

## SÈRIE 2

**PART ESCRITA****PART ONE: READING COMPREHENSION**

Answer the following questions according to the information in the text *The naughty boy of Europe*.

[Questions 1, 2 and 3: 1 point each. Questions 4 and 5: 0.5 point each]

1. For some people, unemployment is one of the main causes of problems among teenagers but the author of the article is not so sure. Why?
  - The weakness of this explanation is that many of the problems in teenagers affect the entire social scale, not just the poorer families.
    - Because family instability and poverty often accompany each other, it is difficult to say which one has a greater influence on teenagers' behaviour.
    - ... adolescence persists longer and the assumption of adult responsibilities takes place later in life than it previously did ...
2. According to the author, what should be done to fight against delinquency and other problems among teenagers?
  - one way in which the government can make a difference is to keep more children in school [...]
  - British teenagers should get more support from their families
3. Why are teenagers' problematic behaviours in Britain 'the price of progress'?
  - Prolongation of education may be causing an unwanted side effect because teenagers get their first job later in life.
  - Adolescence persists longer and the assumption of adult responsibilities takes place later in life than it previously did.
  - During this prolonged adolescence, British teenagers tend to get less support from their families than adolescents in other countries and this may be the real cause of most of their problems.
  - *A combination of the above*
4. The author believes that one of these problems is more serious than the others. Which one?
  - A. Causing trouble at school
  - B. Breaking the law**
  - C. Drinking
5. One of these sentences is true. Which one?
  - A. Young people in Britain have as many problems as those in other European countries.
  - B. Problems among British teenagers have increased in the last few years.**
  - C. In Britain boys are more of a problem than girls.

**PART AUDITIVA:****SLOW FOOD INTERVIEW**

In this radio programme you are going to listen to the following words. Read and listen to them. Make sure you know what they mean.

Cool	que mola, guai / que mola, guay
Mass-production	producció en serie, a gran escala / producción en serie, a gran escala
Small scale farm	explotació agrícola familiar / explotación agrícola familiar
Taste	tastar, gust / probar, saber a, gusto

Ready?

Now read the questions on the next page.

Read them carefully before listening to the radio programme.

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**SLOW FOOD INTERVIEW**

Andrew: Peggy Burton is a journalist in *The New Yorker*. Slow Food is a movement and Peggy Burton has just published a book about it. The title of the book is "*Slow Food for all*". It's rare for a book about a movement to make your mouth water. But then again, it's rare for a movement to be about things as delicious as crepes cooked in a real wood-burning fire and served with home-made strawberry jam. Or simply about apples that taste like apples!

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Andrew: When one starts reading your book, Peggy's, it becomes immediately obvious that Slow Food, it's not just a delicious movement, but a whole philosophy of life. Your stories of young and mature people who desert burger restaurants and go back to traditional foods ...

Peggy: But that's what's happening now, Andrew. Remember how eating had been turning into a routine, an obligation, something you did because you had to

A: You mean, like, like having to go to the dentist?

P: Yeah. That's good. Thank you. The name for that nasty practice is "Fast Food" And to think that many believed that Fast Food was linked to progress and fashion!

A: But that's still true for many people...

P: Exactly. But many have started thinking that Fast Food is not "cool" any more... Enter a fast food restaurant and you don't know whether you are in Tokyo, Buenos Aires, or Barcelona. Eat a cheeseburger and you don't know where the meat comes from or how the cows were fed. Not to mention the cheese!

A: Cheese? You mean that yellowish paste they put on cheeseburgers?

P: Exactly! It's immoral to give the sacred name of "cheese" to something that looks like melted plastic!

A: Yeah, but the truth is that mass-produced food is cheaper. Many people, especially the young ones, can't afford buying the type of very high quality peaches photographed in your book. Isn't Slow Food an elitist movement?

P: Listen. A peach grown by a small-scale farmer may be a bit more expensive. But, damn! It tastes like a peach, and when you buy it you're keeping that farmer in business. He won't have to emigrate or live on governmental subsidies.

A: Maybe. But, what's the alternative to that? What do you suggest?

P: Slow Food is all about recovering the pleasures of eating well. It's important to promote foods that are carefully grown and lovingly prepared and to educate people to appreciate them.

A: Isn't it a bit idealistic? A well-intentioned idea with no practical consequences?

