



Extra Training

Reading Task 695

1. Match the texts A—E to the headers 1-6. One header is extra!

1. Weather
2. People
3. Travelling
4. Finance
5. Letters to the editor
6. Fashion

- A.** More than 300 economists called yesterday for Britain to push ahead with plans to join the euro. It is clear that not only is the economic evidence overwhelmingly in favour of euro entry, so is the opinion of the economics profession.
- B.** There will be a few sunny moments, but it will be very unsettled with frequent showers, heavy and prolonged at times. Max temp 10-15 °C.
- C.** Malta, the friendly English-speaking Island in the heart of Mediterranean, is the ideal place for year-round holidays. Its beaches, bays and sparkling clear seas make it ideal in summer, while its balmy climate with day after day of sunshine and wealth of archaeological and historic treasure ensure its popularity in winter.
- D.** Taking an interest to folk costumes is another constant in fashion design. The typical interest in Africa-Asia was enhanced by folk designs from South America, Eastern Europe, Tyrol and Switzerland.
- E.** Sir, asking someone to select their "Worst Ever" usually tells us much more about the selector than the selected, and so it was with your "Worst Book" feature John Walsh's irrational and hostile attack on *Lord of the Rings* shows that the book challenged him at a much deeper level than he is prepared to admit, even to himself.

A	B	C	D	E

2. Questions 1-5 are based on the following reading:

In 1920, after some thirty-nine years of problems with disease, high costs, and politics, the Panama Canal was officially opened, finally linking the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans by allowing ships to pass through fifty-mile canal zone instead of travelling some seven thousand miles around Cape Horn. It takes a ship approximately eight hours to complete trip through the canal and costs an average of fifteen thousand dollars, one-tenth of what it would cost an average ship to round the Horn. More than fifteen thousand ships pass through its locks each year.

The French initiated the project but sold their rights to the United States. The latter controlled it until the end of the twentieth century when Panama took over its duties.

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1. Who currently controls the Panama Canal?

1. France
2. United States
3. Panama
4. Canal Zone

2. In approximately what year did a different government take control of the Panama Canal?

1. 2000
2. 2100
3. 2005
4. 1990

3. On the average, how much would it cost a ship to travel Cape Horn?

1. \$1,500
2. \$15,000
3. \$150,000
4. \$1,500,000

4. In what year was construction probably begun on the canal?

1. 1881
2. 1920
3. 1939
4. 1999

5. What can be inferred from this reading?

1. This is a costly project which should be re-evaluated.
2. Despite all the problems involved, the project is beneficial.
3. Many captains prefer to sail around Cape Horn because it is less expensive.
4. Due to all the problems, three governments have had to control the canal over the years.