



Teacher's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Reading Examination**

#### **Part I**

Bill Gates is an American inventor, computer programmer, philanthropist, and businessman, who was born in Seattle, Washington. He is reportedly worth nearly \$80 billion, making him one of the wealthiest people in the country. He founded, and was head of Microsoft Corporation for years, and is still on the board for the computer software giant.

Gates was born to an upper-middle class family. His father was an attorney; his mother was a banker, who worked for the United Way for many years. He is credited for being the father of the modern computer, and for almost single-handedly starting the personal computer revolution. He studied at Harvard University, but did not graduate because of his desire to develop new software.

As a 13-year-old student at the Lakeside School, which was an exclusive college preparatory school, Gates was introduced to computer programming. That year he developed a program that allowed users to play tic-tac-toe against the computer. Gates was reportedly fascinated by the computer's ability to reproduce software code. In 1975, Gates approached a company called Micro Instrumentation and Telemetry Systems (MITS). He convinced the owner that he had written a program that would work with his platform. The owner of the company bought into Gates innovations, and the two men reached an agreement to develop software for MITS. The Microsoft Company was born.

Gates went on to develop the Windows operating system with then partner IBM Corporation. The two companies had differences though, and their partnership ended quickly. Gates left Microsoft in 2000, but remains on its board of directors. He remained active with the company for several years before stepping down in February 2014, becoming Technical Advisor for the firm.

#### **I. Choose the best answer.**

1. Which of the following is false?

- Gates is the richest person in the U.S.
- Gates is a philanthropist
- Gates is the Vice President of Microsoft
- Gates dropped out of Harvard

2. Why didn't Gates graduate from Harvard?

- he thought he was too smart for the people there
- he failed some classes
- he wanted to spend time designing software
- he got into a fight

3. When Gates was 13, he \_\_\_\_\_.

- found Microsoft
- got hired by MITS

invented a program that allowed people to play tic-tac-toe with a computer  
got accepted to Harvard

4. Which word best describes the relationship between IBM and Microsoft?

- long
- trusting
- brief
- loving

5. Gates is now the \_\_\_\_\_ for Microsoft

- technical advisor
- head researcher
- president

## II. Fill in the blanks with the missing words.

Bill Gates is an American inventor, computer programmer, [redacted], and businessman, who was born in Seattle, Washington. [redacted] is reportedly worth nearly \$80 billion, making him [redacted] of the wealthiest people in the country. He [redacted], and was head of Microsoft Corporation for years, [redacted] is still on the board for the computer [redacted] giant.

Gates was born to an upper-middle class [redacted]. His father was an attorney; his mother was [redacted] banker, who worked for the United Way for [redacted] years. He is credited for being the father [redacted] the modern computer, and for almost single-handedly starting [redacted] personal computer revolution. He studied at Harvard University, [redacted] did not graduate because of his desire to [redacted] new software.

As a 13-year-old student at the [redacted] School, which was an exclusive college preparatory school, [redacted] was introduced to computer programming. That year he [redacted] a program that allowed users to play tic-tac-toe [redacted] the computer. Gates was reportedly fascinated by the [redacted]'s ability to reproduce software code. In 1975, Gates [redacted] a company called Micro Instrumentation and Telemetry Systems ([redacted]). He convinced the owner that he had written [redacted] program that would work with his platform. The [redacted] of the company bought into Gates innovations, and [redacted] two men reached an agreement to develop software [redacted] MITS. The Microsoft Company was born.

Gates went [redacted] to develop the Windows operating system with then [redacted] IBM Corporation. The two companies had differences though, [redacted] their partnership ended quickly. Gates left Microsoft in [redacted], but remains on its board of directors. He [redacted] active with the company for several years before [redacted] down in February 2014, becoming Technical Advisor for [redacted] firm.

## Part II

Have you got the skills you need for the 21st-century workplace?

We need to develop all kinds of skills to survive in the 21st century. Some, like ICT skills and knowledge of the digital world, are taught explicitly in schools in the UK. Here are five less obvious ones for you to think about. These are the sorts of skills that employers may ask you questions about in interviews, so it's a good idea to think about how good you are in these areas. What are your strengths and weaknesses?

