



Multiple-choice, choose multiple answer Question Bank

Official Guide

(Lauren Kennedy, 2012)

1.



Rarely has a flag possessed such lasting relevance as that of the “Tricolor,” the national flag of the Republic of Ireland. Its three equal stripes illustrate the Irish political landscape as accurately today as in 1848, the year when the flag was first unfurled.

- orange – standing for Irish Protestants.
- green – signifying Irish Catholics and the Republican cause
- white – representing the hope for peace between them

Why Orange?

The color orange is associated with Northern Irish Protestants because of William of Orange (William III), the King of England, Scotland, and Ireland who in 1690 defeated the deposed King James II, a Roman Catholic, in the fateful Battle of the Boyne near Dublin. William III’s victory secured Protestant dominance over the island, to the enormous benefit of the 17th-century colonizers of Northern Ireland – the English (mainly Anglicans) and Scots (mostly Presbyterians). Sometimes called “Orangemen,” Protestants in Northern Ireland celebrate the anniversary of the battle each July 12th.



Green for the Emerald Isle?

Green as the color standing for the Irish Catholic nationalists of the south may have something to do with shamrocks and verdant landscapes, but more importantly, green symbolizes revolution. An earlier unofficial Irish flag – the gold harp on a green background – served from 1798 until the early twentieth century as a symbol of nationalism.

Which of the following statements are correct with reference to the colors on the Irish flag?

- ☐ Green symbolizes many issues, but most importantly, it represents the verdant landscape.
- ☐ White represents the hope for equality between religious groups.
- ☐ The symbolism of the colors is as meaningful today as at the time when the flag was designed.
- ☐ Prior to 1848 all three colors had little symbolic significance.
- ☐ Orange is associated with Irish Protestants because of the victory of William III.
- ☐ When viewed from left to right the colors of the flag are orange, white, and green.

2.

the almost universal hold of breakfast cereal makes a revealing case study of the evolutionary process behind the modern diet. One of the earliest convenience foods, processed cereals represents a triumph of marketing, packaging and US economic and foreign policy. They are the epitome of a cheap commodity converted by manufacturing to higher value goods; of agricultural surplus turned into profitable export. Somehow they have wormed into our confused consciousness as intrinsically healthy when, by and large, they are degraded foods that have to have any goodness artificially restored. As someone who has never enjoyed the experience of breakfast cereal – whichever brand it was, the bits always seemed to me to go from dusty to soggy in the space of a few mouthfuls—I have long been intrigued by how the British breakfast was conquered and what it tells us about the rest of our food. For this is the elephant in the room of courses: it is the industrial processing of food that is the real problem, and to understand where, not me, but rather it, all went wrong, you have to understand the economic and political structures behind today's food system.

Which of the following most closely represent the ideas expressed in the text?

- ☐ Cereals are a cheap and nutritionally degraded food processed and marketed as a healthy breakfast option.
- ☐ Very few people in Britain ate breakfast before the advent of US marketing.
- ☐ The problems with our modern diet have arisen quickly and without any discernible cause.
- ☐ Processed food for human consumption should have artificially restore nutritional elements.
- ☐ The problems arising from the modern British diet are closely linked to the industrial processing of food.
- ☐ It was not until the Industrial Revolution that people began to eat an appropriate diet.

3.

When we look at a colour photograph ... we have moved ... away from ... the object's intrinsic reality, imposing several extra levels of interpretation. The particular chemical composition of the photographic process used is one level; the colour film (or digital camera) itself automatically reacts to and records colour in the way it has been chemically or electronically profiled, or programmed, to do. Then there is the subjectivity of the colour awareness – vision and creativity of the photographer, the eye behind the camera. Photographers have to experiment with what is

available and discern a way of representing colour that suits their particular visual aesthetic. Then the viewer imposes yet another level of interpretation, bringing his or her own colour appreciation to the existing photographs. If photographs are printed, copied, scanned, viewed on a screen or reproduced on the pages of a book as here, then we are several generations and several future levels of interpretation away from that original colour reflecting object. Is it any wonder that colour photography is maddeningly difficult to describe accurately – and that reactions to it are so diverse – given its wonderful subjective variations?

