

Reading test

I.- Choose the best Word to fill the spaces. (Drop-Down)

At first time for everybody

Joe stepped onto the aeroplane and was met by one of the cabin crew who showed him to his seat. This was his first and he was feeling nervous. His hands were _____ slightly and he was breathing deeply. He walked along the _____ of the plane and found his seat. Joe had spent a lot of time on planning his holiday, given this was the first time he had been abroad. Sitting next to him was an 8 year old boy who also _____ to be quite nervous. Joe knew he was quite good with children, so he decided to try to calm the boy. After _____ with him gave it to him. The _____ then became quite cheerful as he explained that he loved chocolate so much.

The man and the boy found they _____ well together as they chatted for the whole flight. Joe discovered that they were on the same return flight the following week. Which pleased them both. When they _____ at the terminal, Joe commented about what a very good flight he'd had. The young boy agreed. Saying that he was looking forward to _____ Joe again on the return flight.

II.- Click in the gaps and type the correct word in each gap: (Fill in the blank)

more, and, despite, many, of, an, once, off

The Goulburn Valley

The Goulburn Valley is situated in the south – east corner of the Australian continent, in the state of Victoria. Because _____ the introduction of irrigation over a century ago, primary industry flourished, resulting in a multitude of orchards _____ market gardens. After World War II, migrants flocked to the area in search of work on the farms, and in _____ cases, establishing a property of their own.

Unfortunately the region has taken a turn for the worse over the past decade. The irrigation water that was _____ plentiful has now been rationed, and many farmers have been forced _____ the land. The main source of water is from the Goulburn River, with several reservoirs located along its stretch to mighty Murray River. Dam capacities have fallen to dangerous levels, resulting in some farmers having _____ inadequate supply of irrigation water.

_____ the recent hardships, some farmers have continued to keep an existence out of the land. Many have become _____ ingenious. Devising new ways to utilize water plus finding special niches to service the ever changing urban needs. Perhaps the Goulburn Valley can return to its prosperous times again.

III.- Read the text below, use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gaps in the **same line**.

Agriculture in Australia

Traditionally, Australia was _____ for producing wheat and _____ FAME

Now, but times have changed in _____ years, with many _____ RECENTLY

Farmers _____ to be more diverse in their _____ ELECT

Crop and livestock range. It is now quite common to see farms _____

With more exotic and vegetables. Farmers are _____ to _____ LIKE

Sell their produce locally nowadays, but rather to the factories in _____

the cities. As a result farms are now large-scale _____ _____ PRODUCE

where thousands of tonnes of crops are cultivated.

Another aspect that is different nowadays is _____. In the _____ IRRIGATE

Past, farmers would just flood the fields but now it is common to see _____

Sprinklers _____ everywhere. This means that more water _____ SYSTEMATIC

is conserved, which has been helpful with the drought that _____

Has severely impacted the _____ of the farms in the _____ MAJOR

Southern states of the country.

III.- You are going to read an article in which four people comment on a book they have read recently. For questions 1-10, choose from the people A-D. The people may be chosen more than once.

A

Sundance by Teresa Wilson

Kerry:

I really don't know why this book is so popular. I mean, I suppose it is going to appeal to young girls who want danger and romance, but I found this book really tedious. For a start, the characters were really unconvincing. The author went out of her way to add lots of details about the characters, but I found these details really pointless. I thought that some of the facts she presented about the main characters would become significant in some way later in the novel, but they didn't. They were just worthless bits of information. I also was disappointed that, although this book is meant to be about kids at high school, the writer seems to have no recollection at all about what it's like to be 17. The main character thought and acted like a 32-year old. It just wasn't believable. I'm not saying Teresa Wilson is a bad writer. She can obviously string words together and come up with a story that is appealing to a large number of people, but she lacks anything original. There is no flair. It just uses the same sort of language as you can see in many other mediocre novels.

B

Wild Ways by Margery Emerson

Liz:

I have to say that I won't forget this book for a long time. I was hooked from the very first chapter. The devastating story affected me so much that I don't know if I'll ever feel the same again. I was close to tears on several occasions. I've got images in my brain now that I don't think will ever leave me. It's incredibly well-researched and, although it is fiction, is based on shocking real-life events. I learned an awful lot about things that went on that I never knew before. Margaret Emerson has a brilliant way with words and I really felt real empathy towards the characters, although I was sometimes irritated by the choices they made. However, the parallel story, the part that is set in the present, is not quite so good. I found myself just flicking through that part so that I could get back to 1940s Paris.

