

TEST 9 READING

Task 1

Read the text below. Match choices (A-G) to (1-5). There are two choices you do not need to use.

THE MOST DIFFICULT LANGUAGE IN THE WORLD

(1) _____

People often ask which the most difficult language to learn is, and it is not easy to answer because there are many factors to take into consideration. Firstly, in a first language the differences are unimportant as people learn their mother tongue naturally, so the question of how hard a language is to learn is only relevant when learning a second language.

(2) _____

A native speaker of Spanish, for example, will find Portuguese much easier to learn than a native speaker of Chinese, because Portuguese is very similar to Spanish, while Chinese is very different, so the first language can affect learning the second language. The greater the differences between the second language and our first one, the harder it will be for most people to learn. Many people answer that Chinese is the hardest language to learn, possibly influenced by the thought of learning the Chinese writing system, and the pronunciation of Chinese does appear to be very difficult for many foreign learners. However, for Japanese speakers, who already use Chinese characters in their own language, learning writing will be less difficult than for speakers of languages using the Roman alphabet.

(3) _____

Some people seem to learn languages readily, while others find it very difficult. Teachers and the circumstances in which the language is learnt also play an important role, as well as each learner's motivation for learning. If people learn a language because they need to use it professionally, they often learn it faster than people studying a language that has no direct use in their everyday life.

(4) _____

Apparently, British diplomats and other embassy staff have found that the second hardest language is Japanese, which will probably come as no surprise to many, but the language that they have found to be the most problematic is Hungarian, which has 35 cases of a noun. This does not mean that Hungarian is the hardest language to learn for everyone, but it causes British diplomatic personnel, who are generally used to learning languages, the most difficulty. In the case of Hungarian for British learners, it is not a question of the writing system, which uses a similar alphabet, but the grammatical complexity.

(5) _____

Different cultures and individuals from those cultures will find different languages more difficult. No language is easy to learn well, though languages which are related to our first language are easier. Learning a completely different writing system is a huge challenge, but that does not necessarily make a language more difficult than another one. In the end, it is impossible to say what language is the most difficult language in the world.

- A It is important to learn foreign languages
- B Hungarian causes a lot of difficulties in learning
- C People learn their mother tongue naturally
- D No language is easy to learn well
- E The first language can affect learning the second language
- F Learner's motivation for learning plays an important role
- G Portuguese is definitely easier than Chinese

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							

Task 2

Read the text below. For assignments (6–10) choose the correct answer (A, B, C, D).

EUTHANASIA

The word *euthanasia* is of Greek origin and literally means 'a good death.' The American Heritage Dictionary defines it as 'the act of killing a person painlessly for reasons of mercy.' Such killing can be done through active means, such as administering a lethal injection, or by passive means, such as withholding medical care or food and water.

In recent years in the United States, there have been numerous cases of active euthanasia in the news. They usually involve the deliberate killing of ill or incapacitated persons by relatives or friends who plead that they can no longer bear to see their loved ones suffer. Although such killings are a crime, the perpetrators are often dealt with leniently by the legal system, and the media portrays them as compassionate heroes who take personal risks to save another from unbearable suffering.

The seeming acceptance of active forms of euthanasia is alarming, but we face a bigger, more insidious threat from passive forms of euthanasia. Every year, in hospitals and nursing homes around the country, there are growing numbers of documented deaths caused by caregivers withholding life-sustaining care, including food and water, from vulnerable patients who cannot speak for themselves.

While it is illegal to kill someone directly, for example with a gun or knife, in many cases the law has put its stamp of approval on causing death by omitting needed care. Further, many states have 'living will' laws designed to protect those who withhold treatment, and there have been numerous court rulings which have approved of patients being denied care and even starved and dehydrated to death.

Because such deaths occur quietly within the confines of hospitals and nursing homes, they can be kept hidden from the public. Most euthanasia victims are old or very ill, so their deaths might be attributed to a cause other than the denial of care that really killed them. Further, it is often relatives of the patient who request that care be withheld. In one court case, the court held that decisions to withhold life-sustaining care may be made not only by close family members but also by a number of third parties, and that such decisions need not be reviewed by the judicial system if there is no disagreement between decision makers and medical staff. The court went so far as to rule that a nursing home may not refuse to participate in the fatal withdrawal of food and water from an incompetent patient!

