Reading Comprehension – Test 4

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: Advertisement

Read the advertisement and answer questions 1-7.

Volunteer This Summer at Greenhill Nature Reserve

Are you aged 16 or over and looking for something different to do this summer? Greenhill Nature Reserve is looking for volunteers to help us look after our woods, lakes and wildflower meadows from 1 July to 31 August.

No experience is needed – our friendly team will show you everything you need to know. Volunteers can choose from three types of work. Outdoor volunteers help to clear paths, build bird boxes and count butterflies. Visitor centre volunteers welcome guests, answer questions and sell tickets for guided walks. Family day volunteers help to run activities for children every Saturday, such as pond dipping and nature art.

We ask volunteers to give at least one full day a week for four weeks or more. You can choose which days suit you best, although we are especially short of help at weekends. Lunch and drinks are provided on every day you work, and we will pay your bus fares to and from the reserve.

Outdoor work can be physically demanding, so please wear strong boots and bring a waterproof jacket. We will provide gloves and all other equipment.

At the end of the summer, every volunteer who has completed at least four weeks will receive a certificate, which many past volunteers have found useful when applying for jobs or university places.

To apply, fill in the short form on our website before 15 June. We will invite you for an informal chat at the reserve during the last two weeks of June. If you have any questions, call Amira Haddad on 01632 960 482.

1. Who is this advertisement mainly aimed at?
   A Families who want to visit the reserve for a day out
   B People aged 16 or over who would like to help at the reserve in summer
   C Experienced gardeners looking for a paid summer job
   D Children who want to join activities on Saturdays

2. Which type of volunteer would spend time with children?
   A Outdoor volunteers
   B Visitor centre volunteers
   C Guided walk volunteers
   D Family day volunteers

3. Which of these do volunteers need to bring themselves?
   A Gloves
   B Strong boots
   C Lunch
   D Tools for building bird boxes

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4. In paragraph 3, 'we are especially short of help at weekends' means that _____.
   A weekend shifts are shorter than weekday shifts
   B volunteers are not allowed to work at weekends
   C the reserve particularly needs more volunteers on Saturdays and Sundays
   D the reserve is less busy at weekends

5. Sofia can volunteer two full days a week, but only for three weeks in August. What is the problem?
   A She does not meet the minimum period the reserve asks volunteers to give
   B She will have to work only at weekends
   C She will have to pay her own bus fares
   D She will receive a certificate after only three weeks

6. What will happen after someone sends the application form?
   A They will start work on 15 June
   B They will receive a certificate by post
   C They will be invited to meet the team at the reserve for a relaxed conversation
   D They will have to phone Amira Haddad to choose their days

7. What can we infer about the certificate?
   A It is given to every visitor who goes on a guided walk
   B It is only for volunteers who do outdoor work
   C Volunteers must pay a small fee to receive it
   D It may help volunteers when they apply for jobs or courses

Part 2: Blog post

Read the blog post and answer questions 8-14.

A Month Without My Smartphone

Last spring, I realised I was checking my phone more than a hundred times a day. I looked at it on the bus, during meals and even while watching films. So I decided to try an experiment: for one month, I would use only an old mobile phone that could make calls and send texts – nothing else.

The first week was harder than I had expected. I kept reaching into my pocket without thinking, and I felt anxious that I was missing important messages. I also got lost twice because I couldn't use a map app, and I had to ask strangers for directions. Surprisingly, both people were very kind, and one even walked with me to the right street.

By the second week, things started to change. I was sleeping better because I no longer read the news in bed. I finished two novels that had been sitting on my shelf for months, and I started cooking proper meals again instead of scrolling while eating toast.

Not everything was easy, though. My friends organise most of their plans in a group chat, so I missed a birthday picnic because nobody remembered to text me. That made me feel quite left out.

When the month ended, I didn't throw my smartphone away, but I did change my habits. I've deleted the apps that wasted the most time, and I now leave my phone in the kitchen at night. I don't think going without a smartphone forever is realistic for me, but I've learnt that I'm the one who should be in control – not my phone.

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8. Why did the writer decide to try the experiment?
   A Her old phone had stopped working
   B She felt she was using her smartphone far too often
   C Her friends had asked her to stop texting them
   D She wanted to save money on her phone bill

9. What happened during the first week?
   A She stopped thinking about her phone completely
   B Strangers refused to help her find her way
   C She got lost and had to ask people for directions
   D She used a map app only twice

10. According to paragraph 3, why was the writer sleeping better?
    A She had stopped reading the news in bed
    B She was cooking healthier meals
    C She was reading novels late at night
    D She was going to bed earlier because she was bored

11. Why did the writer miss her friend's birthday picnic?
    A She forgot the date
    B She was feeling anxious that day
    C She couldn't find the way to the park
    D Her friends made the plans online and nobody sent her a text

12. In paragraph 4, 'feel quite left out' is closest in meaning to _____.
    A feel rather tired
    B feel not included by others
    C feel happy to be alone
    D feel angry with yourself

13. What has the writer done since the experiment ended?
    A She has given her smartphone away
    B She has gone back to all her old habits
    C She has deleted some apps and leaves her phone in the kitchen at night
    D She has bought a new phone that can only make calls

14. What is the writer's main conclusion?
    A People should control their phone use, but they don't need to give up phones completely
    B Everyone should live without a smartphone
    C Smartphones make it impossible to have real friendships
    D Old mobile phones are better than smartphones

Part 3: Short story

Read the story and answer questions 15-20.

