

READING COMPREHENSION TEST

Healthy, Wealthy and Unhappy

Some years ago, the story goes, a large corporation gave African peasants fertilizer so that their crop would double. And indeed it did. The businessmen thought they had sown the seeds of efficient agriculture. Alas, when the next season came the peasants didn't plant anything. "Why don't you plant?" the businessmen asked. The peasants thought this question somewhat silly. "Our last harvest was double" they replied. "We have enough to feed our families till next year." Whether a rural legend or not, the story illustrates the different answers people give to this question: How much does a person need? One says, "Enough to subsist." Another may say "As much as possible." The later certainly creates more wealth. But does he also create more happiness?

Any eager traveler can find out that wealth and happiness do not usually live together. Visit Europe and you will be surprised by unsmiling faces and serious foreheads in the wealthiest countries. Visit Africa and you will find joy and merriment, even in the poorest countries.

What is the explanation for this strange phenomenon? Too much questioning about it does not take you to happiness. "Ask yourself whether you are happy, and you stop to be so," John Stuart Mill wrote 100 years ago. To intellectuals happiness is something unbecoming of cultured people. Pain and dissatisfaction are taken as the mark of a deep thinker. There is no happy intellectual. If there are no problems people can invent some.

The Bakutu, a tribe living in the Congo region of Africa, have always considered the white man's logic a bit batty. They call him "a bat that flies intensely but knows not where to."

Some Mexicans agree with the Bakutu. An American businessman watched a local fisherman pull a rather small catch. "Why don't you stay out at sea longer and bring in more fish?" the businessman asked. "I like to spend my time playing with my children, taking a rest, playing the guitar with my friends," the Mexican answered. The business was not impressed. "If you work harder you can buy a second fishing boat, then a whole fleet. You can have a large company, move to New York and list it on Wall Street. You can become very rich." "And then, ser?" the fisherman asks. "Then comes the best part", the businessman replied. "You retire. You move to a Mexican fishing village. You take a rest and play with your children..."

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Circle the correct answer:

1. After the first season, the businessmen thought that

- a) they made peasants happy for a long time.
- b) the real seeds were of poor quality.
- c) the peasants didn't understand them.
- d) the peasants didn't know how to grow plants.

2. The peasants didn't plant the next season because

- a) they didn't know how to do it.
- b) their supplies were enough for four years.
- c) they didn't need double harvest.
- d) they didn't know what to do with the harvest.

3. The story says that:

- a) people should produce as much as possible.
- b) people don't know how much to produce.
- c) people should produce to cover the needs for others.
- d) people should produce as much as they need.

4. According to the story:

- a) a wealthy person usually is not a happy person.
- b) a poor person is usually an unhappy person.
- c) poor people are more often worried than rich people.
- d) rich people should help poor people.

5. What J. S. Mill said was that:

- a) men don't have the key that takes them to happiness.
- b) people who don't think about happiness are happier than those who do so.
- c) intellectuals and cultured people invent problems.
- d) pain and unhappiness follow the people who have problems.

6. Some African Negroes think that:

- a) the white man's philosophy is like theirs.
- b) the white men don't know why they make too much effort.
- c) the white man's logic must take people very high.
- d) the white men know for sure where bats fly.

7. This is what a Mexican fisherman suggests:

- a) Produce as much as possible at the moment and live hand to mouth.

- b) Produce as much as you can and spend as much as you need.
- c) Production is as important as sharing life with your family and friends.
- d) To produce more than you need takes much time and doesn't make sense.

8. This is what an American businessman suggests:

- a) Only hard work and production make life meaningful.
- b) A man should never be satisfied with poor results; he should always tend to be rich.
- c) The more you work, the more you have and that is all.
- d) Work too much when you are young and spend old age in prosperity.

GRAMMAR TEST

A Fill in the gaps with one of these words: on, the, in, a, by, at, an, for, of or to / or put a cross (x) where no word is necessary. You can use the same word several times if it makes sense. (Each answer gets 1 point)

1. I don't know any people who write letters _____ (1) pencil these days.
2. I like the poster hanging _____ (2) the wall.
3. Ann left school _____ (3) fifteen and got a job _____ (4) a shop.
4. My flat is _____ (5) the second floor. Turn right _____ (6) _____ (7) top _____ (8) _____ (9) building and it's on _____ (10) left.

B Put in the correct form of the word(s) in brackets. (Each answer gets 1 point. Number 3 gets 2 points)

1. Mary _____ library is rich, enjoys reading books. (who)
2. This afternoon I _____ _____ _____ to eat till I get very hungry. (not go)
3. She _____ _____ usually _____ _____ long distances. (not mind, walk)
4. Where is Ann? She _____ _____ for a walk. (go)
5. It's OK. You _____ _____ _____ worry about it. (to have to)
6. Don't wear those shoes, they are _____. (I)
7. Who _____ English better at the last competition? (speak)
8. I like this room. I work _____ in it. (comfort)
9. My brother likes watching birds. He is a keen _____. (watch, bird)

C Circle the best choice a), b), c) or d).

1. Hello! Anybody home?

B: _____ a shower.

- a) was to have b) have taken c) am having d) was having

2. I am going to Edinburgh. Where _____ you _____ stay?

- a) is ... want b) are ... going c) will ... be d) do ... go

3. I'm sorry I'm late. I _____ help my sister.

- a) have to b) could to c) ought d) had to

4. What time _____ you _____ tomorrow morning?

- a) are ... living b) do ... left c) will ... leaving d) will ... left

5. What _____ Jane _____ when you saw her?

- a) has ... wearing b) is ... wearing c) did ... wore d) was ... wearing

6. To make a Happy winter we need a _____.

- a) snowing b) snow c) snowman d) snows

7. I _____ a nice time on the mountain yet.

- a) having b) had c) haven't had d) didn't have had

8. You haven't expected me to do it, _____ you?

- a) aren't b) have c) wasn't d) haven't

9. We buy good meat every week at _____ .

- a) butcher b) the butcher c) butcher's d) the butcher's

10. Alison, be careful, the knife is sharp. You can cut _____ .

- a) yourselves b) yourself c) you d) your's

KEY - 2007

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1c, 2c, 3d, 4a, 5b, 6b, 7d, 8d

GRAMMAR TEST

A

1 in, 2 on, 3 at, 4 in, 5 on, 6 at, 7 the, 8 of, 9 the, 10 the

B

1 whose, 2 am not going, 3 doesn't (usually) mind working, 4 has gone, 5 don't have to

6 mine, 7 spoke, 8 comfortably, 9 bird-watcher

C

1c, 2b, 3d, 4a, 5d, 6c, 7c, 8b, 9d, 10b