According to the passage, which of the following aspects make it difficult to objectively describe colour photography?

- ☐ the failure of critics to develop an agreed vocabulary of colour
- ☐ the chemical composition of the film
- ☐ the move to an electronically determined aesthetic
- ☐ objectivity of colour awareness
- ☐ the viewer's own sense of colour appreciation
- ☐ the generational gap between the object and the photograph

4.

X-ray crystallography is the study of crystal structures through X-ray diffraction techniques. When an X-ray beam bombards a crystalline lattice in a given orientation, the beam is scattered in a definite manner characterized by the atomic structure of the lattice. This phenomenon, known as X-ray diffraction, occurs when the wavelength of X-rays and the interatomic distances in the lattice have the same order of magnitude. In 1912, the German scientist Max von Laue predicted that crystals exhibit diffraction qualities. Concurrently, W. Friedrich and P. Knipping created the first photographic diffraction patterns. A year later, Laurence Bragg successfully analyzed the crystalline structures of potassium chloride and sodium chloride using X-ray crystallography, and developed a rudimentary treatment for X-ray/crystal interaction (Bragg's Law). Bragg's research provided a method to determine a number of simple crystal structures for the next 50 years. In the 1960s, the capabilities of X-ray crystallography were greatly improved by the incorporation of computer technology. Modern X-ray crystallography provides the most powerful and accurate method of determining single-crystal structures. Structures containing 100-200 atoms now can be analyzed on the order of 1-2 days, whereas before the 1960s a 20-atom structure required 1-2 years for analysis. Through X-ray crystallography the chemical structure of thousands of organic, inorganic, organometallic, and biological compounds are determined every year.

Which of the following factors are consistent with the theory of X-ray crystallography?

- ☐ X-ray crystallization causes a reduction in the interatomic distance of wavelengths.
- ☐ X-rays are scattered according to the atomic structure of the crystal lattice.
- ☐ The process can be used to determine the chemical structure of biological compounds.
- ☐ X-rays will not diffract in crystalline substances.

5.

September 2, 1752, was a great day in the history of sleep. That Wednesday evening, millions of British subjects in England and the colonies went peacefully to sleep and did not wake up until twelve days later. Behind this feat of narcoleptic prowess was not some revolutionary hypnotic technique or miraculous pharmaceutical discovered in the West Indies. It was, rather, the British Calendar Act of 1751, which declared the day after Wednesday 2nd to be Thursday 14th.

Prior to that cataleptic September evening, the official British calendar differed from that of continental Europe by eleven days—that is September 2 in London was September 13 in Paris, Lisbon, and Berlin. The discrepancy had sprung from Britain's continued use of the Julian Calendar, which had also been the official calendar of Europe from its invention by Julius Caesar (after whom it was named) in 45 B.C. until the decree of Pope Gregory XIII in 1582.

Caesar's calendar, which consisted of eleven months of 30 or 31 days and a 28-day February (extended to 29 days every fourth year), was actually quite accurate: it erred from the real solar calendar by only 11 ½ minutes a year. After centuries, though, even a small inaccuracy like this adds up. By the sixteenth century, it had put the Julian calendar behind the solar one by 10 days.

In Europe, in 1582, Pope Gregory XIII ordered the advancement of the Julian calendar by 10 days and introduced a new corrective device to curb further error: century years such as 1700 or 1800 would no longer be counted as leap years, unless they were (like 1600 or 2000) divisible by 400.

What factors were involved in the disparity between the calendars of Britain and Europe in the 17th century?

- ☐ the provisions of the British Calendar Act of 1751
- ☐ Britain's continued use of the Julian Calendar
- ☐ The accrual of very minor differences between the calendar used in Britain and real solar events
- ☐ The failure to include years divisible by four as leap years
- ☐ The decree of Pope Gregory XIII
- ☐ revolutionary ideas which had emerged from the West Indies
- ☐ Britain's use of a calendar consisting of twelve months rather than eleven

6.

