

**Reading Passage I**

*Directions: For each blank space, choose the best answer from the choices given below. Be sure to mark your answers on the answer sheet.*

'Every (1) \_\_\_\_\_ begins with a single step.' We might (2) \_\_\_\_\_ this proverb for the 16,000 km Beijing to Paris car rally, and say that every rally begins with a (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of the wheel. From China, several hundred courageous men and women will set out for Paris in pursuit of what, for many, is likely to prove an impossible (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Everybody is prepared for the worst and expects a high drop-out (5) \_\_\_\_\_, especially on the rally's difficult first stage across central China and over the high mountain (6) \_\_\_\_\_ of the Himalayas. 'If twenty-five cars (7) \_\_\_\_\_ it to Paris, we'll be doing well,' says Philip Young, the rally organiser.

Now planned as an annual event, the first Beijing-Paris car rally took place in 1907. It was won by Prince Borghese, an Italian adventurer, who crossed the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ line just a few metres (9) \_\_\_\_\_ of the only other car to complete the race. Nowadays, not many people know about Prince Borghese, but at the time his achievement was (10) \_\_\_\_\_ as comparable to that of Marco Polo, who travelled from Venice to China in the thirteenth century.

According to the (11) \_\_\_\_\_, all the cars in the rally must be more than thirty years old, which means that the rough roads and high altitude are a (12) \_\_\_\_\_ test of both the cars and the drivers. A sense of adventure is essential.

- |                |               |                |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| (1)            | (5)           | (9)            |
| a) journey     | a) rate       | a) forward     |
| b) travel      | b) number     | b) ahead       |
| c) route       | c) speed      | c) front       |
| d) way         | d) frequency  | d) advance     |
| (2)            | (6)           | (10)           |
| a) find        | a) crossings  | a) thought     |
| b) moderate    | b) passes     | b) referred    |
| c) adapt       | c) directions | c) regarded    |
| d) form        | d) passages   | d) noted       |
| (3)            | (7)           | (11)           |
| a) revolution  | a) get        | a) orders      |
| b) circle      | b) take       | b) rules       |
| c) rotation    | c) have       | c) laws        |
| d) turn        | d) make       | d) customs     |
| (4)            | (8)           | (12)           |
| a) fantasy     | a) closing    | a) stern       |
| b) requirement | b) final      | b) strict      |
| c) need        | c) ending     | c) grave       |
| d) feat        | d) finish     | d) unwarranted |

**Reading Passage II**

*Directions: For each blank space, choose the best answer from the choices given below. Be sure to mark your answers on the answer sheet.*

Smart shoes that adjust their size throughout the day could soon be available. A prototype of such a shoe has already been produced and a commercial (13) \_\_\_\_\_ may be in production within a few years. The shoe contains sensors that constantly (14) \_\_\_\_\_ the amount of space left in it. If the foot has become too large, a tiny valve opens and the shoe (15) \_\_\_\_\_ slightly. The entire control system is about 5mm square and is (16) \_\_\_\_\_ inside the shoe. This radical shoe meets a need because the volume of the (17) \_\_\_\_\_ foot can change by as much as 8% during the course of the day. The system is able to learn about the wearer's feet and (18) \_\_\_\_\_ up a picture of the size of his or her feet throughout the day. It will allow the shoes to change in size by up to 8% so that they always fit (19) \_\_\_\_\_. They are obviously more comfortable and less likely to (20) \_\_\_\_\_ blisters. From an athlete's point of view, they can help improve (21) \_\_\_\_\_ a little, and that is why the first (22) \_\_\_\_\_ for the system is likely to be in a sports shoe.

