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

A poor school in the US state of Rhode Island is the center of a big fight. All the teachers of

Central Falls High School were fired this week because of the bad results of the students. On

average, 75 percent of Rhode Island students finish high school, but only 50 percent do at Central Falls. And only 7 percent of their 11th grade students passed their math tests. "It's time to clean house and start over," a member of the authorities said. But others argued that there is no guarantee that new teachers would perform any better.

1 What can we find out from this short news item?

A) The students are blaming the teachers for bad results.

B) The students believe new teachers will bring better results.

C) The authorities feel that teachers are responsible for bad results.

D) The authorities closed the school because of the bad results of students.

(www.shortnews.com, abridged)

**California:**

While on a regular trip out on Monterey Bay, wildlife photographer Enrique Aguirre briefly had cause to wonder if he was hallucinating when a sea otter appeared in his viewfinder1

pointing a video camera back at him. Several other professional photographers were present, but Aguirre was the only one able to get a clear shot of the otter floating with its rusty, seaweed-coated camera. The camera was probably dropped by a kayaker and recovered by the creature. "I know I can go down there another million times, and I will never see another otter with a video camera. I think I have more chance of a penguin coming up to me and actually speaking English," said Aguirre.

2 What is the best headline for the newspaper article?

A) A Photo of a Sea Otter Found in a Long Lost Camera

B) In California a Sea Otter Films a Wildlife Photographer

C) Wildlife Photographer Surprised to Film a Penguin in California

D) Photographer Finds a New Species of a Sea Otter in California

1 viewfinder - hledáček

**Quotation of the day**

“If a doctor, lawyer, or dentist had 40 people in his office at one time, all of whom had different needs, and some of whom didn't want to be there and were causing trouble, and the doctor, lawyer, or dentist, without assistance, had to treat them all with professional excellence for nine months, then he might have some conception of the classroom teacher's job.”

3 What is the main idea of this quotation?

A) Teachers work as hard as doctors, lawyers or dentists.

B) Teachers work harder than doctors, lawyers or dentists.

C) Teachers don ́t do their job as well as doctors, lawyers or dentists.

D) Teachers don ́t have to work as long as doctors, lawyers or dentists.

New Zealand scientists have created a "tear-free" onion using biotechnology to switch off the gene within the vegetable that makes us cry. The project started in 2002 when Japanese scientists located the gene responsible for producing the tears. It was previously thought the

tearing agent was produced spontaneously by cutting onions. But they proved it was

controlled by an enzyme. The new technology will switch off the tear inducing gene in the

onion so that it doesn't produce the enzyme. Despite the excitement about the prospect of

"tear-free" onions in every home, it will be 10 to 15 years before this happens.

4 What is the best headline for the newspaper article?

A) Go and buy a tear-free onion

B) How to cut onion without tears

C) New technology in cutting onion

D) Re-engineered onion to avoid tears

In Russia, a man’s garden has landed him in some serious trouble. The man was convicted of unlawful construction and storage of weapons after planting landmines throughout his vegetable garden. The explosives came to the attention of authorities when a person was injured after one of the mines went off last August. The man made no secret of the fact that he had made the mines in his garage and then placed them in the garden behind his house. He says he was only trying to prevent thieves from running off with his vegetables.

5 Why was the man punished?

Because he had...

A) bought landmines illegally.

B) buried explosives in his garden.

C) stolen weapons from someone’s garage.

D) stolen vegetables from people’s gardens.

<http://statnimaturita-anglictina.cz/wp-content/uploads/statnimaturita-anglictina-didakticky-test-2008-vyssi-uroven.pdf>