Botswana

Republic of Botswana
President: Ian Khama (2008)
Land area: 226,012 sq mi (585,371 sq km); total area: 231,803 sq mi (600,370 sq km)
Population (2008 est.): 1,842,323 (growth rate: 1.4%); birth rate: 22.9/1000; infant mortality rate: 44.0/1000; life expectancy: 50.1; density per sq km: 3
Capital and largest city (2003 est.): Gaborone, 195,000
Monetary unit: Pula
Languages: English 2% (official), Setswana 78%, Kalanga 8%, Sekgalagadi 3%, other (2001)
Ethnicity/race: Tswana (or Setswana) 79%, Kalanga 11%, Basarwa 3%, other (including Kgalagadi and white) 7%
National Holiday: Independence Day (Botswana Day), September 30
Religions: Christian 72%, Badimo 6%, none 21% (2001)
Literacy rate: 81.2% (2006 est.)

The earliest inhabitants of the region were the San, who were followed by the Tswana. About half the country's people, Batswana, refers to national rather than ethnic origin.

Encroachment by the Zulu in the 1820s and by Boers from Transvaal in the 1870s and 1880s threatened the peace of the region. In 1885, Britain established the area as protectorate, then known as Bechuanaland. In 1961, Britain granted a constitution to the country. Self-government began in 1965, the country became independent. Botswana is Africa's oldest democracy.

The new country maintained good relations with its white-ruled neighbors but gradually changed its policies, harbouring rebel groups from South Rhodesia as well as some from South Africa.

Which of the following are facts specifically concerning the ethnicity of the citizens of Botswana?

- ☐ Just under two million people live in Botswana.
- ☐ Most Batswana speak the official language.
- ☐ The population is comprised of very few Basarwa.
- ☐ Most citizens of Botswana have no religious affiliation.
- ☐ The life expectancy of the average citizen is 50.1 years.
- ☐ People of Tswana background are also referred to as Setswana.

Practice Test Plus

(Kate Chandler, 2013)

1.

Small, localised enterprises are becoming ever-more imaginative in identifying opportunities to boost tourism for their areas. A more unusual attraction is the Old Man of the Lake, which is the name given to a 9-metre-tall tree stump that has been bobbing vertically in Oregon's Crater

Lake since at least 1896. For over one hundred years, it has been largely ignored but recently it has become a must-see item on the list of lake attractions. Since January 2012, tour boats regularly include the Old Man on their sightseeing trips around the lake.

At the waterline, the stump is about 60 centimetres in diameter, and the exposed part stands approximately 120 centimetres above the surface of the water. Over the years, the stump has been bleached white by the elements. The exposed end of the floating tree is splintered and worn but wide and buoyant enough to support a person's weight.

Observations indicated that the Old Man of Crater lake travels quite extensively, and sometimes with surprising rapidity. Since it can be seen virtually anywhere on the lake, boat pilots commonly communicate its position to each other as a general matter of safety.

Which of the following are true of the Old Man of the lake according to the passage?

- ☐ A It has been a tourist attraction for decades.
- ☐ B It is a drifting piece of wood.
- ☐ C It is close to the edge of Crater lake.
- ☐ D It is owned by a local businessman.
- ☐ E It can quickly move about the lake.
- ☐ F It can be a danger to boat users.
- ☐ G It is too small for someone to stand on.

2.

To find it, you have to go digging in rainforests, and to the untrained eye, it does not seem special at all - just a thick layer of dark earth that would not look out of place in many gardens. But these fertile, dark soils are in fact very special, because despite the lushness of tropical rainforests, the soils beneath them are usually very poor and thin. Even more surprising is where this dark soil comes from.

'You might expect this precious fertile resource to be found in the deep jungle, far from human settlements or farmers,' says James Fraser, who has been hunting for it in Africa's rainforests, 'But I go looking for dark earth round the edge of villages and ancient towns, and in traditionally farmed areas. It's usually there. And the older and larger the settlement, the more dark earth there is.'

Such findings are overturning some long-held ideas. Jungle farmers are usually blamed not just for cutting down trees but also for exhausting the soils. And yet the discovery of these rich soils - first in South America and now in Africa, too - suggest that, whether by chance or design, many people living in rainforests farmed in a way that enhanced rather than destroyed soils. In fact, it is becoming clear that part of what we think of as lush pure rainforest is actually long-abandoned farmland, enriched by the waste created by ancient humans.

