

Task 1. Read the texts below. Choose from (A-H) the one which best fits each space (33-38). There are two choices you won't use.

The Science of Sleep

When you think about it, sleep is quite strange. The average adult person lays down in bed, closes their eyes, and just doesn't move – for about 6-8 hours! This means that, effectively, one third of the time (1) _____.! But what is sleep, exactly, and how does it work? Sleep serves several purposes which are essential to our brains and bodies. One of the most important is restoring our metabolic waste – every day, our brains produce some waste (2) _____. Too much of this can actually cause problems with mental health. So, if it's bad, how do we get rid of it? Well, sleep actually plays a very important role in cleaning out our brains at night by making the brain cells shrink down (3) _____.! This effectively pushes out the waste! As a result, you wake up refreshed. Sleep also helps us with our memory – particularly for long-term memories. Actually, not getting enough sleep can make it more difficult to form both concrete memories (think information) and emotional memories, (4) _____.! If you want to remember something, maybe a good night's sleep is what you need! Sleep is also important for our weight! Several studies have found a clear link between getting less sleep and weight gain. However, some people also lost muscle! This makes it a big problem for athletes – it's hard to perform well (5) _____. As well, lack of sleep can also contribute to certain other problems like diabetes and heart disease later in life. What does this mean for us? Well, that sleep is absolutely critical for both our physical and mental health. We really need to be making an effort to get the recommended 6-8 hours of sleep every night, and (6) _____, it's now easier than ever to make sure that we're getting enough high quality sleep.

A if you're physically weaker

B that we spend on Earth is spent sleeping

C to help the brain produce more memories

D which you form in things like romantic relationships

E while sleep is also important for athletes

F as it does its normal, daily activities

G with the amount of new smart technologies for tracking our health

H to a smaller size

Task 2. Read the text. For questions (1-7) choose the correct answer (A, B or C).

Throughout history, there has been a fascination with geniuses and prodigies. The term "genius" originates from the Latin word "gens," meaning family, and was initially linked to the Roman belief in a family's guiding spirit. Over time, it evolved to represent a person's unique characteristics and exceptional attributes. Today, people often look to genetics or astrology to explain extraordinary abilities.

The concept of genius is deeply embedded in our culture, and it elicits mixed feelings. Gifted individuals are often envied and mistrusted, with stereotypes suggesting they must have deficiencies in other areas, that prodigies burn out early, or that genius and madness are closely related. Terms like "highbrow" and "egghead" reflect the ambivalence towards intellectuals.

In the 19th century, many studies of geniuses noted that early encouragement and education by parents and tutors often benefited intellectual and artistic development but later caused adjustment issues. However, these studies were not always reliable by modern standards, as they often focused on the privileged classes and did not account for broader societal norms.

Geniuses are seen as exceptional peaks of human ability, recognized for their outstanding achievements. Dr. Samuel Johnson's observation that a true genius is a mind of broad powers directed by chance towards a particular field still holds relevance. Although not all geniuses could excel in different fields, their success is often the result of nurtured and directed talents.

We admire the extraordinary abilities of geniuses because they are superior versions of our own skills. Their minds are not fundamentally different from ours, as demonstrated by how their discoveries and creations become common knowledge and influence everyday life. Education aims to enhance our individual differences, and we can learn from geniuses while acknowledging the sacrifices they often make in their pursuit of excellence.

Genius and giftedness are relative terms. While we can define and contextualize them, we should remember that geniuses are not inherently different from the rest of humanity, except in the degree to which they have developed their abilities.

1. What was the initial link between the term "genius" and the Roman belief?

- a. A person's unique characteristics and exceptional attributes
- b. The guiding spirit of a family
- c. The connection between genius and madness
- d. The privilege of the upper classes

