contrast, my own lies quietly on a tidal creek off the south coast. She was designed last year but, seeing her, you might imagine her to be 100 years old and think that her owner must be some kind of lost-soul romantic.

(81).....

It has to be said, however, that despite being an indispensable tool in current design methods and boat-building practice, sophisticated

technology and technology frequently insulates crews from the harsh realities of maritime life. These are often the very realities they hoped to rediscover by going to sea in the first place.

(82).....

The occasional battle with flapping canvas is surely part of a seaman's life. And for what purpose should we abandon common sense and move our steering positions from the security of the aft end to some vulnerable perch half-way to the bow? The sad answer is that this creates a cabin like that of an ocean liner, with space for a bed larger than the one at home.

(83).....

Her sails were heavy, and she had no pumped water, no electricity to speak of, no fridge, no central heating, no winches, and absolutely no electronics, especially in the navigation department, yet she was the kindest, easiest boat that I have ever sailed at sea.

(84).....

*The Westerman* has never disappointed me. Although Nigel Irens, the designer, and Ed Burnett, his right-hand man, are adept with computer-assisted design programs, Irens initially drew this boat on a paper napkin, and only later transferred his ideas to the computer. After this had generated a set of lines, he carved a model, just as boatyards did in the days of sail. Together we considered the primary embryonic vessel, then led the design back into the electronic box for modification.

(85).....

Her appearance is ageless, her motion at sea is a pleasure and her accommodation, much of it in reclaimed pitch pine, emanates an atmosphere of deep peace. Maybe this is because she was drawn purely as a sailing because she was drawn purely as a sailing craft, without reference to any furniture we might put into her. That is the well-tried method of the sea.

In her timeless serenity, she is the living proof that it works; that there is no need to follow current fashions to find satisfaction, and that sometimes it pays to listen to the lessons of history. Constructed in timber treated with a penetrating glue, she is totally impervious to water. Thus she has all the benefits of a glass fibre boat yet looks like, feels like and sails like the real thing.

(Certificate in Advanced English 6)

**Missing paragraphs:**

A. It's not that I'm suggesting that sailors should go back to enduring every hardship. It's always been important to me that my boats have a coal stove for warmth and dryness and cosy berths for sleeping. But why go cruising at all if every sail sets and furls itself?

B. Back on land, however, it is a sad fact that the very antiquity of classic boats means that they need a lot of looking after. When I had a bad injury to my back, I realized that my 15-year love affair with her had to end. Searching for a younger replacement produced no credible contenders, so I decided to build a new boat from scratch.

C. The next version was nearly right and by the time the final one appeared, the form was perfect. The completed boat has now crossed the North Atlantic and has won four out of her first six racing starts.

D. At the same time, having lived abroad an ancient wooden beauty in the early seventies, it's easier to understand more of this are of the mechanics. My designer, for example, knows more about the ways of a boat on the sea than anyone I can think of.

E. Perhaps I am, though I doubt it. This boat has benefited from all the magic of old- fashioned boat design, but it would have been a much harder job without the advances of modern know-how.

F. For me a boat should always be a boat and not a cottage on the water. When I bought an earlier boat, Hirta, in which I circumnavigated Britain for a TV race series, the previous owner observed that she had every comfort, but no luxury.

G. During my long relationship with her, Hirta taught me how wise he was.

## TEST 4

**Read the following passage and match the experts A-D with questions 71-74. The experts may be chosen more than once.**

Which expert...

71. disagrees with George Phillips about the value for money of being in the EU? .....

72. has a different opinion from Chris Holmes about the nature of future trade .....

deals with non-EU members?

73. shares the same view as Sylvia Chalmers about the importance of rigorous .....

checks at ports and airports?

74. disagrees with Chalmers about the possibilities of a beneficial trade .....

agreement between the UK and the EU?

**Brexit: What next?**

**Four experts give their opinions on the pros and cons for the UK of leaving the EU.**

**A. Chris Holmes**

In my view, Brexit will have a devastating effect on the UK economy. Granted, membership of the EU wasn't cheap, but access to the single market, which exempts member states from paying tariffs on imports and exports within the EU, more than made up for the expense. Now, a whole new set of agreements will have to be drawn up. A free-trade deal with Europe is unlikely, as the EU will want to deter other member states from breaking away. Having left the union, the UK will also have lost much of its bargaining power to establish agreements with other world powers.

