BAHIR DAR UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

Reading Skills assignment

Academic year : 2016 **Semester II**
Course title : Reading Skills **Course code : Enla 2042**
Program : Distance **Total weight : 40%**

Name of student : _____ Id. Number : _____
Department : _____ Center : _____ Semester : _____

I. One of the reading strategies a reader needs to apply is questioning. Efficient readers ask themselves questions before, while, and after reading. Below you are given a list of questions efficient readers ask themselves at different reading stages. Match the questions with the reading stages. Write the letter of your choice on the answer sheet. (1/2 mark each)

A

B

1. What do I intend to get from this book?

A. Before reading

2. Have I got the story as I expected?

B. While reading

3. Am I familiar with the topic of this fiction?

C. After reading

4. Are all the words in the title of the book familiar to me?

5. Shall I ask my friend to read this fiction?

6. Has the concluding paragraph shown the overall picture of the whole passage?

7. I haven’t understood the idea of paragraph three. Shall I reread the previous paragraph to see
   the connection between the two paragraphs?
8. Can I guess what the book is going to deal with?
9. Can I paraphrase the idea of the first paragraph in my own words?
10. Have I read any other fiction whose story is similar to this one?

II. Read the following texts and answer the questions that follow. Write only the letter of your choice (1 mark each)

Text A : (1) According to the United States Centers of Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia, everybody who is at least six months old should get a flu shot this year. (2) This recommendation was first made last year. (3) The American Health Association Bulletin reports that a vaccine called Fluzone High-Dose is now available, designed especially for people aged 65 years and older. (4) Because older people produce less robust immune responses than younger people, scientists have produced this vaccine to give them better protection against the influenza virus. (5) This is important because cases of the flu can involve very serious complications for older persons. (6) In addition, older people are easily affected by diseases such as yellow fever.

11. Which of the following choices best identifies the main idea of **Text A**?
    A. Everyone over six months old should get a flu shot this year.
    B. There is now a special high-dose flu shot just for older people.
    C. People over 65 years of age are more likely to contract the flu.
    D. Due to complications, no flu shot can protect an older person.
12. Which choice is a detail included in this passage?
    A. The recommendation about flu shots is new this year.
    B. The new high-dose flu shot is designed for everybody.
    C. Avoiding the flu is more important for elderly people.
    D. Older people have an exaggerated immune response.
13. Which sentence spoils the unity of the paragraph because it is an irrelevant sentence? The

irrelevant sentence is sentence number _____. (Write the sentence number.)

Text B : (1) Rosa Parks was an African American woman who worked hard as a seamstress in a department store in the early 1960s. (2) One day, tired from work, she refused to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, and became a national hero. (3) She was arrested and placed in jail for her refusal to move to the back of the bus, where African Americans were forced to sit in those days. (4) The way she was treated garnered national attention. (5) Some people say her refusal to give up her seat launched the civil rights movement. (6) Rosa Parks proved that one brave person can make a difference. (7) In short, history remembers many women who have played a significant role in the civil rights movement.

14. What is the topic of **Text B**?

15. What does the author want you to know about the topic?

A. Rosa Parks was a hard working woman. B. Brave people deserve special attention.

C. Stubborn people always get their way. D. Brave people can make a difference.

16. Which sentence contains the main idea? The main idea of the paragraph is found in sentence

number _____. (Write the sentence number.)

17. Which sentence spoils the unity of the paragraph because it is an irrelevant sentence? The

irrelevant sentence is sentence number _____. (Write the sentence number.)

Text C : Do you wear eye glasses? Make sure your glasses fit well. The earpieces should be at eye level. Don’t try to adjust the earpieces yourself. Take your glasses for adjustments to the place you bought them. Keep your glasses in a case when you’re not wearing them. This will prevent scratches. Keep the lenses clean. A soft cloth is best for cleaning.

18. What is the main idea of **Text C**?

Text D : (1) Costs were low that year and the output high. (2) The supply of the company has dramatically increased. (3) This shows that there was a good person for each job and the market remained firm. (4) There were no any losses from fire. (5) All in all, it was the best year in the history of the company.

19. Which sentence is the topic sentence in **Text D**? The topic sentence is sentence number ____.

Text E : There is a common belief that while the dog is man's best friend, the coyote is his worst
enemy. The bad reputation of the coyote traces back to his fondness for small animals; he
hunts at night and is particularly destructive to sheep, young pigs, and poultry. Yet it is
sometimes wise to encourage coyotes. Provided valuable farm animals are protected, the
coyote will often free the property of other animals, like rabbits, which are ruinous to
crops and certain trees. He is especially beneficial in keeping down the rodent population.
Where coyotes have been allowed to do their work without molestation, ranchers and fruit
growers have found them so valuable that they would no more shoot them than they would
shoot their dogs.

20. Which of the following is the main idea of **Text E**?

A. Under certain conditions the coyote is helpful to man.

B. The coyote is feared because of his fondness for small animals

C. Modern ranchers would no sooner shoot coyotes than they would shoot dogs.

D. The coyote usually prefers rabbits and other rodents to sheep and poultry.

III. Reading comprehension : Read the following passage and answer the questions that fol.

1. The educational system in many developing countries is perverse. It tends to preserve the unequal social stratification as well as the contempt for manual work. In **both cases**, its effect is to hinder social progress.

