

READING

YEAR

9

Example test

0:65

Time available for students to
complete test: 65 minutes

Use 2B or HB
pencil only

Do not write on this page.

Read *Marathon man to trade Kununurra for Big Apple* on page 2 of the magazine and answer questions 1 to 6.

1

Joseph Davies is excited about running a marathon in

- Canberra.
- New York.
- Kununurra.
- Alice Springs.

2

What is the purpose of beginning this text with a comment about the weather?

- to encourage readers to feel admiration for Joseph Davies
- to suggest to readers that Joseph Davies is unhappy
- to persuade readers that anyone can run a marathon
- to warn readers of the dangers of running a marathon

3

What is Robert de Castella's main reason for establishing the running squad?

- He wants an Australian to win a gold medal at the next Olympics.
- He wants to stage sporting events in Indigenous communities.
- He wants to improve the fitness of Australian schoolchildren.
- He wants to provide opportunities for Indigenous athletes.

4

For Robert de Castella, the marathon in November will be

- one stage in a larger plan.
- the climax to a successful sporting career.
- one of the most difficult challenges of his life.
- a way of deciding who joins his SmartStart squad.

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5

In this text, Joseph Davies is best described as a person who is

- playful.
- carefree.
- determined.
- overconfident.

6

To understand the newspaper headline, a reader needs to know that

- Kununurra is in Western Australia.
- a marathon is a race run over 42.2 km.
- New York is known as 'The Big Apple'.
- apples are common in an athlete's diet.

Read *The first day* on page 3 of the magazine and answer questions 7 to 12.

7

Why is Michael in the Principal's office?

- He is meeting the Principal because it is his first day.
- He has something to deliver to the Principal.
- A teacher is not happy with his behaviour.
- His parents have left a message for him.

8

'*Maybe we could just chalk it up to experience,*' (paragraph 4)

In this sentence, *chalk it up to experience* means to

- learn from a negative experience.
- keep a record of recent experiences.
- encourage more positive experiences.
- refuse to acknowledge a recent experience.

9

'Were you pleased your family decided to move here, Michael?' (paragraph 5)

Why does the Principal ask this question?

- to encourage Michael to feel more at ease
- to acknowledge Michael is new to the school
- to show Michael how much he has embarrassed his family
- to suggest that Michael's feelings may be influencing his behaviour

10

The conversation ends with Michael feeling

- defeated.
- uncertain.
- miserable.
- disappointed.

11

Michael's approach to the Principal suggests that he is trying to

- annoy her.
- charm her.
- challenge her.
- get to know her.

12

Readers mainly learn about Michael's character through

- his facial expressions.
- what he thinks to himself.
- what he says to the Principal.
- what the Principal says about him.

Read *No one is a loser* on page 4 of the magazine and answer questions 13 to 17.

13

*The world, from now on,
Will be made through the mind.
Through great dreaming, great loving
And masterly application.*

These lines suggest that

- thought without action is meaningless.
- the ability to change comes from within.
- when we label others we also label ourselves.
- people cannot affect the world through actions.

14

Embrace our marginalisation is best interpreted as

- see ourselves as having purpose.
- love is the key to overcoming problems.
- see negatives as a genuine source of strength.
- accept and be challenged by what seems unimportant.

15

When the poet uses the word *our*, he

- blames others for society's faults.
- appeals to a collective sense of power.
- excludes some people from this discussion.
- considers some groups of people as outsiders.

16

What feelings are created by this poem?

- invisibility and denial
- optimism and acceptance
- powerlessness and limitations
- anticipation and enlightenment

17

Which statement best describes the ideas expressed in this poem?

- A sense of service to others is the key to a fulfilling life.
- The worst thing that can happen is to have little to think about.
- Despite your best efforts, society will ultimately bring you down.
- Believe in yourself; the greatest triumph comes from overcoming adversity.

Read *Salinity* on page 5 of the magazine and answer questions 18 to 25.

18

The text suggests that Australia's salinity problem

- is a process that cannot be reversed.
- would have occurred regardless of human influence.
- was deliberately caused by farmers and land developers.
- may have been averted had the right knowledge been available.

19

In a day, over 700 litres of water may pass through the leaves of a fully grown river red gum. (paragraph 2)

This information in the text shows that trees

- are the only things preventing underground salt rising to the surface.
- play a vital role in preventing the watertable from rising.
- are able to access and utilise water in order to grow.
- contribute to the salinity problem.

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In the section called *Costs*, it is implied that salinity affects

- mainly the city of Wagga Wagga and the Murray River.
- an unimportant part of society and the environment.
- numerous aspects of society and the environment.
- mainly farmers and their equipment.

21

In the section called *Costs*, the city of Wagga Wagga is mentioned to

- describe how rural towns are responding to the salinity crisis.
- give a real-world example of the high costs associated with salinity.
- show that the costs of salinity are trivial when distributed across the country.
- show that the costs of salinity are restricted to rural areas and country towns.

22

The section called *Slow change* suggests that Australian society

- is as ignorant about salinity as it has always been.
- may be about to cause another environmental emergency.
- needs to act now if salinity is to be prevented in the future.
- will be unable to predict the consequences of preventing salinity.

23

Figure 1 shows

- a rising watertable.
- a stable environment.
- a damaged environment.
- the early stages of salinity.

