

Leisure Through Time

Task 1 Read the following questions and choose the best answer

1. Why did young women in the early 20th century have more freedom than before?

- a) They were granted more holiday time by the church.
- b) They earned their own income and often lived away from home.
- c) The government passed laws allowing them to visit dance halls.
- d) Their parents encouraged them to seek out commercial recreation.

2. According to the text, what was 'unprecedented' about the working week between 1860 and 1920?

- a) The number of hours worked increased from 50 to 60.
- b) The average working week dropped significantly from 66 to 51 hours.
- c) Workers were given more money but less free time.
- d) The religious middle class demanded that all shops close on Sundays.

3. Which social groups are specifically mentioned as having a new demand for recreation?

- a) Only the predominant white population.
- b) The emerging middle class and the working class.
- c) Strictly the parents of young children.
- d) Politicians and school teachers.

4. What was the influence of new immigrant groups on the leisure landscape?

- a) They introduced alternative activities not previously experienced.
- b) They campaigned against the rise of commercial recreation.
- c) They were the primary funders of symphony orchestras.
- d) They worked to ban alcohol in public pavilions.

5. What was the main difference between 'commercial recreation' and previous forms of fun?

- a) It was only available to people living in rural areas.
- b) It was a profit-making industry rather than self-made fun.
- c) It focused entirely on reading and needlecraft.
- d) It was strictly controlled by the religious middle class.

6. Why did the religious middle class found institutions like museums and symphony orchestras?

- a) To compete with the prices of circus shows.
- b) To provide a place for new immigrants to work.
- c) To encourage pursuits that were morally upright and useful.
- d) To create a secret meeting place for the YMCA.

7. What aspect of the new 'hedonistic' venues particularly worried traditional organisations?

- a) The expensive entry fees for working-class families.
- b) The lack of available transport to get to the beaches.
- c) Unsupervised socialising between the sexes.
- d) The poor quality of the music in the band pavilions.

8. How did traditional organisations first attempt to limit the spread of new leisure establishments?

- a) By requiring dance halls and pool parlours to have permits.
- b) By closing down all parks during the summer holidays.
- c) By banning the use of any musical instruments in public.
- d) By arresting anyone seen at a travelling fair

9. How did schools and museums change their schedules to compete with commercial entertainment?

- a) They began closing earlier to keep children off the streets at night.
- b) They only opened during the weekends.
- c) They remained open throughout the year, including the summer holidays.
- d) They stopped offering sports to focus on academic studies.

10. What was the primary goal of voluntary organisations like the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts?

- a) To train children for jobs in the commercial recreation industry.
- b) To encourage healthy, active, and moral pursuits for children.
- c) To teach children how to build amusement park rides.
- d) To protest against the development of city playgrounds.

11. Who provided national political backing for the Playground Association of America?

- a) The US President, Theodore Roosevelt.
- b) The leaders of the YMCA and YWCA.
- c) The owners of the new amusement parks.
- d) Immigrant community leaders.

12. What was the belief of the Playground Association of America regarding children's play?

- a) Play was unnecessary and should be avoided.
- b) Children should only play games inside school buildings.
- c) Play was vital for learning but required effective leadership.
- d) Playing on the streets should be a punishable offence.

Task 2 Decide if each statement is **True (T)**, **False (F)**, or **Doesn't Say (DS)** if the information is not provided in the text.

1. Women only began taking jobs in the early 20th century because of a new law. _____
2. The working week dropped to 50 hours during the period mentioned. _____
3. Immigrants were the first group to introduce dance halls to America. _____
4. Commercial recreation was designed specifically to generate profit. _____
5. Before the 20th century, reading was considered a 'self-made' fun activity. _____
6. The religious middle classes preferred leisure that was useful to society. _____
7. Tickets for circus shows were more expensive than cinema tickets. _____
8. Religious groups feared that new social venues would corrupt young people. _____
9. Bowling alleys were required to have permits to limit their growth. _____
10. The Boy Scouts was the first voluntary organisation ever founded in America. _____
11. In the 18th century, children could be arrested for playing in the street. _____
12. Luther Halsey Gulick was a personal friend of President Roosevelt. _____