

Question 1: a. Lisa: A trip sounds fun! Let's plan something together!
b. Tom: Not much yet. I was thinking about a movie night or maybe a short trip.
c. Lisa: Hey Tom, what are your plans for the weekend?

A. a – b – c B. b – a – c C. c – b – a D. b – c – a

Question 2: a. Liam: I'm sure they'd be up for it. I'll text them now and see if they're free.
b. Sophia: Great! If they agree, I'll book the session. Let's aim for Saturday afternoon!
c. Sophia: Yes, but we'll need a group. Do you think we could convince Mia and Ethan to join us?
d. Sophia: Hey Liam, have you heard about the new escape room that just opened?
e. Liam: I have! People say it's pretty challenging. Are you thinking of trying it this weekend?

A. d – e – c – a – b B. d – a – c – e – b C. b – a – c – e – d D. d – a – b – e – c

Question 3: Hi Jordan,

a. It's been so rewarding to finally make time for my painting, which I had always wanted to pursue.
b. The workshops are also a great way to meet people who share similar interests and exchange ideas.
c. Thanks again for recommending the local art studio near my place – it has been a wonderful discovery!
d. I've been learning new techniques and experimenting with abstract themes, which has been really exciting.
e. Perhaps you could join me for a class sometime? It would be great to create something together.

Write back soon, Alex

A. c-a-d-b-e B. c-e-a-b-d C. a-c-d-b-e D. c-a-b-d-e

Question 4:

a. Lifelong learning, however, is not merely about acquiring qualifications but also about nurturing curiosity and adaptability.
b. It is an ongoing process that allows individuals to develop professionally and personally throughout their lives.
c. As technology continues to evolve rapidly, the ability to learn and relearn has become a critical skill in the modern world.
d. From formal education to self-directed learning, it provides countless opportunities for growth and improvement.
e. In conclusion, embracing lifelong learning enables us to remain relevant, adaptable, and open to new challenges in an ever-changing world.

A. b-d-a-c-e B. c-a-d-b-e C. b-a-c-d-e D. a-b-d-c-e

Question 5:

a. For example, behaviors that are acceptable in one culture, such as direct eye contact, may be considered impolite in another.
b. At first, people may feel excited about exploring a new culture, but this initial enthusiasm often fades as they begin to notice differences in language, customs, and social norms.
c. Culture shock, which occurs when individuals struggle to adapt to a foreign culture, is a common experience for travelers and expatriates.
d. This period of adjustment can be challenging, but it ultimately helps individuals develop a deeper understanding of and respect for cultural diversity.
e. Such differences can lead to feelings of frustration, confusion, or even isolation for newcomers.

A. c-e-a-b-d B. b-c-a-e-d C. c-a-e-b-d D. c-b-e-a-d

Happiness is a universal goal, yet its ingredients differ across societies and cultures. For some, safety and security are paramount, as demonstrated by Singapore. Known for its strict laws and highly regulated environment, Singapore provides a clean, orderly, and safe place for its citizens. The government ensures access to basic necessities such as housing and healthcare, significantly **reducing** poverty and promoting equality. While personal freedoms may be limited, many Singaporeans find satisfaction in the stability and quality of life their country offers, showing that happiness can stem from collective security.

In contrast, Mexico highlights the importance of social connections in achieving happiness. Despite challenges like poverty and limited access to essential resources, Mexicans often **prioritize** relationships with family, friends, and neighbors. Simple acts like sharing meals or gathering in the community foster a sense of belonging and emotional well-being. Psychologists have long noted that feeling part of a larger social group can be a powerful source of

happiness, even when material wealth is scarce. For **them**, the joy derived from relationships often outweighs material concerns.

The role of money in happiness, however, is often debated. In Mexico, many individuals live in similar financial conditions, reducing the pressure of economic competition. When neighbors lack expensive possessions, individuals are less likely to feel dissatisfied with their own circumstances. This suggests that relative wealth and equality may have a stronger influence on happiness than absolute income.

Ultimately, **there is no universal recipe for happiness**. Factors like security, freedom, social bonds, and financial equality all play a role, but their importance varies depending on individual and cultural values. Happiness, therefore, remains a deeply personal and multifaceted pursuit, shaped by our unique perspectives and circumstances.

Question 1: According to the passage, which of the following is NOT a factor contributing to happiness in Singapore?

- A. Safety and security
- B. Personal freedom
- C. Access to basic necessities
- D. Stability and order

Question 2: The word **prioritize** in paragraph 2 is **OPPOSITE** in meaning to _____.

- A. neglect
- B. focus
- C. emphasize
- D. prefer

Question 3: The word **them** in paragraph 2 refers to _____.

- A. psychologists
- B. Mexicans
- C. material concerns
- D. relationships

Question 4: The word **reducing** in paragraph 3 can best be replaced by _____.

- A. increasing
- B. minimizing
- C. highlighting
- D. intensifying

Question 5: Which of the following best paraphrases the underlined sentence in paragraph 4?

- A. Achieving happiness depends on many factors.
- B. Security and financial equality are the most important factors for happiness.
- C. Happiness is a universal goal that depends solely on financial wealth.
- D. Personal freedom and material concerns do not affect happiness.

