Reading comprehension (Beginner): 10-12

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10.

Professor Wong, a psychiatric consultant from Thailand's Ministry of Public Health, gave a speech on the rescue mission of a Thai junior football team trapped in a cave. Twelve members, between the ages of 11 and 16, entered a well-known local cave under the guidance of an assistant coach. After they had entered the cave, the entrance and exit of the cave were flooded due to a sudden heavy rain.

Initially, the Thai military sent a number of divers and diving robots into the cave, and at the same time they used industrial methods to lower the water level in the cave. However, due to the continuous rain, the pumping work was not as effective as expected. The search and rescue operation mobilized more than 1,000 people to participate. The international rescue team involved Thai navy divers, three top British cave divers and US military personnel. China, Myanmar, and Australia also sent personnel to join the mission. 17 days later, all of the football members and the coach were brought safely out of the cave.

Right after the trapped football team members left the cave, psychiatrists conducted a series of studies on the survivors' mental health. After a number of examinations and diagnoses, it was found that none of the trapped teenagers suffered any mental trauma, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and they had high scores on resilience tests. The psychiatrists analyzed five basic survival elements: sense of safety, calmness, collective / self-efficacy, connectedness, and hope. The Thai football team fully met and **manifested** these influencing factors. Ben Reymenants, a Belgian diver who took part in the rescue, said, "Fortunately, their coach was clear-headed and brought the children together to conserve energy, which saved their lives."

( ) (1) What is the main idea of the passage? (A) Psychiatrists around the world were curious about how the survivors recovered from the mental trauma. (B) It was the strong resilience of the football team members that helped them survive. (C) High-tech rescue techniques from different nations were fully applied during the rescue. (D) Staying both physically and mentally healthy was the main factor in the team's survival in Thailand.

( ) (2) According to the passage, which of the following is true? (A) Some teenagers were trapped in the cave because they got lost. (B) The teenagers mentioned in the passage were tennis players. (C) The industrial tools worked well to lower the water level in the cave. (D) Some international rescue teams were sent to join the mission.

( ) (3) Which of the following is closest in meaning to the word "**manifested**" in the last paragraph? (A) withdrew (B) demonstrated (C) overthrown (D)(D) defied

( ) (4) What can be inferred from the passage? (A) The teenagers had received

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psychological training. (B) One can never fully recover from post-traumatic stress disorder. (C) Outstanding cave digging machines were utilized in the mission. (D) The rescue mission was more difficult than anyone could've imagined.

( ) (5) Which of the following is NOT true? (A) Ben Reymenants was the hero who saved the football players in the cave. (B) A sense of safety, calmness and hope are survival factors. (C) Taiwan did not send a professional rescue team to help in the mission. (D) The assistant coach of the football team stayed calm when trapped in the cave.

11.

Being cyberbullied can make you feel helpless, but there are steps you can take to protect yourself and seek help. Dr. Sameer Hinduja and Dr. Justin W. Patchin of the Cyberbullying Research Center advise victims not to respond to "minor teasing or name calling." That's because sometimes bullies are encouraged by your reaction and response. You should also reach out to your parents, a favorite teacher, and even police officers. They can help you deal with cyberbullying. There is no reason to suffer alone when you are the target of bullying.

There are also a few things you should not do when being cyberbullied. First, you should never **forward** bullying content or messages. If someone sends you a bullying message, sending it to a friend only expands the problem. You never know how far an email chain can go. Also, you should never believe the bully. Don't let bullies destroy your self-esteem. No one deserves to be harassed. Cyber bullies' cowardly and destructive actions are often more about their own problems than they are about you. When bullying gets you down, talk about it with someone you trust and let them help you regain control of your life.

( ) (1) What does "you" in the passage refer to? (A) Bullies. (B) Parents whose children are bullied. (C) People who are bullied. (D) Friends of bullies.

( ) (2) Why is Dr. Sameer Hinduja mentioned? (A) He used to be a victim of bullying. (B) His children were bullied. (C) He used to be a bully at work. (D) He is an expert on bullying.

( ) (3) Why shouldn't we respond to name calling from bullies? (A) It lowers our self-esteem. (B) It only makes them want to hurt us more. (C) It might hurt the bullies' feelings. (D) It helps the bullies know more about us.

( ) (4) Which word is closest in meaning to **forward**? (A) Send. (B) Receive. (C) Write. (D) Read.

( ) (5) According to the passage, why do bullies harass people? (A) They have their own problems. (B) They think they are too proud. (C) They want friends. (D) They want money.

12.

Why is a koala drinking water an indicator of a potential water problem in Australia? Well, normally koalas obtain almost all the water they need from their food, eucalyptus leaves. The unusual behavior of consuming extra water is associated with climate change, according to researchers. In other words, Australia has been getting hotter and drier over the past few decades, causing the leaves to become less succulent. Taking steps to secure fresh water will certainly be crucial for Australians, especially if the population keeps growing.

Australia's dryness is the result of several factors. First of all, cold ocean currents

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and the lack of mountains make it hard to form raincloud. Also, human activity such as deforestation is one of the major factors leading to desertification, eventually causing a loss of usable water. Besides, the **continent's** demand for water is increasing rapidly as its population booms. For the time being, Australia may seem to have just enough water to satisfy its needs; however, to prevent a possible crisis in the near future, both humans and koalas may need to change their behaviors and adapt.

eucalyptus *n.* 桉樹
sufficient *adj.* 足夠的
current *n.* 洋流
deforestation *n.* 砍伐森林
desertification *n.* 沙漠化
boom *v.* 迅速發展，繁榮

( ) (1) What is this passage mainly about? (A) Why Australia still has sufficient water. (B) Why koalas depend on eucalyptus leaves. (C) What is causing Australia's water crisis. (D) What has brought about drastic climate change.

( ) (2) Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a reason for the dryness in Australia? (A) Climate change. (B) Irregular rainfall. (C) Intensive farming. (D) A fast-growing population.

( ) (3) What does the word "continent" in the second paragraph refer to? (A) Australia (B) population (C) deforestation (D) human behavior

( ) (4) Which of the following can be inferred from the passage? (A) Many people immigrate to Australia because of its mild climate. (B) Animal protection is sometimes contradictory to environmentalism. (C) Koalas' need for water has remained steady despite population growth. (D) Australians have not yet faced the severest consequences of a water shortage.

( ) (5) What is the author's attitude throughout the passage? (A) Bitter. (B) Ironic. (C) Serious. (D) Humorous.

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