

TEST 4
READING

Task 1

Read the text below. Match choices (A–G) to (1–5). There are two choices you do not need to use.

BLACK BEAUTY

1

I don't remember everything about the time I was very small. I remember a big field of green grass. There were a few trees in it, and on hot days my mother stood under a tree and I drank her milk. That was before I grew bigger and began to eat the grass.

2

There were some other young horses in the field. As we grew bigger, we played and ran round and round the field. We jumped about, or we went down on our backs on the grass and kicked our legs happily in the air. We were glad to be alive. When I stopped taking her milk, my mother went to work every day. She came back in the evening, and I told her all about my day.

3

'I'm glad you are happy,' she said. 'Play as much as you can. But you must remember that you are not like these other young horses. They are all going to be farm horses; they're good horses, but not like us. Your father is well known in this part of the country, and your grandfather — my father — was Lord Westland's best horse. When you're a little older, you'll learn to take people on your back or to take them from place to place in their carriages.' I asked, 'Is that what your work is, Mother? Is that what you do for Farmer Grey?'

'Yes, that's what I do. Farmer Grey sometimes rides me and sometimes drives me as his carriage horse. Here he is now.'

4

Farmer Grey came into the field. He was a good, kind man, and he liked my mother very much.

'Well, my dear Duchess,' he said to her, 'here's something for you.' He gave her something nice to eat. 'And how is your little son?' He patted me and gave me some bread, which was very nice.

5

We couldn't answer him, but my mother showed him that she loved him.

He patted her and went away.

A A Big Farm-Horse in the Castle

B A Visit of a Kind Farmer Grey to the Farm

C Black Beauty's Childhood in the Farm

D A Wise Mother's Advice to her Son

E The Conversation of Black Beauty with his Mother

F The Life of Young Horses in the Field

G Black Beauty's Dreams in the Childhood

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							

Task 2

Read the text below. For assignments (6–10) choose the correct answer (A, B, C, D).

UNUSUAL SITUATION

A funny thing happened to me last Friday. I'd gone into Chicago to do some shopping. I wanted to find a book for my psych course. I had gotten to the city early, so by early afternoon I'd done everything that I wanted. Anyway I'm not crazy about downtown Chicago — all the noise, the traffic, strange people — and I'd made plans for that evening. I just wanted to get in my car and drive home before the rush hour, but I felt really tired. I decided that I had time for a cup of coffee

and a short rest. I bought the 'Tribune' and went to a small cafeteria. I got a cup of coffee and a package of doughnuts — I'm crazy about cakes. There were plenty of empty tables, and I found one near the window. I sat down and started the crossword puzzle in the paper.

A few minutes later a woman sat down across from me at my table. That surprised me because there were several empty tables. There was nothing strange about her except that she was very tall. I didn't say anything; I just kept doing the crossword. Suddenly she reached across the table, opened my package of cakes, took one out, dunked it in her coffee, and began to eat it. I couldn't believe my eyes! I was too shocked to say anything. Anyway I didn't want to make a scene, so I decided to ignore it. I just took a cake myself and went to my crossword.

When the woman took a second cake I didn't make a sound. I pretended to be very interested in the puzzle. A few minutes later I casually put out my hand, took the last cake, and glanced at the woman. She was staring at me furiously. I nervously started eating the cake and decided to leave. I was ready to get up and go when the woman suddenly pushed back her chair, stood up and hurried out of the cafeteria. I felt relieved and decided to wait for two or three minutes before going myself. I finished my coffee, folded my newspaper and stood up. And there, on the table, where my paper had been, was my package of doughnuts.

6. I'd gone into Chicago to do some shopping and find a book for my

A daughter	B psych course
C studying	D work

7. I felt really tired and was very hungry. So I went (to)

A a café	B a restaurant
C a small cafeteria	D home

8. I got a cup of coffee and a package of

A doughnuts	B marzipan
C chips	D cakes

9. Why was the gentleman surprised a few minutes later?

A Because a big dog appeared before him.
B Because a woman sat down across him at his table but there were several empty tables.
C Because somebody had stolen his package with cakes.
D Because he didn't like to be disturbed while eating.

