

READING

1 Read the article about hairstyles. For each question, choose the correct answer.

- 1 The author says the purpose of the text is to ...
 - A inspire the reader.
 - B challenge a statement.
 - C make some information known.
- 2 What does 'live life to the full' (line 16) refer to?
 - A Making the most out of life by being busy.
 - B Challenging past traditions and beliefs.
 - C Working all day and not going out.
- 3 Celebrities in the 1940s and 50s ...
 - A were confident and secure.
 - B struggled to find success.
 - C liked a certain hairstyle.
- 4 What hairstyle was popular in the 1980s?
 - A Short and tidy hair.
 - B Long, straight hair.
 - C Large and curly hair.
- 5 The author states that in the 21st century, ...
 - A there are fewer hairstyles than there were in the 20th century.
 - B hairstyles are becoming more and more varied.
 - C people have become more judgemental about hairstyles.

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It's All About Your Hair

Some people claim a person's hairstyle reveals everything about their personality. Red hair apparently suggests that the individual has a good social life, while curly hair means you are affectionate. In this article, we will look at different hairstyles throughout the last century to see if there is any truth behind this.

Back in the 1920s, women started to reject conventional long hair, instead choosing shorter styles, in an apparent effort to bring them closer in appearance to men. This reflected the mood at the time, where many women were demanding more freedom and equal opportunities. Meanwhile, men typically divided their hair in the centre and covered it with scented oil, possibly to reflect positivity and the desire to live life to the full.

This did not last long, as during the 1940s and 50s, the world was full of conflict, danger and uncertainty. It was important to have a clean and simple hairstyle as many people worked in factories, fields or the armed services, where rules were clear. The victory roll was a classic hairstyle for women and favoured by leading actresses such as Ingrid Bergman. The look involved large curls of hair on top of the head. Men's hair was typically short on the back and sides and long on the top.

Then, in the 1960s, music started to dominate the lives of young people, having a strong influence on haircuts. The beehive, with all the hair placed on

top of the head in a shape of a dome, was a popular hairstyle among women, thanks to girl groups at the time. Men copied the haircuts of iconic bands, such as the Beatles' 'mop top' style, with hair reasonably long all over. At the time, it was suggested that the look was connected to the rejection of norms and the promotion of self-expression.

The 1970s was known as the beginning of the punk era. People could be seen with their hair styled in unusual ways and dyed bright colours, or with completely shaved heads. Fashion and hair reflected a desire among young people for more freedom from social limitations. It challenged the older generation, in an effort to shock them into change.

Big, excessive hairstyles became the norm in the 1980s, as seen on celebrities such as Whitney Houston and Michael Jackson. It was all about having curls.

It was not until the end of the 20th century that hairstyles would begin to reflect people's personal choices, ranging from long and wild to short and tidy. This has continued into the 21st century. Indeed, with a wide range of products out there, hairstyles seem to be becoming more and more diverse, perhaps reflecting a more open-minded approach towards other cultures. It will be interesting to see what hairstyle the next generation will come up with and what people will claim it says about them.



WRITING

2 Write a paragraph (225–250 words) about the importance of trying new and different things. Describe something new you have tried recently and how you benefited from this experience.

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Total: ____/20