

READING COMPREHENSION

Task 1: Based on the text, complete the task on the next page.

A World of Imagination

William Blake wrote in 1799: “I know that this world is a world of imagination and vision.” Sadly, few of his contemporaries in late 18th- and early 19th-century Britain shared his vision. It was only after Blake’s death that his genius became recognized, and his poetry, prints, artwork, and visionary thinking inspired new generations of imaginative minds.

Blake was born in Soho, London, on 28 November 1757. His father was a hosier (manufacturing stockings, socks, and tights), and the family lived above his shop near Oxford Street. Mostly homeschooled by his mother, Blake claimed to have experienced visions from an early age. Alexander Gilchrist, his first biographer, describes how young William saw “a tree filled with angels, bright angelic wings bespangling every bough like stars”. Blake continued to have visions throughout his life, with an intense recall of what he had experienced. He knew that few people could see what he saw, but by sharing his visions through his writings and art, he believed that they could be understood.

Recognizing their son’s artistic talent, Blake’s parents enrolled him at drawing school at the age of ten. While others might have dreamed of a career in fine art, Blake’s studies were focused more on accuracy of reproduction than on originality. At the age of 14, he was apprenticed to James Basire, a London engraver who worked for the Society of Antiquaries. Engraving required stamina, concentration, and precision, but Blake enjoyed the work. He gained particular inspiration from visits to Westminster Abbey, where he made drawings of the tombs and monuments, and where he experienced memorable visions. By 1779, aged 21, Blake had completed his seven-year apprenticeship and began to earn a living as a copy engraver. Sadly, the style of line engraving he had learned was falling out of fashion, which meant fewer commissions. He enrolled to study painting at the Royal Academy of Arts, but after having various disagreements with Joshua Reynolds, the school’s first president, he left after less than a year. Life changed when Blake met Catherine Boucher, the daughter of a market gardener. They married in 1782. Catherine was five years younger and, like many young women at the time, illiterate. With Blake’s help, she learned to read and write, to engrave and etch, and to become skilled in printing and colouring. Most importantly, she also learned to share her husband’s visions.

One of Blake’s strongest visions came on the death of his younger brother, Robert. Blake believed that Robert’s spirit stayed with him and even inspired him to invent a new method of etching (a printmaking process in which a metal plate is used). Using a technique of relief etching, Blake printed his designs on special paper, which he and Catherine would then paint by hand. Romantic and revolutionary, the Blakes had no children and lived, mostly in poverty, in rented rooms in central London. They had a close circle of friends and family, and it was friends who helped Blake to publish his first poetry collection, *Poetical Sketches*, in 1783. The poems protest against war, tyranny, and King George III’s treatment of the American colonies. Blake was a non-conformist who read and met many of the radical thinkers of the time. He believed in racial and sexual equality and was an outspoken critic of slavery and marriage laws. He distrusted materialism, the Industrial Revolution, and the abuse of power by the establishment and religious institutions. Blake’s best-known poetry collections, *Songs of Innocence* (1789) and *Songs of Innocence and of Experience* (1794), are beautifully illustrated.

Source: *Spotlight* 3/23, pages 21-23 (abridged)

READING COMPREHENSION – CONTINUATION

Task: Based on what you have read in the article, complete the statements below. You must fill in from 1 word to 3 words (the number of missing words is indicated). You have to use the words from the article, or forms derived from them. The statements do not follow in the same order as the information appears in the article.

1. Blake criticized social inequalities – and
..... (3 words)
2. Blake's artistic vision was hardly embraced by his (1 word)
3. At drawing school, Blake's attention was absorbed by achieving
rather than (2 words)
4. According to Blake, the Industrial Revolution and materialism cannot be
..... (1 word)
5. was the method of education in Blake's childhood. (1 word)
6. Working for a London engraver, young Blake developed such qualities as attentiveness,
exactness, and (1 word)
7. Due to with the school authority, Blake abandoned studying
painting at a prestigious art school. (1 word)
8. Blake and his wife represented two attitudes to life – and
..... (2 words)
9. In comparison with Blake, when they met his wife was (1 word)
10. Blake's style of line engraving was outdated, thus leading to
..... (2 words)

..... / 10 pts

V O C A B U L A R Y

Task 1: In the text below, decide which word (a, b, c, or d) best fits the gap. Then underline the correct word or phrase.

