Extra Training

Reading Task 1641

Read the texts and choose the correct answer to each question or the correct option.

Questions 1-4 refer to the following text:

When buying a house, one must be sure to have it checked for termites. A termite is much like an ant in its communal habits, although physically the two insects are distinct.

Like those of ants, termite colonies consist of different classes, each with its own particular job. The most perfectly formed termites, both male and female, make up the reproductive class. They have eyes, hard body walls, and fully developed wings. A pair of reproductive termites founds the colony. When new reproductive termites develop, they leave to form another colony, they use their wings only this one time and then break them off.

The worker termites are small, blind, and wingless, with soft bodies. They make up the majority of the colony and do all the work. Soldiers are also wingless and blind but are larger than the workers and have hard heads and strong jaws and legs. They defend the colony and are cared for by the workers.

The male and female of the reproductive class remain inside a closed-in cell where the female lays thousands of eggs. The workers place the eggs in cells and care for them.

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1. Where do the reproductive termites live?

1. *in an egg*
2. *in a cell*
3. *in a cellar*
4. *in a closet*

2. How are termites like ants?

1. *They live in communities, and each class has a specific duty.*
2. *Their bodies are the same shape.*
3. *The king and queen are imprisoned.*
4. *The females` reproductive capacities are the same.*

3. Which of the following is not true?

1. *All termites have eyes.*
2. *Workers are smaller than soldiers.*
3. *Some termites cannot fly.*
4. *Termites do not fly often.*

4. Which of the following statements is probably true?

1. *Thousands of termites may move together to develop a new colony.*
2. *The male and female reproductives do not venture outdoors except to form a new colony.*
3 *There are more soldiers than workers.*
4 *A worker could easily kill a soldier.*

Questions 5 - 10 are based on the following reading.

PARIS METRO ENFORCING GOOD TASTE IN MUSIC

There was a time when the sound of an accordion playing in the cars of the Metro brought commuters respite from stress. But that was before France's economic troubles spilled underground and the battle for loose change was joined by homeless newspaper vendors, unemployed men making speeches and immigrant mothers carrying babies. By the mid-1990s Parisians were thoroughly fed up.

A quick poll by the RATP, the city's Metro authority, confirmed that Parisians wanted to travel to and from work without having to wrestle with their social conscience. But also revealed that 78 per cent of those questioned, in fact, welcomed music in the subway system. In 1996 the RATP introduced fresh rules.

Under the new arrangements, musicians are not allowed to perform in the corridors and halls of Metro stations, but not on platforms or in cars. And to encourage them to comply, they are issued badges that protect them from harassment by RATP agents and the police. But the real novelty is that to obtain a badge, a musician must first perform before a Metro official. And every six months, a new audition is required.

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A result has been a sharp drop in the number of musicians in Metro cars and a noticeable improvement in the quality of the music in subway stations. And for this, Antoine Naso, a Metro official who runs the badge program, can take some credit. "I used to play the guitar, but I'm not a musical expert," he explained. "I just try to imagine what the public will like."

In the process, though, he has come to admire today's 250 badge holders, many of whom are professional musicians or conservatory students. "At first, I thought they did it just for the money," Naso said as he prepared to videotape auditions at the RATP's cramped music centre in eastern Paris one day. "But many come to the Metro to rehearse. They enjoy giving pleasure to the public."

Typical perhaps is Elizabeth Jacques, 25, a mezzo-soprano who often sings Mozart arias in the Metro station below the Bastille Opera. "I really like the Metro because I sing when I feel like it and I have no boss," she said. "Lots of people stop and talk. One composer invited me to do a CD of her music. A woman from Bastille Opera chorus even joined me in a duet one day."

Still, old-fashioned cash remains the main motivation of most Metro musicians. Officially, they are not allowed to ask for money, but the RATP allows them to place hat or an open instrument case by their feet as a hint to passers-by. Income ranges between $ 10 and $ 18 an hour, although stations, locations and hours of the day are important variables.

Eighteen months into the new program Naso is pleased with the results. He says there are fewer beggars and vendors - as well as musicians - in the Metro cars, while the public has responded well to the improved music.

5. By the mid-1990s, the passengers of the Metro were tired of ____

1. *music.* **3.** *stress.*
2. *beggars.* **4.** *economic troubles.*

6. The poll carried out by the RATP showed that the majority of Parisians ____

1. *disapproved music in the Metro.*
2. *wanted RATP to forbid musicians to play in the Metro.*
3. *did not mind music in the Metro.*
4. *wanted to increase the number of musicians in the Metro.*

7. According to the new rules, musicians have the right to perform ____

1. *in cars.* **3.** *in the presence of Metro officials.*
2. *for no longer than 6 months.* **4.** *after obtaining a special badge.*

8. What was the result of the introduction of the new rules?

1. *The number of musicians in the Metro increased.*
2. *The quality of the music became lower.*
3. *The number of musicians in the Metro decreased.*
4. *The quality of the music did not change significantly.*

9. Metro musicians are not allowed to ask for money, so they ____

1. *do not ask for money directly.*
2. *come to the Metro to rehearse.*
3. *perform in the Metro just to give pleasure to the public.*
4. *have to break the rules in order to earn something.*

10. What was the passengers' reaction to the changes introduced by RATP?
They were...

1. *disappointed.* **2** *surprised.* **3.** *satisfied.* **4** *indifferent.*



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