ĐỀ THI

Directions: In this section of the test, you will read FOUR different passages, each followed by 10 questions about it. For questions 1-40, you are to choose the best answer A, B, C or D, to each question. Then, on your answer sheet, find the number of the question and fill in the space that corresponds to the letter of the answer you have chosen. Answer all questions following a passage on the basis of what is stated or implied in that passage.

You have 60 minutes to answer all the questions, including the time to transfer your answers to the answer sheet.

PASSAGE 1

Questions 1-10

15 minutes

GHI CHÚ

Các câu hỏi dễ hơn cần ưu tiên trả lời đúng

★ Câu hỏi thông tin chi tiết: 1, 2, 4, 5

★ Câu hỏi từ vựng: 3, 6

★ Câu hỏi ý chính: 7, 10

A diver descends into an underwater cave, a scientist researches a dangerous disease, and an entrepreneur invests in a new business.

Each time we try something new, we take a risk. Sometimes, like the diver or the businessman, we take big risks, usually for obvious reasons – for fame, for money, or to save lives. Most people will take some risk to achieve one of these goals. But as the danger increases, the number of people willing to go forward decreases. Only extreme risk-takers continue on. The question is: What exactly drives these people to go on when others would stop? [A]

The Biology of Risk

To answer this question, scientists are studying the biological factors involved in risk-taking. Their research focuses on certain chemicals in the brain. An important chemical in risk-taking is dopamine. It motivates us to seek out and learn new things, and it helps us process emotions like anxiety and fear. People whose brains don't produce enough dopamine often lack motivation and interest in life. On the other hand, "someone who

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takes risks to accomplish something – to climb a mountain or start a company – that's driven by motivation, and motivation is driven by dopamine," says Larry Zweifel, a neurobiologist at the University of Washington. "It's what **compels** humans to move forward."

When we accomplish a task, dopamine produces a feeling of satisfaction; it makes us feel good. The riskier the task, the more dopamine we produce, and the better we feel. Given this, why isn't everyone trying to climb mountains or start businesses? In part, it's because of small molecules called autoreceptors. These receptors control dopamine use in the brain. A person with more autoreceptors tends to be more careful, as there is less dopamine moving freely around his or her brain. "Think of dopamine like gasoline," says neuropsychologist David Zald. The autoreceptors, on the other hand, are like the brakes on a car. A person who is less able to use brakes is more likely to take risks. [B]

Dealing with Fear

Dopamine production may make us feel good, but being in a high-risk situation for an extended period of time is also stressful and can be dangerous. Successful risk-takers must learn to deal with the fear associated with high-risk situations to reduce stress and stay safe.

In reality, adapting to risk is something we all learn to do. Take, for example, learning to drive a car. At first, a new driver may be afraid to travel on freeways. In time, though, as the driver gains experience, he or she will move comfortably into speeding traffic and will worry less about the danger. Similarly, a tightrope walker first learns to walk on a beam on the ground. Later, he or she moves to a rope **just** off the ground, and then finally to the high wire. By this point, the tightrope walker is in control and the activity doesn't feel dangerous. By practicing a challenging activity, humans can become used to the risk, manage the danger, and control the fear that they feel in those situations. [C]

The work that marine biologist and deep-sea diver Rhian Waller does illustrates this well. She studies life in some of the deepest and coldest waters on Earth. How does Waller control her fear and stay safe in these high-risk situations? "It comes with practice." she says. "It's knowing exactly what to do when something goes wrong. We prepare well for each of our expeditions, and we try to minimize the number of risks we take."

Of course, a person doesn't have to be a tightrope walker or a deep-sea diver to be a risk-taker. Taking risks is part of being human. We are all motivated to experience new things. In order to do so, we have to take chances and of course, we may fail. [D]

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1 According to the article, what is a common reason for people to take large risks?

A. a desire for fame
B. a lack of dopamine
C. to control motivation
D. to learn new things

2 What is one of the main functions of dopamine?

A. It allows us to talk.
B. It allows us to be alert.
C. It helps us process emotions.
D. It makes us fear dangerous situations.

3 The word '**compels**' in paragraph 3 is closest in meaning to

A. takes
B. forces
C. makes
D. discourages

4 What do autoreceptors do?

A. They make us less careful.
B. They make us feel better.
C. They control dopamine in our brain.
D. They connect molecules in our brain.

5 How do people with high dopamine for a long time feel?

A. motivated
B. satisfied
C. stressed
D. safe

6 The word '**just**' in paragraph 6 could be replaced with

A. slightly
B. only
C. recently
D. finally

7 What is the purpose of paragraph 6?

A. to show why driving and tightrope walking are such risky activities
B. to give examples of how practicing a risky activity can reduce fear of it
C. to illustrate how some people are attracted to risky activities while others aren't
D. to explain why some activities are riskier and more dangerous than others

8 What can we infer about marine biologist Rhian Waller?

A. She has learned to adapt to risk.
B. She has been afraid of the ocean for most of her life.
C. She prefers to do her job when there is danger involved.
D. She thinks it is impossible to prepare for most risks.

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9 In which space (marked A, B, C and D in the passage) will the following sentence fit?

But with enough practice, we might also succeed.

A. [A] **B.** [B]

C. [C] **D.** [D]

10 Which of the following would be the best title for this article?

A. The nature of risk

B. The biology of risk

C. Problems of risks taking and solutions

D. Connection between risks and dopamine

HỌC TỪ VỰNG

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PASSAGE 2

Questions 11-20

15 minutes

GHI CHÚ

Các câu hỏi dễ hơn cần ưu tiên trả lời đúng

★ Câu hỏi thông tin chi tiết: **11, 12, 14, 16**

★ Câu hỏi tham chiếu: **17**

★ Câu hỏi ý chính: **11, 20**

Astronomers rate the darkness of our skies on a scale of 9 (brightest) to 1 (darkest). Most of us spend our lives in the radiance of levels 5 to 8, only rarely venturing into areas ranked 3 or darker. Because of the rapid growth of light pollution over recent decades, most Americans under 40 have never known real darkness. All over the globe, our nights are growing brighter, and almost nowhere are they growing darker. We are just beginning to learn the true cost of all this light. Studies increasingly link our overuse

LIVEWORKSHEETS