Round II

Reading Comprehension

Directions: in this section you will have to read a few short texts. Each text will be followed by a set of statements or questions with four possible answers. Read each of the statements (questions) carefully, choose the answer that best corresponds to what is stated or implied in the texts you have read, and mark your answer in the text booklet by encircling the letter of your choice.

Text l Did you know?

Two or three centuries ago people had much shorter lives - the average age was forty-five. But this was mainly because a lot of babies used to die. If people survived to be adults, they could often live to be seventy or even eighty, like today.

Having children was much more dangerous than it is today. Families often used to have ten or twelve children, but many babies died, and unfortunately many women died in childbirth.

In those days they didn't know how to cure all the disease that we can cure now. Many people didn't use to have enough to eat, or did not have enough money to pay for doctors. Even if you had a doctor, some of their methods were very strange. They used to believe that cutting open their patients and 'bleeding' cured almost any problem - unfortunately, it often killed them instead!

And people knew less about hygiene in the past. Even rich people didn't use to wash very often, and most poor people didn't have toilets or clean water. It was difficult to keep food fresh too. So they used to cook with a lot of strong spices to cover the taste of the bad meat.

Decide which statements are true (T) or false (F), according to the text.

1. Two or three centuries ago a lot of babies used to die. T / F
2. Three hundred years ago adults could often reach the age of seventy. T / F
3. Today, unfortunately, having children is as dangerous as it was hundred years ago. T / F
4. A lot of people died because they didn't have enough money to pay for food. T / F
5. Some doctors were very strange people. T / F
6. Cutting open the patients can cure almost any problem , they thought. T / F
7. Those days methods often killed the doctors themselves! T / F
8. people didn't use strong spices to keep the food fresh. T / F

Text 2 Is this man Britain's unluckiest criminal?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Carson stole $ 60000 of his clients' money and took an airplane to Monte Carlo, in the south of France, where he planned to get back the money he had lost by playing roulette. However, the casinos became suspicious of the man with so much cash and did not accept his bets. Carson returned to England.

Still thinking that gambling was the answer to his problems, he went to Doncaster races, put $ 10000 on a horse called Lucky Seven. Sadly, the horse was certainly not lucky, and finished last in the race!

Carson then invested the rest of his money in a travel company... a few days later the company collapsed. * Carson had lost everything.

He used his last $1000 to buy a second-hand car. He had decided to kill himself by driving off the cliffs near his home town. Just before he reached the cliffs, a police officer stopped him for speeding. It was enough to make Carson think that perhaps he wasn't so unlucky after all. He told the police officer everything, and Carson was arrested.

At his trial, the judge gave him just one month in prison: he said that Carson had probably suffered enough already.

Decide which statements are true (T) or false (F), according to the text.

9. Carson stole $ 60000 of his client's money. T / F
10. Casinos help people like Carson to get back the money he had lost. T / F
11. Gambling was the answer to Carson problems. T / F
12. At Doncaster races he relied on a horse called Lucky Seven. T / F
13. The travel company didn't help Carson to solve his money problem. T / F
14. He decided to kill himself by driving off the cliffs in a second-hand car near the casino in Monte Carlo. T / F
15. The police officer gave him just a month in prison. T / F

Text 3 The New Planet Hero.

Scientists have discovered a new planet, Hero. They are very confident that human beings will be able to live there, as it has water, light, oxygen and the temperature and air are similar those on Earth. They have done tests and know that plants can grow there. They have not seen any alien life there, but they cannot be sure that it doesn't exist.

They have decided to send a spaceship of people there from Earth, to start a space colony, and a new human society. But there is space for only six people. These people will have to stay there for the rest of their lives. No one else will be able to join the space colony for at least a hundred years. They will take enough food tablets for five years, together with four guns to protect themselves, and blankets, space-tents, etc. The spaceship will be controlled from Earth, so there will not be a pilot. The journey to Hero will last about ten weeks.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

The organizers have asked for volunteers, but unfortunately only ten people have volunteered. The spaceship must leave in two day's time so there is no time to find new volunteers.

Decide which statements are true (T) or false (F), according to the text.

16. American scientists have discovered a new planet. T / F

17. They are sure it is quite suitable for a living being. T / F

18. The scientists found out that plants grow there. 19.They cannot be sure that alien life exist on Hero. T / F

20. Only volunteers will go to Hero. T / F

21.10 volunteers will join the first 6 volunteers in two days' time. T / F

22.The pilot will control the spaceship from Earth. T / F

Text 4 Banana land.

Do monkeys really love bananas? Well, yes and no. It seems that monkeys simply like yellow things. The following event, which happened at the Blair Drummond Safari Park, might be a proof that it is true. In an attempt to brighten up the Safari Park the staff took the decision to plant daffodils in a 20-acre field.

Fortunately the colony of Rhesus Macaque monkeys became their greatest consumption. As Bob Fotheringham, the manager of the park, noticed the animals had probably confused the yellow daffodils heads with bananas. Generally speaking however, bananas are an excellent source of energy and do indeed constitute a major part of the ape diet. Although banana trees are not part of their natural habitat, it is a matter of fact that all monkeys will eat them with great enjoyment.

Decide which statements are true (T) or false (F), according to the text.

23. It seems that monkeys love yellow objects. T / F

24. Nothing can prove this fact. T / F

25. The colony of Rhesus Macaque monkeys became daffodils' greatest consumers because of their delicious smell. T / F

26. The monkeys might have confused the yellow daffodils heads with bananas. T / F

27. Bananas are excellent source of energy for monkeys. T / F

28. Banana trees are major part of monkey's natural habitat. T / F

29. Sometimes monkeys do not eat bananas at all. T / F

30. The staff of the Blair Drummond Safari Park planted daffodils to have some extra food for monkeys. T / F

LIVEWORKSHEETS