

Read the text and answer the questions about it.

Len Parkins is 24 and for the past three years he has worked in a bank in a small town in the north of England. There is nothing unusual or surprising about Len's appearance. He is of average height, neither fat nor thin, and his face is pleasant but quite ordinary. For work, at least, Len dresses conservatively. Today, for instance, he is wearing a dark suit, white shirt, blue tie and black shoes. Len, however, is living proof that appearances can be deceptive.

'I look like this because it's what people expect of me in this job', says Len. 'This is a small place and people are friendly but they have certain expectations. They don't want to come into their local bank to be served by someone with green hair and a ring through his nose. I actually like body art and modern clothes but they aren't acceptable at the bank. Of course I can wear what I want in the evenings and at weekends. I can also have piercings and tattoos but they can't be too obvious.'

In fact, Len has tattoos all over his upper body and arms. Some of them are very intricate and colourful. They are not visible at work because he wears long-sleeved shirts. He also has a piercing through his navel and he is thinking of having his nipples pierced too. Len says this is his way of rebelling a little against the world of work and routine. He seems to be conforming, but underneath his clothes he shows his creative side by adorning his body in different ways. 'People think that if you work in a bank, you are a boring person with no interest in fashion,' says Len. 'At weekends I don't dress like this at all. I love jeans, T-shirts and bright colours. I would like to experiment more with different hair styles too, but my job makes it difficult.' Len's work 'uniform' of suit, shirt and tie might lead you to believe that his taste in music is on the conservative side too. In fact, he has an extremely varied and up-to-date collection of CDs. R'n'B and hip hop are favourites at the moment. He is also into world music and can talk for hours about the delights of flamenco and fado.

'I enjoy surprising people,' he says. 'When I meet someone outside work who's seen me in the bank, they always look a bit surprised because I look so different. It just shows that you can't judge a book by its cover!'

Reading comprehension. Choose the best answer.

1. Len Parkins...

- a) has worked in a bank in the north of England since he was 24.
- b) was 24 when he began working in a northern English bank three years ago.
- c) worked for three years in a bank in a small town in northern England in the past.
- d) has worked in a bank in a small northern English town since he was 21.

2. What does Len look like in general?

- a) He's not tall or short, of average build, and he has a pleasant face - but nothing special.
- b) He's of average height, neither fat nor thin, and has quite a good-looking face.
- c) He is of average height, his weight varies, and he has an ordinary-looking, pleasant face.
- d) He's surprising and unusual in appearance.

3. What does he usually wear at work?

- a) Some things people don't expect like green hair, modern clothes, and a ring in his nose.
- b) A dark suit, a white shirt, a blue tie, and black shoes - as people expect.
- c) Conservative things like a suit, a shirt, and a tie - to meet people's expectations.
- d) Body art and designer clothes.

4. Len has tattoos...

- a) all over his body and arms, and he has a navel piercing and pierced nipples.
- b) on his upper body and arms, and he has a pierced navel too.
- c) that are all intricate and colourful on his upper body and arms, and he has piercings.
- d) all over his upper body and he's thinking of having his navel pierced.

5. Only one of these statements is true according to the text. Which one?
- a) Len conforms at work by wearing a long-sleeved shirt over his tattoos, but underneath he is rebelling against routine things.
 - b) Len rebels at work against the world of routine by showing his adorned body in different ways.
 - c) Len shows his creative side at work by adorning his body and rebelling a little in the clothes he wears.
 - d) Len seems to be conforming at work underneath his work uniform.
6. At weekends, Len...
- a) has no interest in fashion, but wears jeans and T-shirts.
 - b) experiments with different brightly-coloured hairstyles.
 - c) likes wearing jeans, T-shirts, and brightly-coloured clothes.
 - d) doesn't dress at all.
7. Len's musical tastes...
- a) are on the conservative side, to match his job and the clothes he wears at the bank.
 - b) are up-to-date and varied, and include world music.
 - c) are limited to R'n'B, hip-hop, fado and flamenco music.
 - d) lead you to believe that he is conservative.
8. Outside work Len likes...
- a) showing off his different clothes to the people who have seen him at the bank.
 - b) looking differently at people that he knows from the bank, and always surprising them.
 - c) choosing books to read by looking at their covers, which surprises people.
 - d) surprising people who know him from the bank with his outside work appearance.