

Reading Comprehension (Matching – Gapped Text)

PRACTICE 1

You are going to read an article about open house. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences (A – H) to fit each gap (1 – 6). There are two extra sentences which you do not need to use. For each question, write the correct answer (A – H) in the space provided.

One of Malaysia's many unique traditions is having an open house. During festivals such as Hari Raya Puasa and Deepavali, visitors are welcome to the feasts hosted by local dignitaries as well as the homes of ordinary Malaysians. **1** The event is open not only to family and friends, but also complete strangers. **2**

It is important for visitors to observe the rules of etiquette when attending an open house. **3** It is polite to stop by any time from 5 minutes after the designated start time to 30 minutes before the slated finish time. It is also customary to remove your shoes before entering a home. This may not be necessary if the event is held at a community centre.

When visiting a home, you should address older men as 'Uncle' and older women as 'Auntie'. If the host is Muslim, males and females sometimes do not shake hands. If you are male, you should wait and see whether the female proffers her hand. **4**

It is good manners to queue up for the food at an open house. You should never push and shove others in the queue. Neither should you overload your plate, which is a sign of greed. **5**

You may wish to give a token of thanks to your host. If you do, you should be aware of the taboos for each community. For example, you should not give a Chinese host handkerchiefs, sandals or sharp objects as a gift. **6**

- A** An open house usually has fixed hours.
- B** An open house hosted by a dignitary typically takes place at a community centre rather than his or her home.
- C** You should arrive on time.
- D** At an open house, plenty of food and drinks are served.
- E** If she does not, a polite nod and smile will do.
- F** However, it is perfectly normal to have a second helping.
- G** You might hurt their feelings.
- H** They are believed to bring bad luck.

[6 marks]

PRACTICE 2

You are going to read an article about making your own gifts. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences (A – H) to fit each gap (1 – 6). There are two extra sentences which you do not need to use. For each question, write the correct answer (A – H) in the space provided.

Giving and receiving gifts has become an age-old practice in all communities. Presents are not necessarily bought. **1** We usually like to rush to shopping malls to look

for presents for birthdays, anniversaries and Christmas. **2** Besides that, it adds a personal touch, especially if you know the receiver's taste. It is interesting to mix and match materials, slogans and symbols that are relevant and meaningful to the person that you plan on giving the gift to.

You can make gifts from seashells that you picked on previous outings to the beach. You can string them together and make a lovely necklace. **3** Lampshade covers sold individually can be matched with various stands. They can be further patched with either seashells or other motifs and assembled into unique lampshades. How about a

newspaper or magazine box? **4** With the help of a computer, you can type your own phrases or slogans and paste them on the box. It is an ideal gift for those who are studying.

Those who have a talent for painting or carving can come up with their own masterpieces as gifts. **5** Nature lovers can indulge in their hobbies and produce potpourri. This is an assortment of dried flower petals that have been scented according to the best loved fragrance of the receiver. When nicely packed in a little container, it can be an excellent gift. **6**

- A** It can simply be made from an old carton box wrapped with parcel paper or wallpaper.
- B** Many people like wrapping their gifts with gift wrappers.
- C** The modern concept of do-it-yourself or DIY centres can give you various ideas for how to make your own gifts.
- D** Carving from wood, soap and metal can produce beautiful display pieces.
- E** Making your own presents can be fun and unique as you can never find a similar type at the shopping malls.
- F** They can also be handmade.
- G** A bunch of well-arranged dried flowers is an ideal door gift.
- H** An expensive gift may not necessarily be better.

[6 marks]

PRACTICE 3

You are going to read a letter from Chee Wai to Tom. Six sentences have been removed from the letter. Choose from the sentences (A – H) to fit each gap (1 – 6). There are two extra sentences which you do not need to use. For each question, write the correct answer (A – H) in the space provided.

Dear Tom,

Happy New Year to you! How are you? I am fine and hope that you are too.

I am on a very long holiday. **1** We usually start school the first week of the year, but we are going back to school only after the Hari Raya break this year.

2 I'll be sitting for my lower secondary assessment examination. I want to score all A's and make my parents proud.

I had a lot of fun during the New Year celebrations. On the eve, I went to a street party in the heart of Kuala Lumpur with my family. **3** We were there for a while before walking on to the Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC), where many activities were being held. There were many exciting events including concerts by two of Malaysia's most popular artistes. It seemed like the whole of Klang Valley was out that night.

4 We walked to a restaurant across the road to wait for the clock to strike twelve.

At midnight, there was a dazzling display of fireworks. I could see the fireworks from KLCC to Bukit Bintang from where I was. **5** With cheers of 'Happy New Year', we bid farewell to another year. It was truly a time to be cherished. Though we felt kind of sad, we were also excited about the new possibilities that will unfold in the new year.

That's all for now. **6** Till then, bye.

Your friend,
Chee Wai

- A** Please write and tell me how you celebrated New Year.
- B** I wanted to watch the fireworks display from the park but there was a throng of people that made it impossible.
- C** I will only go back to school in the middle of January.
- D** The Petronas Twin Towers are among the tallest buildings in the world.
- E** The roads were closed off and it was really packed.
- F** We went to get autographs of the famous artistes.
- G** I'm really enjoying my holiday, but I've started studying as it is a very important year for me.
- H** The colours lit up the midnight sky beautifully.

