Read the text and choose the most suitable answer to each question.

Hundreds jump ship

Last Tuesday evening flags flew all over the ship at Southampton docks, a military band played and the passengers, glasses of champagne in hand, lined the decks to wave goodbye at last to Britain. And they waved, and waved, and waved. Eventually, officials embarrassedly admitted that the £200 million Aurora, already nine days behind schedule, was still not ready to leave on its world cruise.

The vessel, which last year cut short a cruise after a third of its passengers were struck by a virus, should have left nine days before but had got no further than the Isle of Wight because of problems with its propulsion system. They returned to carry out repairs. In vain the organisers attempted to console the long-suffering passengers by bringing in a group of well-known comedians. Luckily there was a free bar. By last night passengers had drunk more than 9,000 beers, 9140 bottles of wine and champagne and 7,250 cocktails.

On Tuesday, it had been confidently announced the vessel would depart that evening and a great send-off was organised. Unfortunately, the engineers, who thought the repairs had been successful, discovered the propulsion unit was still faulty when they started the engines. By then the passengers should have been seeing the coral reefs off Recife in Brazil and preparing to visit Rio de Janeiro. Instead they were still at Southampton and could only see an oil refinery on one side of the ship and a warehouse on the other, both hardly visible through the cold persistent rain.

Despite assurances that the round-the-world, 104-night cruise was still on, even if the timetable would have to be adjusted, the false start was the last straw for many passengers. One, a £10-million lottery winner, left the ship saying he was tired of waiting. He said, "I won the lottery so I have enough money to go on another cruise straight away but this is terribly disappointing." Another passenger who decided to leave had paid £8,500 for the cruise. He said that his girlfriend had been due to fly out to Chile and join the ship there but the delay had ruined both their holidays. Mr and Mrs Stacy left in frustration, planning a two-week break in the sun to replace their abandoned cruise. Mrs Stacy, who works for a travel company, added: "I have lost two weeks and not travelled anywhere and I've got to tell people I spent ten days sitting in Southampton and sailing round the Isle of Wight."

Others left the ship because they feared it would never leave. One of them said, "The hospitality has been excellent. Drinks have been free and in abundance but that is not why you come on a cruise." Mr and Mrs Baker, who were to have celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary on the cruise which cost them £9000, disembarked. Mr Baker, understandably annoyed, said, "They should have let us know what was going on long before this point."

Last night, and twenty-fours hours later, they once again started the engines for the voyage, by now with 385 fewer than the original 1,759 passengers. This time, however, there was no pomp and celebration. Even then, the ship owners were not entirely confident that the world cruise would go forward. Officials admitted that it would not be until the ship was in open water that the engines could be properly tested. It could yet turn back.

1. Last Tuesday evening .....
a) was the date the cruise had been scheduled to start
b) there were flags all over Southampton docks
c) was not the first time the ship had attempted to depart
d) there were too many waves for the ship to depart

2. The Aurora .....
a) had been built nine days before b) had cost £200 million to build
c) was an embarrassment as it had cost so much d) took over nine days to prepare for the voyage

3. The Aurora .....
a) had to cut short a cruise last year because a lot of the controls were infected with a virus
b) must have left nine days before
c) was on a cruise round the Isle of Wight d) was forced to abort a cruise last year because of an infectious disease on board

4. Which statement is correct?
a) The attempt to make up for the delay by having comedians brought in was not successful.
b) The passengers drank all the free beer, wine, champagne and cocktails on board.

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c) The group of comedians was so bad that the passengers took to drink.
d) The group of comedians brought a lot of free drink but the passengers weren't satisfied.

5. On Tuesday ……
a) the engineers made a mistake with the propulsion unit
b) everybody had been sure they would finally depart
c) the engineers couldn't start the engines
d) they expected to see the coral reefs but it was raining

6. The passengers were assured that ……
a) the cruise would take place with some modifications
b) they would go on leaving for 104 nights
c) they would spend 104 nights aboard the ship in Southampton
d) they would have some adjustments on the cruise

7. A lot of passengers ……
a) paid so they could leave the vessel
b) left because the ship wasn't going to Chile
c) changed their minds about going on the cruise
d) did not want any more straws

8. Of the passengers who decided to disembark, ……
a) one was going to fly to Chile to join his girlfriend
b) one had won the lottery on board the ship
c) some had come to drink a lot and not pay
d) some decided to have a holiday elsewhere

9. Which statement is correct?
a) Mr and Mrs Stacy were feeling frustrated because they were abandoned.
b) Mr Baker was irritated with the lack of information.
c) The lottery winner didn't care which cruise he went on.
d) Some passengers left the ship because they feared they wouldn't be able to leave later.