## Imagination

In the age of technology that we are living in now, it is no longer enough to keep on making the same products. Employers need people who can imagine new approaches and new ideas.

Think: Think of an object or gadget you use every day. How could it be improved? Can you think of three improvements?

## Problem solving

Employers will value workers who are able to see problems before they happen and come up with creative solutions.

Think: Imagine you are organising an end-of-term social event at school. Think of some problems that you could face. Can you think of any solutions?

## Communication skills

Workers will have to be good communicators. They will have to be able to negotiate and discuss key issues and also write in a clear way without using too many words.

Think: How do people communicate with each other in the 21st century?

### Critical analysis

Employers want workers who are able to recognise the difference between information that can be believed and false information.

Think: Use the internet to find out three facts about a celebrity or famous figure. Can you verify the information by checking other websites?

## Decision making

Individual workers have a growing amount of responsibility. It is important to be able to evaluate a situation and be confident in making a decision.

Think: Which three things could you do to (a) be healthier (b) do better at school and (c) help others? Make a decision now to do at least one of these things. Then ... just do it!

### I. Are the sentences true or false?

1. 21st-century skills are not taught in schools in the UK.

## 2. Employers like workers to be imaginative

True      False

### 3. Employers want workers to think about possible problems

4. Employers like workers to be original when solving problems.

5. Future workers will need to be able to write concisely.

6. People communicate with each other less in the 21st century

True

False

7. Employers believe it is useful to know a lot of information about celebrities.

True

False

8. Employers don't want workers to make decisions without asking them.

True

False

## II. Fill the gaps with a word from the box.

Develop teach have discuss differentiate solve value make

1. UK schools and colleges ICT skills.

2. Employers people with ideas for new approaches.

3. Employers like workers who can problems.

4. Workers need to be able to their work with their team.

5. Workers need to their writing skills.

6. It is important that workers can between truth and lies.

7. Employees in the 21st century more responsibility.

8. Employers like their workers to decisions.

## Part III

I have always admired students who hand their homework in on time and never forget to do it. Me, on the other hand, ... OK, I admit. I'm terrible at getting myself organised!

But lately I've started keeping a small study diary. I write down everything I need to do and when it needs to be done by. Then I write a reminder a few days before the date just in case. It's helping.

So I was wondering, what are your tips for getting organised? Post a comment below. I'm hoping we can all share some tips to teach us all better study skills.

### Comments

#### Hana

Good question, Amy. I always spend about five minutes at the end of the day tidying up the desktop on my computer. I make a backup of important documents. I delete things I don't need any more and put everything into the correct folder.

#### Amy

Nice tip, Hana. I think it's a good idea to do a little bit of tidying up every day. Then it becomes a habit and your desktop is always organised.

#### Gloria

The most important thing is to start studying a few weeks before the exams and not leave it until the night before! That's just common sense, I think.

#### Amy

Thanks, Gloria! I agree.

#### Lou

Hi, Amy. My tip is to have a big noticeboard in your bedroom, divided into different sections. I've got one. It's a whiteboard. I've got a section for each school subject and another one for other stuff. I use board pens

to write reminders and I make sure I look at it every day. The best part is when I remove something from the board!

**Amy**

Great tip, Lou. I've got a cork board with pins. I use it in the same way.

**I. Choose the correct answer.**

1. Amy is very good at handing in her homework on time.  
True                      False
2. Amy writes down the date she has to hand in her homework.  
True                      False
3. Hana tidies her computer desktop twice a day.  
True                      False
4. Amy thinks Hana's tip is good.  
True                      False
5. Gloria thinks the date you start studying is important.  
True                      False
6. Lou thinks the best thing about having a noticeboard is using board pens.  
True                      False

**II. Complete the sentences with the missing words.**

Amy is asking for                      about organising school work. She keeps a                      with a record of her homework. She also writes a                      in case she forgets. Hana thinks it's important to keep your computer                      clean and tidy. She deletes things she doesn't need and puts her work into separate                      . Gloria says it's important to start studying in plenty of time and not to leave things until the night                      ! Lou's tip is to use a noticeboard, divided into sections for each                      . He thinks the best thing about this idea is the feeling he gets when he                      an item!