RNE Training

Reading Task 1418

10. *Установите соответствие* ***тем 1 - 8 текстам A- G.*** *Занесите свои ответы в таблицу. Используйте каждую* ***ЦИФРУ*** *только* ***один раз. В задании одна тема лишняя. Запишите цифры в клетки задания 10***

1. An incomplete experience
2. A fine creation of a successful man
3. Scents and Sensibility
4. It's easy to be equal when naked
5. His look was quite alarming!
6. Just like in fairy tales
7. A lasting custom
8. Changing but not disappearing

A. Bath, the historic city in Somerset, England, takes its name from the baths built around 60-70 AD by the Romans during their occupation of Britain. For centuries, the Romans used them as a communal space for bathing and socializing. After the Romans left in the 5th century, the beautiful architectural complex fell into disrepair. The baths were restored in the 18th century when they became fashionable as a spa due to the therapeutic value of their waters. Today these ancient baths are no longer in use and serve as a tourist attraction.

B. The Ancient Romans were pioneers in establishing grand bathing complexes known as 'thermae' or public baths. The tradition of thermas went beyond mere hygiene and washing; these baths were vital cultural institutions serving as centres for socializing, intellectual discussions, and recreational activities. Romans considered bathing a communal affair, providing citizens from diverse backgrounds with a platform for free communication, regardless of their financial or societal status.

C. Throughout European history, hygiene practices varied reflecting the cultural, social and economic conditions. In the early medieval period, access to clean water was limited and bathing was infrequent. During the Renaissance people didn't wash often either, and the use of perfumes became popular to mask body smells, especially among rich people. In Victorian England, many people thought that "overbathing" could lead to health issues and limited washing to "sponge baths" - using a basin of water, soap and a sponge to cleanse the body.

D. The Russian tradition of public baths, known as "banya", has deep cultural roots and dates back centuries, with influences from both Slavic and Nordic cultures. Traditional banyas are often housed in log cabins, with the stove or "pechka" in the centre, heated with firewood and stones. Water is poured onto the stones to produce steam. With the growing urban development, public baths became important parts of Russian towns and cities and were widely used for hygiene purposes well into to the late 20th century.

E. Foreigners visiting Russia in the 18th-19th centuries were always intrigued by the Russian tradition of public baths. An Englishman who travelled to Moscow in 1864, described how his Moscow friend "returned from his weekly vapour bath. His good-natured face was beaded with perspiration; his flesh looked as red as if it had been parboiled, and a steaming glow arose from his broad massy forehead. Flogging oneself with birch-branches in a room raised to an equatorial temperature, is, perhaps, calculated to produce these symptoms."

F. John Parkinson, an Oxford Don, while on his tour of Russia in 1792-1794 suffered from rheumatism and went to the Russian banya seeking healing. He later wrote that he "found the sensation exceedingly agreeable. I felt like a River God: or like the statue of Moses with water flowing down a long beard and long locks". The only thing he regretted was that he didn't get whipped with birch twigs, for "the sensation from it I am told is very acute and singular".

G. Sandunov's Bathhouse, located in Moscow, is one of the city's oldest and most renowned public bathhouses. Established in 1808 by Sila Sandunov, a peasant who became a successful entrepreneur, the bathhouse has played a significant role in the history and culture of Moscow. Situated within walking distance of the Kremlin, Sandunov's Bathhouse is an architectural gem that reflects the cultural and historical richness of its surroundings. The building itself is a testament to the traditional Russian banya design, with classic steam rooms.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G

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11. *Прочитайте текст и заполните* ***пропуски A — F*** *частями предложений, обозначенными* ***цифрами 1 — 7***. ***Одна из частей в списке 1 — 7 лишняя***. *Занесите* ***цифры****, обозначающие соответствующие части предложения, в клетки задания* ***11 без пробелов и знаков препинания***.

Famous Faces

Mount Rushmore is a granite cliff located in the Black Hills of South Dakota. This cliff is special because the faces of four famous presidents are carved into it. Surrounded by over 1,200 acres of land, it is the largest stone monument in the entire world.

In 1923, a historian named Doane Robinson came up with the idea to create an attraction **A**_____. He convinced a famous sculptor named Gutzon Borglum to do the project. Together they asked Congress and the president of the United States, Calvin Coolidge, to fund the project. President Coolidge agreed and chose **B**_____. He picked presidents Theodore Roosevelt, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and George Washington. This was because of the important work they did during the country's early history.

In 1927, Borglum and his team of four hundred men started work. They had to remove more than 800 million pounds of stone **C**_____.

This was why the work on the faces didn't start until 1934. They used dynamite and air hammers to carve the faces. Air hammers are a special type of hammer **D**_____. Picks and chisels were also used. The crew hung from scaffolds and slings while they worked.