Footwear Speaks a Global Language

Sonja Bata, the chairwoman of Toronto's Shoe Museum, firmly believes that footwear speaks a global language. At the Shoe Museum, there are some 10,000 boots and shoes on display, (1) from Egyptian tomb shoes dating from 2,500 BC to shoes (2) by pop stars like Madonna.

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. (a) ranking | (b) reaching | (c) ranging | (d) running |
| 2. (a) awarded | (b) offered | (c) granted | (d) donated |

..... / 2 pts

Task 2: Fill each blank space in the article below with the correct form of the word in capital letters.

Challenges of Anthropological Science

One of the most challenging aspects of the science of anthropology comes from its (3) Certainly, in its (4) as a profession, anthropology was distinguished by its concentration on the so-called "primitive societies" and was conducted (5) face-to-face. Such societies provided anthropologists with valuable (6) into the (7) of a society that contrasted with the many (8) of more highly developed societies. The (9) of anthropologists to the first-hand collection of data led them to some (10) places on earth.

FIELD, INFANT

EXCLUSIVE

SEE, WORK

COMPLEX

COMMIT

ACCESS

..... / 8 pts

..... / 10 pts

GRAMMAR

Task 1: Fill each of the numbered blanks in the passage with one suitable word, which has only a grammatical function in the text.

Racing Dogs

EXAMPLE: (0) *most*

One of the world's (0) thrilling sights is a team of dogs racing (1) an Arctic landscape, hauling a laden sled and (2) fur-clad driver from one post to another. (3) dogs, well known for their courage, have always been essential (4) human existence in snow-bound environments, and many stories celebrate (5) exploits. All sled dogs are adapted to hard conditions, (6) the breeds vary. In the extreme conditions of the North, the dogs are big and heavy. In (7) severe climates, the dogs are chosen for strength and speed. To protect them (8) sub-zero temperatures, they have a double coat, and feet (9) are lower in temperature than their body to prevent snow forming ice balls (10) their toes. Their stomachs are (11) that they don't need to eat every day, and they're trained to feast when they can, their bodies (12) storing the energy.

..... / 12 pts

Task 2: Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first one, using the word given. Do not change the word given and use between three and six words, including the word given.

13. They told Henry not to go to the city centre at Christmas time. **WARNED**
Henry from the city centre at Christmas time.
14. It might get cold when you're out this evening, so it's probably a good idea to take gloves. **CASE**
It's probably worth cold when you're out this evening.
15. I wish I could have finished my geography project on time. **ABLE**
I regret not my geography project finished on time.

..... / 3 pts

..... /15 pts

LISTENING – TASKS**Interview with Aya Okawa – a Renowned Photographer**

You will hear an interview with Aya Okawa, an award-winning photographer. Fill in the missing words in the sentences below which summarize the interview. Use only the words you have heard, or word forms derived from them. (The number of missing words is given in brackets).

1. Aya used the method of when she tried to acquire skills in photography. (1 word)
2. Aya started practicing photography more frequently when tools became available. (1 word)
3. In the process of learning, attending was helpful for Aya. (2 words)
4. According to Aya, photography has the capacity to change our (1 word)
5. In Aya's photos, her reflections of and ecosystems can be seen. (2 words)
6. Aya would like her photos to evoke a/an of in her viewers. (2 words)
7. During her studies, Aya carried out research related to language and culture. (1 word)
8. During her studies, photographs and videos became an important tool for and her research. (2 words)
9. Aya considers two qualities to be important for a rewarding job – and (2 words)
10. Aya would like her photos to inspire people to and on interrelated systems. (2 words)

..... / 5 pts

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Olympiáda v anglickom jazyku – krajské kolo 2023/2024

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