

C. READING

I. Read the text and do the tasks below.

Many young people strive to be independent. That means you are able to take care of yourself, and you don't have to rely on anyone else. However, to live independently, you need a number of life skills in order not to depend on your parents and older brothers or sisters. One of the most important skills is time management which can help you increase your confidence and self-esteem. With good time management skills, you can perform your daily tasks, including your responsibilities at school and at home with pleasing results. Moreover, you will not feel stressed when exam dates are approaching. These skills can also help you act more independently and responsibly, get better grades at school and have more time for your family and friends.

Developing time-management skills is not as challenging as you may think. Firstly, make a plan for things you need to do, including appointments and deadlines. Using a diary or apps on mobile devices will remind you of what you need to accomplish and when you need to **accomplish** it. Secondly, prioritize your activities. You need to decide which tasks are the most urgent and important and then, concentrate on these first. This way, you may not be at a loss to deal with too much work at the same time. Thirdly, develop routines because routines, when established, take less time for you to do your tasks.

Time management skills are not hard to develop; once you master them, you will find out that they are great keys to success and you can become independent.

Task 1. Decide whether the following statements are True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG).

1. Only young people try to be independent.
2. People will be independent when they are mature.
3. Time-management is the only thing you need to be independent.
4. Teenagers can have more confidence and self-esteem when they are good at managing their time.
5. Good time-management can help teenagers get better grades at school.

Task 2. Choose the best answers for the following questions.

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. Young people need a lot of life skills to be independent.
- B. Teenagers can have more confidence and self-esteem if they have good time-management skills.
- C. Mastering time-management skills can bring many benefits and there are three steps to develop them.

2. Which of the following is not mentioned as benefits of good time-management?

- A. Be more confident and self-esteemed.
- B. Complete the daily tasks with the best result.
- C. Get better grades at school and have more time for other activities.

3. How can you prioritize your activities?

- A. Make schedule for things you need to do.
- B. Concentrate on the most urgent and important tasks first.
- C. Try to establish routines.

4. What does the word accomplish mean?

- A. Complete B. Involve C. Duty

5. What is the author's viewpoint on developing time-management skills?

- A. It's hard but you can master it well.
B. It's very challenging to build.
C. It's easier to master than people think.

II. Read through the text below, answer the questions below.

Scottish Independence

The majority of people in Scotland are in favour breaking away from the rest of the UK and becoming independent, according to a poll taken just before the 300th anniversary of the Act of Union, which united Scotland and England.

A pair of Acts of Parliament, passed in 1706 and 1707 that came into effect on May 1, 1707, created Great Britain. The parliaments of both countries were dissolved, and replaced by a new Parliament of Great Britain in Westminster, London.

The poll showed support for independence for Scotland is running at 51%. This is the first time since 1998 that support for separation has passed 50%, and the first time since devolution gave power to the country in 1999. Six months before elections for the Scottish Parliament, these poll results come as good news to the Scottish Nationalist Party, who are hoping to make progress against Labour and further the cause of an independent Scotland.

Many people have become disillusioned with devolution, and believe that the Scottish Parliament has failed to deliver what they had hoped it would; only a tenth have no opinion. In fact, only 39% of those polled want to keep things as they are.

1. Scotland and England

- A. have always been united. B. want to break up the union.
C. have been united for a long time. D. were united by war.

2. Great Britain_____.

- A. was formed by an Act of Parliament in 1706.
B. was formed by two Acts of Parliament in 1707.
C. was formed by an Act of Parliament that came into effect on May 1st 1707.
D. was formed by Acts of Parliament that came into effect on May 1st 1707.

3. People who want independence for Scotland _____.

- A. are the vast majority.
B. are in the minority.
C. are the slight majority.
D. have decreased in number since devolution.

4. The poll showed support for independence for Scotland is running at _____.

- A. 51% B. 50% C. 39% D. 49%

5. The results of the poll are good news _____.

- A. for Labour. B. for both parties.
C. for the Scottish Nationalist Party. D. for devolution.

6. Most people's opinions of devolution

- A. have gone up.
B. have gone down.
C. are the same.
D. make progress against Labour.

7. The number of people who want to keep things as they are ____.

- A. is greater than those that don't know. B. is smaller than those that don't know.
C. is increasing D. is the majority.

B. Reading

I. Read the text and put the letter containing missing sentences in the box into the appropriate gaps in the

A. The information you get from reading will allow you to get both sides of every story before you form an opinion.

B. You don't have to reject people as friends to be independent.

C. Put past mistakes behind you and learn from them.

D. That is the first and most important condition to make others believe in you.

How to live independently is, probably, one of the questions that are most frequently asked by people, young and old. According to experts, there are a number of steps that people who want to become independent should follow. Below are some of them.

First, you should believe in yourself. (1)_____. If you don't have faith in yourself, you will always turn to others for help every time you have to make a decision. Believing in yourself will make you trust your own decisions, even if they completely go against someone else's.

Second, get your own information. You should watch and read the news from different sources. It's important to read as much as possible, whether it is literature or daily newspapers. (2)_____. Being well-informed will keep you from being a follower and will lead to more independent thought.

Third, maintain solid friendships. (3)_____. In fact, your independence is reinforced with good friends. When your friend needs someone to talk to, be there for them, and listen to their problems with sympathetic and understanding attitude. This way, you will not only help your friends, but their stories will help you to learn how to deal with similar situations that may come up to you later in your life.

II. Read the text again and decide whether the following statements are true (T), false (F), or given (NG).

1. You should believe in yourself so that other people will help you when you have to make a decision.
2. If you believe in yourself, you won't be afraid that your decisions are different from those of other people.
3. You should watch and read news on both TV and the Internet.
4. When you have a lot of information, you can think more independently.
5. People who reject their friends are not very independent.
6. You can learn from your friends' experiences.
7. There are three steps to become independent.