- |      |   |      |  |      |  |
|------|---|------|--|------|--|
| (13) | a) assortment<br>b) version<br>c) category<br>d) variety  | (17) | a) average<br>b) general<br>c) usual<br>d) medium          | (21) | a) achievement<br>b) performance<br>c) success<br>d) winning |
| (14) | a) prove<br>b) confirm<br>c) perform<br>d) check          | (18) | a) build<br>b) pick<br>c) grow<br>d) set                   | (22) | a) purpose<br>b) exercise<br>c) use<br>d) operation          |
| (15) | a) amplifies<br>b) develops<br>c) expands<br>d) increases | (19) | a) exactly<br>b) absolutely<br>c) completely<br>d) totally |      |  |
| (16) | a) located<br>b) sited<br>c) established<br>d) laid       | (20) | a) provoke<br>b) form<br>c) initiate<br>d) cause           |      |  |

### **Reading Passage III**

*Directions: Read the text below. Then answer the questions for Reading Passage III. Choose the best answer for each question. Be sure to mark your answers on the answer sheet.*

The Man Booker Prize for Fiction is awarded every year for a novel written by a writer from the Commonwealth or the Republic of Ireland and it aims to represent the very best in contemporary fiction. The prize was originally called the Booker-McConnell Prize, which was the name of the company that sponsored it, though it was better-known as simply the 'Booker Prize'. In 2002, the Man Group became the sponsor and they chose the new name, keeping 'Booker'.

Publishers can submit books for consideration for the prize, but the judges can also ask for books to be submitted they think should be included. Firstly, the Advisory Committee, which is chaired by the Man Group, give advice if there have been any changes to the rules for the prize and selects the people who will judge the books. The judging panel changes every year and usually a person is only a judge once.

Great efforts are made to ensure that the judging panel is balanced in terms of gender and professions within the industry, so that a writer, a critic, an editor and an academic are chosen along with a well-known person from wider society. However, when the panel of judges has been finalized, they are left to make their own decisions without any further involvement or interference from the prize sponsor.

The Man Booker judges include critics, writers and academics to maintain the consistent quality of the prize and its influence is such that the winner will almost certainly see the sales increase considerably, in addition to the £50,000 that comes with the prize.

A separate prize for which any living writer in the world may qualify, the Man Booker International Prize was inaugurated in 2005. Until 2015, it was given every two years to a living author of any nationality for a body of work published in English or generally available in English translation. In 2016, the award was significantly reconfigured, and is now given annually to a single book in English translation, with a £50,000 prize for the winning title, shared equally between author and translator.

### Questions for Reading Passage III

- (23) The Republic of Ireland
- is in the Commonwealth.
  - is not in the Commonwealth.
  - can't enter the Man Booker Prize.
  - joined the Booker prize in 2002.
- (24) The Man group
- was forced to keep the name 'Booker'.
  - decided to include the name 'Booker'.
  - decided to keep the name 'Booker-McConnell'.
  - decided to use only the name 'Booker'.
- (25) Who advises on changes to the rules?
- The sponsors
  - The judging panel
  - The advisory panel
  - Publishers
- (26) The judging panel
- doesn't include women.
  - includes only women.
  - is only chosen from representatives of the industry.
  - includes someone from outside the industry.
- (27) The sponsors of the prize
- are involved in choosing the winner.
  - are involved in choosing the judges.
  - are not involved at all.
  - choose the academic for the panel of judges.
- (28) The consistent quality of the prize
- is guaranteed by the prize money.
  - is guaranteed by the gender of the judges.
  - is guaranteed by the makeup of the panel of judges.
  - is guaranteed by the increase in sales of the winner.
- (29) In 2016, the Man Booker International Prize
- first began.
  - started recognising the work of translators.
  - changed to a bi-annual prize.
  - was awarded to books not available in English.

### **Reading Passage IV**

*Directions: Read the text below. Then answer the questions for Reading Passage IV. Choose the best answer for each question. Be sure to mark your answers on the answer sheet.*

The Democratic Party is one of the two major contemporary political parties in the United States, along with the Republican Party. Tracing its heritage back to Thomas Jefferson and James Madison's Democratic-Republican Party, the modern-day Democratic Party was founded around 1828 by Andrew Jackson, making it the world's oldest active party.