What is significant about the 'dark soil' that the writer is referring to?

- ☐ A It indicates the presence of good soil below it.
- ☐ B it is not present in rainforests.
- ☐ C It has resulted from agricultural activity.
- ☐ D It is more common in South America than Africa.
- ☐ E It is being found near where humans have lived.
- ☐ F It has confirmed what people have believed for a long time.
- ☐ G It is less productive than people once thought.

3.

When the Maori people first came to New Zealand, they brought the mulberry plant from which they made bark cloth. However, the mulberry did not flourish in the new climate so they found a substitute in the native flax. They used this for baskets, mats, and fishing nets and to make intricate

fibre ceremonial cloaks. Maori identified almost 60 types of flax, and propagated flax nurseries and plantations to supply the integral material.

They chopped the leaves near the base of the flax plant using a sharp mussel shell or shaped rocks. The flesh of the leaf was stripped off right down to the fibre which went through several processes of washing, bleaching, softening, dyeing and drying. Flax ropes and cords had such great strength that they were used to bind together sections of hollowed-out logs to create huge ocean-going canoes, and to provide rigging, sails and lengthy anchor warps for them. It was also used for roofs for housing. The ends of the flax leaves were fanned out to make torches to provide light at night.

For which of the following purposes does the passage say the Maori used flax?

- ☐ A special clothing
- ☐ B cleaning cloth
- ☐ C equipment for boats
- ☐ D walls for their huts
- ☐ E cooking tools

4.

The Neue National Gallery in Berlin was designed by Mies van der Rohe. Built in 1968, it is a jump from the traditional museum concept of a closed building with exhibition rooms. Instead it is an open-plan, flexible space. With only two steel columns on each side, the corners are 'free', giving the building a lightweight look.

The gallery was the first building completed as part of a cluster of buildings dedicated to culture and the fine arts. It is often said that the building is a work of art in itself. The unusual natural illumination in the building, coming from around and below the viewer rather than above, has the effect of shocking the viewer out of their usual way of seeing and encouraging visitors to bring a fresh eye to the art.

The upper level is mainly used for special exhibits, for example, large-scale sculptures or paintings. The vast lower level has space for themed shows, and contains shops, a cafe, and the museum's permanent collection, which ranges from early modern art to art of the 1960s. The podium roof plaza is an open air gallery for public sculpture.

On request, guests may enter the garden to see figurative and abstract sculptures on display there. Special exhibits are attended by specially trained, very personable staff, who field questions, explain the exhibits, and enthuse about their favourite works.

What does the passage say can be found at the Neue National Gallery?

- ☐ A overhead lighting to showcase artwork
- ☐ B substantial pillars in the corners of the building
- ☐ C artwork on top of the building
- ☐ D several separate gallery rooms on each floor
- ☐ E helpful guides to give information about the art

5.

Snow is formed when temperatures are low and there is moisture - in the form of tiny ice crystals - in the atmosphere. When these tiny ice crystals collide they stick together in clouds to become snowflakes. If enough ice crystals stick together, they'll become heavy enough to fall to the ground.

Precipitation falls as snow when the air temperature is below 2°C. It is a myth that it needs to be below zero to snow. In fact the heaviest snow falls tend to occur when the air temperature is between zero and 2°C.

The falling snow does begin to melt as soon as the temperature rises above freezing, but as the melting process begins, the air around the snowflake is cooled. If the temperature is warmer than 2°C then the snowflake will melt and fall as sleet rather than snow, and if it's warmer still, it will be rain. The size and make up of a snowflake depends on how many ice crystals group together, and this will be determined by air temperatures. Snowflakes that fall through dry, cool air will be small, powdery snowflakes that don't stick together. This 'dry' snow is ideal for snow sports but is more likely to drift in windy weather.

When the temperature is slightly warmer than 0°C, the snowflakes will melt around the edges and stick together to become big, heavy flakes. This creates 'wet' snow, which sticks together easily and is good for making snowmen.

Which of the following statements about snow match the information in the passage?