2. Which stereotype suggests that geniuses may have deficiencies in other areas?

- a. "Highbrow" and "egghead"
- b. Prodigies burning out early

- c. Genius being closely related to madness
 - d. Geniuses being envied and mistrusted
3. What did 19th-century studies on geniuses often fail to account for, according to the passage?
- a. The role of early encouragement and education
 - b. The exceptional achievements of geniuses
 - c. The broad powers of a true genius
 - d. The societal norms and backgrounds of geniuses
4. What does the passage suggest about the relationship between geniuses and the rest of humanity?
- a. Geniuses have fundamentally different minds
 - b. Geniuses' discoveries become common knowledge
 - c. Geniuses often make significant sacrifices
 - d. Geniuses are inherently superior to others
5. According to the passage, what is one way education can benefit individuals?
- a. It can enhance our individual differences
 - b. It can help us become exceptional peaks of human ability
 - c. It can address the stereotypes associated with geniuses
 - d. It can provide the same privileges enjoyed by geniuses
6. What is the main point the passage makes about the concept of genius?
- a. It is deeply embedded in our culture
 - b. It elicits mixed feelings from the public
 - c. It is a relative term that can be defined and contextualized
 - d. It is often linked to genetics or astrology
7. Which of the following best summarizes the passage's perspective on geniuses?
- a. Geniuses are fundamentally different from the rest of humanity
 - b. Geniuses are exceptional individuals, but not inherently superior
 - c. Geniuses are often the result of privileged upbringings and education
 - d. Geniuses are admired for their extraordinary abilities and achievements

Task 3. Read the text and decide if the statements 1-7 TRUE or FALSE.

Deserts are some of the most extreme environments on Earth, characterized by dryness and minimal rainfall. One of the most well-known is the Sahara Desert in North Africa. It is the largest hot desert in the world, spanning 3.6 million square miles. The landscape is a mix of sand dunes, rocky plateaus, and even mountains. Despite its harsh conditions, many people, including the Bedouins, have made it their home for centuries. These communities have adapted to the challenging climate, using camels for transportation and sourcing water from oases.

Another famous desert is the Gobi Desert in Asia. It is located between northern China and southern Mongolia. Unlike the Sahara, the Gobi is a cold desert, with temperatures that can drop to well below freezing in winter. This desert is also significant historically as part of the Mongol Empire and the ancient Silk Road trading route. The Gobi is known for its unique wildlife, such as Bactrian camels and snow leopards.

In North America, the Mojave Desert is a notable desert, covering parts of California, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona. It is home to the famous Death Valley, which holds the record for the highest temperature ever recorded on Earth. The Mojave is known for its unique Joshua Trees and varied landscape, which includes sand dunes, dry lake beds, and rugged mountains.

Finally, the Atacama Desert in South America is often noted for being the driest place on Earth. Located in Chile, some areas of the Atacama have never recorded any rainfall. Despite this, the desert blooms with life after rare rain showers, thanks to its unique ecosystem. It is also an important site for astronomy due to its clear skies and high altitude, hosting some of the world's most advanced telescopes.

These deserts, each unique in their own way, demonstrate the incredible adaptability of life and the fascinating diversity of Earth's climates.

- _____ 1. The Sahara Desert is the largest desert in the world.
- _____ 2. The Gobi Desert is known for its warm temperatures throughout the year.
- _____ 3. Bedouins have lived in the Sahara Desert for centuries.
- _____ 4. The Mojave Desert is located in South America.
- _____ 5. The Atacama Desert is famous for its frequent rain showers.
- _____ 6. Death Valley, located in the Mojave Desert, holds the record for the highest temperature ever recorded on Earth.
- _____ 7. The Atacama Desert is an important site for astronomy due to its clear skies and high altitude.

Task 4. Read the texts. Choose the correct option to fill in the gaps.

«The Wall» by Samsung

At the latest CES 2020, Samsung presented the newest and largest «The Wall» MicroLED TV. This TV (44)_____ to be 7.4 metres and based on the first screen technology in the decade that delivers optimal black levels and high brightness.

Additionally, the same (45)_____ could be ordered in 3.81 metres with 8K resolution. Imagine the possibilities that are available with the hugest screen like that. There is no more need to go to the cinemas to watch a movie, whereas you can do it at home. There is no limit to observe the (46)_____ of the world around through a (47)_____ of documentaries.

However, it's not (48)_____. Samsung just started selling commercial and «luxury» versions of TV that cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

44	A	say	B	is said	C	says	D	saying
45	A	model	B	make	C	sample	D	copy
46	A	charm	B	looks	C	magnificence	D	appeal
47	A	range	B	mixture	C	group	D	variety
48	A	cheap	B	expensive	C	economical	D	priced

The dark side of the moon is a myth

In reality both sides of the Moon see (1) _____ of sunlight; however, only one face of the Moon (2) _____ from Earth. This is because the Moon (3) _____ around on its own axis in exactly the same time it takes to orbit the Earth, meaning the same side is always facing the Earth. The side (4) _____ away has only been seen by the (5) _____ eye from spacecraft.