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FINAL EXAM

ADULTS 7 – MISS NOELIA

READING SECTION

- Read the text and questions below. For each question, circle the correct letter A, B, C or D.

Money, Money, Money!

Trade goes back as far as recorded history and doubtless even further. The farmer exchanged corn for fish from the fisherman. All very fine, but it meant the farmer and the fisherman had to stay where they were. That's where money had the advantage. Once it was decided what a currency (whether it was seashells or gold coins) was worth, you could travel out of your area and its value stayed the same.

For many centuries, the actual value of the metals used in the coins showed the value which they represented in terms of trade. A gold coin has almost always represented a higher value than a silver one for example, because gold itself is more precious. This changed with the introduction of notes, made of paper, and now plastic credit cards are being used for the majority of our buying and shopping needs.

Using a credit card has become the normal way of paying for most people today, but it is a relatively recent invention and a very important one in the history of money. And it isn't difficult to see why! Having a lot of cash on you has

always had its disadvantages – you might lose it or be robbed. Some people have blamed the spread of diseases on dirty coins and notes being passed around in society. A pocketful of loose change can become rather heavy and uncomfortable to carry around.

Research indicates that people feel it's less dishonest to cheat others when using a credit card than cash. Psychologists believe that credit cards put a greater distance between the buyer and the seller and so cheating someone by using a card seems less dishonest than when using cash, because it makes the victim seem more remote. Dishonesty wouldn't have been a problem with the face-to-face exchange between our fisherman and farmer.

So would a bright, cashless society really make us happier or better people? It would certainly be more efficient. But I have to tell you that I lost my credit card three months ago and do you know what? I haven't replaced it yet and I haven't really missed it at all

57. In the first paragraph what point is the writer making about the introduction of money?

- A It made a wider range of products available.
- B It allowed people more freedom.
- C It brought different kinds of people together.
- D It made certain products less expensive.

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58. In the second paragraph, what does the writer mean by 'this' (in bold)?

- A** the need for both notes and coins
- B** the development of different currencies
- C** the metal used equalling the value of the coin
- D** using plastic and paper to show a currency's value

59. In the third paragraph, what is the writer's purpose?

- A** to explain the rise in popularity of the credit card
- B** to show surprise at some reasons for not using cash
- C** to introduce a new view of the history of money
- D** to contrast people's attitudes to money now and in the past

60. In the fourth paragraph, the writer says that credit cards tend to

- A** encourage people to distrust others more.
- B** make victims of crime become more dishonest themselves.
- C** allow people to leave the scene of their crime more quickly.
- D** make people feel less guilty when cheating others.

61. Which statement best sums up the writer's thoughts?

- A** The history of money is always changing, but not necessarily for the better.
- B** Money has always caused problems between people and continues to do so.
- C** It is quite likely that attitudes to money will change considerably in the future.
- D** History has shown that money does not always make people happier.

- **Read the text in which four travel journalists remember their travel highlights from this year and the questions below. For each question, choose the correct journalist. The journalists may be chosen more than once.**

Which journalist...?

62. felt exhausted when he reached his destination? _____

63. did some regular exercise on holiday? _____

64. had to cope with freezing temperatures? _____

65. was disappointed with some travel arrangements that had been made for him? _____

66. strongly believed that he was in serious danger? _____

67. wandered down some interesting corridors? _____

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Southland

68. ate a delicious evening meal outside? _____

69. felt like he had gone back in time? _____

70. spent his whole holiday sleeping in a tent? _____

71. got lost? _____

A. ED WALKER

I was dragging myself up to 11,500 feet in Morocco's Atlas Mountains but it wasn't the crashing headache that got me down, it was the terrible anxiety – a feature of altitude sickness apparently. It's difficult to carry on when you're convinced that you and your three hiking buddies are about to die. We should have gone straight back down, but we couldn't find the path and had to camp the night in a tent on a windblown mountainside. I made it – just – through the sub-zero night, but only with the help of an excellent sleeping bag, and a handful of painkillers. You can imagine how amazing it felt when, less than 24 hours later, I was down the mountain, relaxing in a hot bath in the hotel and wondering what all the fuss had been about.

B. TOM ROSS

After a 17-hour train journey, I arrived in Dibrugarh, India at 6 am, and I was looking forward to getting into a comfortable hotel bed. So it was with no small amount of horror that I arrived at the hotel. It was on a dirt road, along which lorries raised great clouds of dust. The corridors rang with the sounds of televisions and the wiring was terrifying! I sat at a dirty table in the dining room and felt desperate. Then I pulled out my guidebook – It recommended a place out in the countryside about six miles away. An hour later I was in a beautiful 18th-century palace surrounded by breathtaking gardens. White-jacketed staff steered me to the biggest room I

have ever stayed in. That night I dined on the terrace and it was superb – here I was in the middle of nowhere, and yet the impressive dishes wouldn't have been out of place in the best restaurant.

C. SEAN YATES

There I was, sleeping in a yurt – a traditional tent. It was the middle of the night, and I woke to the sound of rain. As water dripped onto my sleeping bag, I thought I was in for trouble. In fact, my stay in a yurt in Lycia, Turkey, turned out to be my best holiday of the year. The main building was a restored farmhouse, then there were 15 yurts arranged around its gardens. The views across the farmland stretched all the way to the Taurus Mountains in one direction and the Turquoise Coast in another. It was the perfect setting in which to enjoy home-cooked meals, a swimming pool, and yoga lessons below the trees twice a day. By the end of my week, I was totally relaxed.

D. RON JONES

Italy was my highlight but Venice was too hot and packed with tourists, so I headed off to Rome as soon as I could and had an amazing time in the city's second-century Trajan's Market. There, I explored fascinating corridors lined with chambers that had once been shops. They seemed just hours before to have been emptied of their jars of oil and wine and folds of rich cloth. You need less of an act of imagination here than anywhere else in Rome to travel back almost two thousand years into the past and fill the market

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with shoppers in togas, or strolling Roman soldiers.