Quiz M3

Choose the best answer.

Reading I: Items 1-4

Situation: The feature story.

(1) Everyone has heard of the superstition that if you break a mirror, you'll end up with seven-years bad luck. But where did it come from?

(2) This superstition is said to date back thousands of years. Some say that it originated when humans first used water to see their reflections. They may have believed that the image in the water was actually their soul and that any disruption to the water (and their reflection) would mean that harm would come to them a s well.

(3) Another possible origin of the mirror superstition comes from ancient myths. One tale suggests that mirrors are a force of magic, with the ability to allow one t o see into the future. It was believed that if the mirror was smashed or destroyed, its powers would be terminated, and the person whose reflection was last in the mirror would experience a future of misfortune.

(4) But where did the seven years' time come from? This part of the superstition was added by the Romans. It was believed that life renewed itself after seven years. They believed that if a sick person looked into a mirror, their image would break the mirror and bad luck would continue until their life was renewed.

(5) Some believe that one way to avoid the bad luck associated with breaking a mirror is to take the broken pieces and bury them underground under the moonlight.

1. What is the passage mainly about?

a. The result of breaking a mirror

b. The origins of the mirror superstition

c. The belief in the renewal of life after 7 years

d. The misfortune of the person last reflected in a broken mirror

2. According to paragraph 2, what is TRUE about ancient people?

1. They believed water was bad for their soul.

2. They were scared by their reflections.

3. They enjoyed looking at their reflections in the water.

4. They might have thought the disturbance of their reflections in the water could bring harm to them.

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3. Which question about the mirror superstition can be answered from the passage?

a. How long does a mirror's force o f magic last?

b. Where does the power in the mirrors come from?

c. What type o f misfortune would one face after breaking a mirror?

d. How can one avoid misfortune after breaking a mirror?

4. What i s the purpose o f the last paragraph?

a. To defend a belief

b. To confirm a theory

c. To suggest a solution

d. To promote an argument

Reading 2: Items 5-8

Directions: Read the feature story and answer the questions.

Boxing Day is a public holiday celebrated in Great Britain and some Commonwealth countries, including Canada, Australia and New Zealand. It originated as a day when servants, tradespeople, and the poor were given gifts. The origin of the name has varied, with some believing it started when churches would leave boxes to collect donations for those less unfortunate. Others say Boxing Day started when employers would give their employees boxes of gifts the day after Christmas because they were required to work on Christmas Day.

Over the years, Boxing Day has become a holiday that is spent with friends and family. Many will use it as a day to eat leftovers, watch Christmas films and generally continue the festivities. Some households also meet with extended families to celebrate Christmas if they weren't together on the 25th of December.

Boxing Day has become more commercialized over the years. Besides eating leftovers, Boxing Day is a chance to look for the sales and snap up some great bargains. Sales in-store and online offer big discounts to lure shoppers. Some retailers reduce their prices on Christmas Eve, sometimes as early as the 23d of December.

5. What is the first paragraph mainly about?

a. The origin o f Boxing Day

b. Christmas gifts from employers

c. The role o f churches in collecting donations

d. The relationships between employers and employees

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6. What is the biggest advantage o f Boxing Day to shoppers?

a. They can shop either in-store o r online.

b. They can shop as early as the 23 o f December.

c. They can get big discounts from retailers.

d. They can bargain t o lower the goods' price.

7. What can be concluded from the passage?

a. Employers in the past were more generous than those at present.

b . Nowadays Boxing Day is celebrated differently from the olden days.

c. Boxing Day is celebrated in every country where there are Christians.

d. Extended families are not allowed to celebrate Christmas with the family.

8. What is the best title for this passage?

a. Boxing Day: Past and Present

b. Holidays in Great Britain

c. Advantages of Boxing Day

d. Boxing Day around the World

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