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SECTION A

COMPREHENSION

Read the following passage carefully before attempting any questions.

APPLES

- 1 One of the first things a child learns is the alphabet, and almost always, “A is for apple.” The apple has been around for so long that it can be called the first fruit. Hieroglyphic writings found in the pyramids and tombs of the ancient Egyptians indicate that they used the apple both as food and medicine. Not only has it been at the beginning of alphabet songs, but also at the center of legends, folklore, and even religion, for thousands of years, from Adam and Eve to Johnny Appleseed.
- 2 The people of the United States love apples. The state of Washington produces 32 million boxes of apples a year. Washington’s orchards supposedly began from a single tree that was planted in 1827 from a seed given to Captain Simpson of the Hudson Bay Company by a young woman from London. That tree is still standing!
- 3 Years ago, apples were used to *relieve* gout, skin eruptions and nerves. They are so popular around the world that they have all kinds of superstitions and traditions attached to them. The peasant of Westphalia used apples mixed with saffron as a cure for jaundice. There is also a legend in Devonshire, England, that an apple rubbed on a wart will cure it. On Easter morning, peasants in a province of Prussia eat apples to insure against fever. The Turks believe that the apples have the power of *restoring* youth.
- 4 Today, doctors use apple therapy for stubborn cases of diarrhea in patients of all ages, including babies. Raw apple is cut into very fine slices or used in a specially prepared concentrate. This treatment is often used for what is called the “lazy colon”, and is also good for babies who are ready to begin a solid diet. Many of the *essential* vitamins and minerals in apples contain a pre-digested form of fruit sugar which makes them an ideal fruit for infants and *invalids*.
- 5 When you cook apples, be sure to do so over very low flame. It is best to cook them in a stainless steel utensil, so that the delicate pectin, vitamins, and minerals will be preserved as much as possible. Apples, of course, are best raw and are good in various kinds of salads. There are so many kinds of varieties of apples that almost anyone can find an apple to suit his *palate*. Since there are summer, winter, and fall varieties, apples can be obtained fresh all year round.
- 6 Apples are alkaline food. They also contain pectin, which has the ability to take up

excess water in the intestines and make a soft bulk that acts as a mild, non-irritating
7 stimulant. This stimulant aids in natural bowel elimination.

The iron content of apples is not high, but it has a property that helps the body absorb the iron in other foods, such as eggs and liver. It contains a generous amount of calcium, and this calcium aids the system in absorbing the calcium in other foods. Apples contain 50 percent more vitamin A than oranges. This vitamin helps ward off colds and other infections. The vitamin also *promotes* growth, keeps the eyes in good condition, and prevents night blindness.



Comprehension questions

From paragraph 1:

1. According to the passage, what is the first thing that a child learns?

.....
.....

2. How do we know that the ancient Egyptians used apples?

.....
.....

3. Give an evidence to show that apples have been around for a long time.

.....
.....

From paragraph 2:

4. What fact shows us that the people of the United States love apples?

.....
.....

5. Who was Captain Simpson and what did he do?

.....
.....

From paragraph 3:

6. Apples *'have all kinds of superstitions and traditions attached to them'* .
Give **THREE** examples. Number your answers 1-3.

.....
.....
.....

From paragraph 4:

7. In what way are apples used by doctors today?

.....
.....

From paragraph 5:

8. How should we cook apples?

.....
.....

9. Why is it that '*almost anyone can find an apple to suit his palate*' ?

.....
.....

10. Why are apples available '*all year round*' (line 30)?

.....
.....

From paragraph 6:

11. What role does pectin play in '*natural bowel elimination*' ?

- A. Pectin absorbs the necessary water in the stomach and makes a hard soft bulk which helps in the process of excretion. ()
- B. Pectin gives out the excess water in the intestines and makes a soft bulk which helps digestion. ()
- C. Pectin absorbs excess water in the intestines and makes a soft bulk which helps in the process of excretion. ()
- D. Pectin gives out more water in the stomach and makes a soft bulk which helps in digestion. ()

From paragraph 7:

12. Explain how apples are better than oranges?

.....
.....

GRAMMAR AND USAGE

VERB CLOZE

Fill in each blank with the correct form of the verb in the brackets.

Thomas looked around, (1)..... (feel) a little nervous. It (2)..... (be) pitch dark. He (3)..... just (offer), quite voluntarily to go first on the 'ghost walk'. As part of their camp activity, each scout (4)..... (have) to go on this 'ghost walk'. Each person had to walk around the school compound alone, and unaided by any lights.

Every corner seemed (5)..... (hide) something scary and terrifying. Then he heard a sudden sound and (6)..... (jump).

When he finally (7)..... (reach) the end-point of the 'ghost walk', Thomas breathed a sigh of relief. Although there (8)..... (be) no real danger, he had still felt scared because he had to walk alone and in the dark.

"So, Thomas, how was it?" (9)..... (ask) one of his friends. "Was it very scary?"

"Not really, (10)..... (not worry). You'll be fine," Thomas replied with a grin.

ADJECTIVES

Write the comparative (older / more modern etc.) and the superlative (oldest / most modern etc).

e.g. **bad**

worse

worst

- | | | | |
|----|-----------|-------|-------|
| 1. | large | ..... | ..... |
| 2. | happy | ..... | ..... |
| 3. | beautiful | ..... | ..... |
| 4. | careful | ..... | ..... |
| 5. | good | ..... | ..... |