

CLOZE TEST IV

I have always admired people like artists, writers and composers for being able to work on their own, with _____ (1) else around. Most of my friends work with other people in shops and so on, and they tell me that they could never get anything done if they _____ (2) alone. I'm not sure that all artists and writers do, either.

I was born in a small village in the country _____ (3) everyone knew everyone else: that is, they knew everyone except a writer who kept himself to himself. By the time I was old enough to learn people's names, he _____ (4) living in the village for at least twenty years, though the villagers still regarded him as a stranger! Every morning he _____ (5) down to the local shops to do his shopping; and _____ (6) he always greeted everyone he met, only two or three would return his greeting. At times someone would feel curious enough to ask him what _____ (7) doing and every time his answer would be the same: "I'm _____ (8) writing the book. It _____ (9) have been finished last year, but I couldn't get it right". And that was all we ever learned about him.

No one had ever visited his house, either. I remember once _____ (10) up to the house with three or four other boys wondering _____ (11) we could see what he did. We crept up to the window and looked in, expecting _____ (12) our writer typing furiously at his desk. Instead, he was sitting in an armchair reading a book.

1.	a) anyone	b) no one	c) someone	d) everyone
2.	a) work	b) had worked	c) worked	d) would work
3.	a) which	b) when	c) where	d) who
4.	a) will have been	b) was	c) will be	d) had been
5.	a) is used to walking	b) used to walk	c) was used to walking	d) got used to walking
6.	a) therefore	b) however	c) as	d) although
7.	a) is he	b) he is	c) he was	d) was he
8.	a) still	b) also	c) again	d) already
9.	a) must	b) may	c) should	d) can
10.	a) to creep	b) creep	c) creeping	d) to creeping
11.	a) if only	b) that	c) whether	d) about
12.	a) seeing	b) see	c) to be seen	d) to see

PASSAGE IV

The Joy Of Learning

It's often said that we learn things at the wrong time. University students frequently do the minimum amount of work because they are crazy for a good social life instead. Children often scream before their piano practice because it is so boring. They have to be given gold stars and medals to be persuaded to swim, to take exams or to practise an instrument. But when you are older? Ah, now that's a different story.

At 30 I went to a college and did courses in History and English. Seeing an adult in the class wasn't an extraordinary situation for the teachers, but it was an amazing experience for me. When I was younger, I was forced to study but now learning was a pleasure. During the first year, I was paying, so I was the only one waiting for the tutor impatiently. Indeed, if I could persuade him to spend an extra five minutes in class, it was a bonus, not a nuisance. I wasn't frightened to ask questions and homework was fun not a pain. When I passed, I had passed for me alone, not my parents or my teachers. The satisfaction I got was entirely personal.

Some people fear going back to school because they worry that their brains are not fresh enough to learn new things. That's not true. Although some parts have **rusted up**, your brain has learnt all kinds of other things since you were young. It has learnt to think independently and flexibly and is much better at relating one thing to another. Therefore, you can use your brain more effectively when you get older.

In some ways, age is a positive plus. For instance, when you are older, you get less frustrated. Experience has told you that if you are calm and do something again and again eventually you will understand how to do it. Maturity tells you that you will, with application, eventually get there. However, young people are more quick in putting things in order and noticing the details but they can't wait for a long time to achieve their aims.

Learning late doesn't mean having to go back to school. Recently I attended a swimming course and learnt how to swim. I thought I could swim before, but I could always get across the pool quicker by walking than swimming. Wearing my glasses to see the other side didn't help, because I never put my face in the water. True, I thought I looked silly when I wore goggles with lenses over my eyes and a nose clip, and picked up colored rings from the bottom of the pool to conquer fear of water. Even my swimming teacher was doubtful that I would ever manage it. It took me months, but at last I managed to swim speedily from one side of the pool to the other. The sense of achievement was huge. I only wished my family had been there to congratulate me, as I felt I deserved.