- ☐ A Snow is formed from ice.
- ☐ B Falling snow melts because of warm air around it.
- ☐ C Subzero temperatures are required for snow to fall.
- ☐ D Sleet develops at less than two degrees centigrade.
- ☐ E Dry snow falls in colder temperatures than wet snow.

6.

Water for public supply can be obtained from underground sources by wells sunk into aquifers, or from surface sources, such as purpose-built reservoirs or lakes (collecting rainwater run-off or water from streams) and rivers. The safety of the water is of utmost concern - several million people die each year after consuming contaminated water. The primary aim in water treatment is the elimination of any pathogenic micro-organisms present. All the above-mentioned sources can be subject to pollution. In the case of underground water, polluted surface water can enter the saturation zone of an aquifer and so lead to its contamination. Pollution can come from waste containing heavy metals and organic compounds, farm run-off containing pesticides, and industrial wastes which may have been deliberately dumped down old coal mine shafts. River water can be affected by farm drainage, sewage works and industrial effluents, and also the run-off water from roads. Thus there is a need to maintain the quality of the aquatic environment to ensure that the water is suitable for treatment for public supply, and that the cost of treatment is kept as low as possible.

Raw water is usually abstracted from a river and pumped to a reservoir for storage and settlement. In the reservoir, the number of bacteria is reduced through natural processes, such as ultraviolet

radiation from sunlight. Also, a large portion of the suspended solids settles out. The water is then conveyed from the reservoir to a treatment works.

Which of the following statements are true according to the information in the passage?

- ☐ A There are insufficient sources of fresh water for human consumption.
- ☐ B Industrial pollution can affect both underground and river water.
- ☐ C There are numerous means by which water can become impure.
- ☐ D Rain is a safer source of water for human consumption than aquifers.
- ☐ E Water in reservoirs is chemically treated to remove harmful bacteria.

7.

Much has been written on the wooden sculptures of West Africa, especially Nigeria, which was pre-eminent in the art, for unlike other crafts, wood-carving has long been acknowledged in the West as an art form. Yet, compared with stone or bronze, wood is not a very durable material in tropical conditions and the oldest carvings in Nigeria are probably no more than two hundred and fifty years old. Many of the earliest, maybe the finest of the wood carvings may also have been destroyed by termites. When one is attacked in this way, no attempt is made to preserve it; a new one is made to replace it, for the creativity of making it is valued above the object per se. The finest sculptures were made for religious or ceremonial purposes, and the art of creation was itself a religious act.

What has led to there being no very old wood carvings in West Africa?

- ☐ A the nature of the climate there
- ☐ B Western collectors' desire for such carvings
- ☐ C the fact that other materials were used previously
- ☐ D destruction of the carvings because of religion
- ☐ E problems caused by insects

8.

It is possible to study the curriculum of an educational institution from a number of different perspectives. In the first instance, we can look at curriculum planning, that is at decision-making, in relation to identifying learners' needs and purposes; establishing goals and objectives; selecting and grading content; organising appropriate learning arrangements and learner groupings: selecting, adapting or developing appropriate materials, learning tasks and assessment and evaluation tools.

Alternatively, we can study the curriculum in action, as it were. This second perspective takes us into the classroom itself. Here, we can observe the teaching/learning process and study the ways in which the intentions of the curriculum planners, which were developed during the planning phase, are put into action.

Yet another perspective relates to assessment and evaluation. From this perspective we would try and find out what students had learned and what they had failed to learn, in relation to what had been planned. In addition we might want to find out if they had learned anything which had not been planned.

Which of these ways of looking at an institution's curriculum is outlined in the text?

- ☐ A observing what happens during lessons
- ☐ B evaluating the materials used
- ☐ C analysing the content of tests
- ☐ D considering what is taken into account when preparing the curriculum
- ☐ E comparing this curriculum with other choices that could have been made
- ☐ F reviewing actual learning compared to curriculum goals
- ☐ G assessing the effectiveness of teacher preparation for lessons

Test Builder

(Taylor, 2012)

1.

