

## READING PRACTICE

### READING 1

Humans have struggled against weeds since the beginning of agriculture. The global need for weed control has been answered mainly by the chemical industry. Its herbicides are effective and sometimes necessary, but some pose serious problems, particularly if misused. Toxic compounds threaten animals and public health when they are present in food plant, ground water, and drinking water. They also harm workers who apply them.

In recent years the chemical industry has introduced several herbicides that are more ecologically sound. Yet new chemicals alone cannot solve the world's weed problems. Therefore, scientists are exploring the innate weed-killing powers of living organisms, primarily insects and microorganisms.

The biological agents now in use are harmless to humans, environmentally friendly, and offer the benefit of specificity. They can be chosen for their ability to attack selected targets and leave crops and other plants untouched. In contrast, some of the most effective chemicals kill almost all the plants they come in contact with, sparing only those that are naturally resistant to those that have been genetically modified for resistance. Furthermore, a number of biological agents can be administered only once, after that no added applications are needed. Chemicals, typically, must be used several times per growing season.

**1. What is the passage primarily about?**

- A. The importance of the chemical industry
- B. The dangers of toxic chemicals
- C. Advantages of biological agents over chemical ones
- D. A suggestion to ban the use of all herbicides.

**2. According to the passage, the use of chemical agents .....**

- A. has become more dangerous in recent years.
- B. is occasionally required.
- C. is perfectly safe
- D. should be increased

**3. According to the passage, biological agents usually consist of .....**

- A. insects and micro organisms.
- B. food plants
- C. various types of mammals.
- D. weeds

**4. Which of the following is NOT given as an advantage of using biological agents over chemical herbicides?**

- A. They are less likely to destroy desirable plants.
- B. They are safer for workers.
- C. They are more easily available.
- D. They do not have to be used as often.

**5. The word 'toxic' in line 5 means .....**

- A. useful
- B. useless
- C. poisonous
- D. harmless

## READING 2

Most of us are interested in one kind of sport or another, even if we don't **go in for** it actively. Lots of people take up a particular sport at an early age, for example tennis, skiing, or ice-skating. If they get up to a suitably high standard, they may go in for local competitions or even championships. But special training is hard work and most young people don't keep it up. Many of them opt out when they come up against tough competition.

To become a professional in any sport, you have to go through with a strict training schedule. And it's not easy! It means doing without some of life's little pleasures, too. For example, to build up your physical strength you may have to stick to a special diet and give up some of your favorite foods. Smoking and alcohol are out, and to keep fit you have to work out regularly every day.

Sometimes it all pays off, but the road to success is long and there are no guarantees. No wonder that countless young talents decide to settle for a regular job instead, and, as far as professional sport is concerned, for looking on as spectators.

**1. The term of "go in for" in line 1 means .....**

- A. give up
- B. participate in
- C. begin
- D. like

**2. According to the passage, which of the following statements is TRUE about special training?**

- A. It is not easy work.
- B. It hardly works.
- C. Most young people try to work out regularly.
- D. Most young people strictly follows a special diet

**3. To become professional in any sports, your strict training schedule would probably involve .....**

- A. enjoying all life's pleasures
- B. eating all kinds of foods
- C. sticking to a special diet
- D. smoking and drinking alcohol

**4. According to the passage, which of the following statements is true?**

- A. Few people take up a particular sport at an early age.
- B. The road to success in sports is long but there are guarantees.
- C. All of the people who play some sports can go in for local competitions or even championships.
- D. There are many young talents who decide to settle for a regular job.

## READING 3 – CLOZE TEST

In the home a dad is very important. He is the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ who provides us with money to feed and clothe ourselves. He can decorate your bedroom, mend your radio, make cages for your pets, repair a puncture in your bicycle tyre and help you with maths homework. A dad can be very useful for (2) \_\_\_\_\_ you in the car to and from parties, music and dancing lessons.