The Democrats' dominant worldview was once socially conservative and fiscally classical liberalism, while, especially in the rural South, populism was its leading characteristic. In 1912, Theodore Roosevelt ran as a third-party candidate in the Progressive ("Bull Moose") Party, leading to a switch of political platforms between the Democratic and Republican Party and Woodrow Wilson being elected as the first fiscally progressive Democrat. Since Franklin D. Roosevelt and his New Deal coalition in the 1930s, the Democratic Party has also promoted a social-liberal platform, supporting social justice.

Today, the House Democratic caucus is composed mostly of progressives and centrists, with a smaller minority of conservative Democrats. The party's philosophy of modern liberalism advocates social and economic equality, along with the welfare state. It seeks to provide government intervention and regulation in the economy.

### **Questions for Reading Passage IV**

- (30) The word 'contemporary' in the passage is closest in meaning to
- a) new
  - b) current
  - c) traditional
  - d) elected
- (31) The word 'heritage' in the passage is closest in meaning to
- a) members
  - b) ideology
  - c) origins
  - d) beliefs
- (32) The word 'founded' in the passage is closest in meaning to
- a) started
  - b) designed
  - c) discovered
  - d) researched

- (33) The word 'dominant' in the passage is closest in meaning to
- a) forceful
  - b) monitoring
  - c) aggressive
  - d) prevailing
- (34) The word 'switch' in the passage is closest in meaning to
- a) change
  - b) different
  - c) continuation
  - d) merger
- (35) The word 'coalition' in the passage is closest in meaning to
- a) party
  - b) initiative
  - c) union
  - d) idea
- (36) The word 'composed' in the passage is closest in meaning to
- a) built by
  - b) in that case
  - c) made up of
  - d) in this way
- (37) The word 'advocates' in the passage is closest in meaning to
- a) supports
  - b) dislikes
  - c) decries
  - d) opposes
- (38) The word 'seeks' in the passage is closest in meaning to
- a) moves
  - b) hunts
  - c) searches
  - d) aims

## Reading Passage V

*Directions: Read the text below. Then answer the questions for Reading Passage V. Choose the best answer for each question. Be sure to mark your answers on the answer sheet.*

As summer comes near, many children are really happy to forget about school for a few months. However, they might be taking that goal too seriously. Studies have found that children typically forget between one and three months' worth of school learning during the summer months. Spelling and math abilities suffer the most, while reading is not really influenced by the time off. The most probable reason for this is that most children read at least occasionally outside of the classroom, whether newspapers, magazines, books, or video game guides. However, their math and spelling skills only get exercised in the school setting.

The original purpose of summer vacations was to let farm children have time off to help work in the fields in the high growing season, but this reason has ceased to be relevant since fewer kids actually work on farms today. Some cities in the United States, such as Los Angeles, have moved to a year-round school calendar, which may help reduce the academic decline that occurs during the long summer vacation. Most cities maintain the normal nine and a half-month calendars. To improve skills and to maintain a good level of preparation, superintendents recommend trips to museums, summer camps, vacations with educational components, and visits to libraries to keep kids mentally alert and interested throughout the summer.

There are other educational systems that provide vacations while still keeping students' skills sharp. For example, in Japan students attend class for seven weeks consecutively, followed by two weeks of vacation. This continues throughout the year. In Italy, students attend class six days per week, but finish at 1:30 PM each day, so that school does not dominate their life the way that it does in America, where students attend high school from 7:45 AM until 3:00 PM each week day. In areas where there are not enough classrooms—in Afghanistan or Somalia, for example—older students attend classes in the morning while the younger kids go to school in the afternoon.

