

Reading 7: Read the following passage and write the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct answer to each of the questions.

Learning a new language is always an excellent idea. It provides you incredible benefits that come with the backing of science! One of the most useful languages to learn is English.

Learning a second language is one of the best ways to keep your brain active and challenged. Studies have shown that the brain undergoes changes in electrical activity and even structure and size while learning a foreign language that do not occur when learning any other type of task or skill. Learning another language offers important **cognitive** benefits at any age, helping to keep the mind active and even reducing the risk of mental disease and slowing mental decline later in life.

When learning English as a second language, you approach new ways to think and express yourself through written and spoken words. Learning multiple languages can help you communicate more clearly in any language as you learn more about how language itself works and how to use it to promote ideas and reach out to others in a variety of social and work situations.

Question 1: The passage mainly discusses _____.

- A. ways to improve your English level
- B. how to keep your mind active
- C. the advantages and disadvantages of language learning
- D. the benefits of learning English

Question 2: According to the text, learning English as a second language can _____.

- A. have a negative effect on the brain
- B. slow the mental decline due to aging
- C. reduce brain function
- D. lower the risk of heart disease

Question 3: Learning multiple languages makes you a better communicator because _____.

- A. you can improve your writing and speaking skills
- B. you know how to get the attention of someone
- C. you learn more about how to promote your ideas and make contact with others
- D. you can communicate more effectively in your mother tongue

Question 4: The word “**cognitive**” in the second paragraph is closest in meaning to _____.

- A. mental
- B. intellectual
- C. emotional
- D. subjective

Reading 8: Read the following passage and write the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct answer to each of the questions.

Where will you go on your next vacation? Disneyland? Sea World? Outer space?

That’s right; tourists are now paying big bucks to travel into space with astronauts! The first space tourist was Dennis Tito, an American businessman. In 2001, he paid about \$20 million to ride on a Russian rocket to the International Space Station. The Space Station circles 220 miles above Earth. Tito stayed on the station for a week, hanging out with astronauts and eating space food.

The latest space tourist was Anousheh Ansari, an Iranian-born woman from the United States who went to the Space Station in mid-September 2006.

How safe is space travel? Apart from the risk of crashing, space tourists have some special things to worry about. Earth’s atmosphere protects us from dangerous radiation from the sun. Space travelers are exposed to more of the sun’s rays. But for tourists spending only a few days or weeks in space, the radiation probably isn’t harmful.

A bigger problem might be space sickness. Without Earth’s gravity to hold them down, visitors to the Space Station float around inside the craft. It may look like fun on TV, but it can make first-time space travelers dizzy and sick. Luckily, the sickness usually wears off quickly.

Then space tourists can enjoy their trip - and the amazing view of Earth.

Question 1: Traveling to space _____.

- A. will be available to everyone
- B. is not expensive
- C. will be limited to the very wealthy
- D. will be limited to the very poor

Question 2: While in outer space, it's likely that people will _____.

- A. experience space sickness
- B. not need spacesuits
- C. will get a sunburn
- D. make side trips to Mars

Question 3: It is probably so expensive to travel to space because _____.

- A. astronauts want to make a lot of money
- B. astronaut food is very expensive
- C. space equipment and fuel is expensive
- D. there are high taxes on space travel

Question 4: Why are space travelers exposed to more radiation?

- A. Their spacesuits are too thin to protect them
- B. They lack protection provided by Earth's atmosphere.
- C. They stay in the space for such a long time.
- D. They float around inside the craft and have space sickness.