The Last Kilometre

Mateo had been training for his first ten-kilometre race for three months. He ran before work three mornings a week, even when it was cold and dark. His goal was simple: to finish in under fifty minutes.

On the day of the race, the weather was perfect. Mateo started carefully, just as his running club had advised, and by the eighth kilometre he was well ahead of his planned time. He began to imagine telling his friends about his result.

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Then, as he turned a corner, he saw a runner sitting at the side of the road, holding her ankle. Dozens of people ran past her without stopping. Mateo hesitated for a moment. If he stopped now, he would almost certainly miss his goal. But he couldn't just leave her there.

'Are you all right?' he asked. The woman, whose name was Grace, explained that she had twisted her ankle on a stone. There were no race officials nearby, so Mateo offered his arm, and together they walked slowly towards the finish line.

It took them almost twenty minutes. When they finally crossed the line, the crowd gave them the loudest cheer of the day. Mateo's time was just over an hour.

That evening, his phone wouldn't stop buzzing. Someone had filmed them, and the video had been shared by the race organisers with the words: 'This is what running is really about.' Mateo smiled. He would try for fifty minutes again next year, but he knew this was a race he would remember for much longer.

15. How was the race going for Mateo before he saw Grace?
    A He was struggling because of the bad weather
    B He was running faster than he had planned
    C He was far behind the other runners
    D He had hurt his ankle

16. Why did Mateo hesitate for a moment?
    A He didn't know if Grace spoke his language
    B He thought a race official would arrive soon
    C He knew that stopping would probably stop him from reaching his goal
    D He was too tired to help anyone

17. Why did Mateo help Grace walk to the finish line himself?
    A There was nobody from the race nearby to help her
    B Grace was a member of his running club
    C He wanted to appear in a video
    D Grace asked him to stay with her

18. In the last paragraph, 'his phone wouldn't stop buzzing' means that Mateo _____.
    A had turned his phone off
    B had broken his phone during the race
    C couldn't find his phone
    D kept getting messages and notifications

19. What does the race organisers' comment suggest?
    A Mateo should have finished the race faster
    B Helping another runner is more important than a fast time
    C Runners should not stop during a race
    D Grace should not have taken part in the race

20. How does Mateo feel about the race at the end of the story?
    A He regrets stopping and wasting three months of training
    B He is upset that someone filmed him
    C He is glad he helped, even though he missed his goal
    D He has decided never to run a race again

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Answer key – Reading Comprehension – Test 4

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

Explanations

1. **B** – The advert asks people aged 16 or over to volunteer at the reserve from July to August.
2. **D** – Family day volunteers help to run activities for children every Saturday.
3. **B** – Volunteers must wear strong boots; gloves, equipment and lunch are provided by the reserve.
4. **C** – Being 'short of help' means not having enough people, so more volunteers are needed at weekends.
5. **A** – The reserve asks volunteers to give at least one day a week for four weeks or more, and Sofia can only give three weeks.
6. **C** – The advert says applicants will be invited for an informal chat at the reserve in late June.
7. **D** – Past volunteers found the certificate useful when applying for jobs or university places.
8. **B** – She realised she was checking her phone more than a hundred times a day.
9. **C** – Without a map app she got lost twice and asked strangers for directions.
10. **A** – She says she slept better because she no longer read the news in bed.
11. **D** – The picnic was planned in a group chat and nobody remembered to text her.
12. **B** – To feel left out means to feel that other people have not included you.
13. **C** – She kept her smartphone but deleted time-wasting apps and leaves it in the kitchen at night.
14. **A** – She says living without a smartphone forever isn't realistic, but she should be in control of it.
15. **B** – By the eighth kilometre he was well ahead of his planned time.
16. **C** – The story says that if he stopped, he would almost certainly miss his goal.
17. **A** – There were no race officials nearby, so Mateo offered his arm.
18. **D** – A phone buzzes when messages arrive, so 'wouldn't stop buzzing' means many messages kept coming.
19. **B** – By saying 'This is what running is really about', they show they value his kindness more than speed.
20. **C** – He smiles and knows he will remember this race for a long time, although he plans to try for fifty minutes again.

Notes for teachers: Allow about 35 minutes, or set one text per lesson as a warm-up. Many questions target common B1 mistakes: choosing an option that repeats words from the text but changes the meaning, and confusing what a writer says with what can be inferred. After the test, ask students to underline the exact words in the text that support each answer. As a follow-up, learners can write their own short blog post about changing a daily habit.

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