'Extraordinary' or 'heroic' treatment need not be used when the chance for recovery is poor and medical intervention would serve only to prolong the dying process. But to deny customary and reasonable care or to deliberately starve or dehydrate someone because he or she is very old or very ill should not be permitted. Most of the cases coming before the courts do not involve withholding heroic measures from imminently dying people, but they seek approval for denying basic care, such as administration of food and water, to people who are not elderly or terminally ill, but who are permanently incapacitated. These people could be expected to live indefinitely, though in an impaired state, if they were given food and water and minimal treatment.

No one has the right to judge that another's life is not worth living. The basic right to life should not be abridged because someone decides that someone else's quality of life is too low. If we base the right to life on quality of life standards, there is no logical place to draw the line.

So, we must foster more positive attitudes towards people with serious and incapacitating illnesses and conditions. Despite the ravages of their diseases, they are still our fellow with serious and incapacitating illnesses human beings and deserve our care and respect.

6. The term *euthanasia* means ...

- A new medicine from cancer.
- B an injection administration
- C an act of painless killing carried out for reasons of mercy

- D a request that care be withheld
7. In many cases of euthanasia the US legal system ...
 A is supportive and approving of euthanasia B disapproves the cases of euthanasia
 C considers the cases of euthanasia to be a crime D does not support euthanasia
8. Deaths of euthanasia victims can be attributed to causes other than the denial of care because they are ...
 A of elderly age or very ill
 B permanently incapacitated
 C terminally ill
 D in an impaired state
9. Most of the cases coming before the courts ...
 A involve withholding measures from dying people
 B seek approval for denying customary and reasonable care
 C protect people from those who consider their lives meaningless
 D judge that another's life is not worth living
10. To protect vulnerable patients we must ...
 A deny basic care
 B foster more positive attitudes towards them
 C withhold treatment and life-sustaining care such as food and water
 D prolong the dying process

Task 3

Read the text below. Match choices (A-H) to (11-16). There are two choices you do not need to use.

TRAVELLING ACROSS UKRAINE

Travelling across Ukraine one can have an excellent opportunity to learn its history and culture, to see its ancient monuments and picturesque views Ukraine has always been famous for. There are many places worth sightseeing on the territory of Ukraine because of its ancient history.

11 _____.

A historic place is Zaporizhzhia where Cossack movement began in the 15th century. Nearby is the famous 700-year-old oak tree — 36 metres high.

12 _____.

Odesa, a regional centre and seaport, has seven theatres, a philharmonic orchestra, the Opera and Ballet House, a well-known theatre and one of the most beautiful buildings in Ukraine. Odesa referred to as the «Pearl of the Black Sea» is the largest city along the Black Sea shore.

13 _____.

The old town of Kaniv is situated on the high right bank of the Dnipro River. This town is world-known for its Tarasova Hora. Taras Shevchenko, the great Ukrainian poet, artist and philosopher is buried here.

14 _____.

Chernihiv is one of the oldest towns in our country. There are five out of twenty-five architectural landmarks of the 11th – 12th centuries preserved in Chernihiv. It was one of the most important centres of Kyiv Rus.

15 _____.

Another place in Ukraine which attracts a lot of visitors is Uman. It is famous for its dendrological park-reserve Sophiyivka. This park was set up in the period of 1796–1801 by Count Pototsky for his wife, Sophia, and was called after her name. The park is one of the most outstanding monuments of garden architecture in Ukraine.

16 _____.

Lviv, a beautiful city in the west of Ukraine, was founded by Prince Danylo Halytsky. Historically, it is first mentioned in 1256. Today Lviv is densely built up with tall stone buildings,

many of them in their original style. Its core is the city of the 14th – 18th centuries. Well-known Ukrainian and Polish residents of Lviv were buried in Lychakiv Cemetery. The oldest Lviv's monument is St. Nicholas's Church, which foundation and walls were built by Prince Danylo in the 13th century. The remnants of Vysoky Zamok date back to the 13th century. Lviv is the only city in Ukraine that still has some original Renaissance architecture.

What places are worth sightseeing on the territory of Ukraine?

