Reading Comprehension – Test 3

Name: Class: Date: Score: / 20

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Read each text carefully and choose the best answer (A, B, C or D) for each question.

Part 1: An email

Read the email from Hana to her neighbour. Then answer questions 1-7.

Subject: Street party on Maple Road – can you help?

Hi Mr Lindqvist,

I hope you're well and that your knee is feeling better after the operation. I'm writing because a few of us on Maple Road have decided to organise a street party on Saturday 14th June, and we'd love you to be part of it.

The idea came from Fatima at number 12. She pointed out that although many of us have lived here for years, we hardly know each other. Some new families have moved in recently too, and a party seems like a friendly way to welcome them. The council has already given us permission to close the road to traffic from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

We're planning to put tables down the middle of the street and ask everyone to bring some food to share. There will be games for the children, and Kenji from number 3 has offered to play music. If it rains, the school at the end of the road has said we can use its hall.

I know you used to be a carpenter, so I wondered if you might have any ideas for making a simple stage for the music. You wouldn't need to build anything yourself, of course – just give us some advice. Also, do you still have those folding chairs in your garage? We could really use them.

There's a short planning meeting at my house next Thursday at 7 p.m. Don't worry if you can't make it – I'll drop round afterwards and tell you what we decided.

Best wishes,

Hana (number 8)

1. Why is Hana writing to Mr Lindqvist?
   A To complain about noise on Maple Road
   B To invite him to a street party and ask for his help
   C To ask him to organise the children's games
   D To tell him about a new family at number 12

2. Why did Fatima suggest having a street party?
   A Because she is moving away from Maple Road
   B Because the council asked residents to organise one
   C Because neighbours don't know each other well
   D Because the school needed money

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3. According to the email, what will happen if it rains on the day of the party?
   A The party will be cancelled
   B The party will move to the school hall
   C Everyone will go to Hana's house
   D The party will take place the following Saturday

4. What does Hana ask Mr Lindqvist to do?
   A Build a stage and play music
   B Come to the meeting and bring food
   C Ask the council for permission
   D Give advice about a stage and lend some chairs

5. Why does Hana write 'You wouldn't need to build anything yourself'?
   A She thinks he may not be able to do physical work after his operation
   B She doesn't believe he was really a carpenter
   C Kenji has already built the stage
   D The council doesn't allow residents to build stages

6. In the last paragraph, 'drop round' is closest in meaning to _____.
   A phone **B** visit briefly **C** send a letter **D** leave quickly

7. Which of the following is TRUE according to the email?
   A Traffic will not be allowed on the road during the party
   B The planning meeting is at Fatima's house
   C Kenji lives at number 8
   D Each family must pay for the food

Part 2: A news article

Read the article about a town's car-free days. Then answer questions 8-14.

A Quieter Kind of Sunday

Two years ago, the town of Valmont tried something unusual. On the first Sunday of every month, cars were banned from the town centre between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Many residents were against the idea at first. Shop owners worried that customers would stay away, and some drivers complained that they would not be able to get to their homes.

However, the experiment has turned out to be more popular than anyone expected. On car-free Sundays, the streets fill with cyclists, families with pushchairs and people on roller skates. Local musicians perform in the main square, and cafés put extra tables outside. "It feels like a completely different town," says Rosa Ferreira, who has lived in Valmont for thirty years. "You can actually hear the birds."

The town council says that air pollution in the centre falls by around 40% on these days. Surprisingly, many shops have also benefited. Because people walk slowly and look around, they often go into shops they would normally drive past. Ibrahim Nasser, who owns a bookshop near the square, says his Sunday sales have almost doubled.

Not everyone is happy, though. Some older residents say that it is difficult for them to reach the centre without a car, even though the council provides a free electric minibus. Others think the town should go further and make the centre car-free every weekend.

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The council is now asking residents for their opinions. A decision about the future of the scheme is expected later this year.

8. Which would be the best alternative title for the article?
   A Why Valmont Needs More Car Parks
   B Older Residents Protest Against a New Bus
   C A Monthly Experiment That Changed a Town Centre
   D How to Open a Successful Bookshop

9. What were shop owners worried about before the first car-free Sunday?
   A That cyclists would damage the streets
   B That musicians would be too noisy
   C That they would have to open on Sundays
   D That fewer customers would come

10. In paragraph 2, 'has turned out to be' is closest in meaning to _____.
    A has finally proved to be
    B has refused to be
    C has stopped being
    D has pretended to be

11. Why have some shops sold more on car-free Sundays?
    A Prices are lower on these days
    B The council gives shoppers free vouchers
    C People walking past notice shops they usually ignore
    D Shops stay open later than usual

12. What does Rosa Ferreira's comment 'You can actually hear the birds' suggest?
    A The town centre is usually noisy because of traffic
    B Valmont has more birds than other towns
    C She does not like the street musicians
    D The town has recently planted many trees

13. According to paragraph 4, how do opinions differ about the scheme?
    A Everyone agrees that the minibus should be free
    B Shop owners want to stop the scheme, but cyclists want to keep it
    C Older residents want car-free weekends, but younger ones do not
    D Some people find it hard to reach the centre, while others want more car-free days

14. What is happening with the scheme at the moment?
    A It has been cancelled
    B It will happen every weekend from next month
    C The council is collecting residents' views before deciding
    D The council has bought more electric minibuses

Part 3: A short story

Read the story. Then answer questions 15-20.

