

Reading Comprehension Test for 11th Form Students

Directions:

In this test you will read four texts. Each text is followed by different tasks. You should do the tasks that follow the text on the basis of what is *stated* or *implied* in the text. For each task you will choose the best possible answer, as specified prior to each text. Choose the best answer and circle the letter of your choice or put + if the statement is true, - if it is false on the answer sheet.

Text 1

Originally, fairs were held in connection with religious festivals. Because of the difficulties of travel in the Middle Ages, it was impossible for merchants to get regular supplies of commodities. Fairs, therefore, gradually developed, taking place when enough goods had been accumulated and where great numbers of potential purchasers were present. They were established as annual events throughout Europe, and also in the Middle East, particularly in the religious centre of Mecca. Fairs were so important to commercial life that secular and religious authorities granted merchants special privileges, such as a court of their own to settle disputes that arose while fairs were in progress.

In the Middle Ages, particularly during the 13th and 14th centuries, many fairs were held in Europe. The fairs of Champagne France were the most famous. Some fairs were established for the sale of a particular kind of merchandise, such as cattle, horses, or cloth; others dealt in general merchandise. Many fairs, in addition to their trading activities, maintained labour exchanges, where domestic or agricultural servants hired themselves out for a year. Occasionally a “pleasure fair,” a place for amusement was held in connection with the commercial fair. By the 18th century when the number of shops and markets had increased and transportation and communication methods were improved, commercial fairs had lost their importance.

Directions: Choose the best possible answer and mark the letter of your choice.

1. The above text is most certainly taken from
 - a. An encyclopedia
 - b. A fiction book
 - c. A business letter
 - d. A private letter

2. What was the original connection between fairs and festivals?
 - a. Festivals were timed to fairs.
 - b. There was no connection between these events.
 - c. Fairs followed festivals.
 - d. Fairs were timed festivals.

3. What were the two necessary conditions for fairs to take place?
 - a. Permission from the church and convenient time
 - b. Sufficient amount of commodities and many prospective buyers
 - c. Good roads to travel and appropriate season
 - d. A great number of merchants and a huge market place

4. In the Middle Ages, fairs were held
 - a. Whenever possible
 - b. Only in European countries
 - c. Every year

- d. In religious centers of Europe and the Middle East
5. Special privileges granted to merchants were connected with
 - a. The sale of a particular kind of commodities
 - b. Dealing in general merchandise
 - c. The settlement of legal issues
 - d. Resolving their disputes with secular and religious authorities
 6. Labour exchanges were important, because
 - a. They offered job opportunities to workers.
 - b. They were maintained in major European cities.
 - c. Rich people could get domestic help there.
 - d. They promoted the sales of agricultural produce.
 7. A 'pleasure fair'
 - a. Was a required part of any commercial fair.
 - b. Offered entertainment for merchants and purchasers.
 - c. Was always held as a separate event.
 - d. Quickened the commercial activities.

Text 2

Forgiveness by Christine Many

To forgive may be divine, but no one ever said it was easy. When someone has deeply hurt you, it can be extremely difficult to let go of your grudge. But forgiveness is possible and it can be surprisingly beneficial to your physical and mental health. "People who forgive show less depression, anger and stress and more hopefulness," says Frederic Luskin, Ph.D., author of *Forgive for Good* (HarperCollins, 2002). "So it can help save on the wear and tear on our organs, reduce the wearing out of the immune system and allow people to feel more vital."

So, how do you start healing? Try these following steps:

Calm Yourself. To defuse your anger, try a simple stress-management technique. "Take a couple of breaths and think of something that gives you pleasure: A beautiful scene in nature, or someone you love," Luskin says.

Don't wait for an apology. "Many times the person who hurt you has no intention of apologizing," Luskin says. "They may have wanted to hurt you or they just don't see things the same way. So if you wait for people to apologize, you could be waiting an awfully long time." Keep in mind that forgiveness does not necessarily mean reconciliation with the person who upset you or condoning of his or her action. **Take the control away from your offender.** "Instead of focusing on your wounded feelings, learn to look for the love, beauty, and kindness around you," Luskin says. **Try to see things from the other person's perspective.** If you empathize with that person, you may realize that he or she was acting out of ignorance, fear...even love. To gain perspective, you may want to write a letter to yourself from your offender's point of view.

Recognize the benefits of forgiveness. Research has shown that people who forgive report more energy, better appetite and better sleep patterns.

Don't forget to forgive yourself. "For some people, forgiving themselves is the biggest challenge," Luskin says. "But it can rob you of your self-confidence if you don't do it."

Directions: Circle the best possible answer for each question.