[6 marks]

PRACTICE 4

You are going to read an article about The Botanical Gardens. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences (A – H) to fit each gap (1 – 6). There are two extra sentences which you do not need to use. For each question, write the correct answer (A – H) in the space provided.

The Botanical Gardens, also known as Taman Kebun Bunga, is one of the most frequented places in Penang. **1** The Gardens are home to more than 300 indigenous and imported species of trees and shrubs.

The Botanical Gardens is known by other names. **2** Though the waterfall is now hidden behind the Waterfall Service Reservoir, many people still refer to it as such. The Gardens are also sometimes called the Monkey Garden because of the dusty-leaf monkeys and the long-tailed macaques found there. **3**

Joggers, pedestrians and *tai chi* exponents frequent the Gardens to enjoy the natural beauty and tranquility of the place. **4** There are also monkeys to feed or watch. It is impossible to get lost in the Gardens for the three loop roads – Lower Circular Road, Upper Circular Road and Upper North Road – all join up together. **5**

6 Visitors to Penang should definitely stop by and experience all that the Gardens have to offer.

- A** There is also a miniature Penang Bridge and a stream where children can catch tadpoles or cool their tired feet.
- B** You just have to keep on walking and you will eventually find yourself back at the rain tree at the main gate.
- C** They not only roam the Gardens freely but also live there and are fed by the tourists who come to the Gardens.
- D** Just inside the entrance stands a huge and beautiful rain tree with wide-spreading branches.
- E** The monkeys in the Gardens are very well-behaved.
- F** Originally, it was known as the Waterfall Gardens due to the famous waterfall situated in the area.
- G** These wonderful attractions are what make the Botanical Gardens one of the best locations to visit in Penang.
- H** Visitors can enjoy food and drinks from the many food stands that are scattered throughout the Botanical Gardens.

[6 marks]

PRACTICE 5

You are going to read an article about gymnastics. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences (A – H) to fit each gap (1 – 6). There are two extra sentences which you do not need to use. For each question, write the correct answer (A – H) in the space provided.

Like so many sports, gymnastics was popular in ancient Greece, where it was a way to train young men to be fit for battle. **1** It also had a mental aspect to it, testing the creative and artistic abilities of the athletes. The modern form of gymnastics began in the early 1800s in Sweden. **2**

The 1896 Olympics became the first large meeting for gymnasts of modern times when five countries took part in five different events: pommel horse, rings, vault, parallel bars and horizontal bar. **3** At the next Olympics, in 1900, Paris, an individual all-around competition was added. Four years later, in St Louis, the first team event was held. The eighth event, floor exercise, was not added until the 1932 Games, in Los Angeles.

The gymnastics competition is held in three parts. **4** Individual scores are added together to decide the result of the team event. **5** In the all-around final, the gymnasts compete on all the apparatus again, and the total scores determine the individual all-around medals.

Today, gymnastics remains a popular sport across the world. **6** It remains one of the key events of the Olympics.

- A The gymnasts with the highest individual scores will then proceed to the all-around final.
- B The sport not only tested physical strength, but also flexibility, dexterity and the personal skill of the athlete.
- C By the late 19th century, gymnastics clubs had sprung up in Germany and other European countries.
- D German gymnasts won all the last three events.
- E Gymnasts are admired for their ability to move and dance around gracefully whenever they are performing.
- F First, all of the gymnasts perform in six events on all the apparatus.
- G Certain events are usually accompanied by music.
- H Unlike in ancient Greece, women can now participate in the sport and compete in events.

[6 marks]

PRACTICE 6

You are going to read a letter from Aiza to Dharmesh. Six sentences have been removed from the letter. Choose from the sentences (A – H) to fit each gap (1 – 6). There are two extra sentences which you do not need to use. For each question, write the correct answer (A – H) in the space provided.

Dear Dharmesh,

How have you been? Glad to hear that you had a wonderful holiday in Terengganu. As promised, I will tell you about my trip to Taman Negara with my family.

My family and I went to Taman Negara on a package tour. 1 From there, a bus took us to the Kuala Tembeling wooden jetty. 2 My father was making funny faces throughout the boat ride due to the constant rocking of the boat. Once we arrived at the Taman Negara resort, we had a rest before going for dinner at Tahan Restaurant.

3 Later we went for a jungle night walk experience. As we walked we could hear all the jungle sounds.

The next day, we went jungle trekking to Bukit Teresek. We also went on some canopy walks while we were there. I truly enjoyed myself there. It was really amazing to see the

forest from the top of trees. 4 After lunch, we proceeded to take a boat trip to the Lata Berkoh cascade for a refreshing swim. 5 We swam in the river and also had the opportunity to fish in the designated fishing areas. My father was able to catch several large fish, which we cooked on site. It felt really rewarding to eat fish that we had caught ourselves.

We left for home the next day. 6 We can't wait to go back there again. Hope to hear from you soon.

Your friend,
Aiza

- A** My whole family was really tired from the trip, but we all agreed that we had a really good time there.
- B** We slept in a traditional *kampung* house for the night.
- C** We were exhausted by the time it was lunch.
- D** A short ride on a wooden boat took us to the resort.
- E** We saw many animals on our trek across the jungle.
- F** We were asked by the tour operator to wait at Crowne Plaza Mutiara, Kuala Lumpur.
- G** The water was so cool and inviting.
- H** After dinner, we attended a short talk introducing Taman Negara.

[6 marks]