24

Figure 2 shows that, besides rain, the watertable is affected by

- stormwater.
- irrigation.
- soil.
- salt.

25

The intended audience of this text is people who

- are experts in salinity.
- do not know much about salinity.
- are replanting salt-damaged land.
- are measuring the financial costs of salinity.

Read *The double life of a slippery axolotl* on page 6 of the magazine and answer questions 26 to 30.

26

Up until the 1865 exhibition, scientists thought that

- axolotls and salamanders were members of different species.
- axolotls and salamanders did not live in the same natural habitat.
- axolotls were an earlier stage in the development of salamanders.
- axolotls were incapable of changing outside their natural environment.

27

The effect of using the word *So* at the beginning of the second paragraph is to

- shift the reader's attention to a different topic.
- draw attention to a current point of view on the subject.
- signal that the following information picks up from the first paragraph.
- introduce a second argument that is unrelated to the content of the first paragraph.

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What is the *environmental pressure* referred to in the second paragraph?

- the scarcity of food in the lakes where axolotls live
- the aridity of the land near the lakes where axolotls live
- the absence of breeding sites for axolotls in the local environment
- the lack of a reliable food source in the axolotl's natural environment

29

What is likely to affect the amount of thyroxin released in an axolotl?

- differences in its diet
- variations in hours of daylight
- sudden increases in body size
- differences in its physical maturity

30

Which of the following expressions is an example of figurative language?

- were different species*
- reach sexual maturity*
- switch off this biological signal*
- affects a part of the brain called the hypothalamus*

Read *Where on Earth are you?* on page 7 of the magazine and answer questions 31 to 36.

31

Write the numbers 1 to 4 in the boxes to show the stages of the commercial availability of GPS, from its origins (1) to its likely future (4).

limited

pervasive

common

denied

32

Some Internet services act like a beacon ... (paragraph 2)

In context, acting like a beacon suggests

- illuminating a problem area.
- giving away information.
- sending a greeting.
- issuing a warning.

33

Identity theft and security breaches are mentioned to illustrate

- ways the military have used GPS.
- ways of controlling abuses of GPS.
- offences that may arise from abuses of GPS.
- offences that are more serious than abuses of GPS.

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34

The text presents the use of GPS by robbers and burglars as being

- part of a plan by GPS companies.
- a possible application of GPS capabilities.
- an unrealistic fear about GPS development.
- a risk worth taking for the benefits of GPS.

35

In this text, the underlying assumption is that

- the risks of technology outweigh the benefits.
- modern life relies too much on gadgets.
- there is a solution to every problem.
- people are entitled to privacy.

36

Which statement about GPS makes the argument presented in the text more urgent?

- GPS is common.
- GPS is electronic.
- GPS is complicated.
- GPS is revolutionary.

Read *The living night* on page 8 of the magazine and answer questions 37 to 42.

37

In paragraph 1, why are the tourists feeling pleased with themselves?

- They are enjoying their holiday.
- They are looking forward to a surprise.
- They think they are doing something unique and adventurous.
- They think they are knowledgeable about what they are about to see.

38

In paragraph 3, the list of turtle species that lay their eggs on this coast gives an impression of

- security.
- excitement.
- diversity.
- uniformity.

39

Its straining face was eaten by the light of the torches.
(third last paragraph)

This metaphor about the effect of the torchlight

- presents the tourists as intrusive and slightly predatory.
- suggests that the tourists are seeing something for the first time.
- suggests that the turtle is frightened and distracted by the tourists.
- implies that the tourists' behaviour may prevent the turtle laying her eggs.

40

The description of the turtle's flippers as she lays her eggs

- presents her as instinctive and robotic.
- implies that in nature all things are inevitable.
- suggests that she does not know what she is doing.
- compares her with a toy to make her seem childish.

41

This text is supported by the idea that

- the behaviour of predators in the wild is unacceptable.
- turtles would be better off if they could exist without being observed.
- tourism is damaging to the environment in ways that are not understood.
- the world is fiercer and less picturesque than many like to think.

42 In general, the tourists are presented as

- rude.
- hesitant.
- enthralled.
- perceptive.

Read *Inventing daylight saving* on page 9 of the magazine and answer questions 43 to 48.

43 Hudson's address was a part of

- an ongoing discussion of ideas.
- an emotional publicity campaign.
- an announcement of official policy.
- a debate between meteorological experts.

44 What is Hudson's opinion of the idea that people should *alter their habits*? (paragraph 2)

- It is just another way of expressing his scheme.
- It could not be objected to by any reasonable person.
- It is good in theory but could not be put into practice.
- It would work well but would be expensive to implement.

45 When Hudson says, *I am not aware that any systematic attempt has been made to lengthen the hours of labour in summer on this account* (last paragraph), he is

- overstating his case.
- appealing to emotions.
- qualifying an assertion.
- contradicting his own opinion.

46

What is the main idea presented in the final paragraph?

47

Which statement about public opinion is consistent with the underlying assumption in the text?

- It is too powerful to fight against.
- It contains a lot of traditional wisdom.
- It is the result of long, intelligent thinking.
- It can be changed by good, rational arguments.

48

What method does Hudson use to deal with his opponents?

- He refers to expert opinion.
- He ignores their arguments.
- He raises doubts about their motives.
- He points out errors in their arguments.

STOP – END OF TEST

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