The flaneur is almost extinct now, it is not just that men - and they usually were men - no longer have the time or the inclination to idly stroll the city streets, taking in the sights and sounds at a leisurely pace while the crowd hurries to and fro about its business, Cities have changed their nature too and, for the most part, people today walk as little as possible,

Baudelaire, the 19th century French poet, was probably the first to describe the flaneur in his essay The Painter of Modern Life, and he himself would often saunter and loiter in the arcades of Paris absorbing the frantic bustle going on around him, The flaneur is the detached, ironic observer in the midst of the crowd, rambling through the city seeing where the streets take him, There is no specific aim in mind; it is not like the evening promenade that still occurs in many Mediterranean towns, where the purpose is to see and be seen, Besides, promenaders usually amble arm in arm with a chaperone. The flaneur is a solitary walker.

As mentioned above, cities have changed and are far less congenial for walking nowadays, Baudelaire's Paris of arcades and narrow, crooked streets disappeared with Baron Haussmann's wholesale redevelopment of the city, These days, despite the provision of public spaces such as parks, city dwellers would rather go to the countryside, and hike up and down hills and valleys where the air is fresh and there are no crowds.

Which of the following words have the same meaning in the passage as "walk"?

- ☐ 1 pace
- ☐ 2 amble
- ☐ 3 saunter
- ☐ 4 bustle
- ☐ 5 promenade
- ☐ 6 stroll

2.

What do we mean by the term "intellectual", and what is a "public intellectual"? It is an odd fact of English culture that it is largely a term of abuse and, when asked to name one, we almost always turn to the continent, particularly France. A typical intellectual in France, we think, will hold down a job as a professor - preferably of philosophy - have a column in a mass circulation daily newspaper, be involved in politics and appear on the cover of Vogue,

Our aversion to intellectuals, or to the term, may go back to when we were at school where nobody likes a "swot". In fact, almost any kind of braininess is disparaged: scientists are mad-haired "boffins", tech-savvy kids are "nerds", and people can be "too clever by half". Indeed, we would claim that we are naturally practical thinkers and too full of common sense to produce such highbrows - a situation not helped by many of the people who we consider to be intellectuals denying the fact. One problem is that of definition: what qualifications are required and what sort of activities does someone have to engage in before they can be called an intellectual? One possible definition is that public intellectuals should be independent of those in power and critical of received ideas. Furthermore, he or she must be someone who raises embarrassing questions in public, contests dogma, and who cannot be persuaded to join governments or corporations,

Let's take a thinker from last century whose theories still have an impact today and see if the definition fits: John Maynard Keynes was an economist who worked for the Treasury and wrote influential books on monetary policy, an art collector, and a member of the Bloomsbury group of writers, artists and intellectuals. Perhaps we need to adjust our definition slightly!

According to the text, which of the following are true of English attitudes towards intellectuals?

- ☐ 1 They never join forces with those in authority.
- ☐ 2 Most people would not be able to name an intellectual
- ☐ 3 In general, the English do not admire/respect intellectuals.
- ☐ 4 Even some English intellectuals do not like to be called intellectuals,
- ☐ 5 They are not clear about what an intellectual is or does.

3.

A Xhosa bride in southern Africa, in contrast to her western counterpart, is expected to show both reluctance and sadness during her wedding - any signs of joy are considered inappropriate. She may even cry, and not without reason, because she is leaving her own family and relatives to live among a group of strangers where she will have to be careful of what she says and does.

For example, a new bride is not allowed to walk across the central meeting place in the middle of the kraal, or village, nor the cattle pen. And when she wishes to go from house to house, she must take the back way. To show respect for her husband's senior relatives, she has to avoid using the names of senior male relatives or even words similar to them, which can lead to some complex paraphrases. Furthermore, she is not allowed to use the personal names of her mother-in-law, nor those of her husband's aunts and elder sisters. Her first priority is the care of her husband, which means doing most of the heavy domestic work. Further constraints are having to wear a handkerchief low over her forehead, never showing her bare head to her husband's relatives, not being allowed to drink milk from the homestead herd, and not touching the drinking utensils.

However, these rules become less strict as time passes. The handkerchief is eventually removed, gifts are exchanged, and family relationships become a bit more relaxed. Finally, there is a ritual

killing of a cow and the bride is allowed to drink the milk of the homestead. However, once she has done this, she can no longer drink the milk of her father's house, symbolizing her final separation from her family.

