



Reading

Read the texts and choose the best answer, a, b, c or d.

A

Charity and happiness

We've all heard the phrase 'It's better to give than to receive', but how much it actually goes towards promoting charitable behaviour has been anyone's guess. Very recently, though, this age-old belief has been clinically proved. Studies show that high levels of personal charity contribute to a person's overall contentment.

Two studies in particular back up this claim. In one study, the pleasure centres of participants' brains were monitored to determine what happens in people's minds when they give. They were presented with the opportunity to make a charitable donation at a personal cost, and doing so resulted in a marked increase in the brain activity of these so-called pleasure centres. In another study, participants were handed money and given the option of keeping it for themselves or donating it to charity. The latter reported feeling much happier than their stingy counterparts.

Surveys indicate donating fosters other types of positive behaviour. Generous people feel a greater connection to their community and are more likely to greet strangers on the street warmly, rather than regard them with suspicion. When looking at nations with the happiest citizens, the data reveals that a higher percentage of charitable acts take place in these countries versus less charitable ones.

In promoting charities in the past, governments tended to focus on the tax savings people could benefit from when using donations as tax write-offs. However, given this clinical data, campaigns would be better off endorsing charity as a path to a happier life for its citizens, citing the above findings as proof.

- 1 What is the main purpose of the passage?
 - a to encourage people to be more generous
 - b to discuss activities nations undertake to promote charities
 - c to report the findings of a particular study
 - d to shed light on what happens when we donate
- 2 In general, how do less charitable people seem to behave in their communities?
 - a They often act in a depressed manner.
 - b They show a lack of trust for strangers.
 - c They avoid going out in public.
 - d They often dislike their generous counterparts
- 3 In the last paragraph, what does the writer imply?
 - a People donate when there is a financial advantage.
 - b Governments have been promoting the wrong charities.
 - c Happier countries don't really need to promote charities.
 - d Getting citizens to donate has been challenging.

B

World's most charitable nations

For the past six years, leading international charity Charities Aid Foundation, or CAF, has been publishing an annual index that includes a list of 145 countries and how charitable they are. In compiling the list, the foundation discovered an intriguing contradiction in that some of the most charitable nations are also quite economically challenged.

The list takes into consideration three basic charitable functions – helping strangers, donating money, and volunteering time. Myanmar was reported as taking the top spots for the second and third activities, which is only the second time a single country has held the top spots in two out of the three ways of giving since the charity began the index. CAF puts it down to a cultural practice in Myanmar called 'Sangha Dana', literally, the 'community of giving', which the people of Myanmar are urged to participate in.

CAF notes other factors that contribute to a nation's charitable behaviour, particularly when that nation suffers from great hardship. Iraq is at the top of the list for the index's first charitable function, despite the fact that the country suffers from a profound lack of security. While the country has a deeply ingrained sense of giving, CAF partly attributes the troubled Middle Eastern nation's kind-hearted generosity to an increased need. This can be seen in other countries ranking high on the list who have greatly suffered from conflicts as well as natural disasters.

- 1 What is the purpose of this passage?
 - a to talk about the variety of activities that take place at CAF
 - b to highlight Myanmar's place at the top of CAF's charity index
 - c to explain how and why poor countries are highly generous
 - d to inform readers of how much charity occurs worldwide
- 2 Which statement does the writer make about Myanmar?
 - a It is the first country to be placed at the top of two charity indicators.
 - b A culture of generosity plays a major role in Myanmar's charity.
 - c It scored high in how helpful its citizens are to strangers.
 - d More citizens donate money than volunteer their time.
- 3 Why does CAF believe Iraqi citizens are generous in the way that they are?
 - a It's mainly because of their culture.
 - b A variety of factors are at play.
 - c They are facing increased hardship.
 - d It does not involve giving money.

Vocabulary

1 Circle the correct words.

- The government hopes to **donate** / **reform** the national tax collection system by bringing in strict new laws.
- Emily **snuggled** / **doubled** up under the warm blankets and was soon fast asleep.
- Harriet **rolled** / **curled** her eyes in disgust as she heard her brother boasting to his friends about how clever he was.
- The smell of baking **permeated** / **savoured** the entire house as Katy prepared the bread, cakes and biscuits for that afternoon's tea party.
- Mrs Carter likes to **make up for** / **keep up** appearances by wearing her expensive jewellery and fashionable clothes, but in reality, her business may soon go bankrupt.
- Maureen is **volunteering** / **sponsoring** her grandchildren to go on a ten-mile hike in the mountains; they're raising money for a new school swimming pool.
- We **provide** / **pledge** each participant with an information pack and a copy of the day's schedule.
- Each student is expected to **contribute** / **benefit** ideas in the weekly class discussions.

