

PHẦN 2: ĐỌC HIỂU – VSTEP

Thời gian: 60 phút

Số câu hỏi: 40

Directions: *In this section of the test, you will read FOUR different passages, each followed by 10 questions about it. For questions 1-40, you are to choose the best answer A, B, C, or D for each question. Then, on your answer sheet, find the number of the question and fill in the space that corresponds to the letter of the answer you have chosen. Answer all questions following a passage on the basis of what is stated or implied in that passage.*

You have 60 minutes to answer all the questions, including the time to transfer your answers to the answer sheet.

PASSAGE 1 – Questions 1-10

It takes a long time to raise a family of owlets, so the great horned owl begins early in the year. In January and February, or as late as March in the North, the male calls to the female with **a resonant hoot**. The female is larger than the male. She sometimes reaches a body length of twenty-two to twenty-four inches, with a wingspread up to fifty inches. To impress her, the male does a strange courtship dance. He bobs. He bows. He ruffles his feathers and hops around with an important air. He flutters from limb to limb and makes flying sorties into the air. Sometimes he returns with an offering of food. They share the repast, after which she joins the dance, hopping and bobbing about as though keeping time to the beat of an inner drum.

Owls are poor home builders. They prefer to nest in a large hollow in a tree or even to occupy the deserted nest of a hawk or crow. These structures are large and rough, built of sticks and bark and lined with leaves and feathers. Sometimes owls nest on a rocky ledge, or even on the bare ground.

The mother lays two or three round, dull white eggs. Then she stoically settles herself on the nest and spreads her feather skirts about her to protect her **precious charges** from snow and cold. It is five weeks before the first downy white owlet pecks its way out of the shell. As the young birds feather out, **they** look like wise old men with their wide eyes and quizzical expressions. They clamor for food and keep the parents busy supplying mice, squirrels, rabbits, crayfish, and

beetles. Later in the season baby crows are taken. Migrating songsters, waterfowl, and game birds all fall prey to the hungry family. It is nearly ten weeks before fledglings leave the nest to search for their own food. The parent birds **weary of** family life by November and drive the young owls away to establish hunting ranges of their own.

1. What is the topic of this passage?

- A. Raising a family of great horned owls
- B. Mating rituals of great horned owls
- C. Nest building of great horned owls
- D. Habits of young great horned owls

2. The phrase "a resonant hoot" in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.

- A. an instrument
- B. a sound
- C. a movement
- D. an offering of food

3. It can be inferred from the passage that the courtship of great horned owls _____.

- A. takes place on the ground
- B. is an active process
- C. happens in the fall
- D. involves the male alone

4. According to the passage, great horned owls _____.

- A. are discriminate nest builders
- B. need big nests for their numerous eggs
- C. may inhabit a previously used nest
- D. build nests on tree limbs

5. According to the passage, which of the following is the mother owl's job?

- A. To initiate the courtship ritual
- B. To feed the young
- C. To sit on the nest
- D. To build the nest

6. The phrase "precious charges" in paragraph 3 refers to ____.
- A. the eggs
B. the nest
C. the hawks and crows
D. other nesting owls
7. According to the passage, young owlets eat everything EXCEPT ____.
- A. other small birds
B. insects
C. small mammals
D. nuts and seeds
8. The word "they" in the passage refers to ____.
- A. the wise old men
B. the adult birds
C. the young birds
D. the prey
9. What can be inferred from the passage about the adult parents of the young great horned owls?
- A. They are sorry to see their young leave home.
B. They are lazy and careless about feeding the small owlets.
C. They probably don't see their young after November.
D. They don't eat while they are feeding their young.
10. The phrase "weary of" in the passage is closest in meaning to ____.
- A. tire of
B. become sad about
C. support
D. are attracted to

PASSAGE 2 – Questions 11-20

In the early 1800s, to reach the jump-off point for the West, a family from the East of the United States could either buy steamboat passage to Missouri for themselves, their wagons, and their livestock or - as happened more often- simply pile everything into a wagon, hitch up a team, and begin their overland trek right in their front yard.

Along the macadamized roads and turnpikes east of the Missouri River, travel was comparatively fast, camping easy, and supplies plentiful. Then, in one river town or another, the neophyte emigrants would pause to lay in provisions. For outfitting purposes, the town of Independence had been preeminent ever since 1827, but the rising