### **B. Sylvia Chalmers**

Weighing up the pros and cons, I am inclined to come down on the side of Brexit. In my opinion, concerns about trade agreements are unfounded because of the large deficit the UK has with the EU. The fact that the UK imports more than it exports means that it is in Europe's interest to maintain tariff-free trade if the UK leaves the single market. A more pressing issue for me is border security and the question of who and what should be allowed to enter the country. Leaving the EU will allow the UK to regain control of its borders and determine who and what can and can't come in.

### **C. George Phillips**

As far as I can see, the UK will be much better off without the EU. Not only did it cost a fortune to be a part of Europe - some estimates put the figure at around £200 billion - but being a member state also had other drawbacks. For over four decades, the UK had to go along with wasteful and expensive EU regulations, such as those of the Common Agricultural Policy. I believe Brexit will bring some clear-cut advantages to the UK, such as favourable trade agreements with influential countries like China, India and the US and renewed control over fishing rights around its coast.

### **D. Amanda Shaw**

The most disastrous effect of Brexit for me is the threat it poses to freedom of movement. Until now, EU residents have been able to live and work freely anywhere else in the bloc, not only increasing their job opportunities but also broadening their horizons. While security at customs is obviously an issue to be taken seriously, immigration to the UK appears to have created a more diverse national culture and a better-qualified workforce. Since Brexit, however, both the EU citizens currently working in the UK and the Brits settled in other EU member states are fearful about their future.

*(Solutions Advanced Workbook 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)*

**Read the following passage and choose the best answer to each question.**

### **Finding The Real You**

Psychometric testing for recruitment - assessing personality traits as an indicator of performance in a certain role - has mushroomed as studies show their results to be three times more accurate in predicting your job performance than all your previous work experience combined. These tests are now included in virtually all graduate recruitment and are used in the selection of more than 50% of managers. Similar tests may be given to university applicants in future, dating agencies swear by them, and they are used to match pets to owners. Online personality tests are immensely popular, too. So does your personality meet the grade?

I decided to try a test. At one particular site I was informed of my career personality and the job that best matches it. This is the appeal of online tests: the premise that there is a perfect job, a perfect mate and a perfect you. These tests are also the ideal self-discovery vehicle for our alienated hi-tech age: intimate but anonymous. It is incredibly compulsive; when you get hooked on a test you're there for hours. And there is no aspect of life too frivolous to test for. After recording my reaction to a series of ink blots (Is the mood of this picture nostalgic, violent or neutral? Can you find the chicken in this picture? Can you find your wife's/ husband's mother?], I discovered I am mainly motivated by peace. (Somewhat unconvincing as I'd just had a row with my partner!)

The most popular of these personality tests is the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI). It is based on the theory that we are born with a predisposition to one personality type which stays more or less fixed throughout life. You answer 88 questions and are then given our "type": Introvert or Extrovert, Thinking or Feeling, Sensing or Intuitive, and Judging or Perceiving. If you're Introverted, Intuitive, Feeling and Perceptive, you'll probably find it harder to do work where you're required to entertain, or persuade lots of people, such as a job in sales or public relations.

Critics of personality testing mutter darkly about "social engineering". Psychologist Dr. Colin Gill agrees that too many organizations want people with the same traits. But, he warns, these "popular" personality traits have their downside. "An extreme extrovert tends to be a selfish "get on" type, who may walk over others. Overly conscientious people are prone to burn out and people who are extremely open to new experiences can be butterflies, going from one big idea to the next without mastering any of them." Nevertheless, the psychometric test is here to stay - which may be why a whole subindustry on cheating personality tests has sprung up. "It's possible to cheat," admits expert David Bartram, "but why try to pretend you're an ambitious extrovert if you're a more thoughtful introvert? Having to fake the person you are at work will be exhausting and miserable and probably short-lived." So can we change our personality? "Your basic personality is fixed by the time you're 21," says Gill, "but it can be affected by motivation and intelligence. If you didn't have the personality type to be a brain surgeon but desperately wanted to be one and were intelligent enough to master the skills, you could still go ahead. You can overcome certain aspects, but trying to go too much against type for too long requires a huge amount of psychic energy and is actually too draining to be sustained for long. I think it's why we're seeing this trend for downshifting - too many people trying to fit into a type or role that they aren't really suited for."

Our obsession with personality now invades every aspect of our lives. If you ask an expert for advice on just about anything, you'll probably be quizzed about your personality. But if personality tests have any value to us (rather than employers), perhaps it is to disabuse us of the illusion that all of us are full potential, and remind us of what we are. As they say in one test when they ask for your age: pick the one you are, not the one you wish you were.

*(Cambridge English Advanced Result Student's Book)*

75. What reason is given in the first paragraph for the increased use of personality testing?

- A. It is used by 50% of managers.
- B. It has been accepted by educational bodies.

