

## MOCK TEST

### Reading comprehension. (6 pts)

#### READING

##### Driven by a dream

There is a ghost town in the middle of the Amazon rainforest – a little piece of the United States recreated in an utterly remote location, now overgrown with weeds and bushes, and only occasional visitors passing through. How did this distinctive Midwest small town get to faraway Brazil?

It was around 1927 that car manufacturer Henry Ford realized he needed to find a cheap source of rubber for the manufacturing of car tyres. At the time, British companies in Asia held a monopoly on rubber, which they grew on enormous plantations in Malaysia. Ford found himself unable to negotiate favourable prices with them, so he decided to make rubber himself. Since all the rubber trees in Asia originally came from South America, he decided to buy land there. He bought more than two million acres from the Brazilian government in return for 9% of all the profits he was going to make; however, he never made any profit.

Ford had a grand vision for his town, which he named Fordlandia. He wanted the town to offer all the luxury ordinary workers could only dream of: brand new housing with all mod cons, a hospital, a library, a hotel, a swimming pool, tennis courts, and restaurants, and that's not all. Workers were paid 37 cents a day – which was almost twice the average wage in the USA at the time! Who wouldn't have liked to sign up?

Ford also wanted his workers to lead a clean, American lifestyle; as he said, his intention was 'to cultivate workers and human beings'. Unfortunately, he didn't do any research into local culture. Native Brazilian plantation workers were forced to learn and speak English, go to poetry readings, and, most crucially of all, eat American food all the time. Restaurants in Fordlandia only served dishes like hamburgers and hot dogs, pasta, and pizza. For healthier options, they had canned peaches, brown rice, and wholewheat bread. Any workers who got caught smuggling in Brazilian food were docked a week's wages – some even got fired. Disease and accidents with poisonous animals in the middle of the jungle were common. But workers suffered most from digestion problems because of the unfamiliar diet.

Ford also imposed American working hours. People had to continue working through the midday heat, instead of taking a siesta between an earlier morning shift and a late evening shift, as is often the custom in tropical climates. Fordlandia workers got so sick and tired of it all at one point in 1930 that the American managers had to flee the town, and the Brazilian army marched in to restore order.

The rubber plantations also turned out to be a disaster. The plantations in Asia were successful because the land was fertile and there were no native diseases affecting rubber trees – unlike in Brazil. Ford also believed the more trees he planted the more rubber he would produce. But planting trees so close together helped diseases and insects to spread more easily from infected trees to the whole plantation, destroying everything time and time again. However, Ford blindly ignored this ... and ordered even more trees to be planted year after year.

In 1933, he began to realize his grand concept was not working, so he had another town, Belterra, built further down the river. In another 12 years, all his investment turned out to be a complete waste, and he had to sell everything back to the Brazilian government. By 1945, synthetic rubber was cheaper and easier to manufacture so nobody needed rubber plantations any more. Despite all Ford's money, not a tiny bit of rubber from Fordlandia or Belterra was ever used in the production of a Ford car! What is possibly even more shocking: in all those 18 years, Henry Ford himself never once visited Fordlandia, the 'dream town' he created.

**1 Read the article. Are the following statements true (T), false (F), or not stated (NS)?**

- 1 There is an abandoned American town deep in the Brazilian jungle. \_\_\_\_
- 2 In the late 1920s, Asia was the main source of rubber. \_\_\_\_
- 3 Henry Ford paid two million dollars for land in Brazil. \_\_\_\_
- 4 The town had a lot of facilities for the use of its workers. \_\_\_\_
- 5 Workers in Fordlandia all had to use the local language. \_\_\_\_
- 6 Brazilian food was sold at higher prices than American food. \_\_\_\_
- 7 Ford didn't include a midday break in the working day. \_\_\_\_
- 8 The company needed help from the local armed forces. \_\_\_\_
- 9 Ford's orders for the plantations made things worse every year. \_\_\_\_
- 10 The towns were sold back to Brazil at half the original price. \_\_\_\_

2 points for each correct answer

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**2 Match the underlined words in the text with the definitions.**

- 1 far from places where other people live \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 feeling that you have had enough of somebody or something \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 a level which is normal or typical \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 the things in a house that make living easier and more comfortable \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 different and easily noticed \_\_\_\_\_

**II Make a new sentence from the question in brackets. (4 pts)**

- 1 Why is he a vegetarian?  
I don't know why **he is a vegetarian** .
- 2 Did she phone him back?  
I have no idea \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 3 What's her email address?  
Have you any idea \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- 4 Where did he buy his coat from?  
I wonder \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 5 What time are you planning to leave?  
Could you tell me \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 6 Where did I put my glasses?  
I haven't a clue \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 7 You didn't have an accident, did you?  
I didn't know \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 8 Why won't you come with me?  
I don't understand why \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 9 Where are you going for your first date?  
I'd like to know \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 10 When are you going to tell her?  
It's not clear to me \_\_\_\_\_ .

