**Read the following ten short texts. For questions 1-10 choose the best answer A–D.**

|  |
| --- |
| !!DONATE YOUR CAR!!  SHARE THE POWER OF A WISH  If you have a car to donate, or a truck, motorcycle, SUV1, RV2, or boat, the donated  vehicle will help grant wishes to children suffering from life-threatening illnesses. You  might think of your vehicle (even if not running) as nothing more than a ‘junk car’, but to  our ‘wish kids’ it can help bring hope, strength and joy back into their lives.  \*Free vehicle pickup anywhere  \*We accept all vehicles  \*We also accept boats and RVs  \*Tax deductible  DONATE TODAY  AND MAKE A WISH COME TRUE  CALL 1-877-406-WISH  MAKE-A-WISH Foundation  (The Chicago Tribune 26. 8. 2010, abridged)  1SUV: sport(s) utility vehicle  2RV: recreational vehicle |

1 What did you learn from the advertisement?

A) You can donate only a working car.

B) You can donate only certain types of cars.

C) You have to bring a car to the Foundation yourself.

D) You can take off the price of a donated car from your taxes.

**Quotation of the day**

‘Realise that true happiness lies within you. Waste no time or effort searching for peace, contentment and joy in the world outside. Remember that there is no happiness in having or in getting, but only in giving. Reach out. Share. Smile. Hug. Happiness is a perfume you cannot pour on others without getting a few drops on yourself.’

Og Mandino

(The Chicago Tribune 26. 8. 2010, www.vpihamboneaward.com, abridged)

2 Which sentence best summarises this quotation?

A) Happiness can be found all around us.

B) To become happy, you should make others happy.

C) Happiness is a luxury that should be kept to oneself.

D) Like perfume, happiness is invisible and cannot be looked for.

**The Sacred Tooth**

Sri Dalada Maligawa or The Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic is a beautiful Buddhist temple in the city of Kandy, Sri Lanka. Famous for its valuable carvings and collection of Sri Lankan art, it’s also the most sacred temple in the whole country. Located within the royal palace complex, the temple houses the only surviving relic of Buddha, a tooth. Taking care of this relic has historically been the responsibility of the ruler and over the years, the guardianship of the relic has come to symbolise the right to rule.

(www.bing.com, abridged)

3 What does the protection of the tooth in the temple represent at present?

A) The spirit of Sri Lanka

B) The wealth of Sri Lanka

C) The beauty of Sri Lanka

D) The leadership of Sri Lanka

Google derived its name from the word ‘googol’, a term invented by a nine-year-old named Milton Sirotta. Kasner, an American mathematician, asked his nephew Milton to invent a name for a very large number – ten to the power of one hundred (10100), and Milton called it a googol. The term was later made popular in Kasner’s book, Mathematics and the Imagination. As the official representatives of www.google.com say, ‘Google’s use of the term reflects the company’s mission to organise the immense, seemingly infinite amount of information available on the web.’

(www.didyouknow.it, abridged)

4 What is the best title for this short news item?

A) Who Invented Google

B) Why Google Is Popular

C) What Is Google‘s Mission

D) How Google Got Its Name

**Man Sentenced to 10 Years**

27-year-old Quawi Gates, responsible for trafficking a gun used in the killing of Chicago police Officer Thomas Wortham on May 19, was given 10 years in a federal prison for his

role in a firearms trafficking scheme that resulted in the illegal transportation of guns from

Mississippi to Chicago, said Judge Davis on Wednesday. Gates admitted to aiding and

advising someone to make false federal firearms records. Four guns bought for Gates in

Mississippi were taken by police in violent crimes in the Chicago area. The gun used in the police officer’s killing was among them.

(The Chicago Tribune 26. 8. 2010, abridged)

5 What is said about Mr Gates in the text?

A) He did not declare his guilt.

B) He killed Mr Wortham on 19th May.

C) He brought the guns from Mississippi.

D) He was involved in creating false records.