Then there was the skating. I was very impressed when I saw ice-dancers on TV so I joined the skating classes. I could hardly stand on the ice quite recently and, unlike the younger students, I was tense with terror in case I fell over. I was the worst in the class, but I eventually got a piece of paper that said I had now achieved the art of skating forwards. Although I will never do ice-dancing, I feel pretty satisfied to experience it.

Finally, there was the piano. I hated piano lessons when I was ten. At that time, I couldn't understand why certain exercises were useful and why the teacher kept explaining musical concepts. Recently, I decided to try it again and started taking lessons. At first, I felt strange while playing a piece that I had played for my school exams. But soon, complex emotions started to pour from my fingers, and suddenly I could understand why practice makes perfect. I was playing well and it was a wonderful feeling.

1. Children often refuse to participate in learning activities _____.
 - a) but they are quite willing to learn
 - b) if they are not rewarded
 - c) so there is no need to force them
 - d) when they are very tired
2. When the writer started her first adult learning course, she _____.
 - a) had some difficulty in paying the expenses
 - b) got on better with her teacher than she had expected
 - c) found learning more enjoyable than she had before
 - d) had to reduce the amount of her social activities
3. The adult learners shouldn't worry about going back to school because _____.
 - a) they could remember everything they had learnt before easily
 - b) they have many valuable skills which have been gained through years
 - c) the teachers are very eager to help them learn new things
 - d) it also takes young learners long to learn new things
4. According to the writer, adult learners _____ than younger people.
 - a) put things in order faster
 - b) are less worried about succeeding
 - c) pay more attention to detail
 - d) have more patience
5. When the writer took swimming lessons, _____.
 - a) her family was impressed by her success
 - b) she was worried about her appearance
 - c) she made surprisingly quick progress
 - d) her teacher was confident that she would succeed
6. When the writer took up skating, she was _____.
 - a) proud of the little progress that she made
 - b) embarrassed among the young skaters
 - c) sorry that she decided to try it
 - d) determined to be an ice-dancer
7. After the writer started taking piano lessons again, she _____.
 - a) couldn't play the pieces she learned at school
 - b) discovered that she had some musical ability
 - c) played easily without knowing any musical concept
 - d) understood why practice was useful
8. In line 15 'rusted up' means _____.
 - a) lost strength
 - b) gained importance
 - c) became sensitive
 - d) worked hard
9. In line 29 'conquer' means _____.
 - a) discover
 - b) show
 - c) overcome
 - d) remember
10. In line 10 'it' refers to _____.
 - a) the tutor
 - b) being late
 - c) the first year
 - d) an extra five minutes

34. The country is _____ a period of inflation, it is time to economise on many things.
a) going through b) putting away c) running down d) setting off
35. With her physical features, Sue seems to _____ her mother, but in her character she is more like her father.
a) break off b) deal with c) bring up d) take after
36. As Ron is working abroad, he can't spend time with his family but I'm sure he will _____ for it in summer.
a) make up b) get off c) give up d) drop out
37. The shopkeeper told Jennifer that he couldn't take back the camera unless she showed him a _____ as proof of purchase.
a) bill b) refund c) receipt d) fine
38. More than 200 applicants _____ against each other for the role in the film 'Tango', so it took the director days to choose the most talented dancers.
a) competed b) acted c) passed d) prepared
39. All the _____ of NATO will attend the meeting which will be held in Brussels and discuss the situation in Kosovo.
a) mansions b) elections c) customs d) members
40. This morning I woke up with a terrible headache so I _____ the manager's secretary that I wouldn't be able to come to work.
a) considered b) informed c) recommended d) arranged
41. It's right after university when you start working and earning your living that you become completely _____.
a) illiterate b) independent c) arrogant d) obstinate
42. The gardens of the historical palace will be opened to the _____ next month. I'm sure lots of people will visit them.
a) audience b) client c) public d) generation
43. Workers at the automobile factory announced that they would go on a /an _____ unless their working conditions were improved.
a) offence b) strike c) complaint d) caution
44. Jack makes everybody laugh with his _____ tales; I guess he will be a famous comedian one day.
a) hilarious b) enormous c) hazardous d) conscious