

Leisure Through Time

Task 1 Read the following questions and choose the best answer

- 1. Why did young women in the early 20th century have more freedom than before?**
 - a) They were granted more holiday time by the church.
 - b) They earned their own income and often lived away from home.
 - c) The government passed laws allowing them to visit dance halls.
 - d) Their parents encouraged them to seek out commercial recreation.

- 2. According to the text, what was 'unprecedented' about the working week between 1860 and 1920?**
 - a) The number of hours worked increased from 50 to 60.
 - b) The average working week dropped significantly from 66 to 51 hours.
 - c) Workers were given more money but less free time.
 - d) The religious middle class demanded that all shops close on Sundays.

- 3. Which social groups are specifically mentioned as having a new demand for recreation?**
 - a) Only the predominant white population.
 - b) The emerging middle class and the working class.
 - c) Strictly the parents of young children.
 - d) Politicians and school teachers.

- 4. What was the influence of new immigrant groups on the leisure landscape?**
 - a) They introduced alternative activities not previously experienced.
 - b) They campaigned against the rise of commercial recreation.
 - c) They were the primary funders of symphony orchestras.
 - d) They worked to ban alcohol in public pavilions.

- 5. What was the main difference between 'commercial recreation' and previous forms of fun?**
 - a) It was only available to people living in rural areas.
 - b) It was a profit-making industry rather than self-made fun.
 - c) It focused entirely on reading and needlecraft.
 - d) It was strictly controlled by the religious middle class.

- 6. Why did the religious middle class found institutions like museums and symphony orchestras?**
 - a) To compete with the prices of circus shows.
 - b) To provide a place for new immigrants to work.
 - c) To encourage pursuits that were morally upright and useful.
 - d) To create a secret meeting place for the YMCA.

- 7. What aspect of the new 'hedonistic' venues particularly worried traditional organisations?**
- a) The expensive entry fees for working-class families.
 - b) The lack of available transport to get to the beaches.
 - c) Unsupervised socialising between the sexes.
 - d) The poor quality of the music in the band pavilions.
- 8. How did traditional organisations first attempt to limit the spread of new leisure establishments?**
- a) By requiring dance halls and pool parlours to have permits.
 - b) By closing down all parks during the summer holidays.
 - c) By banning the use of any musical instruments in public.
 - d) By arresting anyone seen at a travelling fair
- 9. How did schools and museums change their schedules to compete with commercial entertainment?**
- a) They began closing earlier to keep children off the streets at night.
 - b) They only opened during the weekends.
 - c) They remained open throughout the year, including the summer holidays.
 - d) They stopped offering sports to focus on academic studies.
- 10. What was the primary goal of voluntary organisations like the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts?**
- a) To train children for jobs in the commercial recreation industry.
 - b) To encourage healthy, active, and moral pursuits for children.
 - c) To teach children how to build amusement park rides.
 - d) To protest against the development of city playgrounds.
- 11. Who provided national political backing for the Playground Association of America?**
- a) The US President, Theodore Roosevelt.
 - b) The leaders of the YMCA and YWCA.
 - c) The owners of the new amusement parks.
 - d) Immigrant community leaders.
- 12. What was the belief of the Playground Association of America regarding children's play?**
- a) Play was unnecessary and should be avoided.
 - b) Children should only play games inside school buildings.
 - c) Play was vital for learning but required effective leadership.
 - d) Playing on the streets should be a punishable offence.

Task 2 Decide if each statement is **True (T)**, **False (F)**, or **Doesn't Say (DS)** if the information is not provided in the text.

1. Women only began taking jobs in the early 20th century because of a new law. _____

2. The working week dropped to 50 hours during the period mentioned. _____
3. Immigrants were the first group to introduce dance halls to America. _____
4. Commercial recreation was designed specifically to generate profit. _____
5. Before the 20th century, reading was considered a 'self-made' fun activity. _____
6. The religious middle classes preferred leisure that was useful to society. _____
7. Tickets for circus shows were more expensive than cinema tickets. _____
8. Religious groups feared that new social venues would corrupt young people. _____
9. Bowling alleys were required to have permits to limit their growth. _____
10. The Boy Scouts was the first voluntary organisation ever founded in America. _____
11. In the 18th century, children could be arrested for playing in the street. _____
12. Luther Halsey Gulick was a personal friend of President Roosevelt. _____