



Teacher's name: _____

Grade: _____

Student's name: _____

Time: _____

Reading Examination

Part I

Bill Gates is an American inventor, computer programmer, philanthropist, and businessman, who was born in Seattle, Washington. He is reportedly worth nearly \$80 billion, making him one of the wealthiest people in the country. He founded, and was head of Microsoft Corporation for years, and is still on the board for the computer software giant.

Gates was born to an upper-middle class family. His father was an attorney; his mother was a banker, who worked for the United Way for many years. He is credited for being the father of the modern computer, and for almost single-handedly starting the personal computer revolution. He studied at Harvard University, but did not graduate because of his desire to develop new software.

As a 13-year-old student at the Lakeside School, which was an exclusive college preparatory school, Gates was introduced to computer programming. That year he developed a program that allowed users to play tic-tac-toe against the computer. Gates was reportedly fascinated by the computer's ability to reproduce software code. In 1975, Gates approached a company called Micro Instrumentation and Telemetry Systems (MITS). He convinced the owner that he had written a program that would work with his platform. The owner of the company bought into Gates innovations, and the two men reached an agreement to develop software for MITS. The Microsoft Company was born.

Gates went on to develop the Windows operating system with then partner IBM Corporation. The two companies had differences though, and their partnership ended quickly. Gates left Microsoft in 2000, but remains on its board of directors. He remained active with the company for several years before stepping down in February 2014, becoming Technical Advisor for the firm.

I. Choose the best answer.

1. Which of the following is false?
 - Gates is the richest person in the U.S.
 - Gates is a philanthropist
 - Gates is the Vice President of Microsoft
 - Gates dropped out of Harvard
2. Why didn't Gates graduate from Harvard?
 - he thought he was too smart for the people there
 - he failed some classes
 - he wanted to spend time designing software
 - he got into a fight
3. When Gates was 13, he _____.
 - found Microsoft
 - got hired by MITS

invented a program that allowed people to play tic-tac-toe with a computer
got accepted to Harvard

4. Which word best describes the relationship between IBM and Microsoft?

- long
- trusting
- brief
- loving

5. Gates is now the _____ for Microsoft
technical advisor
head researcher
president

II. Fill in the blanks with the missing words.

Bill Gates is an American inventor, computer programmer, _____, and businessman, who was born in Seattle, Washington. _____ is reportedly worth nearly \$80 billion, making him _____ of the wealthiest people in the country. He _____, and was head of Microsoft Corporation for years, _____ is still on the board for the computer _____ giant.

Gates was born to an upper-middle class _____. His father was an attorney; his mother was _____ banker, who worked for the United Way for _____ years. He is credited for being the father _____ the modern computer, and for almost single-handedly starting _____ personal computer revolution. He studied at Harvard University, _____ did not graduate because of his desire to _____ new software.

As a 13-year-old student at the _____ School, which was an exclusive college preparatory school, _____ was introduced to computer programming. That year he _____ a program that allowed users to play tic-tac-toe _____ the computer. Gates was reportedly fascinated by the _____'s ability to reproduce software code. In 1975, Gates _____ a company called Micro Instrumentation and Telemetry Systems (_____). He convinced the owner that he had written _____ program that would work with his platform. The _____ of the company bought into Gates innovations, and _____ two men reached an agreement to develop software _____ MITS. The Microsoft Company was born.

Gates went _____ to develop the Windows operating system with then _____ IBM Corporation. The two companies had differences though, _____ their partnership ended quickly. Gates left Microsoft in _____, but remains on its board of directors. He _____ active with the company for several years before _____ down in February 2014, becoming Technical Advisor for _____ firm.

Part II

Have you got the skills you need for the 21st-century workplace?

We need to develop all kinds of skills to survive in the 21st century. Some, like ICT skills and knowledge of the digital world, are taught explicitly in schools in the UK. Here are five less obvious ones for you to think about. These are the sorts of skills that employers may ask you questions about in interviews, so it's a good idea to think about how good you are in these areas. What are your strengths and weaknesses?

Imagination

In the age of technology that we are living in now, it is no longer enough to keep on making the same products. Employers need people who can imagine new approaches and new ideas.

Think: Think of an object or gadget you use every day. How could it be improved? Can you think of three improvements?

Problem solving

Employers will value workers who are able to see problems before they happen and come up with creative solutions.

Think: Imagine you are organising an end-of-term social event at school. Think of some problems that you could face. Can you think of any solutions?

Communication skills

Workers will have to be good communicators. They will have to be able to negotiate and discuss key issues and also write in a clear way without using too many words.

Think: How do people communicate with each other in the 21st century?

Critical analysis

Employers want workers who are able to recognise the difference between information that can be believed and false information.

Think: Use the internet to find out three facts about a celebrity or famous figure. Can you verify the information by checking other websites?

Decision making

Individual workers have a growing amount of responsibility. It is important to be able to evaluate a situation and be confident in making a decision.

Think: Which three things could you do to (a) be healthier (b) do better at school and (c) help others? Make a decision now to do at least one of these things. Then ... just do it!

I. Are the sentences true or false?

1. 21st-century skills are not taught in schools in the UK.

True

False

2. Employers like workers to be imaginative.

True

False

3. Employers want workers to think about possible problems.

True

False

4. Employers like workers to be original when solving problems.

True

False

5. Future workers will need to be able to write concisely.

True

False

6. People communicate with each other less in the 21st century.

False

False

False

to write reminders and I make sure I look at it every day. The best part is when I remove something from the board!

Amy

Great tip, Lou. I've got a cork board with pins. I use it in the same way.

I. Choose the correct answer.

1. Amy is very good at handing in her homework on time.
True False
2. Amy writes down the date she has to hand in her homework.
True False
3. Hana tidies her computer desktop twice a day.
True False
4. Amy thinks Hana's tip is good.
True False
5. Gloria thinks the date you start studying is important.
True False
6. Lou thinks the best thing about having a noticeboard is using board pens.
True False

II. Complete the sentences with the missing words.

Amy is asking for _____ about organising school work. She keeps a _____ with a record of her homework. She also writes a _____ in case she forgets. Hana thinks it's important to keep your computer _____ clean and tidy. She deletes things she doesn't need and puts her work into separate _____. Gloria says it's important to start studying in plenty of time and not to leave things until the night _____!

Lou's tip is to use a noticeboard, divided into sections for each _____. He thinks the best thing about this idea is the feeling he gets when he _____ an item!