

Midterm exam

Reading section

1. Read the select *true* or *false*.

Isambard Brunel

Isambard Brunel was a great engineer. He built bridges, railways, tunnels, and boats. But what do we know about his life and work?

Brunel was born in Portsmouth in the south of England on April 9, 1806. His mother was English, but his father, Marc Brunel, was French. His father was a famous engineer in France, but he left his country in 1793. First, he went to the United States and then to England, where he married an English woman in 1799. Isambard went to school in England and France and spoke English and French.

When he returned to England from school in France, Brunel went to work for his father. For his first job, he and his father built a tunnel under the River Thames in London. Then, in 1831, Brunel won a big competition. It was for a bridge across the River Avon in Bristol in the south of England. The Clifton Suspension Bridge took 30 years to build, but today it is one of the most beautiful bridges in the world.

In 1833, Brunel got a new job. He became chief engineer for the Great Western Railway Company, and work began on the train line from London to Bristol. Today, when you travel to Bristol by train, you go over beautiful bridges and through fantastic tunnels – Brunel built them all. In addition to bridges, tunnels and railways, Brunel designed some famous boats. The *Great Western*, built in 1837, was the first steamship to go across the Atlantic Ocean to the US. And the *Great Eastern*, built in 1859, was the biggest boat in the world.

Brunel was not a good businessman. The *Great Eastern* was very expensive to build and he lost his money. He also smoked a lot every day and worked very hard. He was only 53 when he died on September 15, 1859.

1. Brunel's mother was French.
2. Brunel spoke two languages.
3. Brunel's father went to the US.
4. Brunel's first job was in France.
5. Brunel's first job was working with his father.
6. They finished building the Clifton Suspension Bridge in the 1860s.
7. Brunel's train line went from London to Bristol.
8. Brunel didn't like hard work.

2. Read the text select *Yes* or *No*.

Teenagers then and now

Jill Davies is an accountant. She's 43, she's married, she has two children, and she lives in a small town in the northeastern United States. But 25 years ago she was an 18-year-old teenager. It was the 1980s, and she lived in Los Angeles, California.

"I hated being a teenager," says Jill. "Now, I look back, and I think, 'Wow, what a fantastic time!' but then it was terrible. I did not like my hair or my clothes. I thought my dad was great, but I did not like my mom. She told me what to do all the time, but I never listened! I wanted to be cool, but I was not. I did not have a boyfriend, and my clothes were terrible. I wore short skirts and tight jeans and a lot of make-up. I listened to New Romantic pop music – Duran Duran and Boy George were my favorites – and on the weekend I went out to clubs and didn't come home until two or three in the morning."

"Today, everybody goes to college when they finish high school, but when I was young, this wasn't true. My friends and I finished school at 18, and there weren't any good jobs. I worked in a store for three years. I was 21 when I went to college and studied to be an accountant."

Emily Johnson is a student, and she's going to be 18 next week. She lives in Modesto, a town near San Francisco, California, with some friends. Her parents and her younger brother live in a house nearby.

"I like being a teenager," says Emily. "I have good friends and a really nice boyfriend. I do not go out very often, but I text my friends all the time or we chat online. On weekdays, I meet my friends in a café near my junior college, or I watch DVDs at my boyfriend's house. Sometimes we go to a movie theater on Saturday night. I usually wear comfortable clothes – T-shirts and jeans, and I download a lot of music from the Internet. I love listening to Adele and Coldplay. They're really cool."

"I study Spanish in college, but I'm going to take Chinese next year. I love languages, and I want to work in different countries."

- Does Jill have any children?
- Does Jill live in Los Angeles now?
- Was Jill happy when she was 18?
- Did Jill like her father?
- Did Jill have a boyfriend?
- Did Jill go to college?
- Does Emily live with her parents?
- Does Emily often go out on weekends?
- Is she in college now?

3. Read the text and select true or false

Hi Lucia

How are you? It was so nice to meet you last week in Sydney at the sales meeting. How was the rest of your trip? Did you see any kangaroos? I hope you got home to Mexico City OK.

Anyway, I have the documents about the new Berlin offices. We're going to be open in three months. I moved here from London just last week. They are very nice offices, and the location is perfect. There are lots of restaurants, cafés and banks in the area. There's also public transport; we are next to an U-Bahn (that is the name for the metro here). Maybe you can come and see them one day? I would love to show you Berlin, especially in the winter. You said you have never seen snow – you will see lots here!

Here's a photo of you and me at the restaurant in Sydney. That was a very fun night! Remember the singing Englishman? Crazy! Please send me any other photos you have of that night. Good memories.

Please give me your email address and I will send you the documents.

Bye for now

Mikel

- Mikel and Lucia were friends from school.
- They work for a company that sells things.
- The new offices are in a very good location.
- There is a metro next to the offices.
- Mikel has never seen snow before.
- Mikel and Lucia had dinner together.
- Mikel doesn't have Lucia's email address.
- Lucia wants to send Mikel some documents.