

READING

Task 4

Read the text below. Match choices (A–H) to (17–21). There are three choices you do not need to use. Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

HOW TO BECOME A KNOWLEDGE GURU

Regardless of job or status, it is always appealing to meet someone who has an impressive knowledge base. But how does one go about building a solid foundation of knowledge? As a general rule, it can take a lifetime of soaking up bits of information around you to achieve this goal. But there are a few ways to quickly kick-start the journey to being a knowledge guru.

17

If you must watch television, tune into educational programming on stations such as the History or Discovery channel. There is no need to take notes but it is important to train your mind to soak up everything it hears and sees. Cut out distractions and try not to eat while you are watching, as this inhibits your ability to pay attention. If you do happen to be watching regular programming or movies, focus on learning the actors and directors involved.

18

Many of the world's greatest minds seem secluded because they do not waste frivolous hours on Facebook. Instead, do an Internet search on something you may have an interest in, like skiing. Reading quick articles on topics that interest you piques your mind to thirst for more knowledge.

19

Leave them in the bathroom and around the house and pick them up whenever you have a minute. The morning and night are some of the best times to feed your brain. They need not be encyclopaedias, just books that you won't mind skimming through when you have time.

20

Take note throughout the day when there are questions you do not know the answers to or topics you know nothing about. Make a mental note to do a quick online search and educate yourself about them later. If you have a phone with online capabilities, don't be afraid to be that person who is always searching for an answer immediately. They are the people who often have a large amount of information at their disposal. Always be curious and seek to find answers.

21

You will pick up information from others around you and will automatically find yourself forming opinions. Forming an opinion on something creates an interest and from there you will find yourself venturing out on your own to learn more.

- A Feed your mind
- B Nurture your inquisitive nature
- C Restructure your means of entertainment
- D Purchase nonfiction books on topics that interest you
- E Don't waste time with media
- F Participate in conversations
- G Trim down networking on the phone or Internet
- H Develop a never-ending appetite for knowledge

Task 5

Read the text below. For each empty space (22–26) choose the correct variant (A, B, C, D). Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

THOMAS MORE

Sir Thomas More was the most brilliant Englishman of his age. He scaled the heights in law, in philosophy and literature, and attained high political rank as Chancellor. But the most challenging thing about this man is nothing that he achieved in life but the nature of his death. The facts are well known. He was executed by King Henry VIII in 1534 for refusing to accept Henry as head of the church in England.

It will be remembered that King Henry VIII was, for the most of his life, an ardent Catholic. But his desperation for a male heir led Henry to divorce his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, in favour of the younger Ann Boleyn who offered the promise of a son. High politics among the crowned heads of Europe meant that this could only be achieved by a break with Rome and the acceptance of Protestantism in England.

Traditional Catholic writers, such as Friar Anthony Foley, have cast More as a martyr who stood up for the cause of Catholicism and perished for the true religion. This interpretation was convenient for the Catholic church, then as now, and resulted in More being made a saint. It also does not explain why More chose to take a stand, and effectively commit suicide. Even under the teachings of the Catholic church he could have sworn the necessary oath to Henry because he was under duress. More's personal beliefs were his own but refusal to take the oath is what condemned him.

Other writers, such as the psychotherapist Bill Blake, see More's demise as an example of depressive illness. Melancholy was widely known at the time but not seen as an illness. It is not implausible that under the strain of work and the profile of his position as Chancellor, he succumbed to depression and, let death sweep over him. But contemporary reports are odds with this. He made every effort to comfort and cheer up his own relatives and never appeared lost or undecided.

Since More himself left no explanation we will probably never really know what his motivation was. However, Hardy's observations are very true in some respects in that More lived in a very different world. Life could be very cheap 500 years ago especially if one held high political office of intellectual views at odds with the establishment. After a lifetime of good fortune, considerable luxury and achievement, the wheel of fortune had turned, and More accepted his fate with good grace in the hope of an even better life in the hereafter.