10. Officials ……
a) only had 1,759 passengers on the ship when it left
b) were certain the cruise would go on
c) had some doubts that the cruise would be successfully completed
d) admitted they would probably turn back when they reached open water

Read the text and choose the most suitable answer to each question.

Financial careers in the City

A financial career in the City of London with its challenging work and generous pay packets is an attractive proposition for many young people just out of university. It is important, however, that they fully understand what a career in the city involves and the pressures it can create. Stress is a fact of life, but in the City it is contagious and can encourage unhealthy habits. Studies have indicated that alcohol and drug abuse, compulsive gambling and depression are much higher among people who work in the City. One 43-year-old consultant who has chronic fatigue syndrome and has just quit the City says: "Many employers offer complete private medical insurance, which includes a free trip to a mental health clinic if you have problems. The drawback is that as soon as you feel better you are back facing the same situations that caused your problems." Working in the city is definitely not for people who are sensitive or for those who value their free time. For investment bankers and market analysts the day starts so early that they practically eat breakfast the night before! Overtime is obligatory, typically ten to twenty per cent on top of normal working hours, and it's usually unpaid. Then there's the mandatory socializing. Graduate trainees are expected to participate with enthusiasm in team-building exercises and events. These can be great fun or a horrendous prospect, depending on your mood and attitude. It sounds tough and it is. One man in his late thirties, who recently moved into investment banking

says: "I hear so many graduate trainees say that they're planning to do five or maybe ten years in the City and then leave. The problem is that it's all too easy to get trapped once you're used to the money and the lifestyle — a smart

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flat, kids in private schools and a spouse who depends on your salary. It might look glamorous from the outside but the reality is that they're financial handcuffs." Still interested? Then you should consider doing an internship, which is where you work for your prospective employer in the summer holidays before your final year at university. This type of work experience will help to boost your CV and your job applications, because it will show that you are serious; it will also give you an insight into what life is really like in the sector. Some jobs require specific qualifications but most top employers will accept any degree subject provided it's from a decent university. You will also need to show initiative and drive, plus good analytical, communication, literacy and team-working skills. Fitting in with other people is what really counts. The people hiring you think of it as a marriage contract and it could be for life.

1. The purpose of the text is to ___.
a) convince young people that a career in the City is the best path to take
b) give students a balanced idea of what working in the city really involves
c) recruit students for a career in investment banking
d) separate the serious from the less serious students

2. For many young people two attractive aspects of working in the City are ____.
a) paid overtime and free breakfast in the office
b) travel opportunities and free schooling
c) a friendly social environment and flexible hours
d) challenging work and good pay

3. Which statement is correct?
a) Most stressed workers feel better when they return to work.
b) Mental health care is not covered in the insurance offered by employers.
c) Stress encourages unhealthy habits among those who work in the City.
d) Few people work in the City after the age of 40.

4. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as one of the negative aspects of working in the City?
a) Beginning the workday very early.
b) Being forced to socialise.
c) Aggressive and competitive co-workers.
d) Not being paid for overtime.

5. According to the text, team-building exercises and events are ___.
a) almost always a waste of time
b) the best way to obtain promotions
c) good or bad depending on one's attitude
d) extremely competitive

6. Many young people initially plan to ___.
a) only work in the City for a few years
b) start their own consulting business
c) continue their studies in a private school
d) get married, have children and live in an expensive flat

7. Many find it difficult to leave a job in the City because ___.
a) it's all they know how to do
b) they have grown accustomed to a certain lifestyle
c) they feel loyalty to their co-workers
d) they fear being trapped in a dead-end job

8. Doing an internship is a good idea because ___.
a) it offers holidays and benefits
b) it won't show any negative aspects of working in the City

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c) it shows employers you are serious about your intentions
d) the money you earn will help pay for your studies

9. According to the text, specific qualifications ___.
a) usually result in a higher salary b) can make potential employers feel intimidated
c) are essential to getting any job in the City
d) are good to have but not always mandatory

10. According to the text, the most important thing is ___.
a) being willing to accept a low salary
b) to mix well with colleagues c) to assert your individuality
d) to never disagree with your boss

Read the text and answer the questions.

Ghosts on photos?

Strange figures and objects sometimes mysteriously appear on films or in snapshots. Sceptics explain them away by saying they are tricks of light, double or long exposures, reflections or digital trickery.

However, a few of the unexpected additions to photos and films defy easy explanation. Cameras filming streets for the Web recently captured what appeared to be a woman, dressed in Victorian clothes, moving across the square. An eccentric person, you may say, the world is full of them. It happened in Cardiff's Tiger Bay, now redeveloped into a fashionable area with a theatre, clubs, exhibition halls, waterside restaurants and expensive apartments, but once a slum area notorious for murders, violence and unsolved mysteries. The area is also part of the setting for the Torchwood series, a spin-off of Dr Who, and it may have been an extra still wearing the clothes used in filming. The only unexplainable thing was that only three quarters of the lady was visible and she seemed to float above the pavement before vanishing into thin air.

