

I. Listen to a health and lifestyle expert talking about ways people can make themselves happy. Decide if the statements are True or False. You will hear the recording twice. (10 x 2 = 20)

1. Chris says that our decisions can be affected by our past failures.
2. She says that we shouldn't let our own negative feelings affect us.
3. According to Chris, the amount of sleep we get is more important than its quality.
4. The expert says we ought to relax before we go to bed.
5. People who have trouble getting to sleep are given two different pieces of advice.
6. The expert finds the saying 'laughter is the best medicine' true to a large extent.
7. Taking yourself more seriously is recommended to people who are having a bad day.
8. Chris mentions meeting new people as an example of 'getting back to basics.'
9. Chris says that the ability to love is a characteristic of all people.
10. Those who are socially disconnected experience loneliness, guilt, and anger.

II. Listen to five people talking about their job interviews. Choose the correct option a, b, or c. You will hear the recording twice. (5 x 2 = 10)

1. The first speaker got the job with an advertising agency because:
 - a. he still thinks a lot about philosophy
 - b. he gave a clever answer
 - c. the information he had given in his CV was correct
2. The unusual question that the second speaker got:
 - a. concerned her attitude to animals in general
 - b. didn't come as a surprise
 - c. was answered in the way the interviewers appreciated
3. The third speaker didn't accept the job offer from the school because:
 - a. he considered the interview questions inappropriate
 - b. he thought he had given wrong answers
 - c. the time change would make working there impossible
4. In the fourth interview:
 - a. the candidate gave a well-prepared answer
 - b. the interviewee was embarrassed
 - c. the interviewer asked a question that wasn't his choice
5. The fifth speaker:
 - a. got no questions about her past employment
 - b. got a question that the other candidate didn't
 - c. didn't feel discriminated

III. Read the following extract and do all the subsequent exercises:

We live in a materialistic world, and we have been taught since our early childhood to be acquisitive: to get more and more experience and expertise, to learn new skills, to have more money than our neighbours or, at least, to catch up with those more affluent. When we grow up and have to earn a living, we already know that success is measured in terms of money you have. So, we offer our services to those who can offer us the most. A good salary is not the only thing people look for in a job. The fringe benefits that go with it are also important because people want to better their status. Employees are said to be acquisitive, and many companies take advantage of that providing high salaries, perks, packages and promises. Free lunch, discount on company goods, interest-free loans, medical insurance for the family or language training are fairly tempting for many potential employees. Company chairmen or chief executives get even more! In many companies the standard package of a company car, mobile phone, a cheap mortgage and private healthcare is supplemented by a range of additional perks, designed to retain the staff. These include longer holidays, full relocation allowances, profit sharing or childcare facilities. Some companies improve the management schemes. They believe in cooperation and teamwork, so the management is decentralized. Everyone has a say on how the business should be run and an opportunity to advance. Employers are keen on having their staff take up part-time courses so that they can improve their skills and acquire the new ones. Some of the staff work shifts. At least a third are on flexible schedules, which means they can plan their working day to suit their duties and other outside commitments. Job rotation and job enrichment schemes are offered to people doing more tedious jobs. Both parties; employers and employees are struggling frantically to take advantage of their position and keep up with the best.

a) Decide whether the following statements are True or False:

(10 x 1 = 10)

1. Young employees believe that the more they earn, the more successful they are.
2. According to the writer, a good salary is the only criterion of choice for job seekers.
3. More than ten fringe benefits are mentioned in the text.
4. Employees who take out loans give back the same amount they borrowed.
5. People in higher positions benefit from fewer perks.
6. CEOs who relocate will get the expenses partly covered.
7. Decentralising management is believed to improve cooperation and teamwork.
8. In some companies more than half of the staff work on flexible schedules.
9. The text says that the staff are keen on taking additional training.
10. Employees are trying to use all the opportunities their jobs offer.

b) For each word or phrase below find a synonym in the text as in the example:

(5 x 2 = 10)

0. money-oriented – materialistic

1. search -
2. to improve -
3. extras at work -
4. collaboration -
5. fighting -

IV. Fill in the gaps with the words from the box:

(5 x 2 = 10)

News does not always mean something that is _____ true. Although the news seems to be based on facts, these facts are _____ and reported the way the media chooses to report them. For example, some information that _____ as news is really only speculation or theories formed by the reporters. Furthermore, many journalists and reporters sensationalise or _____ news events in order to make the story more interesting. Unfortunately, sensationalism often bends the truth and causes anguish to the people it victimizes. Therefore, as consumers of news, we must learn to think _____ about the news, the media, and what the truth is.

interpreted appears critically dramatise unquestionably

V. Language elements:

a) Choose the right option a, b, c or d.

(5 x 1 = 5)

1. I prefer watching DVDs _____ going to the cinema.
a. than b. to c. from d. rather
2. It is high time I _____ a decision.
a. have made b. will make c. make d. made
3. It is the first time she _____ this country.
a. may have visited b. will have visited c. has visited d. visited
4. Open your books, _____?
a. shall you b. will you c. do you d. are you
5. They insisted _____ staying at work longer.
a. in b. on c. at d. of

b) Finish the sentences using minimum 5 words:

(5 x 1 = 5)

1. Despite _____
2. If only _____
3. There is no point _____
4. You'd better _____
5. I wish you _____

VI. Writing:

(max. 30)

You have been granted a scholarship at a university of your choice to study there for a semester. Write a letter of enquiry (180-200 words) asking about the following:

- *travel allowance*
- *tuition and fees*
- *any special requirements*

Don't forget to mention your educational background and expectations. Remember about the proper layout and subject line.