TOEFL ITP
READING COMPREHENSION
TEST 01 PART B

13. Finns are the best readers in the industrialised world. The world's highest percentage of engineering is in former Czechoslovakia. The Swiss are tops at math and science. Canada has turned out the highest proportion of university graduates. The Japanese spend proportionately less on education than everybody else. And after a decade of school reform, the United States compares more favourably -though still not impressively - with the rest of the industrialised world than it has in the past, according to a study released last week by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The research, based on figures obtained in 1991 offers the most comprehensive comparison ever made among the educational systems of the world's wealthiest countries.

The passage is about .....

A) the educational systems in underdeveloped countries
B) the educational systems in developing countries
C) where the industrialised nations stand in terms of educational performance
D) the educational systems in industrialised countries
E) the proportion of successful pupils in the USA

According to the paragraph, ...

A) after ten years of school reform, the US has succeeded in surpassing the developed countries to a great degree
B) in spite of a decade of school reform, the US has not yet outranked the other industrialised nations satisfactorily in educational success
C) the Swiss are unsuccessful in math and science
D) the biggest proportion of engineering graduates in the world are in the new Czechoslovakia
E) the US was better in educational performance in the last than it is now

The research released by the OECD .....

A) was conducted to know whether the US students have outperformed their counterparts in other countries in education
B) shows that the wealthiest country turns out the poorest figures
C) indicates that the Japanese comparatively have a greater investment in education
D) was carried out to compare the educational systems and achievement rates of the world's richest nations
E) is indicative of the fact that the US is very willing to know about the educational systems in other countries

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16. No place is absolutely safe for travellers; tourists have recently been taken hostage in Turkey, wounded in cafe bombings in Egypt and shot down in the streets of Manila. But it wasn't easy to escape the conclusion that the prevalence of guns in American hands has given deadly force to festering social frustrations. The Washington based Travel Industry Association of America, the leading tourism trade group, joined Disney in calling for gun control last week. But there was no such call from Florida. The toughest proposal now circulating would ban handguns for those under 18 unless they are used for hunting, gun classes or target shooting. Whether that would have any impact is arguable In a city like Miami locked in its own urban arms race.

What has caused the American society to feel annoyingly irritated is .....

A) the ever-increasing number of guns carried by Americans
B) the violence caused by tourism agencies
C) the establishment of a deadly force against tourist molesters
D) the suggestion to prohibit carrying guns
E) the disunity of travel agencies over preventing tourists from carrying guns

It is suggested that .....

A) no one apart from security forces should carry guns
B) possession of all kinds of guns be banned in tourist attractions
C) possession of guns be banned for those under 18 except that they are not to be used for hunting, gun classes or target shooting
D) no strict rule to ban should be introduced
E) all tourism agencies should invite to overcome threats against tourists

It is doubtful .....

A) that those bombing cafes in Egypt did so to on purpose harm tourists
B) whether Florida will join other states in the US in calling for gun control
C) whether the proposal to take arms possession under strict control will have any favourable influence in Miami
D) whether the prevalence of guns in the US will heighten the number of casualties in tourist attacks in the future
E) whether the prevalence of guns in the US will heighten the number of casualties in tourist attacks in the future

LIVEWORKSHEETS

TOEFL ITP
READING COMPREHENSION
TEST 01 PART B

19. In their private councils, Beijing policymakers are engaged in a vigorous dispute on how to fight inflation. One thing is clear to all sides: China needs better tools for fighting inflation. New national taxes introduced this year are supposed to provide the central government with more revenue so it has to print less new money - however its success at tax collecting in the unruly provinces has been spotty. Beijing also wants to create a strong central bank to regulate the money supply and credit creation. But such a bank will have trouble deploying its main anti-inflationary weapon - higher interest rates - as long as state enterprises would be the first to suffer. The disorganized state enterprises will not be phased out for years until a social security system is devised to give workers a new safety net and until the private sector creates enough jobs to absorb unneeded state employees.

Beijing policy-makers engaged in discussing how to curb the inflation all agree that .....

A) new national taxes ought to be introduced regardless of how to collect them
B) a new central bank should be set up to increase the money in circulation
C) the private sector recruits workers more than necessary, causing unnecessary pays
D) all unnecessary state employees should be dismissed from their present jobs
E) more well-organized strategies are required for China to stop the inflationary rise

New taxes levied lately .....

A) are estimated to provide more earnings for the central government although it is not so successful at collecting taxes in uncontrollable provinces
B) should provide the central government with more earnings although it has to print less money
C) are expected to provide more income for the local governments, but tax-collecting is not possible in some regions
D) caused some people to revolt against the central government
E) have decreased the number of state employees

Another thing that Beijing wants to do is .....

A) to use a sophisticated weapon to curb the inflation

B) to set up a strong central bank to control the money supply and credit creation
C) to introduce higher interest rates
D) to decrease the number of workers employed by private sectors
E) to send away more workers this year than previous years

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22. The media have come to be seen as a destructive force in American life, vastly more interested in tearing things down than in providing the information people really need to know. Americans populate two overlapping realities, the one they live every day and the one they experience vicariously in what they are shown or told. It is the media, directly or indirectly, that shape opinions about how America is doing as a society, and the picture they present is not a pretty one. Local newscasts pile up the bodies at a rate of a murder a minute, tabloid TV feeds on the sins of the rich and famous. Call-in radio has become a festival of complaints. Attack politics assures voters that all seekers and holders of public office are corrupt. Commercials tantalise consumers with the unattainable. "The press likes to think of itself as representing the public voice when it does not at all," Yankelovich says. "It represents the voice of the press, with its own language, its own culture, its own interests."

The media is criticised in the paragraph .....

A) for covering up news about murders
B) that it does not represent the political beliefs of politicians
C) for its vicarious picture of what is happening in the U.S.
D) for improperly shaping views about how the American society is getting on
E) for directly and correctly providing the information people really need to know

It is inferred from the paragraph that .....

A) the American media have come to a financial deadlock
B) the media is the only way to know the realities
C) what is shown on TV is irrelevant to the sins of the rich and well-known
D) the press always represents the public opinion
E) society is suffering deeply from often occurring murders

Yankelovich is of the opinion that .....

A) there are times when the press represent the public opinion
B) the press alleges to represent the public voice even when it does not
C) those who own the press have their own culture different from the Americans
D) even if the press is not right at some points, people believe it wholeheartedly
E) as the public is unresponsive to the press misrepresentation of the public needs

LIVEWORKSHEETS