A dad is the person whom you ask for pocket money. He is the one who (3) \_\_\_\_\_ about the time you spend talking on the phone, as he has to pay for the bills. Dad is someone who will support you in a(n) (4) \_\_\_\_\_, if he believes you to be right. He is someone who reads your school (5) \_\_\_\_\_ and

treats if it is good. A dad likes to come into a nice happy home evening, and settle back in his chair with a newspaper.

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|----|-------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1. | A. man      | B. someone    | C. person       | D. anyone   |
| 2. | A. bringing | B. taking     | C. picking      | D. carrying |
| 3. | A. explains | B. shouts     | C. complains    | D. groans   |
| 4. | A. talk     | B. discussion | C. disagreement | D. argument |
| 5. | A. report   | B. result.    | C. record       | D. review   |

#### READING 4 – CLOZE TEST

If you want to (1) \_\_\_\_\_ your best in an exam, you should be relaxed and so one of the best things to do is to take regular breaks even if they are only for few minutes. During revision time, you (2) \_\_\_\_\_ take some time off to go for a walk or play your favorite sport. It is a mistake to take up all physical activity. Exercise can help you to relax. You should (3) \_\_\_\_\_ at least twenty minutes doing something different every day. Parents don't like it when their teenage children spend hours on the phone, but, in fact, (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to a friend is very good for you; parents think that children are (5) \_\_\_\_\_ time and money; but research says talking to friends gives you a chance to relax, and this will make the time you spend studying more effective.

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|----|------------|------------|------------------|-------------|
| 1. | A. make    | B. do      | C. go            | D. write    |
| 2. | A. shall   | B. will    | C. should        | D. have     |
| 3. | A. spend   | B. waste   | C. use           | D. relax    |
| 4. | A. saying  | B. telling | C. communicating | D. chatting |
| 5. | A. wasting | B. losing  | C. spending      | D. missing  |

#### READING 5 – CLOZE TEST

Like any other universities, the Open University can give you a degree. However, you don't have to (1) \_\_\_\_\_ working to study. It can also open up a whole variety of interest. If you have never studied before, you will enjoy the special, new pleasure of (2) \_\_\_\_\_ your knowledge. You will make friends of all kinds. You may also find that your qualification provides new career opportunities. You don't actually (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to the Open University for lectures, but study at home, using television, radio and computer software. You can (4) \_\_\_\_\_ one class a month if you wish at an Open University centre. Of course, there are exams to take, as in any university. If you (5) \_\_\_\_\_ like to know more, all you have to do is to complete the form below. It could be the start of a wonderful new period in your life.

- |    |            |             |           |               |
|----|------------|-------------|-----------|---------------|
| 1. | A. stop    | B. end      | C. break  | D. leave      |
| 2. | A. growing | B. changing | C. adding | D. increasing |
| 3. | A. join    | B. enter    | C. arrive | D. go         |
| 4. | A. give    | B. attend   | C. learn  | D. study      |
| 5. | A. did     | B. will     | C. would  | D. can        |

#### READING 6 – CLOZE TEST

Another side effect of the human population explosion will be the conversion of more land to food production or cities. This habitat (1) \_\_\_\_\_ will cause progressive extinction of many more species. Globally, 45 species of birds and 40 species of mammals went (2) \_\_\_\_\_ between 1650 and 1969, more have disappeared since then, and many more are in endangered species list. It has been estimated that half of all the species on Earth reside in the Amazon rain forest, (3) \_\_\_\_\_ most of them in Brazil. Brazil's plans to colonize and cut down the rain forests and similar changes in Congo and Indonesia may very well (4) \_\_\_\_\_ a major

episode of extinction. Recent efforts to estimate the projected rate of extinction suggest (5) \_\_\_\_\_ half of all the species of mammals and birds will become extinct within the next 200 to 300 years.