10. Why was the gentleman too shocked to say anything?

A The woman took away his newspaper.
B The woman wanted to speak to him without his desire.
C The woman opened his package of cakes and began to eat them one by one.
D The woman ignored him completely.

Task 3

Read the text below. Match choices (A-H) to (11-16). There are two choices you do not need to use.

FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF CINEMA

11

The film of 'The Philadelphia Story' was based on a stage play which has been written especially for the actress Katherine Hepburn. The story begins shortly before a high society wedding between the lively Tracy Lord and her dull fiancé, George. Invitations have been sent out, gifts received, the reception organised and the family assembled. Indeed, everything seems perfect until Tracy's ex-husband and a reporter and photographer turned up. The film was one of the best loved and most charming comedies of the 1940s and was later turned into successful musical 'High Society'.

12

'A Month by the Lake' is based loosely on a romantic story by H.E. Bates. In the film Vanessa Redgrave plays Miss Bentley, an independent and impetuous middle-aged woman, who travels to a

resort by Lake Como in Italy following the death of her father in 1935. There she meets and falls in love with fellow holidaymaker Major Wilshore, an eccentric but likeable man. After various unsuccessful dates, it seems unlikely that the romance will ever really get going until a couple of other people begin to show more than a passing interest in the pair. If the film is unremarkable in its content, it makes good use of its beautiful Italian decorations.

13

‘Denise Calls Up’ is a funny and thoroughly modern story about a group of young Americans whose lives are based totally on work. Their days consist of talking on mobile phones, answering faxes and watching computer screens. Lunch dates are made and missed, parties are organized but never attended, and the friends even fail to turn up at the funeral of one of their pals (killed in a car accident while talking on her car phone). Then along comes Denise, an outsider to the group. She has an urgent personal problem, but will she be able to find enough time in her busy schedule to deal with it?

14

‘Dead Man’ is a cowboy film with a difference, breathtaking shot in black and white. In the film William Blake, an honourable account, has come to the west to take up a job which fails to materialise. A stranger in town, he finds himself alone and without money, and so begins a chain of encounters which lead this law-abiding citizen into crime. The central theme of the film is that life is unpredictable and that unexpected circumstances can completely change the course of a person’s life.

15

‘Stealing Beauty’ is a moving and often very amusing film, which owes its charm to an intelligent script and a magnificent performance by Liv Tyler. In the film 19-year-old Lucy, played by Tyler, moves from the USA, following the death of her mother, to stay with family friends in a farmhouse in Italy. The house is owned by Ian Grayson, an artist, who is to paint her portrait. Lucy, however, has a hidden agenda: she wants to see the boy she fell in love with four years earlier and to learn the identity of her real father, clues to which lie in one of the poems written by her mother.

16

‘August’ is set in a country house in North Wales during the late 19th century when a group of people gather at the home of the Davis family. The visitors are the tyrannical Professor Alexander Blathwaite, the absentee owner of the estate, and his second wife, the much younger American, called Helen. They waste little time in imposing their London ways on the rural inhabitants, including the brother of Blathwaite’s first wife, and the professor’s plain daughter, Sian. The wife’s brother falls passionately in love with Helen although she shows no interest in him. Sian conceals a secret love for the local doctor who is also in love with Helen. All relatives are involved in a series of tragic-comic episodes and the ordered calm of household begins to disintegrate.

Which film

- A is about a person who moves to another part of the country for work?
- B concerns people for whom work is the only thing that matters?
- C shows how a new situation can change a person’s character?
- D might be rather dull if it were not for the scenery in it?
- E involves a person going abroad after a death?
- F is successful largely because of a young actress?
- G has people bringing different values to another community
- H began life as a play in the theatre?

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								

Task 4

Read the text below. Choose from (A-H) the one which best fits each space (17-22). There are two choices you do not need to use.