Ghostly images are not confined to the historical; a misty shape captured on film in New Jersey seems to be an 'ET' kind of image, with an oblong-shaped head, long neck and fat body, standing next to a thin bluish-white beam of light. Other photos taken in different parts of the world at varying times are of strange lights or objects flying overhead in formation. Planes, reflections, air balloons, digital tricks or UFOs?

However, most of the strange images are historical in nature. Two photos snapped by people visiting Tantallon Castle, a ruined 14th century fortress on the east coast of Scotland, both seem to contain ghostly figures which had not been seen by the people taking the pictures. The first, taken over thirty years ago, shows a typical family group and, behind them, what looks like a female figure in a dress of the Tudor period looking out of a half-ruined window.

One sceptic said, 'When the picture is enlarged, it is quite obvious it is a woman in a pink jacket coming down the stairs with a shopping bag.' The second picture is more mystifying. It was taken at the same location as the first in May last year, and shows a man or a woman in 15th century clothes staring out of a window at the photographer. No costumed mannequins or guides were at the castle at the time and experts have ruled out the possibility of digital alterations.

These two photos were among the many 'ghost' pictures a panel of experts discussed as part of a project for the Edinburgh International Science festival. Professor Wiseman, who led the group, had previously set up a Web competition for the 'best ghost image'. Over two hundred and fifty photos were sent from all over the world and more than a quarter of a million people voted for what they considered the most convincing picture. Professor Wiseman said that although he was a sceptic about ghosts, he was puzzled by the second Tantallon photo, which won the competition by getting 39% of the votes.

He said, 'I suppose it could be a visitor looking a little strange. Perhaps someone will come forward. Another possibility is an odd reflection of light, but it does look very much like a person. The explanation is not obvious.' Some of the other photos included one taken at a house where there had been sightings of a ghostly four-year-old child. It showed the face of a child between the legs of the group of friends being photographed. Another, taken at a castle twenty years ago, appears to show the transparent figure of a headless ghost dressed in an old-fashioned army coat standing in front of two children playing on a cannon. Sceptics concluded that this photo could have been the result of a double exposure.

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Even if most of the strange images on films and photos can be explained away in a logical manner, interpretations fundamentally seem to depend on whether the person looking at the photo is a believer or a non-believer in ghosts and other mysteries.

1. Strange images in photos and films _____ .

a) are always present because of digital manipulation
b) are always caused by tricks of light
c) added by sceptics are easily explained
d) cannot always be easily explained

2. Tiger Bay _____.

a) is an area where murders and violence are common
b) has changed its character since the area was redeveloped
c) is a poor area full of mysteries
d) has become notorious since it was redeveloped

3. The woman filmed in the Tiger Bay area was mysterious because _____.

a) she was one of the principle actors in the Torchwood series
b) she was a fashionably-dressed eccentric
c) the image was incomplete and it seemed to disappear
d) the woman had vanishing legs

4. Some of the strange images captured on film _____ .

a) include the film ET
b) are not historical in character
c) have a fat misty figure in a beam of light
d) have been photographed all over the world simultaneously

5. Which statement is correct?

a) The two Tantallon Castle photos definitely show the same figure.
b) The two Tantallon Castle photos are historical.
c) Tantallon Castle was ruined in the 14th century.
d) The people who took the Tantallon Castle photos were unaware there was another figure present when they took the photos.

6. The first Tantallon Castle photo _____.

a) is not as inexplicable as the second
b) has been denounced as digital manipulation
c) is of a woman carrying a shopping bag and her family
d) was taken last May

7. The second Tantallon Castle photo _.

a) shows the same figure as the first, but more clearly
b) was voted the most 'convincing' in the Web competition
c) probably includes a mannequin or a guide dressed in 15th century clothes
d) was taken shortly after the first

8. Professor Wiseman _ .

a) is sure the second Tantallon Castle photo is of a strange-looking visitor or a reflection of light
b) says that both Tantallon Castle photos are puzzling
c) is sure the image at the window is of a real person
d) is dubious about the existence of ghosts

9. Amongst the other photos submitted was one of _ _.

a) headless children playing on a cannon
b) two children on a cannon seen through a soldier without a head
c) a child's face on some friends' legs
d) a double exposure of two children

10. Belief in the ghostly images seems to depend on .

a) whether the photo has been altered
b) logic
c) whether a person is predisposed to believe in ghosts and mysteries
d) the incredulity of the photos

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