READING ACTIVITY – Public Examinations Should be Abolished

A- Replace the following with other words/phrases that have similar meaning.

1- gauging (line 17) _____

2- regurgitate (line 18) _____

3- expounded (line 20) _____

4- ace an interview (line 49) _____

5- intense (line 64) _____

B- Match the following words with the correct meanings.

1. well-versed (line 5)	gloomy
2. bleak (line 62)	knowledgeable
3. holistic (line 85)	shortcomings
4. prosper (line 87)	flourish
5. drawbacks (line 89)	complete

C- What do the following refer to in the passage?

1 them (line 7) _____

2 That (line 30) _____

3 such skills (line 35) _____

4 they (line 42) _____

D- State whether the following statements are TRUE or FALSE.

1. Malaysians are negatively affected by public examinations. _____

2. If a student passes a public examination, it shows that the student has excellent skills. _____

3. Higher order thinking skills are not tested in public examinations. _____

4. Public examinations are used for a wide range of purposes ranging from placement of students to awarding of scholarships.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

E- Read the following statements carefully. Write (F) if the statement is a FACT or (O) if the statement is an OPINION.

1 Many Malaysians will attest to the fact that these public examinations are more of a bane than a boon. _____

2 Examinations are a summative form of evaluation. _____

3 A student who scored an A in religious studies is not necessarily religious or one who actually practises the religion. _____

4 In extreme cases, the expectation to succeed is so intense that failure to do well in examinations may even lead to students taking the extreme measure of ending their lives, as reported by Young (2009). _____

F Answer the following questions.

1- In your own words, explain what does the phrase mean: "...these public examinations are more of a bane than a boon." (line 13)
2- Name two skills that public examinations promote as claimed by the writer.
3- The writer states that a pass in a language paper only reflects a student's ability in two skills. What are they?
4- Describe how public examinations make learning less enjoyable for students.
5- Too much emphasis is put on passing public examinations. In your opinion, who is to be blamed for this? Give reasons for your answer.

LIVEWORKSHEETS