The Dinner

Sami had been planning the dinner for weeks. It was the first time Leila's parents were coming to his flat, and he wanted everything to be perfect. He had chosen a recipe for a fish dish with lemon and herbs, and he had practised it twice the weekend before.

At half past six, an hour before the guests were due, he put the potatoes in the oven and began to prepare the sauce. Then, without warning, the lights went out. The fridge stopped humming, and the

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oven went silent. Sami looked out of the window. The whole street was dark.

He called the electricity company, but a recorded message said the power would not be back for at least three hours. Sami sat down on the kitchen floor and put his head in his hands. What would Leila's parents think of him now?

When Leila arrived with her parents, she found him lighting candles. "We have a small problem," he said, trying to smile. To his surprise, Leila's father laughed. "This reminds me of our first year of marriage," he said. "We had no electricity for a week!"

In the end, they ate bread, cheese, tomatoes and olives by candlelight, and Leila's mother told stories about her childhood in the countryside. Nobody mentioned the fish. At ten o'clock, just as they were leaving, the lights came back on.

"Next time," said Leila's father, shaking Sami's hand, "you can cook the fish. But I'm not sure it will be as good as tonight."

15. Why was the dinner so important to Sami?
    - **A** It was Leila's birthday
    - **B** Leila's parents were visiting his flat for the first time
    - **C** He was cooking fish for the first time
    - **D** He was celebrating a new job

16. What went wrong at half past six?
    - **A** The oven broke while the potatoes were inside
    - **B** Sami realised he had forgotten to buy the fish
    - **C** The guests arrived an hour early
    - **D** The electricity went off in the whole street

17. How did Sami feel after he called the electricity company?
    - **A** Relieved and calm
    - **B** Worried and hopeless
    - **C** Angry with Leila
    - **D** Bored and tired

18. Why did Leila's father laugh when he saw the candles?
    - **A** He thought Sami was joking
    - **B** He didn't like fish
    - **C** The situation reminded him of something from his own past
    - **D** He knew the lights would come back soon

19. What did Sami and his guests do during the evening?
    - **A** They went to a restaurant
    - **B** They waited until ten o'clock to cook the fish
    - **C** They helped Sami repair the oven
    - **D** They ate simple food and listened to stories

20. What does Leila's father's final comment suggest?
    - **A** He was disappointed not to eat the fish
    - **B** He enjoyed the evening despite the problem
    - **C** He never wants to visit Sami again
    - **D** He thinks Sami is a bad cook

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Answer key – Reading Comprehension – Test 3

1 B	2 C	3 B	4 D	5 A	6 B	7 A	8 C	9 D	10 A
11 C	12 A	13 D	14 C	15 B	16 D	17 B	18 C	19 D	20 B

Explanations

1. **B** – Hana says they'd love him to be part of the party and then asks for his advice and chairs.
2. **C** – Fatima pointed out that many neighbours 'hardly know each other'.
3. **B** – The school has said they can use its hall if it rains.
4. **D** – She asks for ideas about a simple stage and whether he still has his folding chairs.
5. **A** – She mentions his recent knee operation, so she probably doesn't want him to do heavy work.
6. **B** – To 'drop round' means to make a short, informal visit to someone's home.
7. **A** – The council has given permission to close the road to traffic from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
8. **C** – The whole article describes the monthly car-free Sundays and their effects on the town centre.
9. **D** – Shop owners 'worried that customers would stay away'.
10. **A** – 'Turn out to be' describes what something is shown to be in the end, often unexpectedly.
11. **C** – People walk slowly and go into shops they would normally drive past.
12. **A** – The word 'actually' suggests that on normal days traffic noise is too loud to hear the birds.
13. **D** – Some older residents find access difficult, while others want the centre car-free every weekend.
14. **C** – The council is asking for opinions, and a decision is expected later this year.
15. **B** – It was the first time Leila's parents were coming to his flat; he had already practised the fish twice.
16. **D** – The lights went out and Sami saw that the whole street was dark.
17. **B** – He sat on the floor with his head in his hands, worrying about what her parents would think.
18. **C** – He said it reminded him of his first year of marriage, when they had no electricity for a week.
19. **D** – They ate bread, cheese, tomatoes and olives while Leila's mother told stories.
20. **B** – By saying the fish might not be 'as good as tonight', he shows the evening was special for him.

Notes for teachers: Use the test as a timed assessment or as classwork, letting learners discuss answers in pairs afterwards. Many questions target typical B1 problems: choosing an option that uses words from the text but changes the meaning, confusing names and details, and taking phrasal or idiomatic expressions literally. For follow-up, ask students to write a reply to Hana's email or a short opinion paragraph on whether their town should have car-free days.

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