Question 6: Which of the following is TRUE about happiness according to the passage?

- A. Happiness is determined only by financial stability.
- B. Both safety and relationships are essential to achieving happiness.
- C. All cultures prioritize personal freedom to achieve happiness.
- D. Economic wealth is the universal solution for happiness.

Question 7: In which paragraph does the author discuss the importance of social bonds in achieving happiness?

- A. Paragraph 1
- B. Paragraph 2
- C. Paragraph 3
- D. Paragraph 4

Question 8: In which paragraph does the author describe the impact of financial resources on achieving happiness?

- A. Paragraph 1
- B. Paragraph 2
- C. Paragraph 3
- D. Paragraph 4

On a stormy night in 1707, four ships struck rocks off the south coast of England and sank. [I] One thousand, four hundred sailors were drowned. [II] The ships had crashed because they had no way of knowing how far they had travelled in a particular direction; they could not calculate their longitude, which required accurate time measurement. [III] In such difficult circumstances, they believed that the best response to the disaster was a competition: the Longitude Prize. [IV]

The Longitude Prize was no ordinary competition. To win it, someone had to find a way of calculating how far a ship had travelled east or west from its point of departure. Geniuses such as Sir Isaac Newton had failed to find a solution, so to **ensure the interest** of Britain's greatest scientific minds, the government offered a prize of £20,000 — the equivalent of £2.6 million in today's money. But to everyone's surprise, it wasn't a famous academic who solved the problem, but an unknown carpenter.

When John Harrison wasn't working with wood, he was making clocks. An accurate clock would allow sailors to calculate their position, but at the time it was thought impossible to create a mechanical clock that could work on a ship. The movement of the sea and the changes in temperature destroyed the delicate parts. However, after three frustrated attempts, Harrison's fourth sea clock, H4, finally **triumphed**. Its mechanics were so good that the H4 worked better than most clocks on land.

The Longitude Prize and Harrison's success generated a lot of interest in the 18th century, but it was soon forgotten. However, in 2013, the British government created a new Longitude Prize, offering £10 million to the person who could solve a great challenge to humanity. An enthralled public then took part in a TV programme where viewers chose one challenge from a list of six for scientists to focus on. The question now is, will someone be able to solve it just as well as Harrison solved the challenge presented to him?

Question 1: Where in paragraph 1 does the following sentence best fit?

It was the most serious in a series of accidents at sea, and a stunned British government decided to act

Question 2: The phrase "ensure the interest" in paragraph 2 could be best replaced by

- A.** guarantee the motivation
- B.** secure the attention
- C.** maintain the involvement
- D.** stimulate the curiosity

Question 3: The word **it** in paragraph 4 refers to

A. one challenge B. the question C. a list D. a TV programme

Question 4: According to paragraph 3, which of the following is NOT a problem that arose from using mechanical clocks on ships?

- A. Temperature fluctuations damaged the clocks.
- B. The clocks were too large to carry.
- C. The movement of the ship disrupted the clocks.
- D. The clocks couldn't withstand sea conditions.

Question 5: Which of the following best summarises paragraph 3?

- A. John Harrison's successful sea clock was a result of his perseverance and craftsmanship.
- B. Harrison's clock was an immediate success, solving all the challenges of maritime navigation.
- C. Harrison's clock was eventually successful after multiple attempts, despite initial skepticism.
- D. John Harrison's first three attempts were failures, but he later perfected the design.

Question 6: The word triumphed in paragraph 3 is **OPPOSITE** in meaning to

A. failed **B. prevailed** **C. succeed** **D. achieved**

Question 7: Which of the following is TRUE according to the passage?

- A. The original Longitude Prize was primarily won by scientists from abroad.
- B. Sir Isaac Newton solved the problem of calculating longitude with his invention.
- C. John Harrison's clock played a crucial role in winning the Longitude Prize.
- D. The Longitude Prize was awarded to multiple inventors for their inventions.

Question 8: Which of the following best paraphrases the underlined sentence in paragraph 4?

- A. The British government once again created a new competition in 2013 with a larger cash prize.
- B. The new Longitude Prize was launched in 2013 to address a pressing global challenge.
- C. A different competition was introduced to solve the same old problems in 2013
- D. The new competition built upon the achievements of Harrison's victory in the original Longitude Prize in 2013

Question 9: Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

- A. The Longitude Prize remains the most famous scientific competition in history.
- B. Technological advancements over the centuries have rendered the Longitude Prize irrelevant.
- C. The success of the original Longitude Prize has influenced modern scientific challenges.
- D. The public's response to the new Longitude Prize in 2013 was underwhelming.

Question 10: Which of the following best summarises the passage?

- A. The Longitude Prize inspired the development of accurate sea clocks, influencing modern scientific challenges.
- B. John Harrison's invention solved a centuries-old maritime problem, paving the way for future scientific prizes.
- C. The Longitude Prize was an important but short-lived event that contributed little to the advancement of science.
- D. From disaster to discovery, the Longitude Prize changed the course of maritime navigation and inspired modern competitions.