TOEFL preparation: listening practice

Part I: Lecture.

Listen to a lecture on anthropology. After that, answer the questions.

1 Which of the following characterise anthropological study before the time of Franz Boas?

- Few people were interested or involved in anthropological study.
- Anthropologists were not expected to support their claims with evidence.
- Anthropology was not studied seriously
- Data was not collected in a systematic and objective way.

2 How did Boas's early life influence his work in anthropology?

- His religious upbringing meant that he was respectful to people from other backgrounds.
- His fondness for collecting things inspired him to gather artefacts from little-known cultures.
- His liberal upbringing helped him to understand different cultures.
- His scientific studies ensured that he approached experiments systematically.

3 Why is Charles Darwin mentioned in the talk?

- Darwin's work in the natural sciences inspired Boas to study the world around him.
- Both Darwin and Boas believed that individuals change according to their situations.
- Darwin and Boas both went on expeditions to study human societies.
- Both Boas and Darwin believed that humans evolved along a fixed route towards civilization.

4 What did Boas object to about museums?

- The type of artefacts that were on display
- The fact that certain cultures were not represented
- The fact that some cultures were not considered important.
- The order in which the displays were laid out

5 What did Boas prove about head shape?

- Intelligence is not linked to head shape and size.
- Injuries to the head can alter its shape and size.
- People in some cultures had larger brains than those in others.

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- The shape and size of people's heads is not predetermined.

6 What did Boas make people realise?

- To study a culture, one can't be a member of it.
- Anthropology is broad and covers multiple disciplines.
- Cultures can be effectively studied at a distance.
- Many indigenous cultures were being lost to globalization.

Part II: Conversation.

You will hear a conversation between a professor and a student. Listen and answer the questions.



1. Carla wants to talk to the professor because…

- she doesn't think she can finish her assignment in time.
- she has been unable to find good sources for her assignment.
- she is worried that her assignment is too long.
- she doesn't know how many sources she should refer to.

2. *Read the 6 sentences below. Which two does the professor advise Carla to do?*

1. Make her writing more concise.
2. Use just one piece of information from each source.
3. Focus on comparing and contrasting information.
4. Discard information from less reliable sources.
5. Remove citations which contradict information from other sources.
6. Ensure that there is a reference to a source in every sentence.

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- [ ] 1 & 3
- [ ] 2 & 4
- [ ] 5 & 6
- [ ] 3 & 4
- [ ] 1 & 6

3. The Harvey Graduate Business Program provides young people with…

- [ ] a funded Masters course of their choice
- [ ] overseas work experience
- [ ] work in various departments in the company
- [ ] a total of two years' employment at the Harvey Group

4. Listen to Carla:
Harvey's is a prestigious company. I couldn't see myself moving on fast if I managed to get my foot in the door.
What does Carla mean by this?

- [ ] After I've worked at Harvey's, I'd be able to get a job in very prestigious company
- [ ] If I got the job at Harvey's, I wouldn't have to work there for ever.
- [ ] If I got a job at Harvey's, I wouldn't want to leave the company for some time.
- [ ] Once I've got a job at Harvey's, I would probably be promoted very quickly.

5. Which one of these does Carla NOT need to do?

- [ ] Send in a résumé.
- [ ] Complete an application form
- [ ] Give a presentation
- [ ] Attend an interview

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