



Nro. De Control :

LEVEL 6**PART 2 - READING COMPREHENSION**

20

Estimated time needed: 30 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 it has found an office technology expert.

B - You are going to read about the Earth's tectonic plates. For questions 7 to 13, choose the best answer a, b or c.

Most earthquakes are caused by large-scale movements of the Earth's lithospheric plates. and occur at the boundaries between the plates. Experts recognize seven to twelve major plates and a number of smaller ones. The plates take their names from continents (the North American plate): from oceans (the Pacific plate): and from geographic areas (the Arabian plate).

Slow and Steady Motion

The plates are in very slow but constant motion, so that seen from above, the Earth's surface might look like a slowly moving spherical jigsaw puzzle. The plates move at rates of 2 to 15 cm or several inches in a year, about as fast as our fingernails grow. On a human scale, this is a rate of movement that only the most sophisticated instruments can detect. But on the scale of geological time, it's a dizzying speed. At this rate, those almost-four-billion-year old rocks could have traveled all the way around the Earth eleven times. The movement of the plates is generally one of three kinds: spreading, colliding or sliding. When plates are spreading, or separating from each other, we call their movement divergent. When they are colliding, or pushing each other, we call the movement convergent. Movement in which plates slide past each other is called lateral (or transform) plate movement. Earthquakes can accompany each of the three types of movement.

Plate Tectonics

The revolutionary theory of plate tectonics originated early in the 20th century, although it did not gain general acceptance until the late 1960s. The German meteorologist, geophysicist, and explorer Alfred L Wegener is now given credit for the first step in understanding the movement of the lithosphere. In the period 1910-1912 he formulated the theory called continental drift and collected evidence from the rocks, fossils, and climate of various continents to show that they had once been joined together. Wegener had little data on the oceanic crust, so he thought that the continents merely moved through that crust.

7. Earthquakes occur when what parts of the tectonic plates collide?

- the edges
- the centres
- the peaks

8. Tectonic plates can get their names from what?

- cities
- rivers
- seas

9. Why is the phrase "jigsaw puzzle" used in the second paragraph?

- to show how complex everything is
- because of the way the plates fit together
- because of the number of plates

10. Why have the plates travelled so far?

- because they are moving quite fast
- because Earth is not very big
- because of the age of the Earth

11. Can earthquakes be caused when plates are moving away from each other?

- yes
- no
- only if they are touching

12. Why did Wegener's theory take so long to be accepted?

- he had no understanding of the ocean floor
- it was very different from previous ideas in this area
- he made several errors in his theory

13. What evidence did Wegener NOT use to support his theory of Continental Drift when looking at two now-distant locations?

- the existence of similar rocks
- the existence of similar extinct animals
- the existence of similar races of people

KEY TO READING COMPREHENSION. LEVEL 6.

- Part A:

- 1.B
- 2. F
- 3.A
- 4.G
- 5. C
- 6..E

- Part B:

- 7. A
- 8. C
- 9. B
- 10. C
- 11. A
- 12. B
- 13. C

1.53 each answer : Total : 20 points