

SECTION II: READING (18 items)

Directions: Read the following passages and choose the best answers to the questions. (Items 19-36)

Passage 1

This sign tells you that a crossroad or intersection is ahead. Be prepared to slow down and stop. Be sure to look both ways before turning or proceeding ahead.

19. Which indicates the sign described above?

1.



2.



3.



4.



Passage 2

Unicorn and Pegasus

"I'm the handsomest creature there is!"

Said the Unicorn.

"I have a lovely, shiny coat,

And such a pretty horn."

Pegasus said, "You're not so great,

I can fly!" He laughed.

"I have a lovely pair of wings.

I think your horn looks daft!"

20. Which of the following is the Unicorn?

1.



2.



3.



4.



Passage 3 : For items 21 - 23

It was the day of the big sale. Rumors of the sale and some advertising in the local paper were the main reason for the long line. The line was formed by 8:30 in the morning in front of the store. A small man pushed his way to the front of the line. But he was pushed back with loud and colorful curses.

On the man's second attempt, he was punched at the jaw and knocked around a bit. He was then thrown to the end of the line again. As he got up the second time, he said to the person at the end of the line, "That does it! If they hit me one more time, I don't open the damn store!"

21. Why were so many people waiting in front of the store?

1. To buy discounted things
2. To be on strike
3. To follow the store regulations
4. To break into the store

22. What happened to the man the first time he went to the front of the line?

1. He was cursed and kicked.
2. He was driven away and yelled at.
3. He was pushed to the very front.
4. He was seriously injured by the people along the line.



23. What would most likely happen to the man in the end?

1. He would go back home.
2. He would remain at the back of the line.
3. He would wait until the line was shorter.
4. He would be allowed to go in front of the line and open the store.

Passage 4 : For items 24 - 27

Russians generally don't celebrate birthdays before the actual day because this is considered bad luck. There is a belief that the birthday boy or girl who celebrates a birthday in advance may not live to see his or her special day. Also, many people don't celebrate the 40th because this number is associated with death.

In Russia, a birthday celebration is usually a great dinner with many dishes. It is a custom for the birthday person to provide the feast, and this includes paying for dinner if the celebration takes place in a restaurant.

Russians do not give some kinds of presents to birthday persons. Knives and scissors symbolize future conflict and are therefore seen as a bad omen. Likewise, scarves and handkerchiefs represent sorrow and clocks are a sign of departure. An empty purse is believed to cause poverty. Flowers given for a birthday celebration must be in odd number. An even number of flowers indicates misfortune and even death.



24. According to the passage, which of the following is **TRUE**?

1. If Russians celebrate their 40th birthdays, they will surely die.
2. Russians do not normally give anything sharp as a birthday present.
3. A Russian girl will likely be glad to receive a Thai silk scarf on her birthday.
4. In Russia, expenses on one's birthday celebration are usually split among friends.

25. For his girlfriend's birthday, what should Vladimir, a Russian boy, do?

1. Say "Happy Birthday" to her beforehand.
2. Give her a bouquet with 8 red roses on her birthday.
3. Give her a purse with a 10-ruble banknote in it on her birthday.
4. Have a dinner party for her the night before her actual birthday.

26. Based on the article, which of the following words would best describe Russians' beliefs about birthdays?

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| 1. Superstitious | 2. Wasteful |
| 3. Fortunate | 4. Dependable |

27. Which is the best title for this passage?

1. Unusual Birthday Rituals
2. Russian Bad Omens
3. Strange Russian Traditions
4. Do's and Don'ts of Birthdays in Russia



Passage 5 : For items 28 - 31

A team of scientists has come up with a plan they say could help rebuild the *Arctic ice cap*. The ice cap is a huge area of sea ice that covers most of the Arctic Ocean all year round. Usually, the sea ice gets thicker and spreads further each winter, but this hasn't happened for the past few years.

