Reading comprehension

10th grade

Task 1

Read the text below and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 1-10.

English Rates First in Latino Families

When I was growing up, there was an issue at home that made everyone uncomfortable. My Aunt Lola used to call it the shame of our family. It was a dark secret that my relatives didn't like to talk about, although it affected many Mexican-American families just like ours. The source of this embarrassment was the fact that my brothers and I didn't speak Spanish. Worse, we didn't care about speaking Spanish.

My older brother's interest in Spanish began and ended with curse words. I only learned enough to get good grades in my high school courses, and my younger brother didn't learn it at all. To this day, I'm the only one who is proficient, not fluent, en español.

As it turns out, most families who are descended from Latino immigrants share our experience. A study published last year in the journal Population and Development Review found that, within a few generations of families moving to the USA, Spanish dies out and English becomes the dominant language. Among third-generation Chicanos, 96% prefer to speak English in their homes. Even in border areas, the study found, "Spanish appears to be well on the way to a natural death by the third generation of U.S. residence.

"Given this reality, it's xenophobic to view the Spanish language as a threat to American society. Even so, just last weekend Newt Gingrich denounced bilingual education by saying, "People (should) learn the common language of the country … the language of prosperity, not the language of living in a ghetto."

His comments are as offensive as they are misguiding. According to a 2006 survey by the Pew Center, 57% of Hispanics believe that immigrants have to speak English to be part of American society, while 41% did not. Pew Centre also found that an overwhelming 92% of Latinos thought it was "very important" for the children of immigrants to be taught English.

When my grandpa arrived from Mexico in 1914, he immediately set about learning the English language so he could find work. While my mother grew up in a bilingual neighbourhood household, she and her sisters preferred English. One generation later, my mom was suggesting that I watch the Spanish-language news on TV, to broaden my vocabulary. Back then, I could not have cared less. It was only as an adult that I came to appreciate the beauty of the Spanish language.

Gingrich should know better than todemean the native tongue of Cervantes, Lorca and Marquez. It isn't constructive to promote English by insulting Spanish, for one language does not have to come at the expense of the other. As millions of Latinos already know, speaking Spanish has never taken anything from our proud American experience. It has only enriched it.

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1. One of the central issues in the text is A. Mexican-American family traditions. B. the difficulties in learning Spanish. C. the language preference of immigrant children. 2. A suitable title for this text is A. The Life of Immigrants Today B. Spanish Takes the Backseat C. The Story of Latino-Americans 3. The writer A. solves the problems Latino immigrants face. B. is against bilingual education in the USA. C. discusses Latino-Americans' language preferences. 4. This article A. primarily interests linguists. B. is aimed only at politicians. C. concerns certain minorities. **5.** The family's "dark secret" was the fact that the children **A.** could not learn Spanish. **B.** were indifferent to learning Spanish. **C.** were not taught Spanish.	**6.** Within the Latino-American community, Spanish **A.** is slowly replacing English. **B.** is the dominant language. **C.** is not widely spoken. **7.** Newt Gingrich considers the Spanish language to be **A.** an important part of education in the USA. **B.** the language of prosperity of America. **C.** the language spoken in poor neighbourhoods. **8.** The majority of Latino immigrants **A.** are equally comfortable speaking both languages. **B.** understand the importance of learning English. **C.** believe that their children should only learn Spanish. **9.** The author **A.** was initially uninterested in learning Spanish. **B.** was forced to speak Spanish early in life. **C.** wanted to learn Spanish from a young age. **10.** The author suggests that **A.** people should study Spanish literature. **B.** Latinos should only speak English. **C.** bilinguals can benefit the American society.

Task 2

Read the text below about food and decide if each statement below (items 11-12) is True (T) False (F) or Not Stated (NS)

Why food?

Everybody has to eat and drink. But for most people food isn't just a matter of survival. Sharing food brings friends, family and colleagues- closer. One way or another, food isan important part of our lifestyle. Food contains five groups of nutrients – proteins, fats, carbohydrates (starches and sugars), vitamins and minerals. Each of them is essential. The body uses the nutrients to provide itself with energy, to help it grow, to help digestion and control body temperature.

Water and dietary fibre are also important. Water is essential for health. But what is dietary

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fibre? It is a mixture of substances found only in plants. Some types help food pass more quickly through the intestines, some may help to lower blood cholesterol.

You need nutrients in the right amounts to grow and enjoy good health. The best way to balance your diet is to eat a wide variety of foods.

What you eat and when is part of your way of life. Most people in western Europe have enough to eat and drink. Some people even eat too much. Others have 'unbalanced' diets, which often means too much fat and sugar or too little fresh fruit and vegetables.

11	**People do not just eat to survive.**	
12	**Meals bring people together.**	
13	**There is one essential nutrient.**	
14	**Water keeps body temperature down.**	
15	**We should eat different kinds of food.**	

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Listening Comprehension Test
For 10th Form Student

DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOKLET
UNTIL ADVISED BY THE TEACHER

You will hear an interview with an* archaeologist *called Patrick Glasson, who is talking about his work.
For questions 1 - 7, choose the best answer (A, B or C).

1 Patrick first became interested in archaeology when he

A played in a sandpit as a young child.
B read a news story about some interesting finds.
C found work on an archaeological dig.

2 Why is Patrick's hero important to him?

A He worked in Patrick's favourite locations.
B He changed people's approach towards archaeology.
C He approached his subject from a broad perspective.

3 What does Patrick say he daydreams about?

A solving a difficult question
B making a major discovery
C finding an exciting new site

4 What does Patrick say about his working life?

A He is often inspired by archaeological literature.
B Every day is different for him in some way or another.
C He spends part of everyday writing journal articles.

5 What did Patrick's sons like best about their trip to Peru with him?

A learning some Spanish
B making new friends
C camping in the mountains

6 What does Patrick say about his sons and how they feel about his work?

A They are both keen to become archaeologists too.
B The exotic locations in which he works hold a particular appeal for them.
C They enjoy the practical aspect of archaeology more than studying it.

7 Patrick's favourite discovery is special to him because

A it was found in such an unusual place
B it gave him a sense of what the owner's life was like.
C it was very well preserved for an object of that type.

Statements 8 through 15 (on your answer sheet choose + if the statement is true, x if it is false).

8. Most people believe that their future profession is predetermined by their destiny when they are born.

9. The author is keen on drawing his excavations.

10. A hero of his pictures lived in Central Asia more than 100 years ago.

11. The greatest aspiration for the archeologist is to finally find keys to the mysteries of the past.

12. He spends a lot of time rewriting other archeologist's excavations and reports

13. His sons' journey to Peru became unforgettable due to their acquaintance with the local youngsters.

14. His sons are into the archeological procedures.

15. His favorite finds were on the coast of Egypt.

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Writing Comprehension Test
For 10h Form Students

Directions:
In this test you will select from three writing tasks. Choose the one that you feel you are most capable to write about. You will then begin writing your essay on the pages provided. When you are finished close your papers, lay down your pen and wait for us to collect your test materials.

1. According to Bill Gates, "Leaders will be those who empower others" and, in life, we come across many different types of leaders in different parts of our lives.
Choose a person whom you believe to be a great leader and describe the qualities he or she has that characterize him/her as a leader?
In your opinion, are these qualities unique or do all great leaders possess them?
How have leaders influenced your own life? Or how have you influenced others as a leader?

2. In today's technological age, communication experts are worried that people are too wired and too distracted by their electronic devices. Experts have noticed that people are slowly replacing face- to-face communication with emails and texts, which isolate people instead of connecting them.

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