READING COMPREHENSION (72018)

I. ПРОЧИТАЙТЕ ТЕКСТ И ВЫПОЛНИТЕ ЗАДАНИЯ К НЕМУ.

§ 1. Charles Hurst has been a cabinet-maker for ten years and has built up a very nice reputation for himself. His order book is always full for several months in advance, despite the fact that he does not really promote himself. Word has spread that if you want a decent cupboard or table, bookcase or kitchen units, Hurst is your man.

§ 2. Of course, finding a cabinet-maker who prides himself on making beautifully crafted furniture with clean, simple lines is not that easy. 'There are few real cabinet-makers now. People call themselves furniture-makers,' says Hurst. As a craftsman who sets himself exacting standards, he is continually disappointed by some contemporary furniture. 'I am amazed by what some furniture-makers get away with, and saddened by what people will put up with.' He is angry about mass-produced furniture, and craftsmen who produce second-rate pieces.

§ 3. Such a passion for perfection is obviously a key to Hurst's success. That and his talent. This man is not shy about his ability. "I have a huge **genuine** ability,' he says. 'I have always been good at making things." If it were not for the self-critical mood into which he slipped towards the end of our interview, I would have believed in his somewhat immodest evaluation of his own abilities.

§ 4. Hurst is self-taught. So how did he learn his craft? "I asked the right questions and picked it all up", he says quietly. Almost all of his orders come from private individuals. Some clients have returned time and again. "You end up doing the whole of their house. That is very satisfying." But he is honest enough to admit that relationships with clients do not always run smoothly. "The most infuriating clients are those who don't know what they want, and then decide they do when it's too late ... my favourite clients are the demanding ones."

§ 5. If Hurst has every reason to be pleased with himself, he is also generous in his praise for others — where it **is due.** With a sudden shot of modesty, he says: "There are people far better than me. I can admire other people. After all, I wasn't trained at Parnham" (the leading college of furniture design). However, he is also critical of those craftsmen who "are trying to be artists and take a year to make one piece". He also has little time for degree shows, in which students exhibit their work but at the same time are "trying to make fashion statements. That can be ambitious. A piece of furniture is not about making a statement. It has to be something that people really can use."

Выберите один из предложенных вариантов ответа в соответствии с содержанием приведенного выше текста.

A. Hurst has few problems selling his furniture because he

1) advertises locally.
2) is known to be a skilled craftsman.
3) uses only natural materials.

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B. What does Hurst think has led to the decline in the craft of cabinet-making?

1) It is a difficult skill to learn.
2) It is only popular in rural areas.
3) Consumers will accept poor quality furniture.

C. The writer says that when Hurst describes his 'talent', he

1) reveals a natural sense of humour.
2) becomes more animated than he usually is.
3) appears more self-confident than he really is.

D. Hurst believes that it is essential for craftsmen to

1) create original furniture.
2) exhibit to a wide audience.
3) produce functional designs.

Определите значение указанного слова в тексте.

1. genuine (§ 3)

a) false b) natural c) ironical

2. is due (§ 5)

a) is justified b) is prepared c) is ordered

II. ПРОЧИТАЙТЕ ТЕКСТЫ (1—4). ОТВЕТЬТЕ НА ВОПРОСЫ.

1. Nanaimo Marine Festival

The Nanaimo Marine Festival in Canada hosts the International World Championship Bathtub Race. Every year, on a sunny Sunday in July, 200 brave contestants take the bathtub from their bathroom and attempt to sail it 58 kilometres across the sea to Nanaimo on Vancouver Island. There are also activities for kids, water sports, informative displays on boat safety, a marine food fair during the festival. It costs $50 to enter the Bathtub Race. Registration for that begins on the Thursday and ends on the Saturday night prior to the event. With so many activities to run we always need volunteers, so if you'd like to help out, please contact us at mail@bathtubbing.com.

2. The Raleigh BugFest

Every September, the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences holds its insect festival in downtown Raleigh. Among the attractions is the Backyard Beekeeper, a class for anyone who dreams of keeping bees — perhaps for honey — or just finds them fascinating creatures. Watch the 150 centimetre sprint by cockroaches, or take in a film at the Insect Horror Cinema ('nothing too scary', according to the organisers).

3. Barnesville Potato Days Festival

This annual festival of all things potato-related in Barnesville, Minnesota dates back to the 1930s. Anything you can do to a potato happens over the two days: you can fry it, throw it, race it, eat it, decorate it or sing about it — and lots more. First up is the Potato Peeling Contest, with the winner determined by the weight of the peeled potatoes. They are then boiled and mashed ready either for the Mashed Potato Eating Contest, or for the Mash Sculpture Contest, in which you are invited to turn a pile of mashed potato into an interesting shape, such as a dog or cat! The winner receives $50; the runner-up $25.

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4. Contraband Days: Louisiana's Pirate Festival

Contraband Days is a themed pirate festival that has grown from a one-day party to a twelve-day series of events, winning awards as one of the top annual festivals in North America. A variety of activities includes fullcostume re-enactments of battles with pirates, boat races, and concerts. There's a carnival atmosphere with evening parades and delicious meals prepared by prize-winning chefs. Contraband Days also has a big economic impact on the community by supporting 20 organisations that help people in need.

Which festival

A. lasts nearly a fortnight?
B. awards prizes for artistic creativity?
C. lets people apply to take part in an event the day before it begins?
D. raises funds for local charities?
E. promises not to frighten people?
F. asks people to do unpaid work there?

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