___ / 8

2 Complete the sentences with the correct adjective form of the words in bold.

- At our school you have to study maths, English language and at least one science subject, but geography is _____ so I'm not going to take that.
- Anna has made her college room look very _____ by adding pretty curtains and a colourful rug.
- There has been a _____ increase in the number of students gaining 'A' grades since the new 'study buddy' programme was introduced.
- He did so little work on the project that his contribution was deemed to be _____.
- The professors in the philosophy department enjoy nothing more than a good _____ discussion.
- The cut to his leg healed very well and the scar that was left is almost _____.
- The hotel had a very _____ atmosphere – the staff greeted us by name and offered us glasses of fresh juice as soon as we arrived.
- An anonymous donor has made a _____ contribution to the school's rebuilding fund.

OPTION
HOME

MARK

SIGNIFY

INTELLECT

PERCEIVE
WELCOME

SUBSTANCE

___ / 8

3 Complete the sentences with the nouns.

deprivation donation hand lease readership terms

- The new owner was able to double the newspaper's _____ from what it had been under the old management.
- A generous _____ from a private individual will allow the foundation to continue its charity work.
- My elderly aunt's grandchildren have given her a new _____ of life.
- The _____ of your contract clearly state that you are not permitted to work for other companies.
- After her father and brother lost their jobs, Lucy's family were living _____ to mouth.
- It is well known to teachers that sleep _____ can seriously affect their pupils' academic performance.

___ / 6



4 Complete the sentences with one word in each gap.

- Police have vowed to crack _____ on petty crime in the city centre area.
- Please cross-check each name _____ that person's signature in the register.
- Rudolfo was destined _____ a brilliant career in professional football until a serious injury put an end to his hopes.
- I know the manager's office is somewhere on this corridor, but could you point me _____ the right direction?
- Local firefighters and volunteers reacted instantly _____ the news that a fire had broken out in the factory on the edge of town.
- The protesters are planning to present their petition _____ the mayor in the hope that they can save the park from developers.

____ / 6

Vocabulary: ____ / 28

Grammar

1 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

- _____ (encourage) to contribute to the class discussion, Emily came up with some very interesting ideas.
- While _____ (eat) in the staff canteen, Harry picked up on some interesting office gossip.
- _____ (volunteer) to help at the dog shelter, Katy had to get up early every Saturday morning.
- She groaned after _____ (hear) her brother's terrible joke.
- _____ (not want) to seem unfriendly, she moved her chair over so that Jake could sit down at the table.
- _____ (daydream) about her summer holidays, Phoebe didn't hear the teacher repeatedly asking her the same question.
- _____ (be) tall for her age, people often think that Carol is older than she actually is.

____ / 7

2 Rewrite the sentences, beginning with the words given.

- It was the first time I had felt so frightened.
Never _____.
- She remembered the hardships of her childhood well.
Well _____.
- The spontaneity of the children's dancing enchanted her most.
What _____.
- You must never break the terms of your contract, whatever happens.
Under no _____.
- The changes to her appearance were so minor that nobody noticed any difference.
So _____.
- Harold was the person who felt most strongly about the issue.
It _____.
- She had just offered to foster a child when a little girl was brought to her home.
No sooner _____.

____ / 7

3 Complete the second sentence so it has the same meaning as the first sentence, using the word in bold. You must use between three and six words, including the word given.

- 1 I think Pamela and I were equally stressed.

AS

I think Pamela _____ I was.

- 2 She feels worse when he puts her down.

THE

The more _____ she feels.

- 3 Her reaction was more emotional than I had expected.

REACTED

She _____ than I had expected.

- 4 I don't know anyone less spontaneous than Dennis.

THE

Dennis _____ person I know.

____ / 8

4 Circle the correct words.

- 1 There was **such** / **so** a convivial atmosphere at the party!
- 2 Is Helen **old enough** / **enough old** to watch this horror film?
- 3 These menu options are **fairly** / **a good deal** healthier than those in the fast food place.
- 4 He's too mean **to donate** / **for donating** any money to charity.
- 5 Claire felt **such** / **so** lonely in the city that she decided to move to a village.
- 6 He was **enough** / **pretty** angry about his son taking the car without permission.
- 7 She wasn't **smartly-dressed enough** / **too smartly-dressed** to be allowed admission to the expensive club.
- 8 She was **too stressed** / **stressed enough** to enjoy her weekend away.

____ / 8

Grammar: ____ / 30



Writing

Read this writing task.

You are a member of a health and fitness club. You recently asked your local leisure centre to help you organise a day of activities related to healthy living. They organised a cooking workshop, lectures on nutrition and exercise classes for children, adults and the elderly. The manager of the leisure centre has written asking if you thought the event was a success. Write a letter to the manager assessing the event and making any suggestions for next year's event.

Write your letter. (220-260 words)

Writing: ____ / 10

Mark: ____ / 80