- A one of the most important centres of Kyiv Rus
- B the place where Taras Shevchenko is buried
- C an ensemble of buildings in the style of Ukrainian baroque
- D the largest city along the Black Sea shore
- E the main entrance to the city and a fortress
- F the place famous for its dendrological park-reserve Sophiyivka
- G the city with some original Renaissance architecture
- H the place where Cossack movement began in the 15th century

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								

Task 4

Read the text below. Choose from (A–H) the one which best fits each space (17–22). There are two choices you do not need to use.

A WONDERFUL GAME OF CHESS

You are all familiar with the wonderful game of chess. But (17) _____ to think where it came from and when? Well, we believe the game (18) _____ before AD 600 and was first played in either Afghanistan or what is now northern India. The oldest written references that we have to chess date from then, but there are claims that chess (19) _____ this. We think, the version played by Europeans and Americans today travelled through Iran to the main commercial centres of Europe by the year 1000. The game was then taken to Scandinavia (20) _____, so by the 1400s chess was played throughout Europe. There are quite a few variations to the game found in other parts of the world. For instance, one variation called Shogi is played in Japan. Another variation is played in China. One person whose name (21) _____ is the chess master Howard Staunton. Staunton lived in England in the mid 1800s and gave his name to the chess pieces that are still used in competitions all over the world today and are, in fact, synonymous with the game. Other shapes and sizes exist, but these are by far the most common. Interestingly enough, however, the idea of chess competitions is relatively recent when we consider how long (22) _____. The first championship was played in 1866 in London and was won by a man from Bohemia called Steinitz. He was, in effect, the world's first official champion and he held the title until 1894 when he was beaten by a German called Emanuel Lasker, who in turn lost the title in 1921 to a Cuban called Capablanca. Many people today consider Capablanca as one of the top three players ever to live. His game influenced many who followed him and keen professional players today still study his game.

- A dates back to
- B by the sea-faring Vikings
- C have you ever stopped
- D was received with great interest
- E existed earlier than
- F were up until then accepted
- G stands out in the history of chess
- H the game has been in existence

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
17								
18								
19								
20								
21								
22								

USE OF ENGLISH

Task 5

Read and complete the text below. For each of the empty space (23–27) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

GARDENING IN THE CITY (Part 1)

Even if you live in the heart of the city, there's no reason why you shouldn't (23) _____ up gardening. We can't all afford a large garden, but we can all create a space where we can follow the seasons. Whether it's a window box, a balcony or a tiny yard, anyone can have the pleasure of looking (24) _____ plants.

A window box is a small box of plants that literally sits outside your window. Here, the choice of plants is what counts. You want a splash of colour all year (25) _____, so choose flowers that bloom at different times of the year. Daffodils, for example, are beautiful spring flowers and will soon have you looking forward to summer. Their bright colours will also attract butterflies, bringing a touch of life.

If you've got a balcony, you've got a little more freedom. In this case, the key is to (26) _____ maximum use of the space you've got available. Put taller plants against the wall of the house, with shorter plants and flowers along the (27) _____ of the balcony.

- | | | | |
|---------------|------------|---------|----------|
| 23 A take | B set | C put | D make |
| 24 A on | B up | C after | D down |
| 25 A round | B over | C along | D across |
| 26 A get | B make | C have | D do |
| 27 A edge | B boundary | C rim | D frame |

Task 6

Read and complete the text below. For each of the empty space (28–32) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

GARDENING IN THE CITY (Part 2)

You can also add a water feature; a small fountain creates interest and can have a cooling effect on a hot summer's day. If your neighbours' balcony is next to yours, why not use a fast-growing plant like wisteria to form a natural barrier, giving you more privacy?

Those of you who are lucky enough to have a small yard can really go to town. Think about how you're going to use it. Do you want to be able to sit and enjoy the sun? Or do you want to be (28) _____ to entertain friends and have a barbecue? Divide the yard into separate areas and plan each one carefully. Garden furniture is very important. A table that folds in half can give you a lot of flexibility, and chairs that fold away also allow you to change your garden to (29) _____ your mood. As (30) _____ as plants are (31) _____, choose varieties that don't mind a bit of shade, unless your yard gets a lot of sun. Yards often have walls that keep the sun out for long periods and you don't want your careful plans (32) _____ because a few of your plants start to die.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| 28 A capable | B possible | C able | D probable |
| 29 A fit | B suit | C copy | D go |
| 30 A much | B long | C few | D far |
| 31 A concerned | B referred | C discovered | D realized |
| 32 A spoiled | B mixed | C missed | D corrupted |