**Unforgettable holidays**

The departure of our plane was delayed so we didn’t get to the Harbour Hotel until 1am.Upon our arrival; the receptionist told us there were no rooms available. Not to worry, I told her that

I would take all my clothes off, find the most comfortable sofa in the lobby and sleep there. This produced results. A chubby middle-aged man reclining naked in the hall would presumably have upset other guests. Eventually, we were upgraded to the Stamford Plaza Hotel, which had one room free – the presidential suite. It was the most luxurious hotel room we’ve ever stayed in. Of course, they said, our night would include breakfast – so, after a revitalising nap we had the most spectacular hotel breakfast ever.

Brian E., Devon (The Sunday Times)

6 What did we learn about Brian from the text?

A) He made other guests angry.

B) He did not have a good night’s sleep.

C) He declared he’d sleep naked in the hall.

D) He moved to another place of the same standard.

**An unlikely source**

In China, manufacturers produce 63 billion sets of chopsticks each year. But a U.S. company hopes to export 10 million pairs a day to China by the end of the year. Georgia Chopsticks, based in the southern U.S. state of Georgia, operates around the clock to make two million sets of the traditional eating utensils each day. These are then shipped to China, which is currently suffering from a shortage of trees used for their production. The abundant poplar and sweet gum trees in Georgia, however, were found to be as good for chopsticks as the trees in China. They cost less than a penny each to make, which is comparable with China, and are being sold in Chinese supermarkets.

(www.telegraph.co.uk, abridged)

7 Why is China buying chopsticks from the United States?

Because:

A) China lacks the wood to produce chopsticks.

B) Chinese supermarkets want to sell less traditional chopsticks.

C) U.S. chopsticks are cheaper to make than Chinese chopsticks.

D) U.S. chopsticks are made from better wood than Chinese chopsticks.

**Quotation of the day**

‘If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and Earth will pause to say, ‘Here lived agreat street sweeper who did his job well.’

Martin Luther King, Jr. (www.quotedb.com)

8 According to the quotation, which statement would King most agree with?

A) Every life deserves respect.

B) Every person must keep his/her life tidy.

C) It does not matter what you do as long as you do it well.

D) Some professions do not deserve the same respect as others.

**What’s in a face?**

A psychological study shows that people’s faces often reveal whether they’re expressing real or fake sorrow. Among 31 college students, dishonest statements of sorrow were usually accompanied by surprised and happy facial expressions. The results reflect the difficulty of intentionally manipulating certain muscles needed to make a sad face, says a team led by psychologist Leanne Brinke of the University of British Columbia in Kelowna. Volunteers formed a greater number of facial expressions and switched more quickly from one emotional display to another when faking regret than when conveying the real thing, the scientists report.

(www.sciencenews.org, abridged)

9 According to the article, what did the scientists discover? They found that people who:

A) feel real sorrow cannot make happy faces.

B) can change facial expressions are usually happier.

C) lie about feeling sad have trouble making a sad face.

D) can change facial expressions can also change emotions.

**A close call**

Fifty-nine-year-old Elsie Campbell woke up one day with an unusual craving: she couldn’t

stop eating lettuce. After her cravings escalated to eating four whole heads of lettuce a day,

her husband, a scientist, suspected the addiction signalled that something was wrong with her body. Mr Campbell looked at what his wife’s body could be lacking and found that lettuce contains a nutrient that is often lacking in breast cancer sufferers. He insisted she see a doctor and she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Mrs Campbell had the lump removed and has now been given the all-clear. ‘Since the lump was removed, I haven’t wanted to eat a single lettuce leaf,’ she said.

(www.telegraph.co.uk,abridged)

10 According to the article, which of the following statements is true?

A) Mrs Campbell became ill after eating lettuce.

B) Mrs Campbell’s husband advised her to eat lettuce.

C) Mrs Campbell’s doctor advised her to stop eating lettuce.

D) Mrs Campbell’s addiction to lettuce indicated that she was ill.

<http://statnimaturita-anglictina.cz/wp-content/uploads/statni-maturita-anglictina-didakticky-test-2012-vyssi-uroven-jaro.pdf>

<http://statnimaturita-anglictina.cz/wp-content/uploads/statni-maturita-anglictina-didakticky-test-2012-vyssi-uroven-podzim.pdf>