

TEST 12
READING

Task 1

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

SOME FACTS ABOUT THE HISTORY OF GEOMETRY

1

The peoples of the ancient world thought of each object as a whole. The first stage in the scientific investigation of space was probably the recognition of certain basic solids, such as cube and sphere, and surfaces, such as square and circle.

2

A Greek from Miletus in Asia Minor travelled in Egypt on business and became interested in geometry. His name was Thales and he lived about 600 B. C. Thales of Miletus knew that the measurements of a triangle were fixed when the length of its base and the sizes of its base angles were known. He used this fact to determine the distance of a ship at sea from the shore.

3

Pythagoras (580–500 B. C.) developed the theory of congruent triangles. It was probably in his school that the congruence theorems were first analysed.

4

During the lifetime of Plato (429–348 B. C.) Athens became the chief centre of mathematical studies. It held supremacy for about 150 years, when the first University in the world, at Alexandria, displaced it. Plato was born near Athens of rich and noble parents. He studied in Egypt, Cyrene and Italy, returning to Athens about 380 B. C. About a mile outside Athens was a beautiful walled garden called Academia named thus after its owner Academos. Here Plato formed a school of students which came to be known as the Academy. Their chief instruments were the ruler and compasses. Plato was a philosopher who believed that geometry was one of the foundations of a liberal education. The inscription over the entrance to the Academy said, «Let none ignorant of geometry enter my door».

5

Geometrical constructions, carried out with compasses and a ruler only, were studied in great detail by the Athenian Greeks of about 420–300 B. C., largely as an intellectual exercise.

Who studied in detail ____

A non-Euclidean geometry?

B certain basic solids, such as cube and sphere?

C the distance of a ship at sea from the shore?

D geometry as one of the foundations of liberal education?

E the theory of congruent triangles?

F mathematics which could be applied to the laws of nature?

G geometrical constructions as an intellectual exercise?

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							

Task 2

Read the text below. For questions (6-10) choose the correct answer (A, B, C, or D).

LUCK

About forty years ago, I was an instructor in the military academy at Woolwich when young Scoreby took his first examination. I felt extremely sorry for him. Everybody answered the questions well, intelligently, while he — why, dear me — he did not know anything, so to speak. He was a

nice, pleasant young man. It was painful to see him stand there like a dummy and give answers that were miracles of stupidity and ignorance.

I knew, of course, that when examined again he would fail and be thrown out. So, I said to myself, it would be a simple, harmless act of charity to help him as much as I could.

I took him aside and found he knew a little of Caesar's history. And as he did not know anything else, I went to work and drilled and tested him. I made him work, over and over again, on a few questions about Caesar which I knew would be used.

If you will believe me, he came through with flying colours on examination day. He got high praise, too, while others who knew a thousand times more than he failed.

My conscience tortured me day and night — what I was doing was not right. But I only wanted to make his dismissal a little less painful for him. It was pure charity. I never dreamed it would lead to such strange, laughable results. I thought that sooner or later one thing was sure to happen: the first real test would ruin him.

Then, the Crimean War broke out. Nervously I waited for the worst to happen. It did. He was appointed to a captaincy. A captain! I thought my hair would turn white.

6. Where did the narrator of the story work?
A at school
C at office
B in the military academy
D in the language academy
7. How did the young man answer the questions during his first exam?
A intelligibly
C well
B stupidly and ignorantly
D definitely
8. What did the instructor decide to do?
A to write a letter
C to read a book
B to help young Scoreby
D to listen to music
9. What questions was Scoreby asked during the exam?
A on biology
C on literature
B on history
D on physics
10. What were the results of the exam?
A he failed
C he got high praise
B he got satisfactory marks
D he passed it

Task 3

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

THE ROLE OF LIBRARIES

A library is an organized collection of sources of information and similar resources, made accessible to a defined community for reference or borrowing. Here are the information about some famous libraries in the world.

11

The Library of Congress — This is certainly the most famous and the largest library in the world. Open to the public, it is basically the national library of the USA. It is the oldest federal cultural institution in the country, and is home to more than 32 million books and 61 million manuscripts as well as numerous unique historical documents.

12

Reading Room of the British Museum is located in the Great Court of the British Museum. This library is an information centre as well as large collection of curated books.

