

**READING COMPREHENSION**

**Read the text carefully. Complete the task on the next page.**

**Thomas Paine**

Thomas Paine (1737–1809), the man credited as being the Father of the American Revolution, was, in fact, British. Born in Thetford, Norfolk, Paine's early life was characterized by a series of disappointments. After dropping out of school at 13, he failed in all the roles he tried his hand at, from working as an apprentice for his father to brief, unsuccessful stints as a sailor and a tax officer.

At the age of 33, Paine happened to meet Benjamin Franklin in London, a chance encounter that was to change the direction of his life. Franklin persuaded him to give America a chance, and Paine eagerly decided to emigrate. He set sail, arriving in Philadelphia in November 1774, a time of increasing hostility between Britain and its 13 American colonies.

Paine soon found his feet. He got a job as a journalist in Pennsylvania and began to outline his ideals in magazine articles. He created a utopian vision of a society founded on world peace, with pensions for the elderly and social security for the poor, all to be financed by imposing an income tax.

In 1776, Paine rose to fame after publishing *Common Sense*, a small pamphlet that was full of big ideas. His inflammatory prose denounced rule by a hereditary monarchy and spoke out in favour of republicanism, urging America to separate from Britain. Paine's passionate text encouraged Americans to change the course of history by setting up a new kind of independent self-government. He declared: "We have it in our power to begin the world over again."

*Common Sense* sparked independence in the hearts of Americans, largely owing to Paine's ability to clearly communicate the ideas of the revolution to ordinary people, as well as to intellectuals. In his honest, outspoken way, he helped to inspire not only the American Revolution, but also the Declaration of Independence. In fact, Paine was the first person to codify the phrase "the United States of America." The rest, as they say, is history.

"These are the times that try men's souls," was the memorable opening line of *The American Crisis*, another pamphlet written by Paine during the American Revolution. In it, he called upon war-weary rebels to rally for liberty against the British, and to keep fighting in spite of the hard winter conditions of 1776. *The American Crisis* boosted the morale of General George Washington's troops and saved the revolution. Washington ordered the pamphlet to be read aloud to his disheartened men; the words served as a rousing call to arms, eventually leading to victory in battle.

With the revolution over, Paine pursued other interests, such as designing iron bridges and helping to develop a steam engine. One of his inventions was even a smokeless candle. But he was soon fanning the flames of revolution again. The French Revolution had attracted Paine's attention. In 1790, he decided to travel to France, where he was elected to the French National Convention. Anglo-Irish conservative writer Edmund Burke attacked the French Revolution in *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, and Paine set out to contest Burke's views. The result was his famous book *Rights of Man* (1791), in which he defended the values of the revolution.

Source: *Spotlight* 13/2023, pages 23-24 (abridged, adapted)

## READING COMPREHENSION – CONTINUATION

**Task:** Based on what you have read in the article, complete the statements below. You must fill in 1 word or 2 words (the number of missing words is indicated). You have to use 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. Thomas Paine's revolutionary ideas in *Common Sense* addressed scholars and ..... as well. (2 words)
2. Thomas Paine's ..... concepts of society were first published in American magazines. (1 word)
3. A young Thomas Paine experienced ..... in his early occupations. (1 word)
4. In his book *Rights of Man*, Thomas Paine undertook to oppose ..... (2 words)
5. At the time of Paine's arrival in America, relations between the American colonies and Britain were ..... (1 word)
6. Drawing ..... was one of the areas Paine focused on after the American Revolution. (2 words)
7. Paine's meeting Franklin in London can be considered a/an ..... that was destined to redirect his life. (2 words)
8. Paine's pamphlet *The American Crisis* uplifted the ..... of Washington's soldiers. (1 word)
9. Paine's pamphlet *Common Sense* voiced support for ..... principles. (1 word)
10. While working as a journalist, Paine came up with some progressive ideas including a system of ..... for impoverished people. (2 words)

