Reading Comprehension

Practice Test, Part D

TEXT 1: When Giants Go Mini — Size of Dinosaurs Surprises Palaeontologists

Task: Fill 6 gaps (1–6) with phrases from options A–H. Two options are extra.

Options:

A it evolved into a smaller animal needing less space and food
B which was slightly longer and heavier than a car
C where the bones and footprints of dinosaurs have been found together
D people thought they were from baby dinosaurs
E where trees grew up to one hundred metres
F that as the water levels began to rise
G while the animal is young and growing quickly
H the struggle for survival will never end

Read the full text:

When very small dinosaur bones were found in a rock mine in Germany's Harz Mountains in (1) _____,

But palaeontologist Martin Sander's work shows that they were probably full grown. Named Europasaurus, they are the smallest of the giant dinosaur species ever found.

Growth marks on dinosaur bones are similar to growth rings on trees. The rings are far apart (2) _____. They form closer together as growth slows.

"It is precisely these tight, compressed marks that we have discovered just beneath the surface of the fossil bones," says Sander. So the Europasaurus fossils in the mine must have been from full grown animals.

Why was Europasaurus (3) _____ so much smaller than its cousins the brachiosaurus, which grew up to 75 feet (23 metres) long and weighed as much as a thousand humans?

Back 154 million years ago, most of Germany was underwater. Scientists think (4) _____ land and food there became more and more scarce. Europasaurus was forced to adapt to its shrinking habitat, so (5) _____.

Since 1998, an international team of scientists has carefully dug up more than 1,000 dinosaur fossils in the rock mine. It is one of the few places in the world (6) _____.

Gap-Fill Questions

Gap 1

*"...bones were found in a rock mine... in **(1)** _____."*

The next sentence says "but... they were probably full grown." What assumption does "but" contrast with?

Gap 2

*"The rings are far apart **(2)** _____. They form closer together as growth slows."*

"Far apart" vs "closer together" — what stage of life makes rings far apart?

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Gap 3

*"Why was Europasaurus **(3)** _____ so much smaller than its cousins...?"*

This adds a description of its actual size. Which option gives a concrete comparison?

Gap 4

*"Scientists think **(4)** _____ land and food there became more and more scarce."*

"Scientists think..." introduces a reason. The previous sentence mentions Germany being underwater.

Gap 5

*"...forced to adapt to its shrinking habitat, so **(5)** _____."*

"so" signals a result. What is the logical consequence of less food and space?

Gap 6

*"It is one of the few places in the world **(6)** _____."*

"Places in the world..." — what type of clause follows "places"? What makes this site unique?

TEXT 2: Harry Potter Film Takes £168m to Break Ticket Records

Task: Choose the correct word (A–D) for each gap (1–10).

Read the full text:

The (1)_____ Harry Potter movie shattered box office records in the US and Canada, taking $169m over its opening weekend.

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2 made $92m on its opening day. The (2)_____ opening weekend record was held by Batman film The Dark Knight, which took $158m.

The Potter film is the eighth movie in the hugely (3)_____ franchise. Fans around the world (4)_____ for hours to be among the first to see the film, which was based on the second part of J.K. Rowling's seventh and final book in the series.

Most cinemas were showing the film in 3D, which slightly increased the ticket (5)_____. The (6)_____ Potter film series has so far earned more than $6.4bn worldwide, not including the final film's (7)_____ so far. Internationally, the film had taken $307m by the first Friday. "A billion dollars was (8)_____ going to happen," said Dan Fellman, head of domestic distribution at Warner Bros.

It has been 10 years; the first movie in the series, Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, was (9)_____. It made stars of its young (10)_____ Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson and Rupert Grint.

Vocabulary Questions (1–10)

1. "The (1)_____ Harry Potter movie shattered box office records..."

- **A** past — refers to time gone by, not sequence
- **B** definite — means certain/clear
- **C** final — means last in a series
- **D** finished — means completed, rarely before a noun

2. "The (2)_____ opening weekend record was held by Batman..."

- **A** preceded — verb form, not adjective
- **B** previous — means the one before

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C complete — means whole/total
D eventual — means happening in the end

3. "...the eighth movie in the hugely (3)_____ franchise."

A popular — well-liked, collocates with "hugely"
B modern — about time period
C contemporary — about time period
D affordable — about price

4. "Fans around the world (4)_____ for hours to be among the first..."

A hoped — hoped FOR, not hoped + for hours
B imagined — a mental process, not physical
C held — needs an object after it
D queued — stood in line

5. "...3D, which slightly increased the ticket (5)_____."

A interest — curiosity, not money
B need — demand, not cost
C price — how much something costs
D importance — significance

6. "The (6)_____ Potter film series has so far earned..."

A proper — means correct/appropriate
B all — not used before a singular noun like this
C absolute — means total/complete (abstract)
D entire — means the whole of something

7. "...not including the final film's (7)_____ so far."

A sums — amounts of money in general
B takings — revenue from sales/box office
C incomes — personal earnings
D benefits — advantages or social payments

8. "“A billion dollars was (8)_____ going to happen.”"

A extremely — to a very high degree
B definitely — without any doubt
C strictly — in a strict manner
D strongly — with force/intensity

9. "...Philosopher's Stone, was (9)_____."

A released — made available to the public (films)
B done — finished/completed
C prepared — made ready
D delivered — handed over/brought

10. "It made stars of its young (10)_____ Daniel Radcliffe..."

A cast — group of actors in a film
B party — group of people / political group
C crew — technical team behind camera
D band — music group

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