

TEXT 1

Read the following text and complete each blank with the best option from the box. Each option can be used only ONCE. There are **four extra options** that you will not need. *Item 0* is an example. Do not forget to transfer your answers to the answer sheet. (3.5 points: 0.5 each)

BACKGROUND	DISILLUSION	PREVENTED	UNLIKELY
BONDING	FOSTERED	PRONE	WITHHOLDING
BROADCASTING	HAUNTED	THUS	YET

HENRY VIII'S LAST VICTIM

Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, was an aristocratic courtier, a soldier, and the poet who introduced blank verse into English poetry. In January 1547 he was the last person to be executed by the dying King Henry VIII. With this (0) background it is hardly surprising that he became, for generations afterwards, a romantic hero. It is a virtue of Jessie Childs's biography that she shows Surrey as he really was - vainglorious, violent, outspoken to the peril of himself and others, something of a preposterous figure at court by 1546 - (1) _____ retains empathy with him. She also analyses his poetry with a sensitive eye, giving us an unusual insight into a Tudor mind.

Surrey was born in 1517, eldest son the Duke of Norfolk, premier peer of the realm. Surrey inherited his father's social attitudes, but not his considerable political abilities. While Norfolk was a highly skilled politician, a manipulator who could hide his feelings about commoners such as Thomas Cromwell, Surrey strutted around the court (2) _____ his contempt for those without noble blood. Hypersensitive to any slight, he was twice imprisoned for aggressive behaviour at court. His exaggerated air of superiority (3) _____ his making friends, and by the time of his fall he had become a laughing-stock. Meanwhile he spent vast sums on his houses and - tellingly - on paintings of himself.

One wishes Surrey had had the sense to see his true vocation was poetry - for which, as Childs shows, he had very considerable talent. The poems show us, pathetically, a man who for all his vainglory was (4) _____ by a sense of loneliness, separation and unworthiness. Given the poems' adoption of female voices and celebration of male (5) _____, one wonders whether he might have been bisexual, although he and his devoted wife Frances had five children. Meanwhile, Surrey was present at the executions of his cousins Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard. It was, however, the condemnation of his cousin Thomas for an illegal marriage that seems to have brought a growing (6) _____ with the moral values of the royal court which Surrey expressed, allusively but still dangerously, in his poems.

By 1546 the king was dying, and religious reformers were in the ascendant. They resolved to bring down Surrey, who was beheaded on Tower Hill on January 19, 1547, at the age of 29.

Childs's description of these complex manoeuvres, as of the French wars, is excellent, although occasionally she falls into the error of assuming how people felt at a particular time. Henry was not, for example, "exhilarated by the prospect of a summer progress" in spring 1541; the northern progress had been brought hastily together because of a danger of rebellion, and whatever Henry was feeling it is (7) _____ to have been exhilaration. But that is a minor criticism. Overall, this book opens a fascinating window on the mid-Tudor world.

TEXT 2

Read the following text carefully and choose the correct answer (a, b or c) according to the text. *Question 0* is an example. Do not forget to transfer your answers to the answer sheet. (3 points: 0.5 each)

WHEN DAD'S OTHER HALF IS AWAY

Like most adult children of long-term marriages, it is nearly impossible for me to imagine one of my parents without the other. In my case, it is not just because my mother and father are two years' shy of having been married for six decades, but also because I live with my folks, and rarely see them apart from morning till night.

But then, earlier this month, an odd thing happened. My mother, who rarely even wanders around town without my father, went away for a week to visit her ailing best friend in Florida. My dad suddenly did not have his other half.

I could see how our social structure was altered her first night away. My father was parked on one of the two wingback chairs in the family room (we call them "The Thrones," as they are reserved each evening for Nana and Papa, who sit in them while watching the nightly news over a cocktail). While the drink was not missing from his hand (my dad is the mixologist in the family), the chair next to him was hauntingly empty, as was the kitchen, where my mother would normally have something bubbling for their dinner if I was going out with my husband, Daniel.

The problem was ... it was Wednesday. That is the night we routinely head to a pub quiz in town with our friends. Like the slacker parents we are, we usually take our son, Charles, encouraging him to rush through his high school homework in time to lend his youth-culture knowledge to our team of 50-somethings.