School administrators and educational specialists fear that the three-month summer vacation halts the continuity of learning. Just as students become accustomed to new math equations or new concepts in reading, writing, or critical thinking skills, they “shut down” for an extended period. When they go back to school after the long summer vacation, they take up to two months to return to their previous level of proficiency. And so the policy debate continues: whether to continue the status-quo in terms of vacations or to seek changes based on the Los Angeles or the Japanese models. Any such decision will also need to consider the workload of teachers, the cost of keeping schools open for longer periods, and any socio-cultural demands of parents.

## Questions for Reading Passage V

- (39) Which skills suffer the most over the summer vacation?
- a) math and reading.
  - b) math and spelling.
  - c) reading and writing.
  - d) history and math.
- (40) Why is reading not so much of a problem?
- a) Students read in the summer.
  - b) Their parents read to them.
  - c) They visit libraries often.
  - d) They receive reading homework in the summer.
- (41) The original reason for summer vacation
- a) is still valid.
  - b) is no longer valid.
  - c) was an urban phenomenon.
  - d) was more for teachers than for students.
- (42) In Japan
- a) there is a long summer vacation.
  - b) there is a short summer vacation.
  - c) the school vacations are constant throughout the year.
  - d) there is no vacation at all.
- (43) In Italy
- a) students attend classes in the late afternoon.
  - b) students attend classes on Saturday.
  - c) students have no summer vacation.
  - d) students do not attend classes on Saturday.
- (44) According to the reading, countries without enough school facilities have
- a) given longer vacations to students.
  - b) divided the school day between older and younger students.
  - c) built many new buildings.
  - d) stopped some students from attending school.
- (45) According to the text, what will NOT affect future policy decisions
- a) the detrimental effect long breaks have on learning.
  - b) the demands more schooling would make on teachers.
  - c) the considerations of parents.
  - d) the financial costs of taking children on holiday.

## Reading Passage VI

*Directions: Read the text below. Then answer the questions for Reading Passage VI. Choose the best answer for each question. Be sure to mark your answers on the answer sheet.*

Rail transport is a means of conveyance of passengers and goods on wheeled vehicles running on rails, also known as tracks. **It** is also commonly referred to as train transport. In contrast to road transport, where vehicles run on a prepared flat surface, rail vehicles (rolling stock) are directionally guided by the tracks on which they run. Tracks usually consist of steel rails, installed on sleepers and ballast, on which the rolling stock, usually fitted with metal wheels, moves. **They** often run the length and breadth of entire countries. Other variations are also possible, such as slab track, where the rails are built onto a concrete foundation resting on a prepared subsurface. **This variant** is more common with tram systems.

Rolling stock in a rail transport system generally encounters lower frictional resistance than road vehicles, so passenger and freight cars (carriages and wagons) can be coupled into longer trains. The operation is carried out by a railway company, providing transport between train stations or freight customer facilities. Power is provided by locomotives which either draw electric power from a railway electrification system or produce their own power, usually by diesel engines, although historically **these** were powered by steam. Most tracks are accompanied by a signalling system, with the centralization of signalling operations to a regional control room being common. **This** has been facilitated by the increased use of computers, allowing vast sections of track to be monitored from a single location. All this makes railways a safe land transport system when compared to other forms of transport. Railway transport is capable of high levels of passenger and cargo utilization and energy efficiency, but is often less flexible and more capital-intensive than road transport, when lower traffic levels are considered.

(46) The highlighted word 'It' in the passage refers to

- a) wheeled vehicles
- b) transporting passengers
- c) rail transport
- d) rails

(47) The highlighted word 'They' refers to

- a) trains
- b) tracks
- c) rolling stock
- d) sleepers and ballast

(48) The highlighted phrase 'This variant' refers to

- a) trams
- b) trains
- c) rails
- d) slab track

(49) The highlighted word 'these' refers to

- a) train locomotives
- b) rolling stock
- c) electrification systems
- d) train companies

(50) The highlighted word 'This' refers to

- a) the signalling system
- b) the centralisation of signalling operations
- c) the regional control room
- d) train tracks