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|----|--------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. | A. variety   | B. extinction  | C. endanger   | D. destruction |
| 2. | A. exhausted | B. exhaust     | C. extinction | D. extinct     |
| 3. | A. as with   | B. with        | C. as to      | D. as for      |
| 4. | A. influence | B. result from | C. lead to    | D. cause to    |
| 5. | A. that      | B. this        | C. those      | D. these       |

### READING 7 – CLOZE TEST

Books are written to provide knowledge and good books enrich the mind. By putting ourselves under the influence of superior mind, we (1) \_\_\_\_\_ our mental powers. (2) \_\_\_\_\_ good books, we learn that people everywhere are the same, in all ages, and in all places. This knowledge improves our love (3) \_\_\_\_\_ others and helps us to live in peace with them. We also recognize that the world was made not only for man alone but for every creature that can feel hunger and thirst, warmth and cold.

Though it may be possible for us to travel (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the world and see the things happening today, it is not possible for us to see the things that happened in the past. But good books (5) \_\_\_\_\_ us to see not only into the most remote regions of the world today, but also into the world in which our ancestors lived.

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|----|------------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| 1. | A. set     | B. improve    | C. accelerate | D. move    |
| 2. | A. Through | B. By         | C. On         | D. At      |
| 3. | A. with    | B. of         | C. forward    | D. into    |
| 4. | A. over    | B. throughout | C. on         | D. through |
| 5. | A. help    | B. make       | C. let        | D. suggest |

**KEYS FOR READING PRACTICE****READING 1****KEY 1C 2A 3A 4C 5C****READING 2****KEY 1B 2A 3C 4D****READING 3****KEY 1C, 2B, 3C, 4D, 5A****READING 4****KEY 1BC, 2C, 3A, 4D, 5A****READING 5****KEY 1A, 2D, 3D, 4B, 5C****READING 6****KEY 1D, 2D, 3B, 4C, 5A****READING 7****KEY 1B, 2A, 3B, 4B, 5A**

*Read the following passage and choose the letter A, B, C, or D corresponding to the correct word(s) for each of the blanks from 46 to 50.*

In the 1960s the women's liberation movement (46) \_\_\_\_\_ suddenly into the public consciousness and quickly grew into the largest social movement in the history of the United States. Women's liberation movement was a continuation of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century women's rights movement. The movement's major (47) \_\_\_\_\_ has included not only legal, economic, and political gains but also has changed the ways in which people live, dress, dream of their future, and (48) \_\_\_\_\_ a living. About health, for example, many male physicians and hospital have made major improvements in the treatment of women; more and more women have become doctors and succeeded (49) \_\_\_\_\_ their medical research; and diseases such as breast cancer, which affects many women, now receive better funding and treatment, thanks to women's efforts. Feminists have insisted that violence against women become a political issue. The women's liberation movement has also made changes in education: curricula and (50) \_\_\_\_\_ have been written to promote equal opportunity for girls and women; more and more female students are admitted to universities and professional schools.

The women's liberation movement brought about a radical change in society although it took a decade for the movement to reach women's awareness.

Question 46: A. dated

B. originated

C. introduced

D. burst

- Question 47: A. achievement      B. civilization      C. status      D. power  
Question 48: A. put      B. make      C. get      D. take  
Question 49: A. in      B. to      C. for      D. with  
Question 50: A. textbooks      B. novels      C. picture books      D. magazines

**Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C or D to indicate the correct answer to each of the questions from 36 to 40**

Every year students in many countries learn English. Some of these students are young children. Others are teenagers. Many are adults. Some learn at school, others study by themselves. A few learn English just by hearing the language in film, on television in the office, or among their friends. But not many are lucky enough to do that. Most people must work hard to learn another language.

Learning another language! Learning English! Why do all these people want to learn English? It is not difficult to answer that question. Many boys and girls learn English at school because it is one of their subjects. They study their own language, and Math... and English. (In England, or America, or Australia, many boys and girls study their own language which is English, and Math,... and another language perhaps French, or German, or Spanish.)

Many adults learn English because it is useful for their work. Teenagers often learn English for their studies, because some of their books are in English at the college or university. Other people learn English because they want to read newspapers or magazines in English.