8. What is the purpose of this article?
 - a. To promote friendship

- b. To help cure depression and stress
 - c. To inform people how to forgive one another
 - d. To sell the book by Frederic Luskin, Ph.D.
9. Christine Many probably quoted Frederic Luskin, Ph.D. because
- a. He is an authoritative source supporting her views on forgiveness
 - b. He is well liked by many people
 - c. He is intelligent
 - d. He is an expert on healthy living
10. In this article, reconciliation can be defined as
- a. Remaining enemies
 - b. The forgiveness of sins
 - c. Waiting for an apology
 - d. Solving an argument and becoming friends
11. According to the author, forgiveness is important for
- a. World peace
 - b. Physical health
 - c. Mental health
 - d. Both b and c
12. For some people, the most difficult aspect of forgiveness is
- a. Being able to sleep and eat
 - b. Waiting for an apology
 - c. Being able to forgive themselves
 - d. Trying stress-management techniques

Text 3

***The History of Religion in Britain* by The Institute of Contemporary British History**

Of the religions practiced in modern Britain, Christianity is the most long established and widely observed. It was first brought to Britain during the days of the Roman Empire. There are, in fact, forty churches still in regular use, parts of which date from that period. With the departure of the legions and the Anglo-Saxon invasions of the fifth century, Christianity was reduced to pockets of support in Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. This situation changed with the arrival of missionaries sent by the Pope led by Augustine in 597. The next few centuries saw Christianity established throughout Britain. Augustine meanwhile became the first Bishop of Canterbury. The Archbishop of Canterbury remains the most important figure in the Church of England.

The Reformation of the sixteenth century did not disturb this structure. It did however, fracture the Christian community in the British Isles. Links with Rome were broken and an established church owing its allegiance to the English crown replaced the mediaeval Church in England, Wales, and Ireland. In Scotland it was replaced by the Presbyterian Church of Scotland. Roman Catholicism survived in strength only in Ireland.

Directions: If you agree with the statement, write the word, "TRUE" on the line. If you disagree with the statement, write the word, "FALSE" on the line.

13. _____ Christianity is the main and oldest religion of Britain.
14. _____ The role of the Archbishop of Canterbury can be described as insignificant.
15. _____ The Reformation shattered the Christian community in the British Isles.

16. _____ During the Reformation, the Presbyterian Church remained significant in Ireland.
17. _____ Roman Catholicism survived and thrived in England.
18. _____ During the Reformation the church strengthened its ties with Britain

Text 4

New York City, with its population of about eight million people, uses more than a billion gallons of water daily. This enormous amount is required to take care of the physical needs of the city as well as the more personal necessities of its people.

When the population was smaller, the water could be obtained from nearby sources. Up to 1917 Manhattan, a borough of New York City, received most of its water supply from the Croton watershed.

When this became inadequate, it was necessary to arrange for an additional supply in the Catskill Mountains. From here the water is collected into several large reservoirs, the largest of which is the Ashokan, ninety-two miles north of New York. This reservoir, capable of furnishing the city with about five hundred million gallons daily, has a capacity of over one hundred and thirty billion gallons.

Mountains had to be tunneled to make it possible for the water to reach the city. The circular tube through which it rushes to New York City has a diameter varying from eleven to fifteen feet, and is located many hundreds of feet below the surface. In the city this depth is necessary to safeguard the foundations of buildings and subways.

This engineering feat, which cost almost two hundred million dollars, is comparable to the building of the Panama Canal.

- 1 foot – 0.3048 m
- 3 feet – 1 yard

Directions: choose the best possible answer and mark the letter of your choice.

19. Much of New York City's water supply is obtained from the
 - a. Niagara Falls
 - b. Hudson River
 - c. Croton watershed
 - d. Ashokan
20. New York City's water supply is brought to the city by means of
 - a. water wagons
 - b. pipes
 - c. rivers
 - d. reservoirs
21. New York City's water supply is stored in
 - a. steel tanks
 - b. cisterns
 - c. vats
 - d. reservoirs
22. Manhattan obtains additional water from the
 - a. future
 - b. Croton watershed
 - c. Catskill Mountains
 - d. Panama Canal
23. New York's Catskill water supply comes from
 - a. a distance of about a hundred miles
 - b. New Jersey
 - c. a distance of about twenty miles
 - d. Canada

24. The height of the passage through which the water is conducted is about
- a. that of six men
 - b. five yards
 - c. eighty inches
 - d. thirty feet

25. The water conduits are placed hundreds of feet below street level to
- a. prevent the support of buildings
 - b. protect them from the elements
 - c. avoid interfering with street traffic
 - d. avoid interference with the supports of buildings