According to the text, which of the following behaviors are expected of a new Xhosa bride?

- ☐ 1 She is not allowed to drink milk from her father's cows.
- ☐ 2 She cannot use the name of any of her husband's male relatives.
- ☐ 3 At her wedding she is meant to appear unwilling.
- ☐ 4 She is not allowed to enter her new home by the front entrance.
- ☐ 5 She must wear a head scarf when meeting her husband's relatives.
- ☐ 6 She is not allowed to touch plates in the family home.
- ☐ 7 She must avoid using the names of some of her husband's female relatives.

4.

There are perhaps three ways of looking at furniture: some people see it as purely functional and useful, and don't bother themselves with aesthetics; others see it as essential to civilized living and concern themselves with design and how the furniture will look in a room - in other words, function combined with aesthetics; and yet others see furniture as a form of art.

In the past, designers of furniture usually worked for royalty, the nobility, landowners and rich merchants and so were not constrained by the limits of space, economy, or even practicality that inhibit the contemporary designer. Indeed, function was not the first consideration and interiors did not always have to be practical. In the Renaissance, for example, fine furniture and interiors were designed to show off not only the riches of the owners, but their learning, wisdom and good taste as well. No doubt, this attitude still exists among a number of the wealthy.

Apart from a brief period in the 20th century when furniture designers mistook themselves for artists and sculptors, producing, say, chairs that were nice to look at, but impossible to sit on comfortably, modern designers have, for the most part, come to terms with the functional aspect of furniture. These days, a well-designed interior must be practical and exclude what is unnecessary. Limited space must be used imaginatively, and a sense of space and clarity is needed as a setting for efficient living. Therefore, in the modern home, furniture should fulfil a specific purpose, and need as little care and attention as possible.

In addition to this, costs must be kept to a minimum because, these days, there are many luxuries competing for our attention. Function and economy, therefore, are of the utmost importance.

According to the text, how does modern furniture design differ from that of the past?

- ☐ 1 Practicality and economy are the most important considerations.
- ☐ 2 Designers are only employed by the wealthy.
- ☐ 3 Designers are primarily concerned with aesthetic appeal.
- ☐ 4 Modern furniture should need little looking after.
- ☐ 5 Making the best use of available space is important.
- ☐ 6 Furniture should be as decorative as possible.

5.

Why do some countries drive on the left, while others - the majority - drive on the right? In fact, those that drive on the left make up about twenty-five per cent of the world's countries and are, apart from the UK itself, mostly countries that were British colonies: India, South Africa, Singapore, Jamaica, and so on.

Japan does too, although it wasn't a colony, and as late as 2009, Samoa switched from driving on the right largely because they wanted to buy right-hand drive cars made in Japan and New Zealand. The Romans introduced the custom of keeping to the left, a habit that was reinforced in medieval times when riders throughout Europe passed oncoming strangers sword arm to sword arm - this idea is based on the fact that the majority of people are right-handed. An increase in horse traffic towards the end of the 18th century meant that the convention gained strength, but it was not put into law until 1835.

Legend has it that Napoleon is responsible for making the European countries which he conquered keep to the right, for the simple reason either that he was left-handed himself, or that he wanted to be different from his enemy, England. This is most probably nonsense, but an Emperor's whims can go a long way. So France, obviously, and Spain, the Netherlands and other countries Napoleon overran used this system, and over the years other countries adopted the practice to make crossing borders easier and safer. The latest European country to convert was Sweden, in 1967.

According to the text, which of the countries listed below drive on the left?

- ☐ 1 Japan
- ☐ 2 Scotland
- ☐ 3 Spain
- ☐ 4 Samoa
- ☐ 5 South Africa
- ☐ 6 Germany

6.

In 1861, Matthew Brady, a well-known portrait photographer, approached President Lincoln requesting permission to move freely about the country photographing the Civil War. Lincoln granted him permission to travel anywhere with the Union armies, and his record of this conflict brought home to millions the horrors of war.