Thinking both strategically (my father knows every detail of World War I and II and has an astounding memory), as well as practically (there were hardly any edibles at home, and he would be at a loss if he had to fix something for himself), we asked him to join us.

Our friends were overjoyed to see him at the pub. Most of them have known my father since they were Charles's age. But they were particularly excited when one of the quiz questions was to name a cocktail made with Irish stout, Irish cream and Irish whiskey (my dad's ancestors come from Ireland, though the answer, an Irish Car Bomb, was lost on him).

Halfway through the two-game evening — after he had answered a tough question on Eisenhower and another on the Marshall Plan — I generously allowed the youngest at our table (who had an exam the next day) to drive the oldest home (his grandfather was now wanting to order the whole table Car Bombs). But it was much to the dismay of my competitive quiz mates.

Assuming I had now done my daughterly duty for the week, I was instead confronted over coffee the next morning by a perky Papa. "Where are we watching the game Saturday?" he asked about our college football team. "Maybe we should get tickets. But with your mother gone I have nobody to come with me." I knew Daniel had a ticket to go to the game with his sidekick, but asking him to maneuver my father around the stadium at night surrounded by students who would have been boozing since noon did not sound like a stellar idea. I sent a text to Charles

to see if he was free to watch the televised game on Saturday night with his grandfather. Thinking he may attend the game with my older brother, he refused to commit. I quickly cancelled my girl's night out for Saturday.

Dashing home late that night, I walked in to find Charles and my dad eating pizza in front of the game. "I made them," Charles said of the frozen pizzas my dad had bought, the smell of a charred one still lingering in the house. Charles had graciously decided to stay home at the last minute seeing I was not there.

As I sat down to watch the game finally, my father informed me some old friends from Canada had called earlier in the day to say they were in town. "I invited them over for a bite tomorrow," he told me. Normally, he and my mother go out for brunch after church every Sunday. "Fantastic," I murmured, wondering if we had any eggs. But what I really wanted was my mommy back.

Adapted from ©The New York Times

0. According to the text, the writer's parents

- a. are rarely apart from her during the day.
- b. have children who are all in long-term marriages.
- ✓ c. **will have been married for 60 years in two years' time.**

1. At home the writer's

- a. father is in charge of fixing drinks.
- b. husband and her have reserved seats.
- c. mother always does the cooking.

2. The writer and her husband

- a. are very concerned with their son's school work.
- b. consider their son a helpful addition to their pub quiz team.
- c. participate in a pub quiz with older people on Wednesdays.

3. One of the reasons why the writer's father was invited to join them was that

- a. he could only cook uncomplicated dishes.
- b. he was knowledgeable in some fields.
- c. they didn't want to leave him alone at home.

4. When faced with a question on an Irish cocktail, the father

- a. failed to get it right though he was expected to.
- b. knew the answer due to his family background.
- c. surprised everyone by answering correctly.

5. The writer cancelled her plans for Saturday because

- a. everyone else seemed to be otherwise unavailable.
- b. her son didn't want to stay at home with his grandfather.
- c. she thought her husband would be too drunk to take her dad along.

6. At the end of the article, the writer feels overwhelmed because

- a. her father and son had burnt everyone's dinner.
- b. her father caught her unaware by asking some people to drop in.
- c. she must acknowledge that she cannot cook.

TEXT 3

Read the following text carefully and decide which of the options below is the most appropriate to fill in each gap. Each option can be used only ONCE. There are **three extra options** which do not match any gaps. *Item 0* is an example. Do not forget to transfer your answers to the answer sheet. (3.5 points: 0.5 each)

THE NATION THAT HATES TO BE LATE

The Swiss derive genuine joy from the fact that life unfolds on time and in a highly efficient manner. Although many countries are saddled with stereotypes, (0) E.

The alpine nation really *is* highly efficient. And meticulously punctual. Clean, too. For chronically tardy, resolutely inefficient (not to mention slovenly) people like myself, a visit to Switzerland yields a cocktail of emotions: awe, relief and a dash of irritation.

For the Swiss, punctuality is not merely a nicety, a bonbon in the buffet of life. (1) _____. The Swiss, it seems, subscribe to the German philosopher Schopenhauer's definition of happiness as "an absence of misery". They derive genuine joy from the fact that life unfolds on time and in a highly efficient manner.

