

READING: THE POWER OF MUSIC COMPETITIONS

Read the passage and choose the correct answer A, B, C or D for each question.

From Ordinary People to Musical Stars

Over the past decade, televised music competitions have become increasingly popular around the world. These programmes provide talented individuals with an opportunity to perform in front of large audiences and receive professional feedback. For many contestants, joining a competition is not simply about winning a prize; it is also a chance to develop their skills and pursue a career in music.

Before reaching the live shows, participants usually have to pass several stages of auditions. The judges identify those who demonstrate strong vocal ability, creativity and confidence. Successful contestants then progress to the semi-finals, where they face greater pressure and more challenging performances. At this stage, even a small mistake may affect their chances of reaching the final.

Although judges play an important role in evaluating performances, public voting can also influence the results. Viewers are often allowed to vote for their favourite singers through online platforms or text messages. However, this system sometimes causes disagreement. Some people argue that contestants with large fan bases may receive more votes than those with greater musical ability. As a result, the most popular performer does not always become the winner.

Despite these challenges, music competitions can offer valuable opportunities for young artists. They learn how to cope with pressure, accept criticism and improve their stage presence. Even contestants who are eliminated before the final may gain public attention and establish useful connections in the music industry. Therefore, taking part in a competition can be a meaningful experience, regardless of the final result.

1. What is the main purpose of the passage?
 - A. To explain why music competitions should be cancelled.
 - B. To describe the opportunities and challenges of music competitions.
 - C. To prove that judges always make the right decisions.
 - D. To compare different types of musical performances.
2. According to paragraph 1, why do people participate in music competitions besides winning prizes?
 - A. To avoid receiving professional feedback.
 - B. To become judges in future competitions.
 - C. To improve their abilities and develop a music career.
 - D. To perform without facing large audiences.

3. The word “progress” in paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to _____.
- A. move forward
 - B. give up
 - C. turn down
 - D. fall behind
4. What may happen during the semi-finals?
- A. Contestants no longer need to perform live.
 - B. Judges stop evaluating the participants.
 - C. Small mistakes may reduce a contestant's chance of reaching the final.
 - D. All contestants automatically qualify for the final.
5. Why can public voting lead to disagreement?
- A. Viewers are not allowed to support their favourite singers.
 - B. Popularity may influence the results more than musical ability.
 - C. Judges are responsible for sending text messages.
 - D. Contestants with large fan bases are always eliminated.
6. The word “they” in paragraph 4 refers to _____.
- A. judges
 - B. audiences
 - C. young artists
 - D. music competitions
7. Which of the following is TRUE according to the passage?
- A. Only the winner can benefit from a music competition.
 - B. Public voting has no effect on the final results.
 - C. Every contestant who reaches the semi-finals becomes famous.
 - D. Eliminated contestants may still gain experience and useful connections.
8. What can be inferred from the passage?
- A. Winning is the only reliable way to build a music career.

- B. Music competitions can help participants develop skills beyond singing.
- C. Professional judges should never consider creativity.
- D. Public voting should be removed from all music programmes.