

Read the article below. Choose the best answer **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**.
For each question, write the correct answer **A**, **B**, **C** or **D** in the box.

1 I looked around the dark messy room. There was a pair of deer antlers and a huge mirror on the wall. But a strange object hanging in the middle of the wall attracted my attention. It was black and stood out clearly against a square of red silk. Feeling curious, I went up to it. For a moment, I was taken aback. It was a human hand! It was black, dried and had yellow fingernails.

1. In paragraph 1, why did the writer notice the hand?

- A. He noticed it because of the pale colours.
- B. He noticed it because of the dark colours.
- C. He noticed it because of the contrast in colours.
- D. He noticed it because of the similarity of colours.

2 I could see the muscles and patches of dried blood, which looked like dirt. I was sure that the hand had been chopped off at about the middle of the arm and it looked like it was done with an axe. A big chain was fixed to the hand on one end and the other end was attached to the wall by a ring big enough to hold a big animal.

2. In paragraph 2, what was strange about the chopped hand?

- A. It was dirty.
- B. It was bloody.
- C. It was lying around.
- D. It was chained to the wall.

3 I asked in a shocked voice, “Where did you get this?” Sir John replied calmly, “That’s my worst enemy. From America. There it was chopped off with a sword and after the skin had been removed, it was dried in the sun for a week till it became what it is now.”

3. What is paragraph 3 mainly about?

- A. It informs us as to how the hand was preserved.
- B. It tells us of how the enemy was killed.
- C. It tells to whom the hand belonged.
- D. It is about how the hand was cut.

4 Intrigued by it, I put out my hand to touch the hand. It looked like it had belonged to a giant. The fingers were unusually long and were held in place by muscles. I was thinking that it was rather a frightening sight, so I recoiled a little.

4. In paragraph 4, why does the writer use the phrase ‘recoiled a little’?

- A. The sight of the hand was so unpleasant that he curled himself to a ball.
- B. The sight of the hand was so unpleasant that he jumped back in fear.
- C. The sight of the hand was so terrible that he bent over in fright.
- D. The sight of the hand was so terrible that he froze in fright.

5 “The man who chopped this off must have been very strong,” I remarked, wanting to know more about the hand and its history. “Oh yes. But I am stronger than he was. I fixed the chain on the hand to prevent it from escaping,” he said with a grin. “But why do you need to chain it? It definitely can’t run away. It’s a dead hand.” Sir John said again, this time in a serious tone, “Oh no, it will run away if I do not chain it.”

6 I looked at his face to see whether he was joking. However, I had never seen a more serious face. It made me wonder if he was not feeling sane that day. After all, what he said did not make any sense. After that incident, I did not see sir John again. A whole year had passed. Then one morning towards the end of November, my servant woke me up with the news that Sir John had been murdered during the night. I jumped out of bed, got dresses quickly and soon, I was on my way to Sir John’s residence. Along the journey there, I was wondering who would have murdered Sir John.

5. In paragraph 5, what information is revealed about the hand?

- A. It is a dead hand.
- B. It appears to be alive and well.
- C. It is a strong hand.
- D. It appears to have a life of its own.

7 Half an hour later, I was in his house. The police captain was already there talking to the servants. I introduced myself and went into the room where the hand was hung. My instincts told me that the murder was connected with the hand. When I entered the room, the first thing I saw was the body of Sir John lying on its back in the middle of the floor. I could see that his waistcoat and jacket had been torn. This suggested that a violent struggle had taken place.

8 The captain told me, “He had been choked to death. You can tell from his black and swollen face. Look here. His neck is covered with five holes and there is blood all over. They look as though they were made by sharp points of iron. He could have been choked to death by fingers of bone.”

6. In paragraph 8, what was the proof that the hand had killed Sir John?

- A. He was choked to death.
- B. His face was black and swollen.
- C. There was blood all over his neck.
- D. the five holes on the neck were made by sharp points of iron.

9 On hearing those words, I turned to look at the wall where the terrible hand had hung a year ago. But it was no longer there. The chain had been broken and was hanging down limply. My first thought, “Who is the new owner and would the same terrible fate await him?” Deep in thought, I left Sir John’s residence to find the answers to my questions.

7. Sir John says he is a strong man. Which of the following support his statement?

- A. Sir John says he is strong.
- B. Sir John says he is stronger than his enemy.
- C. Sir John states he is stronger than the person who used the axe.
- D. The hand broke the chain. So Sir John must be stronger if he could hold and chain the struggling hand.

8. What message can you draw from this story?

- A. Value your life.
- B. Keep your enemies close to you.
- C. Revenge often backfires.
- D. Be adventurous and collect strange things.