Whenever I visit Switzerland, I go through several stages of punctuality reaction. At first it delights me, especially if I'm coming from neighbouring Italy or France, (2) _____. By contrast, life in Switzerland is sturdy and dependable, like a Saint Bernard dog. If someone says they will meet me at 2 pm, they arrive at 2 pm not 2:05 (or 1:55, for that matter). I like this. For a while. Then it annoys me. The extreme punctuality strikes me as a kind of stinginess, and I find myself agreeing with the English writer Evelyn Waugh who said that "punctuality is the virtue of the bored."

That is unfair though, and finally, invariably, I come to appreciate Swiss punctuality for what it is: a deep expression of respect for other people. (3) _____. By showing up on time – for everything – a Swiss person is saying, in effect, "I value your time and, by extension, I value you."

It's no coincidence that the Swiss are the world's watchmakers. Which came first – the precise timekeepers or the precise people? Hard to say, but the result is the same: a nation where the trains – and everything else – really do run on time. Then there are the toilets.

"Have you seen our public toilets?" asked Dieter, a Swiss doctor, over an afternoon beer in Geneva. "They are very clean." He's right. Swiss toilets are indeed clean, (4) _____. In some countries it would be suicidal to drink the tap water. In Switzerland it is fashionable to do so; the water comes from natural springs.

How to explain this cleanliness and punctuality? No one knows for sure. But a popular theory is that, historically, it stems from the unforgiving, mountainous terrain. Either you planted your crops on time and harvested them promptly or, well, you starved.

Punctuality, sadly, (5) _____. Mobile phones are partly to blame. We feel less compelled to arrive on time if we can always text to say we're running a few minutes late. I don't sense that is happening in Switzerland, though.

(6) _____. For one thing, it creates a kind of bunching effect. Coffee shops in Swiss cities tend to be crowded at 4pm every day because everybody takes their coffee

break at *exactly* 4pm. In apartment buildings, residents must abide by a strict weekday schedule for use of the laundry room.

Extreme punctuality also creates an expectation, and (7) _____. On those rare occasions that things do not function smoothly, the Swiss get flustered – and angry. Recently, the country was thrown into a tizzy with the disturbing news that only 87.5% of the trains run by the federal railroad arrived within three minutes of their scheduled time, shy of their 89% target.

But perhaps that frustration has some merit. After all, Switzerland has some fierce competition when it comes to punctuality. In Japan, the Shinkansen bullet trains make the Swiss railroads look downright tardy. The average annual delay? Thirty six seconds.

Adapted from © BBC

- A. a punctual person is a considerate one
- B. as is everything else too
- C. contrary to popular belief, is on the rise
- D. if it is not met, disappointment ensues
- ~~E. in Switzerland's case they are entirely accurate~~**
- F. it is also a source of deep contentment
- G. is a dying art in many parts of the world
- H. punctuality is not without its drawbacks
- I. when the lack of punctuality becomes common
- J. which has to be fulfilled
- K. with a rather more flexible approach to timekeeping

Apellidos: _____

Nombre: _____

NIVEL C1

PRUEBA DE COMPRENSIÓN ESCRITA

CALIFICACIÓN FINAL:

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Apto

No Apto

READING SKILL (10 POINTS)

TEXT 1: HENRY VIII'S LAST VICTIM (3.5 points)

	ANSWERS
0	BACKGROUND
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

TEXT 2: WHEN DAD'S OTHER HALF IS AWAY (3 points)

	A	B	C
0			X
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

TEXT 3: THE NATION THAT HATES TO BE LATE (3.5 points)

	LETTER
0	E
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

**KEY
 READING SKILL
 C1**

TEXT 1: HENRY VIII'S LAST VICTIM (3.5 points: 0.5 each)

ANSWERS	
0	BACKGROUND
1	YET
2	BROADCASTING
3	PREVENTED
4	HAUNTED
5	BONDING
6	DISILLUSION
7	UNLIKELY

TEXT 2: WHEN DAD'S OTHER HALF IS AWAY (3 points: 0.5 each)

	A	B	C
0			X
1	X		
2		X	
3		X	
4	X		
5	X		
6		X	

TEXT 3: THE NATION THAT HATES TO BE LATE (3.5 points: 0.5 each)

ANSWER	
0	E
1	F
2	K
3	A
4	B
5	G
6	H
7	D