13

Bodleian Library is situated in Oxford, UK, and this library is one of the oldest in Europe and is dating back to 1602. It has more than 11 million items within its walls.

14

Vatican Library is established in 1475 and it is one of the oldest libraries in the world. It holds the oldest complete manuscript of the Bible as well as over one million other books.

15

Yale University Rare Book Library is the largest building in the world that is focused on the preservation of rare books and manuscripts and it is open to the public.

16

The Reginal Public Library in Krakov. It is the key institution devoted to books and literary life in the city. Its inventory includes almost 500,000 items which comprises of almost 80,000 digital volumes.

Which paragraph tells you about the library which _____

A is one of the oldest libraries in the world?

B has the largest library building in the world?

C is one of the oldest in Europe?

D is an information centre?

E is available as a locally installed application?

F is the key institution devoted to books in Poland?

G is an excellent and well-stocked village library?

H is the national library of the United States?

	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.

FEATHERTOP

The long cold winter was gone (17) _____. At first the cold nights went away slowly, then suddenly the warm days of spring started to come. There was new life again in the earth, and things started to grow and come up. For the first time green corn plants began to show — they (18) _____ and could now be seen above the ground.

After the long winter months the crows, the big black birds, were hungry. And when they saw the little green plants, they flew down to eat them. Old Mother Rigby tried to make the noisy and hungry birds go away. They made her very angry. She did not want the black birds (19) _____. She wanted it to grow so that she herself could eat the corn. But the birds would not go away, so early one morning just as the sun started to rise Mother Rigby jumped out of bed. She had a plan to stop those black birds from eating her corn.

Mother Rigby could do anything — she was a witch, a woman with (20) _____. She could make water run uphill, or change a beautiful woman into a white horse. Many nights when the moon was full and bright, she could be seen flying over (21) _____ in the village, sitting on a long wooden stick. It was a broomstick and it helped her to do all sorts of strange tricks.

Mother Rigby ate a quick breakfast, and then started to work on her broomstick. She was planning to make something that would look like a man. It would fill the birds with (22) _____ and scare them from eating her corn — the way most farmers protect themselves from those black birds. She decided to name the scarecrow «Feathertop».

A the tops of the houses

B fear

C strange powers

D develop

E at last

F lucky chance

G to eat her corn

H pushed through the soil

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

USE OF ENGLISH

Task 5

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

MONEY (Part 1)

Money is used for buying or selling goods, for measuring value and for storing wealth. Almost every society now has a money economy based on coins and paper bills of one kind or another. However, this (23) _____ true. In primitive societies a system of barter (24) _____. Barter was a system of direct exchange of goods. Somebody could exchange a sheep, for example, for anything in the marketplace that they considered to be of equal value. Barter, however, was a very (25) _____ system, because people's precise needs seldom coincided.

People needed (26) _____ practical system of exchange, and various money systems developed based on goods which the members of a society recognized as having value. Cattle, grain, teeth, shells, feathers, skulls, salt, elephant tusks, and tobacco (27) _____.

- | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 23 A have not been | B has not been | C had not been | D was not |
| 24 A was used | B have been used | C had been used | D has been used |
| 25 A dissatisfactory | B insatisfactory | C dissatisfactory | D unsatisfactory |
| 26 A most more | B much | C more | D most |
| 27 A had been use | B have been used | C was used | D has been used |

Task 6

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

MONEY (Part 2)

Precious metals gradually (28) _____ over because, when made into coins, they were portable, durable, recognizable, and divisible into larger and smaller units of value. A coin is a piece of metal, usually disc-shaped, which bears lettering, designs or numbers showing its value. Until the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, coins (29) _____ monetary worth based on the exact amount of metal contained in them, but most modern coins are based (30) _____ face value — the value that governments (31) _____ to give them, (32) _____ the actual metal content.

Most governments now issue paper money in the form of bills, which are really 'promises to pay'. Paper money is obviously easier to handle and much more convenient in the modern world. Checks and credit cards are being used increasingly, and it is possible to imagine a world where 'money' in the form of coins and paper currency will no longer be used.

- | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 28 A would be taken | B took | C take | D were taken |
| 29 A were given | B had been given | C had given | D have been given |
| 30 A to | B at | C on | D in |
| 31 A chose | B had been chosen | C choose | D would choose |
| 32 A irrespective with | B irrespective by | C irrespective from | D irrespective of |