Reading Comprehension

READING 1

Read the text below.

Waiting for a Visitor

The course members are assembled in the Common Room, awaiting the something rather special arranged by Toby for tonight, Wednesday night. Several people have been mildly disappointed when this is announced as a visit by Richard Waterton, the writer; they had hoped for something a bit more dashing. Someone talking doesn't sound all that exciting, and most of them have never heard of him anyway; Tessa, learning that he must be seventy plus, loses interest in the evening altogether and torments herself trying to summon up courage to wander nonchalantly over to the studio and see if Bob is around. Mary Chambers has read several of Waterton's books, and explains that they are rather intellectual novels but - this, with diffidence - actually she rather enjoyed them. Sue, the librarian, who has not read Waterton but has frequently shelved him, points out that he is that rather old-fashioned kind of writer who has also produced in his time poetry and books about other books. Short stories, too, someone else remembers. Greg, who was not consulted about the invitation, says that, frankly, Waterton is not spaced out as a writer, and that his stuff is way back so far as literature is concerned, but he sounds a nice old guy.

1) Choose the correct answer.

a) Which phrase best describes the course members' reaction to Richard Waterton's visit?

- a) overwhelming joy
- b) considerable interest
- c) huge disappointment
- d) total indifference

b) What is meant by the phrase "... but has frequently shelved him"(line 7)?

- a) Sue has frequently thrown Waterton's books away.
- b) Sue has sold many books of Waterton.
- c) As a librarian, Sue has often carried out the cleansing and disinfection of Waterton's books.
- d) Because of her job, Sue has often being asked to put the author's books on the shelves of the library.

c) What does Greg think about Watertown's books?

- a) They are extremely interesting.
- b) His books are out-of-date.
- c) His books contain the most fashionable ideas.
- d) Waterton's books are breathtaking.

2) Match the words (1–3) with their meanings.

Draw lines from the words on the left to their meanings on the right.

To summon up	Modesty or shyness .
old-fashioned	To manage to produce a quality or a reaction that helps you to deal with a difficult situation.
diffidence	No longer modern or fashionable.

READING 2

Read the text below.

Edinburgh Hosts the Arts

Unlike a programmed Festival, the Edinburgh Festival Fringe is an open arts festival and does not produce any of the shows, does not invite anyone to perform and pays no fees to participants. Around 600 companies perform every year and, put simply, they put on their own show, decide if and when they want to take part and hope to recoup their costs through ticket sales.

Why participate? Edinburgh is a fantastic networking opportunity. It is very rare to have so many diverse and influential people in the same place at the same time and you will rub shoulders with producers, journalists, festival directors, and also other companies or individuals who may have interests close to your own.

For less experienced groups or individuals the Fringe, is a great training ground for the future. The Edinburgh Festival Fringe is the biggest and best-known arts festival in the world. It is an exciting challenge and an enriching experience and we hope you will want to be part of it and contribute to its success.

1) Choose the correct answer.

a) What is the advantage of participating in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe?

- a) Participants will be guaranteed large audiences.
- b) Participants will make useful contacts.
- c) Participants will become rich.

b) What are the "companies" referred to in line 2?

- a) Drama companies.
- b) Overseas companies.
- c) Financial services companies.

c) What is the target audience of this advertisement?

a Performers who want to become known.

b Festival organizers.

c People who want to obtain a financial advantage.