Task 6

Read the text below. Match choices (A–H) to (27–32). There are two choices you do not need to use. Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

FIVE STEPS TO A GOOD PASSWORD

By Paul Gil

27 Before we begin, we must be clear on one major expectation: there is no such thing as a perfect password. A committed hacker can crack any password, given enough time and the right 'dictionary' or 'brute force' tools. But just like breaking into a car, **IF THE PROTECTION IS STRONG ENOUGH, THE HACKER WILL BECOME DISCOURAGED AND COMMONLY GIVE UP BEFORE THE PROTECTION FAILS.**

28 A good password starts with a base word phrase. This means: choose two or more meaningful words, with the spaces removed. Choose a word phrase that says something about you (easier for you to remember). The phrase might reflect your hobby interests or a personal passion of yours. You could try using your nickname, your personal taste in music or food, or even a favourite saying. For example: Ilovecats; RedHonda; PuppyLovesCheese.

29 Passwords start to become strong at **6** characters long. While a long password can be annoying to type, a long password really helps to slow down brute force hacker attacks. You can do this by adding the website name or computer software name to the base phrase. For example: IlovecatsGmail; RedHondaWin7; PuppyLovesCheeseEbay.

30 Scrambling does not necessarily mean rearranging the letters. Rather, scrambling your password can effectively be achieved by swapping one or more of the password letters with a non-alphabetic character, and then purposely including uppercase and lowercase letters within the password. Using numbers as substitutes for letters is another strong scrambling technique. Examples of scrambling: !7ovecatsGmail; Red7ondaWin7; PuppyLovesCheese3bay

31 At work, your network people will require you to change your password every several days. If you are using different passwords for different websites, you can do yourself a favour by rotating portions of your passwords every few weeks. Note that rotating parts of the password, not the entire passwords, will help deter hackers from stealing your phrases. Examples: !7ovecatsWin7; RedHonda3bay; PuppyLovesCheeseGmail

32 There are several other resources for building strong passwords. You can employ a digital vault like Password Safe. This kind of software creates personal 'lockers' to keep all your passwords locked under a master password. Tools like KeyWallet Password Manager work well because you can avoid typing your passwords entirely, and just let your mouse do the data entry. You can also view other tips while surfing the Internet.

Which paragraph gives information about...?

- A inventing something extraordinary
- B substituting your password regularly
- C lengthening the phrase
- D thinking of numbers
- E using the key expression
- F thinking of your passport protection
- G jumbling the phrase
- H following some advanced password tips

Task 7

Read the text below. Choose from (A–H) the one which best fits each space (33–38). There are two choices you do not need to use. Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

BRIBERY

Bribery involves offering or accepting something of value in a situation where the person who accepts the bribe is expected to perform a service (33) _____. For example, a motorist being ticketed for parking in the wrong place might offer a bribe to the police officer to ask him or her to tear up the ticket. In many regions of the world, bribery is considered a crime, and it can be severely punished. In other areas, bribery is more socially acceptable, (34) _____, as they cannot afford to bribe officials in the style to which they are accustomed.

Any number of things can be used as a bribe. While money is a classic bribe, bribes can also be more intangible, and they might include things like offers of real estate, valuable objects, or a promise to perform a particular service in the future. In order to be considered a bribe, the object of value must be offered and accepted with the understanding that the person (35) _____. This differentiates bribes from gifts offered in genuine good will, and also distinguishes bribery from tipping, a practice (36) _____. In regions (37) _____, they may come to expect 'grease money' to perform tasks which are actually part of their job descriptions, such as reviewing visa applications or inspecting materials being brought through customs. In these instances, people from regions where bribery is illegal may be allowed to offer grease money, with the understanding that otherwise, (38) _____.

- A can sometimes lead to confusion
- B in which gifts are offered in return for good service
- C which goes beyond his or her normal job description
- D skills of someone else with the right bribe
- E who accepts the bribe will be doing something in return
- F the task will never be accomplished
- G where officials are particularly corrupt
- H which can place a heavy burden on those in the lower ranks of society