Reading.

I. Skimming. Read this text quickly and answer the questions below.

Kerry: "I really don't know why this book is so popular. I mean, I suppose it is going to appeal to young girls who want danger and romance, but I found this book really tedious. For a start, the characters were really unconvincing. The author went out of her way to add lots of details about the characters, but I found these details really pointless. I thought that some of the facts she presented about the main characters would become significant in some way later in the novel, but they didn't. They were just worthless bits of information. I also was disappointed that, although this book is meant to be about kids at high school, the writer seems to have no recollection at all about what it's like to be 17. The main character thought and acted like a 32-year old. It just wasn't believable. I'm not saying Teresa Wilson is a bad writer. She can obviously string words together and come up with a story that is appealing to a large number of people, but she lacks anything original. There is no flair. It just uses the same sort of language as you can see in many other mediocre novels."

a. How did Kerry felt about the book? **delighted** / **satisfied** / **disappointed** / **bored**

II. Scanning. Read the text again and answer the questions in Spanish.

a. Does she like the characters? Why? Why not? _____
_____

b. What was the problem with the main character? _____
_____

c. What is Kerry's opinion about Teresa Wilson? _____
_____

III. Skimming. Skim the text quickly and choose the correct option.

1 *Every second, 1 hectare of the world's rainforest is destroyed. That's equivalent to two football fields. An area the size of New York City is lost every day. In a year, that adds up to 31 million hectares — more than the land area of Poland. This alarming rate of destruction has serious consequences for the environment; scientists estimate, for example, that 137 species of plant, insect or animal become extinct every day due to logging. In British Columbia, where, since 1990, thirteen rainforest valleys have been clear-cut, 142 species of salmon have already become extinct, and the habitats of grizzly bears, wolves and many other creatures are threatened. Logging, however, provides jobs, profits, taxes for the government and cheap products of all kinds for consumers, so the government is reluctant to restrict or control it.*

The main idea of paragraph one is:
• Scientists are worried about New York City
• Logging is destroying the rainforests
• Governments make money from logging
• Salmon are an endangered species

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2 *Much of Canada's forestry production goes towards making pulp and paper. According to the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association, Canada supplies 34% of the world's wood pulp and 49% of its newsprint paper. If these paper products could be produced in some other way, Canadian forests could be preserved. Recently, a possible alternative way of producing paper has been suggested by agriculturalists and environmentalists: a plant called hemp.*

The main idea of paragraph two is:

- Canadian forests are especially under threat
- Hemp is a kind of plant
- Canada is a major supplier of paper and pulp
- Canada produces a lot of hemp

3 *Hemp has been cultivated by many cultures for thousands of years. It produces fiber which can be made into paper, fuel, oils, textiles, food, and rope. For centuries, it was essential to the economies of many countries because it was used to make the ropes and cables used on sailing ships; colonial expansion and the establishment of a world-wide trading network would not have been feasible without hemp. Nowadays, ships' cables are usually made from wire or synthetic fibers, but scientists are now suggesting that the cultivation of hemp should be revived for the production of paper and pulp. According to its proponents, four times as much paper can be produced from land using hemp rather than trees, and many environmentalists believe that the large-scale cultivation of hemp could reduce the pressure on Canada's forests.*

The main idea of paragraph three is:

- Paper could be made from hemp instead of trees
- Hemp is useful for fuel
- Hemp has been cultivated throughout history
- Hemp is essential for building large ships

4 *However, there is a problem: hemp is illegal in many countries of the world. This plant, so useful for fiber, rope, oil, fuel and textiles, is a species of cannabis, related to the plant from which marijuana is produced. In the late 1930s, a movement to ban the drug marijuana began to gather force, resulting in the eventual banning of the cultivation not only of the plant used to produce the drug, but also of the commercial fiber-producing hemp plant. Although both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson grew hemp in large quantities on their own land, any American growing the plant today would soon find himself in prison — despite the fact that marijuana cannot be produced from the hemp plant, since it contains almost no THC (the active ingredient in the drug).*

The main idea of paragraph four is:

- Hemp is used to produce drugs
- Many famous people used to grow hemp
- It is illegal to grow hemp
- Hemp is useful for producing many things

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5 *In recent years, two major movements for legalization have been gathering strength. One group of activists believes that ALL cannabis should be legal — both the hemp plant and the marijuana plant — and that the use of the drug marijuana should not be an offense. They argue that marijuana is not dangerous or addictive, and that it is used by large numbers of people who are not criminals but productive members of society. They also point out that marijuana is less toxic than alcohol or tobacco. The other legalization movement is concerned only with the hemp plant used to produce fiber; this group wants to make it legal to cultivate the plant and sell the fiber for paper and pulp production. This second group has had a major triumph recently: in1997, Canada legalized the farming of hemp for fiber. For the first time since 1938, hundreds of farmers are planting this crop, and soon we can expect to see pulp and paper produced from this new source.*

The main idea of paragraph five is:

- Hemp should be illegal because it is dangerous
- Recently, many people have been working to legalize hemp
- Hemp was made illegal in 1938
- Marijuana is not a dangerous drug

IV. Scanning. Read the text again and choose the correct answer

1. How long does it take for 100 hectares of rainforest to be destroyed?	
a)	Less than two minutes.
b)	About an hour.
c)	Two hours.
d)	A day.

2. Why is pulp and paper production important to Canada?	
a)	Canada needs to find a way to use all its spare wood.
b)	Canada publishes a lot of newspapers and books.
c)	Pulp and paper export is a major source of income for Canada

3. Who is suggesting that pulp and paper could be produced without cutting down trees?	
a)	The logging industry.
b)	The government.
c)	The environmental lobby.

4. Why was the plant hemp essential to world-wide trade in the past?	
a)	Ships' ropes were made from it.
b)	Hemp was a very profitable export.
c)	Hemp was used as fuel for ships.
d)	Hemp was used as food for sailors.

5. Why do agriculturalists think that hemp would be better for paper production than trees?	
a)	It is cheaper to grow hemp than to cut down trees.
b)	More paper can be produced from the same area of land.
c)	Hemp produces higher quality paper.

6. When was hemp production banned in Canada?	
a)	1930
b)	1960
c)	1996
d)	1938

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7. Why was hemp banned?	
a)	It is related to the marijuana plant.
b)	It can be used to produce marijuana.
c)	It was no longer a useful crop.
d)	It was destructive to the land.

8. What chemical ingredient of cannabis plants is a powerful drug?	
a)	Fiber
b)	Marijuana
c)	THC

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