2. Since the developing countries have all laid stress on bringing literacy to the masses, they should have given priority to primary education. What has actually happened, nevertheless, is that secondary and tertiary education have been permitted to expand at the expense of primary education. They have also remained to be 'general', 'academic' and non-vocational as in colonial times.

3. The metropolitan countries were generally against developing manufacturing industries in their colonies, and failed to offer educational opportunities for the broad masses. **They** rather needed clerks and favored the training of a few professionals, mostly to cater for the needs of the upper social strata. **It** is scarcely surprising that the national governments felt solidarity of interests with the foreign rulers. Moreover, since independence, they have on the whole, preserved the colonial system of education instead of reforming **it**.

4. Adult education, too, has been scandalously disregarded in the developing countries with a few exceptions. Yet this form of education is even more important in those regions than in the rich countries. **It** is absurd for the children to be taught while their elders are doomed to ignorance, if only because it is so much more difficult to keep children in school when they live in homes where there is no literacy, no paper to write on and nothing to read. If the literacy level of any country is to be raised rapidly, great efforts must be made to expand mass literacy and adult education. **This approach** does not spring from any particular philosophy but a simple common sense.

A) According to the passage, choose the best answer to complete the following questions.
(1 mark each)

21. Secondary and tertiary education in developing countries has been

A. reformed B. expanded C. transformed D. neglected

22. What does the writer mean by solidarity of interest with colonial rulers in paragraph 3?

A. The campaign for mass literacy B. The revision of school curriculum

C. The reform of the education system D. The preservation of colonial education

23. Paragraph _____ stresses the need for adult literacy.

A. 2 B. 4 C. 3 D. 1

24. The writer appears to be in favor of

A. preserving the colonial education system. B. prioritizing primary and adult education.

C. expanding secondary education. D. expanding higher education.

25. According to the writer of the article,

A. priority has been given to primary education at the expense of secondary and tertiary education.

B. Adult education is undeliverable in most African countries on the whole.

C. There is obviously a strong need for a paradigm shift in the education system.

D. The educational system of former colonies remains the same as the colonial education system.

26. In accordance with the information in the passage, the writer is critical or against

A. the philosophy of education and African education in general.

B. the spread of adult literacy in most African countries on the whole.

C. the legacy of the colonial education system in developing countries.

D. the metropolitan education system of Europe at the present time

27. What is the most appropriate title for the passage?

A. The gap between the colonial and the post colonial education systems.

B. Educational problems of developing countries.

C. The colonial education system.

D. Technological advancement.

28. Unequal distribution of wealth and education among the people leads to

A. hindrance of process B. neocolonialism

C. contempt for labor D. social class stratification

B. Reference questions (1 mark each)

29. 'both cases' (paragraph 1 line 2) refers to _____.

30. 'they'(paragraph 3 line 2) refers to _____.

31. 'it'(paragraph 3 line 4) refers to _____.

32. 'it'(paragraph 3 line 6) refers to _____.

33. 'it'(paragraph 4 line 3) refers to _____.

34. 'this approach'(paragraph 4 line 7) refers to _____.

C. Find words which have the following meanings from the reading passage. The numbers refer to the place where the words can be found. (1 mark each)

35. disrespect (paragraph 1)

36. in a way that harms something or somebody (paragraph 2)

37. ridiculous or unreasonable (paragraph 4)

D. Find discourse markers which have the following functions from the reading passage. The numbers refer to the place where the discourse markers can be found. (Question number 38 & 39 (1 mark each), question number 40 (2 marks).

38. Expressing contrast (paragraph 2)
39. Expressing point of time (paragraph 3)
40. Expressing emphasis (paragraph 4) They are two discourse markers.

E. Questions on nominalization (4 marks)

41. Refer paragraph 4 and identify four nominalizations. Don’t use one nominalization more than
one time.

Reading Skills Assignment Answer Sheet

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I. Matching questions with reading stages (1/2 mark each)

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____ 7. _____ 8. _____ 9._____ 10. _____

II. Reacting to reading texts. (1 mark each)

11. _____ 12. _____ 13. Sent. Number _____ 14. The topic is _____

15. _____ 16. Sent. number _____ 17. Sent. Number _____

18. The main idea is _____

19. Sent. number _____ 20 _____

III. Reading comprehension

A. Choice (1 mark each)

21. _____ 22. _____ 23. _____ 24. _____ 25. _____ 26. _____ 27. _____ 28. _____

B. Reference questions (1 mark each)

29. _____
30. _____
31. _____
32. _____
33. _____
34. _____

C. Finding words (1 mark each)

35. _____ 36. _____ 37. _____

D. Discourse markers (Question no 38 & 39 (1 mark each), question no 40 (2 marks).

38. _____ 39. _____ 40. _____ _____

E. Questions on nominalization (4 marks)

_____ _____ _____