

9. The word “**imposed**” in the 3rd paragraph is closest in meaning to _____.

A. introduced B. made C. excepted D. constrained

10. Hypocrisy on the part of the parents may _____.

A. disqualify their teachings altogether
B. make their children lose faith in them
C. result in their children’s wrong behaviour
D. impair their children’s mind

Your answers:

| | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|-----|
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5 |
| 6. | 7. | 8. | 9. | 10. |

Part 4. Read the text and do the following tasks. (15 points)

HOW DOES THE BIOLOGICAL CLOCK TICK?

A. Our life span is restricted. Everyone accepts this as ‘biologically’ obvious. ‘Nothing lives for ever!’ However, in this statement we think of artificially produced, technical objects, products which are subjected to natural wear and tear during use. This leads to the result that at some time or other the object stops working and is unusable (‘death’ in the biological sense). But are the wear and tear and loss of function of technical objects and the death of living organisms really similar or comparable.

B. Our ‘dead’ products are ‘static’, closed systems. It is always the basic material which constitutes the object and which, in the natural course of things, is worn down and becomes ‘older’. Ageing in this case must occur according to the laws of physical chemistry and of thermodynamics. Although the same law holds for a living organism, the result of this law is not inexorable in the same way. At least as long as a biological system has the ability to renew itself it could actually become older without ageing; an organism is an open, dynamic system through which new material continuously flows. Destruction of old material and formation of new material are thus in permanent dynamic equilibrium. The material of which the organism is formed changes continuously. Thus our bodies continuously exchange old substance for new, just like a

spring which more or less maintains its form and movement, but in which the water molecules are always different.

C. Thus ageing and death should not be seen as inevitable, particularly as the organism possesses many mechanisms for repair. It is not, in principle, necessary for a biological system to age and die. Nevertheless, a restricted life span, ageing, and then death are basic characteristics of life. The reason for this is easy to recognise: in nature, the existent organisms either adapt or are regularly replaced by new types. Because of changes in the genetic material (mutations) these have new characteristics and in the course of their individual lives they are tested for optimal or better adaptation to the environmental conditions. Immortality would disturb this system — it needs room for new and better life. This is the basic problem of evolution.

D. Every organism has a life span which is highly characteristic. There are striking differences in life span between different species, but within one species the parameter is relatively constant. For example, the average duration of human life has hardly changed in thousands of years. Although more and more people attain an advanced age as a result of developments in medical care and better nutrition, the characteristic upper limit for most remains 80 years. A further argument against the simple wear and tear theory is the observation that the time within which organisms age lies between a few days (even a few hours for unicellular organisms) and several thousand years, as with mammoth trees.

E. If a life span is a genetically determined biological characteristic, it is logically necessary to propose the existence of an internal clock, which in some way measures and controls the ageing process and which finally determines death as the last step in a fixed programme. Like the life span, the metabolic rate has for different organisms a fixed mathematical relationship to the body mass. In comparison to the life span this relationship is ‘inverted’: the larger the organism the lower its metabolic rate. Again this relationship is valid not only for birds, but also, similarly on average within the systematic unit, for all other organisms (plants, animals, unicellular organisms).

F. Animals which behave ‘frugally’ with energy become particularly old, for example, crocodiles and tortoises. Parrots and birds of prey are often held chained up.

Thus they are not able to 'experience life' and so they attain a high life span in captivity. Animals which save energy by hibernation or lethargy (e.g. bats or hedgehogs) live much longer than those which are always active. The metabolic rate of mice can be reduced by a very low consumption of food (hunger diet). They then may live twice as long as their well-fed comrades. Women become distinctly (about 10 per cent) older than men. If you examine the metabolic rates of the two sexes you establish that the higher male metabolic rate roughly accounts for the lower male life span. That means that they live life 'energetically' — more intensively, but not for as long.

G. It follows from the above that sparing use of energy reserves should tend to extend life. Extreme high performance sports may lead to optimal cardiovascular performance, but they quite certainly do not prolong life. Relaxation lowers metabolic rate, as does adequate sleep and in general an equable and balanced personality. Each of us can develop his or her own 'energy saving programme' with a little self-observation, critical self-control and, above all, logical consistency. Experience will show that to live in this way not only increases the life span but is also very healthy. This final aspect should not be forgotten.

A. Choose the correct heading for paragraphs B-G from the list of headings below.

List of Headings

- i. The biological clock*
- ii. Why dying is beneficial*
- iii. The ageing process of men and women*
- iv. Prolonging your life*
- v. Limitations of life span*
- vi. Modes of development of different species*
- vii. A stable life span despite improvements*
- viii. Energy consumption*
- ix. Fundamental differences in ageing of objects and organisms*
- x. Repair of genetic material*

Example answer: Paragraph A v

B. Complete the notes below. Choose NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS from the passage for each answer.

- Objects age in accordance with principles of (7) _____ and of (8) _____.
- Through mutations, organisms can (9) _____ better to the environment.
- (10) _____ would pose a serious problem for the theory of evolution.

Your answers

| | | | |
|----------------|-------|----------------|-------|
| 1. Paragraph B | _____ | 6. Paragraph G | _____ |
| 2. Paragraph C | _____ | 7. | |
| 3. Paragraph D | _____ | 8. | |
| 4. Paragraph E | _____ | 9. | |
| 5. Paragraph F | _____ | 10. | |

D. WRITING (50 points)

Part 1. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the given word. DO NOT CHANGE THE WORD GIVEN. You must use between THREE and SIX words, including the word given. (10 points)

1. They say this company is one of the most reliable in the country. (**REPUTED**)

This company _____ of the most reliable in the country.

2. We were all surprised when she announced that she was engaged to be married.

(ANNOUNCEMENT)

The _____ all by surprise.

3. Finding the survivors is our number one priority. (**UTMOST**)

It is of the _____ the survivors.

4. Whatever happens, I will never trust him again. (**EVER**)

Under _____ trust him again.

5. Tom didn't feel like dancing that night. (**MOOD**)

Tom _____ dancing that night.

Part 2. Rewrite the sentences below in such a way that their meanings stay the same, starting with the provided word(s). (10 points)

1. Absolute secrecy was crucial to the success of the mission.

Without _____.

2. The two sides never looked likely to reach an agreement.

At no time was _____.

3. He is a complete hypocrite; in public he condemns smokers, yet he smokes a packet a day himself.

So _____.

4. Ruth never asks anyone for a loan as she doesn't like to admit she has financial problems.

Ruth is _____.

5. He loses his temper at all things, even the slightest one.

He flies _____.

Part 3. Essay writing (30 points)

In some countries, people have boycotted fast food chains because they feel that they pose a threat to the national character of their cities. Write an essay in which you either support or oppose the growth of fast food chains around the world.

THE END

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