RNE Training

Reading
Task 1405

10. *Установите соответствие* ***тем 1 - 8 текстам A- G.*** *Занесите свои ответы в таблицу. Используйте каждую* ***ЦИФРУ только один раз. В задании одна тема лишняя. Запишите цифры в клетки задания 10***

1. The unexpected side of a failure
2. Changing the face of the planet
3. Messy can be good!
4. True story and myth
5. No effort, just luck!
6. Have the right neighbor!
7. Good for war, good for peace
8. No sense of humour

A. Important discoveries and brilliant inventions often require years of hard work and sleepless nights. It is not unusual for scientists to devote their whole lives to solving a difficult problem. But sometimes discoveries are made by accident, as a by-product of another project people are working on, or even when somebody is doing something completely unrelated to anything remotely serious.

B. One of the most well-known discoveries that was made like that is the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus. While trying to find the shortest way to India, Christopher Columbus stumbled upon a new continent. His discovery completely changed people's understanding of the world as well as the cuisine of his native country! Today it is hard to even imagine what Italians ate when they didn't have tomatoes.

C. Another iconic discovery made by accident is Isaac Newton's Law of Gravity. It happened when he was having tea in his garden and watched an apple fall off a tree. He had already been in a philosophical mood, and the falling of a bright object triggered the thought that had already been forming in his mind. This was how the incident was recorded by his biographers, but later a more dramatic story of him sleeping under the tree and being hit on the head by an apple was invented.

D. Discoveries can be made thanks to bad habits. Alexander Fleming was known for being an untidy person as much as a talented scientist. His lab was never in perfect order, and things easily got lost. Once he forgot about some cups with bacteria and went on vacation. When he returned and found them, he noticed that mold had grown in one of the cups and killed the bacteria. This mold known to us now as penicillin keeps saving many lives.

E. Some of the discoveries were made during WWII. Percy Spencer was an American physicist working in the early 1940s on military radar equipment that used microwave radio signals. Once he was standing in front of the working radar and noticed that a chocolate bar in his pocket had melted. At the time, he continued working on the radars, but after the war he created a microwave oven based on this discovery.

F. Harry Coover was another American scientist working during WWII. He was trying to create transparent plastic for clear plastic gun sights used for aiming. The formula he invented produced plastic that was so sticky that it stuck to everything it touched. Coover was sad that his formula was a complete disaster, but several years later realized that it could be used as glue. This was how superglue was invented.

G. In the summer of 1904, the World Fair in St. Louis, Missouri, was in full swing, when Arnold Fornachou, an ice-cream vendor, ran out of paper cups. Not to lose any business, Formachou bought some waffles from the waffle vendor whose booth was standing next to his, and rolled them into cones. The improvised cups were a great success and later became known as ice-cream cones!

A	B	C	D	E	F	G

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11. *Прочитайте текст и заполните* ***пропуски A — F*** *частями предложений, обозначенными* ***цифрами 1 — 7.*** ***Одна из частей в списке 1 — 7 лишняя****. Занесите* ***цифры****, обозначающие соответствующие части предложения, в клетки задания* ***11 без пробелов и знаков препинания****.*

The science of sound, or acoustics, as it is often called, has been made over radically within a comparatively short space of time. Not so long ago the lectures on sound in colleges and high schools dealt chiefly with the vibrations of such things as the air columns in organ pipes. Nowadays, however, thanks chiefly to a number of electronic instruments engineers can study sounds as effectively **A** _____ . The result has been a new approach to research in sound. Scientists have been able to make far-reaching discoveries in many fields of acoustics **B** _____ .

Foremost among the instruments that have revolutionized the study of acoustics are electronic sound-level meters also known as sound meters and sound-intensity meters. These are effective devices that first convert sound waves into weak electric signals, then amplify the signals through electronic means **C** _____ . The intensity of a sound is measured in units called decibels. "Zero" sound is the faintest sound **D** _____ . The decibel measures the ratio of the intensity of a given sound to the standard "zero" sound. The decibel scale ranges from 0 to 130. An intensity of 130 decibels is perceived not only as a sound, but also **E** _____ . The normal range of painlessly audible sounds for the average human ear is about 120 decibels. For forms of life other than ourselves, the range can be quite different.

The ordinary sound meter measures the intensity of a given sound, rather than its actual loudness. Under most conditions, however, it is a quite good indicator of loudness. Probably the loudest known noise ever heard by human ears was that of the explosive eruption in August, 1883, of the volcano of Krakatoa in the East Indies. No electronic sound meters, of course, were in existence then, but physicists estimate that the sound at its source must have had an intensity of 190 decibels, **F** _____ .

1. that loud sound is of high intensity.
2. as a painful sensation in the ear.
3. as they study mechanical forces.
4. that the unaided human ear can detect.
5. and finally measure them.
6. since it was heard 3,000 miles away.
7. and they have been able to put many of these discoveries to practical use.