..... / 10 pts

**V O C A B U L A R Y**

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

***Maps and Cartography***

Maps reflect ..... (1) perception, which may in turn be derived **SPACE**  
 from a great ..... (2) of perspectives – local, global, or celestial. **VARIOUS**  
 To judge by surviving artwork on rock and other ..... (3) **DURATION**  
 surfaces, it seems credible that prehistoric craftsmen of the Old World sometimes  
 sought to record such ..... (4), although to modern eyes their **AWARE**  
 representations are so ..... (5) as to defy confident interpretation. **ENIGMA**

We have a sounder understanding of the images preserved from the  
 ..... (6) civilizations of the ancient Near East which **SEQUENCE**  
 developed writing. The ..... (7) in particular made **BABYLON**  
 ..... (8) advances in mathematics and astronomy, as **REMARK**  
 well as in surveying. Their clay tablets from as early as the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC  
 preserve plans of buildings, estates, and settlements, some just sketches,  
 but others carefully drawn to scale. Other tablets represent the world and stars.  
 Egypt, too, offers a comparable range of ..... (9) and **CARTOGRAPHY**  
 mapmaking ..... (10) from the Old Kingdom onwards. **EXPERT**

..... / 10 pts

**GRAMMAR**

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

**The Most Popular Garden in Japan**

EXAMPLE: (0) who

The next article is written by Tim Jackson, an English journalist for *The Independent* (0) ..... lives in Japan.

Ryoanji is the most famous garden in Japan, (1) ..... it contains no trees, no shrubs, no flowers, no fountains – not (2) ..... a blade of grass. It consists of a small courtyard filled with carefully raked gravel and bordered (3) ..... a richly weathered wall. In the gravel, apparently (4) ..... random, sit 15 delicately arranged rocks, (5) ..... of them slightly covered in moss.

As I sat in the garden's pavilion last Monday, (6) ..... , it was remarkably difficult to contemplate anything. Behind my right ear was a uniformed tour guide, yelling (7) ..... exceptionally polite Japanese the dimensions of the garden and the details of how its wall (8) ..... been constructed.

Behind my left ear, a loudspeaker blasted (9) ..... a recorded potted history every seven minutes, ending with the suggestion that the listener (10) ..... now peacefully enjoy the garden. And behind my back, just audible above the bustle of 500 tourists crammed (11) ..... a small space, the voice of a second tour guide kindly requested ladies and gentlemen from number 4 to please make (12) ..... way to the car park.

The loudspeaker is to be found (13) ..... just on trains and subways but on buses, too. In most Japanese cities, loudspeakers peal soft music at 5pm to remind children to stop playing and go home.

Yet the ubiquity of noise is a clue to something deep in the Japanese psyche. To a degree that (14) ..... be unacceptable in Europe or America, people here put up with (15) ..... told what to do.

..... / 15 pts

**LISTENING****EDITH WILSON**

*You will hear a radio programme about Edith Wilson, wife of U.S. President Woodrow Wilson. Fill in the missing words in the sentences below which summarise the information about her. Use only words you have heard, or words derived from them. (The number of missing words is given in brackets.)*

1. After Edith Wilson's husband became disabled by a ....., Edith took over his responsibilities. (1 word)
2. Edith Wilson's political career is still viewed as ..... (1 word)
3. Because of her family relations, Edith Wilson had a/n ..... for the presidential status. (1 word)
4. Edith Wilson's father worked as a judge at a ..... of ..... (2 words)
5. In her autobiographical book, Edith Wilson described her grandmother as a/an ..... and ..... woman. (2 words)
6. Norman Galt was a prosperous ..... (1 word)
7. The Galt & Bro. jewellery company became part of the ..... in Washington, D.C. (1 word)
8. After Norman Galt's death and a troublesome period, Edith managed to ..... the family business. (1 word)
9. As a woman in her thirties, Edith's social status was that of a/an ..... (2 words)
10. Edith was ..... after learning about the results of the presidential election in 1912 as the future president came from the ..... (2 words)

..... / 5 pts

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