C

Orchid by Henry Rathbone

Imogen:

This is a delightful novel full of wonderful imagery, it paints a remarkable picture of life in a distant time and a far-away place. If you're looking to learn about Eastern culture in great detail, then this is probably not the book for you, as the writer skims over most of the more complicated aspects of the country's etiquette. The historical aspects are also not covered in much depth. However, I wonder whether this was the writer's intention. By doing this, he symbolise the superficiality of the girl's life. She, like the book, is beautiful and eager to please, but remains too distant from us, the readers, to teach us much. Although I loved the book and read it in one sitting, the ending was a bit of a disappointment. A story which involves so much turmoil, in a place where the future is uncertain, should not have a happy-ever-after fairy-tale ending.

D

High Hills by Mary Holland

Hannah:

I read this book for a literature class. I know it's a classic, and I did try to like it, but I just didn't get into it. I kept persevering, hoping that I'd start to enjoy it, but no such luck. The famous scene out on the moors was definitely the best bit of the book, but even that I found ridiculous when it is clearly supposed to be passionate. As I approached the end of the book, I figured there must be some kind of moral to the story, something that I would learn from the experience of trudging through seven hundred long pages, but there was nothing worthwhile. I don't know why the literary world sees this book as such a masterpiece. The characters are portrayed as being intelligent, but they do such stupid things! And as for it being a love story - marrying someone you don't love and then being abused by them - that doesn't spell love to me.

Which person read a book which.....

- 1.- was set in an oriental country
- 2.- finished in an unrealistic way
- 3.- had characters that the reader could sympathise with
- 4.- is well-known and was written a long time ago
- 5.- contained two stories
- 6.- was not set in the past
- 7.- was historically accurate
- 8.- made the reader cry
- 9.- contained insignificant details
- 10.-has a well-known scene

IV.- Read the text and choose the correct answer for each question:

Social networks

Business applications

Social networks connect people at low cost; this can be beneficial for entrepreneurs and small businesses looking to expand their contact base. These networks often act as a customer relationship management tool for companies selling products and services. Companies can also use social networks for advertising in the form of banners and text ads. Since businesses operate globally, social networks can make it easier to keep in touch with contacts around the world.

Medical applications

Social networks are beginning to be adopted by healthcare professionals as a means to manage institutional knowledge, disseminate peer to peer knowledge and to highlight individual physicians and institutions. The advantage of using a dedicated medical social networking site is that all the members are screened against the state licensing board list of practitioners. The role of social networks is especially of interest to pharmaceutical companies who spend approximately "32 percent of their marketing dollars" attempting to influence the opinion leaders of social networks.

Languages, nationalities and academia

Various social networking sites have sprung up catering to different languages and countries. The popular site Facebook has been cloned for various countries and languages and some specializing in connecting students and faculty.

Social networks for social good

Several websites are beginning to tap into the power of the social networking model for social good. Such models may be highly successful for connecting otherwise fragmented industries and small organizations without the resources to reach a broader audience with interested and passionate users. Users benefit by interacting with a like-minded community and finding a channel for their energy and giving.

Business model

Few social networks currently charge money for membership. In part, this may be because social networking is a relatively new service, and the value of using them has not been firmly established in customers' minds. Companies such as MySpace and Facebook sell online advertising on their site. Hence, they are seeking large memberships, and charging for membership would be counter productive. Some believe that the deeper information that the sites have on each user will allow much better targeted advertising than any other site can currently provide. Sites are also seeking other ways to make money, such as by creating an online marketplace or by selling professional information and social connections to businesses.

Privacy issues

On large social networking services, there have been growing concerns about users giving out too much personal information and the threat of sexual predators. Users of these services need to be aware of data theft or viruses. However, large services, such as MySpace, often work with law enforcement to try to prevent such incidents. In addition, there is a perceived privacy threat in relation to placing too much personal information in the hands of large corporations or governmental bodies, allowing a profile to be produced on an individual's behavior on which decisions, detrimental to an individual, may be taken.

Investigations

Social network services are increasingly being used in legal and criminal investigations. Information posted on sites such as MySpace and Facebook, has been used by police, probation, and university officials to prosecute users of said sites. In some situations, content posted on MySpace has been used in court.

1 According to the text, social networks

- are being used by businesses for marketing.
- are about friendships.
- can damage business reputations.
- advertise on business web sites.

2 Why do advertisers like social nework sites?

- Detailed information on each user allows targeted ads.
- They are cost-effective to advertise on.
- Most users have high disposable income.
- They can influence consumer behaviour.

3 What does the word 'Few' at the beginning of paragraph 6 mean?

- Hardly any
- Not any
- Some
- Only

4 What should users not do on social networks?

- be too free with their personal information
- download viruses
- contact predators
- upload copyrighted music

5 Personal information on social network sites

- can be used in court
- gives a good description of the user's personality
- is sold to the government
- is translated into many languages

6 Social networking is great for

- groups of people separated over wide areas
- academic organisations
- people who write too much information about themselves
- the law enforcement agencies