A	B	C	D	E	F

12-18 *Прочитайте текст и выполните задания* ***12-18*** *отметьте на карточке вариант, соответствующий номеру выбранного вами варианта ответа.*

Agatha Christie's secret life as an archaeologist

She is one of the best-known crime writers of all time, but few know the extent of Agatha Christie's archaeological ***pedigree***. What can we discover if we dig into her past?

Married in 1930 to Max Mallowan, an eminent archaeologist, Christie spent two decades living on excavation sites in the Middle East, writing her crime novels and helping out with her husband's work. Travel by boat and on the Orient Express to Cairo, Damascus and Baghdad provided ideas for some of Christie's best-known works of detective fiction, including "Murder on the Orient Express", "Death on the Nile", and "Murder in Mesopotamia".

Now, 3,000-year-old ivory artifacts recovered by Mallowan between 1949 and 1963 from the ancient city of Nimrud, in what is now Iraq, and likely cleaned by his famous wife using cotton wool buds and face cream, are currently on display at the British Museum in London. "Face cream in fact is quite a good thing to clean (artifacts) with. Obviously conservators now wouldn't use that, but I ***don't think it has done*** (the pieces) any harm," he claimed, adding that in fact it was quite resourceful of Christie to think of applying her Innoxa face cream to the fragile, dirty pieces. "Agatha, who was very conscious of being fifteen years older than her husband, travelled

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everywhere with her moisturiser and it was just the right consistency for cleaning artifacts," said Henrietta McCall, the author of "The Life of Max Mallowan: Archaeology and Agatha Christie."

Christie's interest in archaeology, according to McCall, went deeper than support for her husband's work and even formed the backdrop to works such as "Murder in Mesopotamia", in which the culprit turns out to be an archaeologist. Several of the characters in the book can be traced to the people Christie knew from a dig in Ur in what is modern Iraq, including the murder victim, which McCall believes is based on the wife of archaeologist Leonard Woolley. "She made a wonderful quote on archaeology and crime detection, that they are very similar because you have to clear away the debris to reveal the shining truth," said McCall. And Christie's elaborate plotting and clue building came in handy when piecing together broken artifacts.

According to the archaeologist Charlotte Trumpler, "Christie was of course fascinated by puzzles, using little archaeological fragments, and she had a gift for piecing them together very patiently." Trumpler co-curated a 2001-2 travelling exhibition "Agatha Christie and Archaeology: Mystery in Mesopotamia" alongside Henrietta McCall.

Although Christie played an important role in her husband's work, even financing many of his expeditions, she was, according to McCall, very modest about her contributions. She was fiercely proud of Mallowan, who is often referred to as one of the best-known archaeologists of the post-WWII period. However, Trumpler believes that though Christie never publically mentioned it, her contribution to archaeology was larger than she imagined. Her notes and black and white photographs of excavation sites are used by archaeologists and researchers even today, she said.

Christie's readiness to muck in and help her husband, says Trumpler, stemmed from her desire to be a devoted wife but also from a fascination with the Middle East that stayed with her for many years. "Everyone thinks Agatha Christie was a bit like the character Miss Marple, that she lived in England and was into knitting and looking after the garden," said Trumpler. "Actually, she wasn't ... she had such a fascinating life apart from being an author."

12. The word *pedigree* ("... the extent of Agatha Chistie's pedigree") in Paragraph 1 is synonymous to ...

1) development.
2) education.
3) background.
4) discovery.

13. What do we learn about Agatha Christie from the second paragraph?

1) Some of her voyages and journeys inspired her.
2) Her husband's work put her off writing novels.
3) She was responsible for the excavation work.
4) Her husband discussed his discoveries with her.

14. The word *it* in Paragraph 3 ("... I don't think it has done ...") refers to using ...

1) her good idea.
2) her moisturiser.
3) discovered artifacts.
4) a special tool.

15. According to Henrietta McCall, Agatha Christie found similarity between archaeology and crime detection because ...

1) people enjoy discovering what is hidden.
2) archaeologists turn out to be criminals.
3) the discovery requires a lot of digging up.
4) clearing away the rubbish is really hard.

16. Which statement is TRUE according to the archaeologist Charlotte Trumpler? Agatha Christie ...

1) could make a whole from parts.
2) loved solving jigsaw puzzles.
3) was a famous archaeologist.
4) used to be a very impatient person.

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17. Why does Charlotte Trumpler admire Christie's role in archaeology?

1) Her money helped her husband's expeditions.
2) Her modesty is an example for other archaeologists.
3) She promoted Mallowan archaeological research.
4) The records she made are still in demand nowadays.

18. What is the main idea of the last paragraph?

1) Agatha Christie supported her husband's work.
2) The famous writer had very common hobbies.
3) Little do we know about Agatha Christie's life.
4) Miss Marple is similar in character to her creator.

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