

GRAMMAR

For questions 1 – 15, read the text below and think of a word which best fits each space. Use only one word in each space.

THANKSGIVING

When I went to (0) the USA to improve my English, I couldn't imagine how (1) _____ other aspects of American civilization I would get familiar (2) _____. I had read a lot about this continent and its inhabitants and I had talked to friends who (3) _____ returned after spending some time there. As soon as I started my American life, I was favourably impressed by the approach everyone had to human relationships. Not only the young people, but also nearly all the adults I came (4) _____ proved to be friendly and easy-going. What I will never forget is the celebration of a typical American festival I had not heard of before living in the States. I was staying with a nice, middle-aged couple (5) _____ four children had moved to different, far-away places. I was surprised (6) _____ hear that they were all coming home to celebrate Thanksgiving Day with (7) _____ parents. In fact, on this occasion (8) _____ are large family gatherings and the day before (9) _____ fourth Thursday of November, most people travel long distances to join the people (10) _____ love. I asked my landlady to tell me something about this occasion and so I learnt that this traditional American festival goes (11) _____ to the 17th century. The first winter there was harsh and (12) _____ people were able to survive only thanks to the help of the natives. The meal cooked (13) _____ Thanksgiving Day recalls the one the English immigrants had with (14) _____ new friends. The main dish people have is stuffed, roast turkey, but also mincemeat (15) _____ pumpkin pie and cranberry sauce are very popular. Everything tastes delicious!

0 _____ the _____

8 _____

1 _____

9 _____

2 _____

10 _____

3 _____

11 _____

4 _____

12 _____

5 _____

13 _____

6 _____

14 _____

7 _____

15 _____

Total _____/15pts*Jenny Quintana, Natural English, adapted**Longman, Megan Roderick, Activate B1+ adapted*

VOCABULARY

Use the word given in capitals at the end of each line to form a word that fits in the space in the same line.

A modern wonder

It was the (0) famous French General, Charles de Gaulle, who named **FAME**
 one of the most (1) _____ planes ever built, Concorde. The plane **IMPRESS**
 first flew in 1969 and started its (2) _____ flights from Europe to **CONTINENT**
 America in 1976. The Concord (3) _____ the world of air **REVOLUTION**
 travel by flying faster than the speed of sound, which made
 (4) _____ arrive in New York earlier than the time they had **FLY**
 left London.
 (5) _____, those who never took the Concord will not **FORTUNE**
 have another (6) _____. In fact, it last crossed the ocean on **OPPORTUNE**
 24th October 2003, a (7) _____ date in the history of air transport. **MEMORY**
 The (8) _____ tragedy that happened on 25th July, when **SHOCK**
 the Concorde (9) _____ crashed while taking off **EXPECT**
 and 109 (10) _____ passengers died, is one of the reasons why **LUCKY**
 this modern wonder has disappeared.

Total ____/10 pts

READING COMPREHENSION (1)

Read the following text in which Sally, a teacher, is giving information and opinions about examinations. Answer the questions below the text in no more than three words each.

Do examinations have a positive effect on learning?

Some questions are easy to answer. "Do examinations have a positive effect on learning?" is not one of them. I have seen the question from different sides. As a student, I would answer "yes" and "no". In the subjects I was good at, examinations encouraged me while in the others, they had the opposite effect. Maths definitely belonged to the second category. At school, I was always successful in history and my favourite subject, English. Only geography brought better results, which was strange because there was nothing I actually enjoyed less.

There are many arguments in favour of examinations. The most important one is that they motivate students to learn, they give them a target. That was what my teachers – if not my classmates – said and perhaps in many cases it is true. Personally, though, I would say that there is an even stronger argument for examinations and that is the aspect of fairness. Everyone has the same chance to show what he or she has learnt.

There are, of course, arguments against examinations. There is the element of luck. If the right questions come up, you pass, and if they don't, you fail. This may be true in some cases, but in my experience as a teacher, a job I have had since leaving university, students tend to get the results they should. This is what I have noticed during my five years at my present school and at the two schools where I worked before, even if colleagues have not always shared my opinion.

Thinking back to when I was at university, I recall that we had no examinations until the final year. This meant that on my course we spent three years without the influence – positive or negative – of examinations. Some of my fellow students worked just as hard throughout the entire course, but I must admit that I did as much work in that last year as in the previous three. It is ten years since I left university but I still remember a lot of what I learnt when preparing for my final examinations.

My conclusion is that examinations do have a positive effect on learning, but I repeat that the original question is a difficult one to answer. The reason is that people are not all the same. Some of us learn better if we have examinations to work for and others possibly do not.

READING COMPREHENSION (2)

1/ In which subject did Sally find examinations discouraging?

2/ Which school subject did Sally like best?

3/ What was Sally's least favourite subject at school?

4/ Who didn't think that examinations motivated students?

5/ Sally thinks the most important argument in favour of examinations is that they are...

_____.

6/ How many schools has Sally taught at?

7/ Who has disagreed with Sally about the part luck plays in examinations?

8/ How many years did Sally spend at university?

9/ How long has Sally been a teacher?

10/ Why does Sally think it is difficult to answer the question in the title?

Total ___/10

LISTENING

Listen to a report about the successful Branoc Valley Bus Company (BVBC). For questions 1 – 5, decide whether the statements are true (T), false (F), or not stated (NS). Circle your answer.

0. The local people call the company BVBC.

T

☒ F

NS

1. The company will run 8 daily services between Seaville and Fording next summer.

T

F

NS

2. The bus fares will increase in two years.

T

F

NS

3. The BVBC company boasts being the best compared to other companies.

T

F

NS

4. Pat, one of the regular drivers, has been with the company since it started.

T

F

NS

5. Sadly, every year one BVBC driver is due to retire.

T

F

NS

Total ___/5

Vincent Smidowicz, Bridget Bloom - International English for Speakers of Other Languages – Achiever – 4, 2005; Adapted

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Olympiáda v anglickom jazyku – celoštátne kolo 2023/2024

Vydal: NIVAM – Národný inštitút vzdelávania a mládeže, Bratislava 2024