



Nro. De Control :

LEVEL 6**PART 2 - READING COMPREHENSION**

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Estimated time needed: 40 minutes

Exercise 1 – You will read the text below to do exercises A and B

- A - You are going to read a newspaper article about a computer selecting system.
Choose the most suitable heading from the list A-H for each part (1-6) of the article.
There is one extra heading which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0).

- | | |
|----|---|
| A. | Types of systems available. |
| B. | Consider it a fact. |
| C. | One application – many opportunities. |
| D. | Trust them 100 %. |
| E. | Systems aren't perfect. |
| F. | Future looks bright. |
| G. | Benefits for companies. |
| H. | First step: computer scans application. |

Computers may read your job application

0

H

Computers could be the first obstacle that job applicants face. Forget the C.V. sitting on the corner of your future employer's desk. Instead, your application will have been neatly processed by a computer which will have taken out your name and address, processed your educational background and cross-checked your skills with those demanded by the employer.

1

Then the employer will be presented with a short list of applicants best fitting the requirements he is looking for. It may sound like science fiction destroying the personal touch, but in some companies it is science fact. Many large companies already use some kind of computer selection.

2

A business analyst from one of the major companies already participating in this system says that companies using the new computerized recruitment

systems are rapidly becoming the new corporate "Face Control". He says that three-quarters of companies attending a recent computer exhibition are considering using computer software to help with employee selection within the next five years.

3

Computerized systems already in use range from primitive scanners, which look for key words, to sophisticated systems which can accept applications, focusing on important information such as name, address, phone number, skills, educational background and previous jobs.

4

The advantages for the company are clear. Faced with a bundle of application forms it could take days for a personnel manager to process them all. It is also quite possible that they would get tired and be put off after the first few forms, so the ideal applicant could be missed. On the other hand, a computer could examine three hundred thousand applications in about six seconds.

5

This means that if you have the right qualifications you are much less likely to be passed over.

"At our company all job vacancies are kept on computer and every application that comes in is fed into the system and cross-matched, so a person could apply for one job and be shortlisted for another," said a top analyst.

6

But employers must remember that the best systems are only ninety-five per cent accurate, so mistakes will occur. And there is no way of monitoring the system for the applicant who writes:

"I have never used a word processor or spread sheet," leading the computer to spy two key phrases and assume that is has found an office technology expert.

B - You are going to read a feature article from a newspaper about someone describing what it is like being a twin. Seven paragraphs have been removed from the article. Choose from the paragraphs A-H the one which fits each gap (15-20). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0).

PROBLEMS OF BEING A TWIN

What is it like to live with a mirror-image of yourself always at your side? For some, a twin is a special friend – but for me it was a shadow from which I felt I had to escape.

0

H

Though we may have looked exactly the same on the outside, inside we could not have been more different. My sister was loud and outgoing, while I was quiet and shy. I didn't understand why people couldn't see how different we were and I resented the fact that I wasn't regarded as an individual.

1

I can remember fighting with her on the kitchen floor, feeling I wanted to kill her. But, however much I hated her at the time, we always made up quickly. My feelings for her would switch from love to hate in minutes.

2

Though friends were always trying to set us up with brothers or even other sets of twins, I was never interested. It seemed too freakish.

3

By then, Anne was seeing Neil, who was a childhood friend, and ended up getting up married six months before we did. I have often wondered whether this was a deliberate act of rivalry, but never liked to ask her.

4

I was glad to get away from her, quite honestly. It was like being released. For the first time in my life, I was allowed to be an individual. I didn't miss Anne. We were so busy setting up home that simply we didn't have time for one another. But we spoke on the telephone at least once a week.

5

This was another reminder of how impossible is for us to be free of one another. It's not that I don't care. I love my sister dearly – but preferably at a distance of at least a hundred miles.

6

Everyone else thought it was wonderful. Only my mother said "Oh, no" when she heard the news – because only she understood what it meant to me. But I was very relieved when

Michael and Nicholas were not identical from the start. I couldn't bear it if my sons had a re-run of the relationship between Anne and myself.

A	I don't forget being a twin. It was a unique experience – sharing every part of your life with someone – and only twins know what that can feel like.
B	Neither of us ever had a best friend. I'm sure that was because people found the closeness between us intimidation and thought that they wouldn't be able to have a strong relationship with either of us. It was a similar situation with boys.
C	I couldn't believe it when, two years after the birth of my son Christopher, I was told I was expecting twins. It was the last thing I wanted. Not that I didn't want any more children. I did. But the fact that I was going to have twins scared me.
D	Getting married was my first step away from my sister. After my marriage, my husband and I moved to Hertfordshire where we lived in a four-bedroom detached house. Anne went to live in Derbyshire.
E	I met my husband Guy when I was 17 years old. Having started off as friends, through our shared hobby of bell-ringing, Guy and I quickly became a couple and announced our engagement three months after we started dating.
F	One morning, I suddenly felt something was wrong with her and called her. She was very upset because Neil had just lost his job. I'm glad I called her because it was a time when she needed to talk someone and I know that life can often be difficult.
G	The elder by only five minutes, Anne, always behaved like the big sister, making the decisions for both of us. That was one of the things that annoyed me a lot and so we solved our difference like any sibling would.

KEY TO READING COMPREHENSION. LEVEL 6.

• Part A :

1.B

2. F

3.A

4.G

5. C

6..E

• Part B :

1. G

2. B

3. E

4. D

5. F

6. C

1.66 each answer : Total : 20 points