Borglum died in March 1941, **E**_____. His son Lincoln took over the work. He worked on it until October 1941 when funding ran out, **F**_____. The presidents were supposed to be carved from the waist up, but because the project ended early, only the faces were completed.

Just as Doane Robinson had hoped, Mount Rushmore became a huge tourist attraction. Each year, more than three million people visit this national monument.

1.which meant that work had to stop
2.that would bring tourists to the area
3.which faces to use
4. before they could begin carving
5.before the project was finished
6.that uses compressed air to carve stone
7.which is as tall as a skyscraper

A	B	C	D	E	F

12-18 *Прочитайте текст и выполните задания* ***12-18*** *отметьте на карточке вариант, соответствующий номеру выбранного вами варианта ответа.*

Colours

Colour is everywhere around us. Colours play a huge part in our everyday lives, more than we might think. The theory of colours, how they interact in art, their cultural and emotional significance and how they are perceived by humans and animals – all these are major areas of study called colour science.

Colours take on different meanings and associations depending on the country or culture. In Western countries, for example, the colour white represents youth and purity, while black represents death and grieving. In many Asian countries red is considered a lucky colour and is worn at celebrations. In Ancient Egypt, however, red was considered the colour of chaos and destruction because of its association with the dry red soil of the desert. Black was considered the colour of life and ***fertility*** in Egypt because it was the colour of the rich soil, hydrated by the flooding of the river Nile.

These colour connotations can affect traditions in different cultures. For example, in the West people would wear white to a wedding, while in Asian countries people wear warm colours like red, purple or pink.

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Colour meaning can also have a historical component, as associations change over time. In England, it was not until the reign of Queen Victoria that white became the colour of a bride's wedding dress. She was one of the first women to wear a white dress when she married Prince Albert. Before her, there was no specific wedding dress colour with brides wearing red, pink, blue or even black dresses. Queen Victoria's wedding changed the way wedding dresses were perceived, with many people claiming that wearing white was an ancient tradition, effectively re-writing history.

A similar re-writing of history happened with the gendered connotations of the colours pink and blue. It seems as if pink has always been a colour associated with girls, while blue has always been the colour favoured by men. In reality, before the 1940s it was the other way around. The reason for this was that pink is essentially a shade of red, ***which*** was historically a harsh colour associated with the courage and strength of men, while blue was considered a softer colour, and therefore more suitable for women.

Studies have shown that certain colours can change our mood and even ease or trigger stress and anxiety. Complementary colours can create harmony and visual interest, while conflicting colour choices may lead to discomfort or disinterest. It is also known that when specific information is associated with distinct colours, it becomes more memorable. Companies use certain colours in their logos and marketing to make sure that customers remember their products and associate them with particular feelings.

While colours may seem like concrete categories, that is not always the case.

Colour is fluid – one colour flowing seamlessly into another, making the specific line between basic colours not as obvious as one may think. A large portion of this is determined by language. Most languages have around six basic colours, though some have as little as three and others have as many as twelve. For example, some languages, such as Italian, Russian and Greek make an additional basic colour distinction between light and dark blue. Many other languages, such as Arabic, Hebrew, Korean and Japanese make no distinction between blue and green as basic colours.

12. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a major area of colour science?

1. Most common colours of animal fur.
2. How colours can influence our feelings. **Ответ:**
3. What colours mean in different regions.
4. Combinations of colours in paintings.

13. The word *fertility* in paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to "the ability to_____"

1. bring luck. **2.** work hard. **3.** have children. **4.** produce energy. **Ответ:**

14. The example given in paragraph 4 shows that people's collective memory_____

1. could be changed by a royal decree.
2. is a reliable source of information. **Ответ:**
3. can be influenced by grand events.
4. unlike a person's memory, never fails.

15. The word *which* in paragraph 5 refers to the word _____

1. shade. **2.** red. **3.** reason. **4.** pink. **Ответ:**

16. Which of the following is true, according to the article?

1. Cultural views and life conditions influence what colours mean.
2. Traditions connected with birth, wedding and death never change. **Ответ:**
3. The meaning of a colour never changes within one culture.
4. Colours have similar meanings in the majority of cultures.

17. According to the article, why do companies use specific colours in advertisements?

1. To look different from their competitors.
2. To be recognized by existing clients. **Ответ:**
3. To ease stress and anxiety in clients.
4. To attract the attention of new clients.

18. In the last paragraph, the author of the article claims that _____

1. it is always easy to determine what colour an object is.
2. in some languages, there is one word for green and blue. **Ответ:**
3. in Russian, Greek and Italian there are 12 basic colours.
4. there is a natural borderline between different colours.

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