Part 3: Reading – Longer Text

Questions 19 -26

*You are going to read an extract from an article. For questions **19 to 26**, choose the correct answer (**A, B, C or D**) and mark the correct letter **A, B, C or D** on your answer sheet.*

A surprising number of people in the UK believe in ghosts. About 42 per cent of Britons think ghosts actually exist. A survey by the National Opinion Poll found almost two-thirds of those in Scotland and northern England admitted to having seen or felt the presence of a ghost. Those in the south and older people had more doubts about the existence of ghosts. So, what is that makes people feel this way? Some scientists think they may have the answer.

One theory is that people are prepared to believe in ghosts because of their knowledge of a place. It is probable that the kind of stories they hear about a certain place encourage people to believe in ghosts. When they hear scary stories about a place, people are more likely to feel scared when they visit it. Some ancient castles and palaces have histories of murders and mysteries which feed the imaginations of people who believe in ghosts. No wonder visitors to these places often expect them to be haunted! Odd noises that would not worry visitors in their own homes suddenly appear quite spooky!

Scientists who carried out experiments with volunteers in Hampton Court Palace, England and the South Bridge Vaults in Edinburgh, Scotland – two of the most famous haunted places in Britain- reported some interesting results. They found that people's strange experiences usually happened in the same parts of the building. The scientists think that some people are affected by the environment of the **haunted** building. It is the darkness, the cold, sudden drops in temperature and perhaps even some barely noticeable noise that affect their bodies, creating the feeling in their minds that something is not 'quite right'.

Research has also shown a possible connection between magnetic fields and the feelings that a place is haunted. Magnetic fields are areas that occur naturally but vary from place to place. Although we cannot see the forces in these areas, it is possible that they have an effect on the human body. Tests in laboratories have shown that small changes in magnetic fields can cause people to experience *odd feelings*. This could explain why the places which volunteers felt were most haunted were also the areas where there were the greatest changes in magnetic fields.

What about the feeling that some people report of a ghostly presence in the comfort of their own home? Experts say many people's experiences of ghosts are easy to explain. People often have these experiences as they are falling asleep or waking up. In these situations, people are half asleep, half awake and they see a face or a person near their bed. Sometimes these are people they recognise. These are quite common experiences, a little like visions, or a sort of waking dream. Unlike dreams, there has been little research into these experiences, so people often called them as ghosts.

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19 In paragraph 1, which British people are most likely to believe in ghosts?

A Old people from all over Britain
B English scientists who study ghosts
C People who live in the south of England
D People in Scotland and the north of England

20 In paragraph 2, what causes visitors to find a place scary?

A They hear loud sounds.
B They have heard that it is haunted.
C They have never visited it before.
D They have studied ancient history.

21 The word **'haunted'** in paragraph 3 means

A possessed
B anguished
C protracted
D ghost-ridden

22 The phrase *odd feeling* in paragraph 4 refers to

A emotions that never happened before
B emotions that odd people cause
C emotions that are not common
D emotions that are unusual

23 What happened to the volunteers in the experiments?

A They all saw ghosts.
B They started believing in ghosts.
C They became afraid of the dark.
D They found the same areas spooky.

24 Why are magnetic fields mentioned?

A They change when a ghost is near.
B They only occur in haunted places.
C They are weaker in ancient places.
D They may explain people's odd experiences.

25 According to the writer, the 'ghosts' that people see are probably

A Imaginations of people who believe in ghosts
B Faces of people they recognise in their dreams
C Visions people see when they are half awake from their dreams
D People who haunt the comfort of their homes when they are sleeping

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26 What is the main point of the text?

A Scientists can show that ghosts exist.
B Imagination causes strange experiences.
C People see ghosts when they are half asleep.
D There is not just one theory to explain ghosts.

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