



Extra training

Reading Task 356

READ THE SITUATIONS and choose the item that BEST fits each blank.

1. The book Brian had to read was written in Spanish and _____, because his knowledge of the language was not at all sufficient to understand everything.
 1. *she had to overcome the temptation to throw it away*
 2. *he was tired of using the dictionary every ten minutes*
 3. *he was really enjoying the plot of it*
 4. *we knew that the History of Spain was full of interesting facts.*
2. The ship was the biggest in the world and everybody thought that she was unable to sink. The passengers were enjoying themselves wondering how fast they would be able to cross the Atlantic. _____. Nor could they imagine what fortune was awaiting them.
 1. *But a large iceberg was somewhere on their way*
 2. *Still they knew nothing about the large iceberg only a few miles ahead.*
 3. *The captain was trying to set a record of speed*
 4. *Leon and Mary were standing on the top deck.*
3. On May, 17, 2157 Tommy and Margie found a real ancient book. It was covered with dust. _____ they broke a little and it seemed that any careless touch could ruin the whole thing.
 1. *When the children told the parents*
 2. *When the mother saw her children reading*
 3. *When the pages were lying on the table*
 4. *When the children touched the dark yellow pages*

Part Two

READ the text and choose the correct item that BEST fits each blank.

QUESTIONS 4 - 10 ARE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE:

During the second half of the nineteenth century in the United States both the impetus to produce landscape art and the subject of landscape altered appreciably as the pressure of events surrounding the Civil War witnessed the emergence of a new national consciousness. It was a time when certain fundamental religious beliefs were assaulted by new scientific doctrines and when new critical writings, particularly those of John Ruskin, exercised an important influence on art. The landscape painting from the Ganz collection provide an opportunity to examine the shifts in taste and the pluralities of style that characterised American landscape painting, especially in the later part of the century.

In the early years of the nineteenth century American landscape was closely associated with the republican ideals of the new nation and took on significance in the popular imagination as a form of national propaganda.

Landscape painting was conceived of as a vehicle for the articulation of the new republic's unique historical and moral position in world history. This position was subscribed to by Thomas Cole, the dean of the Hudson River School, and was based on a religious interpretation of wilderness motifs. While the American concern for the founding of a school of historical landscape was most assertive in the first half of the century and is attested to in such greatly ambitious paintings as Cole's famous moral allegory depicting the "Course of Europe", interest in creating a national art based on American nature continued to influence the formal evolution of landscape painting.

4. With what topic is the passage primarily concerned?
 1. *The moral position of the United States in world history*
 2. *John Ruskin's influence on nineteenth-century art*
 3. *A religious interpretations of wilderness motifs.*
 4. *The evolution of landscape painting in the United States*

5. What phenomenon does the author mention as occurring at the time of the Civil War?
1. *The revival of fundamental religious beliefs.*
 2. *An increased interest in national geography.*
 3. *A period of stagnation in the arts and sciences.*
 4. *The emergence of a new national consciousness*
6. According to the passage, why is the Ganz collection significant?
1. *It reflects changes in American landscape painting.*
 2. *It includes many critical writings of the era.*
 3. *It appeals to the popular imagination.*
 4. *It documents the painting of the Hudson River School.*
7. According to the passage, landscape painting early in the nineteenth century was used to ____
1. *finance a school of historical landscape painting.*
 2. *further the ambitions of young politicians.*
 3. *represent and reaffirm the ideals of a new nation.*
 4. *realistically depict the country's physical beauty.*
8. The term "vehicle" in line the *blue italicised* sentence can be replaced by ____
1. *a form*
 2. *an instrument*
 3. *a print*
 4. *an automobile*
9. Why does the author mention "Course of Europe"?
1. *to criticise the use of allegory in art.*
 2. *to create an awareness of United States history.*
 3. *to contrast Cole with his contemporaries.*
 4. *to give an example of a painting typical to the time.*
10. The author implies that a nation's art is often used to express the ____ -
1. *ideology behind the country's educational system.*
 2. *artist's changes in mood and temperament.*
 3. *prevailing thought and ideals of its people.*
 4. *tensions between different political parties.*
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New Year in Kolomna