C. Research has justified its use.

76. What does the writer imply about the test she tried out herself?

- It didn't come up with the right result.
- It was a tedious way to spend her time.

77. The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator is based on the belief that.....

- character traits are largely inherited
- character is largely decided from birth

78. What is the problem with personality tests, according to Dr. Gill?

- They can have a negative effect on takers.
- People can easily lie about their true abilities.
- Employers often find their results to be unreliable.
- The results could be counter-productive for employers.

79. In Dr. Gill's view, how easy is it to change your personality?

- It's achievable in the short term.
- It's easy if you have great skill and motivation.
- It's impossible after the age of 21.
- It's unlikely because it requires too much energy.

80. What final conclusion does the writer reach about the value of personality tests?

- They are not really worth doing.
- They may encourage greater realism
- They are of doubtful value to employers.
- They can strengthen our self-image.

## TEST 5

**Read the following passage and choose from the people (A-D) to each question. The people may be chosen more than once.**

Which person ...

76. overcame a financially disadvantaged background to become successful? .....

77. was rewarded for all the effort put into a work placement? .....

78. believes that personal recommendation was the main factor in obtaining a job? .....

79. appreciated being offered encouragement and expertise as a student? .....

80. is aware that knowing influential people would have been a career benefit? .....

81. used to feel depressed by the lack of job opportunities? .....

82. finds the prospect of having to pay back a student loan daunting? .....

83. had a couple of false career starts? .....

84. is unsure about future career prospects? .....

85. had a strong preference for what kind of place to study at? .....

### The Secret of My Success

*Four high-flying graduates talk about what it takes to land a top job in one of the elite professions.*

#### A. The barrister

At the age of nine, without a word of English, Hashi was sent from Kenya to live in Britain, where he was raised exclusively on state benefits, with very little to live on. "I attended badly performing schools and was always moving around between different relatives." Despite this, Hashi managed to scrape through his exams and get into university to study law. Much later, having done a master's degree, he was inspired to become a barrister so that he could represent people in court. "But first you have to do a work placement where you shadow a barrister. Unfortunately, it took me 18 months before I was accepted because I didn't have any contacts in the profession. It isn't fair, but there is no point trying to pick a fight with a system." Now a junior barrister at a top firm, Hashi attributes this outstanding achievement against the odds to a combination of the people who believed in him, the scholarships and loans which enabled him to afford the course, strong self-discipline and a lot of hard work.

#### B. The fashion designer

Having set her heart from childhood on a career in costume design, Lilly worked in the theatre straight after school, only to realize that this job wasn't for her. Literature, which she tried next, bored her. "So I sent some drawing off and was accepted for an art degree, which I loved because I had tutors who knew what they were talking about. But it was the head of the course on my master's degree in fashion who really helped me to develop my confidence and individual style. Every summer, I was taken on for a three-month work placement, organized by the college. I took these really seriously - I can't understand people who are half-hearted about them. In my second year I was making prints 16 hours a day for a famous designer and some of them got used in his fashion collection." However, though Lilly did work for a number of well-known designers, there were also discouragingly long periods of unemployment before she finally got a permanent job.

#### C. The banker

While still at the London School of Economics (LSE), Wen Du got some work experience in banking. "LSE helps you to find these work placements but it's still quite tough, so I had to do loads of networking. When you are eventually looking for a job, you need certain academic qualifications so companies will be interested in interviewing you. But, after that, it's more about how much you know about banking, so experience while you are still at university is vital. I was working 12-13 hours a day during my placements

but you take long hours in your stride provided you are learning. After I finished university, I was offered a job at one of my work placements. However, I had the opportunity to do a master's degree in finance, so I did that first. For me, salary isn't the main priority in a first job; it's about how much you can learn and how much responsibility your line manager will give you. I want to do well, but because there are so many uncertainties in our field, I can't foresee where I'll be in five years."

#### **D. The architect**

Having eventually settled on architecture as a career, Amandine came to London from the USA and started building a portfolio of her work by attending local college courses. This got her onto a university foundation art course and then into the highly competitive Architectural Association (AA) school. "I picked the AA because it has such a close-knit family atmosphere, which for me is essential. But I knew I couldn't go there unless I got a scholarship because the fees are so high, especially given that the course takes seven years. Even though I had two-thirds of it paid for me, I still owe a fortune, the debt is a huge weight on your shoulders at my age. I now have a job in a company that has always interested me, thanks to friends that worked here and could vouch for me. It's great to have an impressive CV but even better to have a good character reference." *(Advanced Expert)*