Last month, the ice cap had shrunk to its smallest size since scientists began keeping records of it 38 years ago. The weather in the Arctic has been unusually warm this winter. Some days, temperatures have been 20 degrees Celsius higher than is normal for this time of year.

The Arctic ice cap is important because sea ice reflects heat and light from the sun back into space. With less ice, the ocean would absorb more heat. The Arctic would warm up even more quickly, and more ice would melt. Without sea ice, many animals would lose their natural habitats and could become endangered. It could also affect the weather, with more storms and erosion along the coast.

Dr. Steven Desch and a group of scientists from Arizona State University in the United States think they can help to build up Arctic sea ice again. They want to install wind-powered pumps on the existing sea ice. During the winter, the pumps would spread water from the ocean over the surface of the ice where it would freeze and form a new layer of ice. The scientists say that in 10 years, this could add an extra meter of ice to the ice cap. (The Arctic ice cap is about two to three meters thick right now.)



The plan would require about 10 million pumps and it would be very expensive—about \$655 billion. Some other scientists are wondering if the pumps would actually work in harsh Arctic conditions. They are also concerned about how the project might affect the environment.

28. According to paragraph 2, what actually affected the ice cap?

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Hot weather | 2. Heavy storms |
| 3. Harsh Arctic conditions | 4. Coastal erosion |

29. According to the passage, what are the scientists proposing to do?

1. To reduce greenhouse gases
2. To strengthen the Arctic ice cap
3. To find new habitats for animals
4. To solve the problems of environment

30. What is **NOT** mentioned in paragraph 4?

1. How the wind-powered pumps work
2. How to install the wind-powered pumps
3. The current state of the Arctic ice cap
4. Time taken for a layer of ice to form

31. In the last paragraph, how do some other scientists feel about the project?

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. Confident | 2. Excited |
| 3. Uncertain | 4. Relieved |



Passage 6 : For items 32 - 36

Someone recently bought a lock of John Lennon's hair for more than \$48,000 Canadian dollars. The 10-centimeter (four-inch) strand of hair is about 50 years old. Hairdresser Klaus Barbuck gave Lennon a haircut in 1966 for the movie, "How I Won the War," about a fictional British army troop. He saved the hair all that time. It turns out, it was a smart idea.

John Lennon was a famous British musician—one of the most famous in the world. He was one of the Beatles, perhaps the most popular rock band in history. After the Beatles broke up in 1970, Lennon went on to have an extremely successful solo career.

While he was with the Beatles, he wrote (often with fellow Beatle Paul McCartney) most of the Beatles' biggest hits. He was also one of the band's lead singers, so when you hear a Beatles song, chances are John Lennon wrote it and can be heard singing it.

Lennon died tragically in 1980 when he was 40 years old, but music lovers around the world still remember him and his songs, including "A Hard Day's Night," "Help!" and "I Wanna Hold Your Hand" when he was with the Beatles and "Imagine" and "Give Peace a Chance" afterwards.

Paul Fraser, who lives in Britain and collects Beatles memorabilia (things from and about the Beatles), bought the strand of hair. He paid about three times more than anyone expected, according to the British newspaper, 'The Guardian'.



32. Which of the following is **NOT** true about John Lennon?

1. He was a famous English singer and songwriter.
2. He was a member of the Beatles until 1970.
3. He usually wrote all of the Beatles songs by himself.
4. He died young at the age of 40.

33. Why did John have his hair cut?

1. To give it to the hairdresser
2. To have a modern look
3. To look good for his new album
4. To look like a soldier

34. What did John do after the breakup of the Beatles?

1. He retired from music.
2. He joined a different band.
3. He pursued a career in movie acting.
4. He continued his career as a solo musician.

35. Why was a lock of Lennon's hair worth a lot of money?

1. It was very old.
2. It was sought after by collectors.
3. It was cut by hairdresser Klaus Barbuck.
4. It was written about in the Guardian.

