Reading Test

Task 1 Read the text below. Match choices (A–F) to (1–6)

First newspapers were nothing like our papers today. They were more like letters containing news. In the fifth century BC, there were men in Rome who wrote these news letters and sent them to people who lived far away from the capital. Something more like our papers was started by Julius Caesar in 60 BC. His government published a daily bulletin devoted mostly to government announcements; it was called Acta Diurna, which meant "Daily Happenings". In the sixteenth century Venice people paid a fee of one gazeta to read notices that were issued by the government every day. These were called Notizie Scritte ("Written News").

The first regular newspaper established in London was the "Intelligencer" in 1663. At that time papers were mostly published only once a week, because their production was slow. The first American newspaper, "Public Occurrences", was started in Boston in 1690, but the governor of the colony quickly stopped it

Benjamin Franklin headed the "Pennsylvania Gazette" from 1729 to 1765. The people were so eager to have newspapers that by the time of the American Revolution there were 37 of them in the Colonies.

1. The first regular newspapers...
2. Venice people...
3. In the period of American Revolution...
4. Acta Diurna..
5. In the fifth century BC...
6. In the "Written News"...

A. ...there were men who wrote news letters.
B. ...paid a fee to read Notizie Scritte.
C. ...people could read notices issued by the government every day.
D. ...was published to tell about government announcements.
E. ...were published very slowly.
F. ...people had more than 30 newspapers in the Colonies.

Task 2

Read the text below. For statements (7–12) choose T if the state ment is true according to the text, or F if it is false.

Marie Curie and Radium A French physicist, Henri Becquerel discovered that a metal called uranium gave off a kind of radiation, which later Marie Curie called radioactivity. But where did this radiation come from and what was it like? She made experiments to discover that secret of nature. There was failure, success, more failure, a little success, a little more suc cess. Marie wrote: "Life is not easy for any of us. We must work, and above all we must believe in ourselves.At this time her husband Pierre Curie left his own successful labo ratory work and joined her in the search of this unknown radiation. In 1898 they declared that there was something in nature, still unseen, which gave out radioactivity and was named radium. The scientists of those days were very polite to them, but still their common thought was: "Show us some radium, and we will believe you". And the Curies tried to do their best to reach success. Though they had four difficult years in the work, that period was the happiest in their lives. One evening in 1902 they came into their laboratory again and saw faint blue light in the glass testtubes on the tables, which was so hard to find: Radium.

7. Henri Becquerel discovered radioactivity.
8. The discovery of radium was not an easy thing for Marie Curie.
9. Pierre Curie decided not to work with his wife because he couldn't do anything in science by himself.
10. The name 'radium' appeared in 1898.
11. The Curies decided to show other scientists some radium, but they didn't believe them.

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12. The period of “radium work” was the happiest part of the Curies’ life.

Task 3

Read the text below. For questions (13–18) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

Family of languages

At one time, at the beginning of history, people probably spoke the same language. As time went on, this parent language (some think that there were several parent languages) spread and changed. At first, the parent languages were spoken by small groups of people. By and by, these groups grew in numbers and there wasn’t enough food for all of them, so people began to move to other places. When these tribes arrived at a new place, they spoke almost the same language as before but as the time passed people began to say things a little differ ently. Some words that were needed in the old home were no longer needed in the new place and were dropped. New words were made to describe new experiences. Ways of making sentences changed too. And suppose the people had settled in a place where others were already liv ing. Then the two languages blended, and both of the languages changed. At first, the speech of the new people had changed only a lit tle from the original language. After a long time, when there were many changes in words, sounds, and grammar, it could be considered a new language. In just these ways, Spanish, French and Portuguese developed from Latin; and English, Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, and Dutch grew from an early form of the old Germanic languages. The ancestor language, to gether with all the languages which developed from it, is called “a fa mily” of languages.

13. What is the text about?

A. Parents and their children.

B. Languages nowadays.

C. Parents and languages.

D. Development of languages.

14. Why did people begin to move to new places?

A. Because parent languages changed.

B. Because they didn’t have enough to eat.

C. Because languages grew in numbers.

D. Because they lived in small groups.

15. How did people’s language change at a new place?

A. The ways of making words changed.

B. They started to use a new language, not their own one.

C. Some old words were not used any more.

D. They needed a new language because they were at a new place. 1

6. What is “a family” of languages?

A. The early forms of old Germanic languages.

B. All the languages which developed from the ancestor language.

C. All the languages which developed from the ancestor lan guage and the ancestor language itself.

D. Spanish, French and Portuguese.

17. When the two languages blended __ .

A. ancestor languages changed;

B. the speech of the new people changed;

C. nothing appeared;

D. both languages changed.

18. What did English grow from?

A. Early form of the old German languages.

B. Spanish.

C. A family of languages

. D. New places.

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