The Fourth Quarter Examination

Student's name: ..... Teacher's name.....

Sex: Male ○ Female ○ Date: ...../...../..... **40**

Class:...../Grade:....G5.EF.. Time allowance: 60mn

Reading Test

PASSAGE 1

Is gossip *really* good for you?

That's the question we asked some of our readers this week. Email us and tell us what you think.

Lesley Hartley, age 25

'There's a boy in my class at university who I really like. He's called Tony. I was too scared to ask him out. I told my best friend Alice this secret. She said she wouldn't tell anyone. Alice couldn't keep the secret, though, and she gossiped to her other friends. Of course, her friends told Tony! Fortunately for me, the gossip was actually a good thing. Tony waited for me after class one day. He told me that Alice's friends had gossiped about me. And then he invited me to go out to the cinema one night. We've been together since then! I think people are probably programmed to gossip. We need to gossip to build connections with other people.'

James Goodman, age 35

'Unfortunately, I think gossiping is in our genes. And I don't think it's a positive thing. People gossip to make themselves feel more important. They don't think about the effect it has on the people they gossip about. For example, one of my neighbours gossiped about me after I divorced my wife. She said that I had treated my wife badly. Another neighbour told my work colleagues that my wife was going to move to Germany with the children. These are both lies. I've found it difficult to meet someone else because people believe the gossip, not me.'

Eric French, age 28

'We shouldn't feel guilty about a bit of gossip. I believe that gossiping is good for you. We are people, and people enjoy sharing news – both good and bad – so that they can form and improve their social relationships. I'll give you an example ... I'm quite shy and I don't make friends easily. My girlfriend told me that I didn't go out enough, and that I should have a better social life. She complained about this to her best friend, Susan. Then, one night, I got a phone call from Danny, Susan's boyfriend. He asked me to go out with him to see a band. I had a brilliant night. Since then, Danny and I have seen a band every week. He's a good friend now and I feel much happier.'

1.1. Read the article and tick (✓) A, B, or C.

1 Lesley started going out with Tony after Alice gossiped to _____.
A her sister ☐ B her friends ☐ C Tony ☐

2 Tony waited for Lesley _____ one day.
A after work ☐ B after the cinema ☐ C after class ☐

3 James's neighbours didn't tell _____ about him.
A the truth ☐ B secrets ☐ C funny stories ☐

4 James thinks that people _____ what he says.
A don't believe ☐ B don't hear ☐ C don't understand ☐

5 Eric's girlfriend wanted him to have a better _____.
A working life ☐ B routine ☐ C social life ☐

6 Because of the gossip, Eric has _____.
A got a new girlfriend ☐ B made a new friend ☐ C got a new job ☐

1. 2 Write *L* for Lesley, *J* for James, or *E* for Eric.

Example: There was a boy in my class I liked. *L*

7 We all like gossiping. _____
8 I'm not married any more. _____
9 I think it's difficult to meet someone new. _____
10 I find it difficult to make friends. _____
11 I didn't ask someone out because I was scared. _____
12 I see live music every week. _____
13 I don't think gossiping is a good thing. _____
14 I think gossiping helps us connect with others. _____
15 I have a new partner. _____

PASSAGE 2

The woman who can remember every day of her life

As part of our series on extraordinary people, this week we find out about Rita Howard, a woman with a very unusual talent.

What was the weather like yesterday? What were you thinking about when you woke up this morning? If someone asked you these questions, you probably wouldn't find it too hard to answer. But how about remembering the same information for this date last year, or even ten years ago? Most of us find it easy to remember what happened on the most important days of our lives, but soon forget the little details of the other days, weeks, months and years. We often imagine that, without this regular 'forgetting', our brains would be too crowded with memories and thoughts. For Rita Howard, however, it's as easy to remember a day thirty years ago as it is to tell us about yesterday.

Rita can choose any date from her 68 years and say where she was, what she was doing, and what day of the week it was. For years, she had no idea that this amazing memory was anything

special. She was a hard-working student who always did well at school. Then later she became a historian, a job where she had many opportunities to use her ability to memorize all the facts she'd ever learned. Even so, it was only six years ago, when she was in a research project, that scientists actually told Rita she had hyperthymesia – an unusually good memory of her own experiences. Only around 20 people worldwide have the condition.

'People began to imagine that I knew everything,' says Rita. 'Whereas, of course, I only know everything about my own life!' Another common idea is that Rita has far more memories than everyone else. 'In fact, we all have a similar number,' she comments. 'I'm just far better at finding and using mine than other people.'

As Rita reached retirement age, she wondered if her memory would get worse. Three years later, however, it's just as good as ever. 'Will that always be the case?' she asks. 'Who knows? I know all about the past, not the future!'