ON PARROTS

Parrots are becoming one of the most popular pets in America — and for good reason. The parrot is (17) _____ that can be taught to talk, can be easily cared for, and can (18) _____ anywhere. With the help of an energetic parrot owner, a parrot can develop (19) _____. In addition, a parrot can be trained to say 'pretty boy' or 'Polly wants a cracker,' and it also can learn to whistle or even to imitate human singing.

(20) _____ what an owner decides to teach a bird, training a parrot (21) _____, but the reward is a stream of chatter. Another reason for the parrot's popularity is that this pet does not require much care. For example, even a spoiled parrot does not need a housesitter for the purpose of daily walks and daily feeding. In fact, a parrot owner may leave his or her pet with enough food for five days and have no fear that the parrot will overeat. Still another advantage of owning a parrot is its inexpensive diet, which consists of an assortment of seeds, nuts, corn, and grain — along with an apple, banana, or carrot.

Perhaps the most likely reason the parrot is becoming such a well-liked pet is that it is a combination of tameness and wildness. Because the parrot can live (22) _____, it makes a fine, tame companion for many people. In addition, because it can be easily trained, it is a delightful performer. At the same time, its colourful feathers give it an air of the mystery of the parrot's native home, the jungle. Thus, the parrot, once a highly valued gift presented to kings and noble families, is now appreciated by a growing number of people.

- A popular pets
- B an extraordinary bird
- C takes much patience
- D create a fantasy-like atmosphere
- E an enormous vocabulary
- F No matter
- G light year
- H in almost any environment

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
17								
18								
19								
20								
21								
22								

USE OF ENGLISH

Task 5

Read and complete the text below. For each of the empty space (23-27) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

MAESTRO MYROSLAV SKORYK:

'AT TIMES IT SEEMED TO ME THAT MOSES WOULD BE MY SWAN SONG' (Part 1)

Lviv's Krushelnitska Opera and Ballet Theatre staged the international (23) _____ of Myroslav Skoryk's opera, Moses. The author and composer (24) _____ that the opera dealt with an international subject, and addressed all nations and peoples, especially those struggling for (25) _____ and building their nation states. Like the characters of Ivan Franko's poem (the (26) _____, written by Bohdan Stelmakh, is based on it), Ukraine is also trying to find its way in the stormy sea of life's problems. The poem was written in 1905, yet it seems to reflect (27) _____ realities.

23 A premiere	B debut	C first night	D matinee
24 A believed	B accepted	C guessed	D trusted
25 A liberty	B autonomy	C independence	D sovereignty
26 A scenario	B outline	C libretto	D display
27 A modern	B present-day	C mediocre	D contemporary

Read and complete the text below. For each of the empty space (28–32) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

Task 6

MAESTRO MYROSLAV SKORYK:

'AT TIMES IT SEEMED TO ME THAT MOSES WOULD BE MY SWAN SONG' (Part 2)

'I had the idea of *Moses* long ago,' said the composer. 'It was (28) _____ by my father. He was a historian. It took me two years. I wrote the opera on three continents. I started in Lviv and then continued in America, and later in (29) _____. Australia. *Moses* is about a leader and a people and their relationships. Ivan Franko's poem is first of all philosophical. My task was to convey Franko's poetic (30) _____ in music. 250 persons worked on the project, almost the whole company actors, and about 2,000 people. In *Moses* my task was (31) _____ and difficult at the same time. I wanted this opera to be (32) _____. I kept its style modern but close to classical canons. Composing music is a very individual process; every composer does it in his own way. A melody can come suddenly, at any moment, even in your sleep. I think that being able to compose music and use one's talent is what you call happiness.'

28 A advised	B prompted	C inspired	D motivated
29 A remote	B dismantle	C absent	D faraway
30 A overtones	B nuances	C traces	D distinctions
31 A simple	B intricate	C elementary	D natural
32 A popular	B great	C exclusive	D fashionable