36. According to the writer, \_\_\_\_\_  
A. only adults learn English.      B. no children like learning English.  
C. English is only useful to teenagers.      D. English is popular in much of the world.
37. Many people learn English by \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. watching videos only.      B. hearing the language in the office.  
C. talking with the film stars.      D. working hard on their lessons.
38. Many boys and girls learn English because \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. English can give them a job.      B. it is included in their study course.  
C. their parents make them.      D. they have to study their own language.
39. In America or Australia many schoolchildren study \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. English as a foreign language  
B. English and Math only.  
C. such foreign languages as French, German, and Spanish.  
D. their own language and no foreign language.
40. Many adults learn English because \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. their work is useful.      B. they want to go abroad.  
C. most of their books are in English.      D. it helps them in their work.

**Read the following passage. Choose the best answer (A, B, C or D) to complete the passage.**

We can (41) \_\_\_\_\_ other people in many different ways. We can talk and write, and we can send messages with our hands and faces. There is also the phone (including the mobile!), the fax, and e-mail. Television, film, painting, and photography can also communicate ideas.

Animals have ways of (42) \_\_\_\_\_ information, too. Bees dance and tell other bees where to find food. Elephants make sounds that humans can't hear. Whales sing songs. Monkeys use their faces to show anger and love. But this is nothing (43) \_\_\_\_\_ to what people can do. We have language – about 6,000 languages, in fact. We can write poetry, tell jokes, make promises, explain, persuade, tell the truth, or tell lies. And we have a sense of past and future, not just present.

Radio, film, and television (44) \_\_\_\_\_ a huge influence on society in the last hundred years. And now we have the Internet, which is infinite. But what is this doing to this? We can give and get a lot of information very quickly. But there is (45) \_\_\_\_\_ information that it is difficult to know what is important and what isn't. Modern media is changing our world every minute of every day.

- Question 41: A. talk to      B. talk with      C. communicate to      D. communicate with  
Question 42: A. changing      B. transferring      C. exchanging      D. giving  
Question 43: A. compare      B. comparing      C. is compared      D. compared  
Question 44: A. have      B. have had      C. are having      D. had  
Question 45: A. so much      B. such much      C. so many      D. too much

### **25th SEA Games Vientiane Laos**

The next best thing that ever happened in living memory is that Laos has become member of ASEAN. Lao youth now have (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to freely roam around surround countries which vastly differ from Laos itself in wealth or culture. Hopefully as they travel they bring home plenty of good ideas to develop.

As member of ASEAN, Laos was given an opportunity to host SEA Games for the very first time. A week after National Day ie 2nd of December, SEA Games will (2) \_\_\_\_\_ commence. Thanks to all nations which have been helping in making the biggest event to be held in Laos happen.

In less than five years rice fields have transformed into world class sport complex ever built in Laos to host the 25th SEA Games. Located approximately 15 kilometres from Vientiane Capital, many (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of Laotians and visitors will get to enjoy the stadium as ASEAN sport stars grace the arena.

There is certainly an edge of excitement in the air; way up in the sky as SEA Games is coming so close. Lao people (4) \_\_\_\_\_ all athletes, coaches, administrators and other officials with their opened arms and hearts. As a Laos born person, I am so proud and welcome!

There will always be challenge anywhere. Lao people will do the best they can. Thanks to those marvellous group of volunteers who will contribute to spectacular Opening & Closing (5) \_\_\_\_\_. And of course all of those volunteers who will take part in helping visitors and tourists with general knowledge and information about the places they are visiting. They are amazing.

41. A. time      B. money      C. opportunity      D. occasion  
42. A. mainly      B. officially      C. usually      D. surely  
43. A. generations      B. peoples      C. citizens      D. officers  
44. A. greet      B. meet      C. surprise      D. welcome  
45. A. Holidays      B. Vocations      C. Festivals      D. Ceremonies