2.1 Read the article and tick (✓) A, B, or C.

16. Most people don't find it difficult to remember recent events.
    A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐
17. People find it easier to remember their own lives than world events.
    A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐
18. We generally think that it's useful to forget small things.
    A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐
19. Rita Howard is best at remembering things which happened a long time ago.
    A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐
20. When she was young, Rita thought everyone had an excellent memory.
    A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐
21. People noticed her ability to memorize information when she was at school.
    A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐
22. People expect Rita to know about things that she hasn't experienced.
    A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐
23. Everyone's brain has as many memories as Rita's.
    A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐
24. Rita is working as a historian.
    A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐
25. Age hasn't changed Rita's abilities.
    A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐

PASSAGE 3

The best inventions

*This week in **Inventor's World**, we asked one reader, Ben Cross, aged 25, to tell us which inventions he thinks have changed our lives the most. Which inventions did he choose? Do you agree with him?*

I work in IT, so I have a close relationship with electrical gadgets! In my opinion, one recent invention that has changed our lives is **the laptop computer**. It allows us to work anywhere, and has made our working lives so much easier. The idea for the first laptop (or portable computer) was created by Alan Kay in 1968. Kay wanted to make a personal computer (PC) for children to learn computer skills. It was known as the Dynabook. In fact, the Dynabook was never built. But his idea was used by other companies to develop laptops and PCs. The first portable computer in the shops was made by Osborne Computer Corporation in 1981. It was called Osborne 1. I'm too young to remember all this, but my boss told me that the first laptops were very heavy and difficult to carry around. I can't imagine life without my laptop. What did people use to do before they were invented?

It's clear to me that another invention that has changed all our lives is **the electric light bulb**. We can go out or work late in the evening and through the night, if we want to. These extra hours mean that we can do more and be more successful. What would we do if we couldn't go out in the evenings because it was too dark to see? The light bulb wasn't invented recently – it was invented in 1879 by Thomas Edison – but I can't think of another invention that has made such a difference to our lives. The early glass light bulbs were made by hand. Later they were produced by machine, and became cheaper to buy. These days, light bulbs are made in a variety of different types and sizes. They are used in the home, at work, in cars, in torches, on Christmas trees, and so on. Life would be very dark without them.

3.1 Read the article and tick (✓) A, B, or C.

26. Alan Kay created the idea for the first _____.
    A laptop ☐ B light bulb ☐ C computer ☐
27. Kay wanted to make a PC for children to learn _____.
    A to spell ☐ B to read ☐ C to use a computer ☐
28. The Dynabook was _____.
    A sold all over the world ☐ B used in schools ☐ C never built ☐
29. _____ used the idea for the Dynabook.
    A Nobody else ☐ B Other IT companies ☐ C Schools ☐
30. The first laptops were _____ to carry around.
    A difficult ☐ B easy ☐ C impossible ☐
31. The writer says that the electric light bulb lets us _____.
    A work less ☐ B save money ☐ C do more things ☐
32. The electric light bulb was invented in _____.
    A 1879 ☐ B 1889 ☐ C 1976 ☐

33. The early electric light bulbs were made _____.
A by machine ☐ B by hand ☐ C by women ☐

34. Electric light bulbs were later produced _____.
A by machine ☐ B by hand ☐ C by women ☐

35. Electric light bulbs are now _____ in design.
A very similar ☐ B more different ☐ C all bigger ☐

PASSAGE

IS TECHNOLOGY BAD FOR OUR BRAINS?

by James Sanders

Nowadays, many useful gadgets (small machines) are advertised as 'smart'. This 'smartness' generally means that the machine can change how it works to suit the user's needs, learn our preferences, and make intelligent choices for us. Smartphones can now take photos, play songs, send emails, and do a thousand other useful things, such as shopping online or assisting us with our homework. We used to need lots of machines to help us to do these things, but not anymore. They fit in our pockets, but contain more data than we could ever possibly need, or remember.

If you asked most people, they would say that smart machines have improved life. Not everyone agrees, however. A few scientists are worried about the effect of using machines to do things that we used to do for ourselves. For example, we don't have to remember people's contact details any more, as our phones store this information. We can also find information instantly, via Internet search engines like Google. A few studies have shown, surprisingly, that people in their 50s and 60s are better than teenagers at studying and memorizing information, because they've always worked this way.

Technology has changed our expectations and made us very impatient. Now we want our news in tiny soundbites, and get bored if we actually have to read or listen for more than a minute or two. Scientists reported recently that the Internet was changing how we think and learn. One author even said that Google was making us stupid! It's certainly true that we often do two or three things simultaneously when we are online, and it's harder and harder to focus on one thing. Maybe technology is bad for our brains, and our memories, and we should stop depending on it all the time. But if you tell me to give up my smartphone, sorry, I won't!

4. 1 <u>Match five of the highlighted words / phrases with the definitions.</u>

Example: be right for something, or someone *<u>suit</u>*

36. learning facts, so we can say them later _____
37. small comments or pieces of information_____
38. telephone number, email and address _____
39. at the same time _____
40. helping _____