### III Put the following sentences into the active or passive form. (4 pts)

**Paula:** You are very lucky, Catherine. You are a celebrity and your image on the cover of the most prestigious beauty magazines.

**Catherine:** My life is not exactly what you think it is. I feel like I've lost my freedom. Even in my everyday life, I \_\_\_\_\_ (expect) to be who my fans want me to be. When I \_\_\_\_\_ (invite) on a TV show, I \_\_\_\_\_ (teach) how to answer the journalists, I what to say or what to do and so, there's little space for me to be authentic.

**Paula:** But are there also some advantages of being a celebrity, aren't there?

**Catherine:** Oh yes, of course! For every shot, I \_\_\_\_\_ (afford) the opportunity of wearing clothes that most people can only dream about.

### IV Complete the text with appropriate past tense forms of the verbs in brackets.

A 16-year-old teenager, who <sup>1</sup> **was described** by his mother as a 'good lad', pleaded guilty to stealing thousands of pounds worth of goods from a department store in Southampton on Friday 10th November.

He <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) the building with jewellery, designer clothes and electronic goods.

The boy <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (questioned) by the police on previous occasions for a number of other shoplifting offences, though nothing on such a large scale as this offence. The judge at Southampton Crown Court said the teenager had chosen that particular shop because he <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (think) it was an easy target.

The prosecutor told the court that the robbery <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (take place) at around midday on Friday 10 November, when the defendant <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (capture) on video entering the store wearing a baggy black overcoat and chunky trainers. Security cameras <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (show) the boy taking items from the shelves. He then <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (conceal) them in his coat and bag. The boy initially denied stealing any of the things, but later admitted what he <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (do). His father then took him to a police station, where he <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (confess), the court heard.

The boy <sup>11</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) the store with his overcoat and one large holdall stuffed with stolen goods and then went home, and <sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (continue) with his home life as if nothing <sup>13</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (happen). A week or so later, when his father <sup>14</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (look) for something in his son's room, he noticed the booty hidden under the boy's bed. It was at this point that he <sup>15</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (contact) the police.

### V Circle the correct word.

- 1 Christopher loves showing off and being the centre of attention, but his sister is quiet and *sublime* / *charismatic* / *modest*.
- 2 The village we were staying in was many miles from anywhere – it was extremely *remote* / *ultimate* / *deserted*.
- 3 The villain was so badly *injured* / *haunting* / *violent* in the car crash that he didn't recover consciousness.
- 4 What did you think of Cristina Gomez as the *romantic* / *sensuous* / *maternal* lead? I thought she and Justin Goodman had great chemistry together.
- 5 It's clear that the hero was becoming mentally *unbalanced* / *violent* / *sceptical* towards the end of the film.
- 6 He was *cautious* / *sceptical* / *unwilling* at first, but gradually came to think that the house was haunted, too.

**VI Complete the sentences with the correct form of a verb from the box. Verbs are in their dictionary form. There are two extra verbs.**

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alight   award   cling   clutch   desert   gaze   haunt   plunge   recover   risk   ~~swirl~~

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- 1 The leaves **were swirling** around in the wind.
- 2 The pilot lost control and the plane \_\_\_\_\_ into the sea.  
While he \_\_\_\_\_ my hand, I was screwing my eyes tight shut.
- 4 We \_\_\_\_\_ the girl \_\_\_\_\_ onto the side of the boat in the middle of the storm.
- 5 He was emaciated, and didn't look like he \_\_\_\_\_ from this terrifying sickness.
- 6 Did they really think it was worth \_\_\_\_\_ their lives for? I don't think it was.
- 7 There were many stories being told in our town about how that house \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 8 Her gaze \_\_\_\_\_ on a silver speck on the wall.
- 9 She \_\_\_\_\_ at him silently, with an intensity which suggested some secret attachment.

**VII Read the answers and then write the questions.**

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ **Who did you go on holiday with?**  
I went on holiday with my best friend.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
I think you should apply for this job.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
I don't really know why I did it.
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
That film was directed by Bernardo Bertolucci.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
I think we should fly from City Airport.
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_  
You should address the letter to me.
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_  
I'm worried about my job.
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_  
He's being paid \$4 million.

**VIII Match a word to its definition:**

Take up	can't sleep at night
Cling	start an activity
Defiantly	doesn't drink an alcohol
Insomniac	is without a paid job
Teetotaller	opposing strongly to something
Unemployed	hold on to