Brady wasn't the first official war photographer. Six years earlier, Roger Fenton, a lawyer and amateur photographer, had returned from the Crimea, having been personally chosen by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. However, his instructions were more likely to have been to send back work that boosted morale back home rather than the terrible realities of war.

Brady's coverage of the war made him a household name, but he had hundreds of assistants, and it's even possible that he didn't take any of the 7,000 pictures that were marketed under his name. But no one else could have organized the large army of photographers needed to cover the broad sweep of the war and provided access to many leading generals and politicians.

Which of the following statements are true of Matthew Brady?

- ☐ 1 He was given permission to travel anywhere in the US.
- ☐ 2 He was able to give his photographers introductions to politicians.
- ☐ 3 He took as many as seven thousand pictures of the war.
- ☐ 4 He was responsible for organizing a large number of photographers.
- ☐ 5 Before the war he had been an amateur photographer.

7.

Before Luke Howard invented his system for classifying clouds, they had simply been described by their shape and color as each person saw them: they were too changeable and moved too quickly for anyone to think they could be classified in any useful way. Howard had been interested in clouds - and meteorology in general - ever since he was a small boy, and for thirty years kept a record of his meteorological observations. In 1802-1803, he produced a paper in which he named the clouds, or, to be more precise, classified them, claiming that it was possible to identify several simple categories within the various and complex cloud forms. As was standard practice for the classification of plant and animal species, they were given Latin names, which meant that the system could be understood throughout Europe.

Howard believed that all clouds belonged to three distinct groups; cumulus, stratus and cirrus. He added a fourth category, nimbus, to describe a cloud "in the act of condensation into rain, hail or snow". It is by observing how clouds change color and shape that weather can be predicted, and as long as the first three types of cloud keep their normal shape there won't be any rain.

This system came to be used across the European continent, and in the 21st century his cloud classification system was adopted, with some additions, as the international standard, but that was not his only contribution to meteorology. He wrote papers on barometers and theories of rain, and what is probably the first textbook on weather. He can also be considered to be the father of what is now called "urban climatology". Howard had realized that cities could significantly alter meteorological elements. One of these he called "city fog". Nowadays we call it "smog", a combination of smoke and fog.

Which of the following achievements can be attributed to Luke Howard?

- ☐ 1 He wrote a book about barometers.
- ☐ 2 He was the first to notice the different shapes and colors of clouds.
- ☐ 3 He was the first to identify and classify different cloud forms.
- ☐ 4 His classification system became used all over the world.
- ☐ 5 He was the first to use the word "smog".
- ☐ 6 He realized that cities could have an effect on the weather.

8.

When does a hobby or pastime, or whatever you want to call what you do in your leisure time for rest and relaxation, cease to be a hobby or a pastime and become something a bit more serious, such as something you realize can be turned into financial gain, or an obsession that can mess up

your life as much as any other addiction? The whole point of them, of course, is that they are done out of personal interest and for pleasure and enjoyment, not for financial gain.

Most people's hobbies turn out to be easy and stress-free pastimes such as collecting things, making things, sports, playing a musical instrument, reading, and so on. And - so it is claimed - they are good for you, too. Pursuing a hobby can have calming and helpful beneficial effects. For a start, it can take your mind off your problems, and the more interests you have, the more you enjoy life.

One way in which the subject becomes a little bit serious is when you are applying for a job and writing out your curriculum vitae, or resume. There's invariably a section which asks what your outside interests are, and because getting a job is a serious business, and you want to impress your prospective employers, you might find yourself claiming that you like nothing better at weekends than being flown by helicopter to the top of the Alps and then making your way home by snowboard and hang-glider. Perhaps people find themselves doing this because they feel that applying for a job and coming across well at interview is a test of character and being an aficionado of extreme sports is a lot cooler than stamp collecting. But why turn what is supposed to be calming and relaxing into a cause for anxiety?

Which of the following statements are true about hobbies and pastimes, according to the text?

- ☐ 1 They are often used as therapy.
- ☐ 2 They are not pursued for economic profit.
- ☐ 3 Your leisure time activities reveal your true character.
- ☐ 4 Many people do extreme sports because it's cool.
- ☐ 5 Most people's hobbies are simple and undemanding.

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