P: Oh, no. Not at all. You see ... Slow Food promotes specific actions. For example, our project *The Ark of Taste* tries to identify and catalogue products, dishes and animals that are in danger of disappearing.

A: Cataloguing endangered foods... And then what...?

P: Then we take action. We have created Slow Food Presidia, a financial organisation that provides small-scale producers with financial support. We introduce their products to restaurants and to food-lovers around the world. We contact chefs from ...

A: Wait!

P: And we publish *Slow*, a specialised magazine, in five languages: Italian, English, French, German and Spanish that contributes to spread our ideas and ...

A: Wow!

P: There's much more. We are devoting great energy to Taste Education. We organise taste workshops and tasting courses. We have created a university course called The Master of Food ...

A: The Master of Food? I like it. Imagine a dignified professor setting for homework something as "Please, taste these five different types of cheesecake during this weekend and on Monday we'll discuss ..."

P: Well, I have to admit that our courses are very pleasant. Some of the lessons happen over long, tasty meals...

A: I'd be a top student! But how did the movement begin, Peggy? Who got the idea?

P: Slow Food was born in 1986 out of a protest over McDonald's coming to Rome. Now this association has over 60,000 members in all five continents, many of them in the USA, especially in New York.

A: Peggy! Today, your explanations made my mouth water. So, what do I have to do if I want to become a member of Slow Food?

## QUESTIONS

1. Slow Food is a ...
  - ✓ **A new philosophical movement.**
  - B campaign organised by dentists to teach people to eat slowly.
  - C reaction against fast food restaurants.
  
2. Peggy says that many young people ...
  - A are fascinated by fast food restaurants and their style of life.
  - ✓ **B are starting to think that fast food restaurants are not trendy any more.**
  - C think that the best fast food restaurants are in Buenos Aires, Tokyo and Barcelona.
  
3. In Peggy's book there are, at least, photos of ...
  - ✓ **A delicious peaches.**
  - B cows on a farm.
  - C cheeseburger-type of cheese.
  
4. The interviewer suspects that the Slow Food movement is ...
  - ✓ **A too idealistic and a bit elitist.**
  - B a big business.
  - C a passing fashion.
  
5. The *Ark of Taste* is a project that tries to ...
  - A help farmers who emigrate to start a new life.
  - B start a new specialised magazine.
  - ✓ **C catalogue and preserve endangered foods.**
  
6. *Slow Food Presidia* project ...
  - A promotes endangered products in restaurants around the world
  - ✓ **B helps financially the farmers and food makers that work with endangered products.**
  - C try to find important cooks who use endangered products in their recipes.
  
- a) The *Slow* magazine is published in five languages. Two of them are ...
  - A Japanese and French.
  - B Spanish and Dutch.
  - ✓ **C German and Italian.**
  
8. What is special about the course "Master of Food"?
  - A Weekend homework consists of tasting home-made products.
  - ✓ **B Some lessons take place over long delicious meals.**
  - C Only top students are accepted

**SÈRIE 5****TALES OF YOUTH AND AGE****PART ONE: READING COMPREHENSION**

Answer the following questions according to the information in the text *Tales of youth and age*.

[Questions 1-3: 1 point. Questions 4-5: 0.5 point.]

1. Write two positive consequences of social changes for the young.  
Possibilities:
  - [In the rich world, the latest transformations have been paradoxical and] opportunities for the young have been proliferating.
  - The companies of the 1990s became less hierarchical, seniority counted for less, initiative and creativity for more
  - When technology conspires today to benefit those who are able to exploit it, the balance shifts distinctly towards the young
  
2. The writer makes several predictions for the 21 st century. Select and copy two of them.  
Possibilities:
  - The conflict between youth and age could be one of the defining issues of the 21st century.
  - The conventional worry is that rich countries will, by 2025, have too little youth and too much old age. [...]
  - In the developing countries, a time comes, perhaps nearer 2050, when that same problem [have too little youth and too much old age] will arise and battles between the young and the old could come to dominate politics]
  - If governments allow for it, the line between work and retirement should also fade
  
3. Say two areas in which age differences are less marked today than they were years ago.
  - [Thanks to science] People feel young and look young.
  - Old music hits (like the Beatles) are becoming top-sellers.
  - The line between work and retirement disappears as more people continue working into their 70s or even 80s.
  
4. One of these sentences is true. Which one?
  - a. There has never been such a good understanding between the younger and the older generation.
  - b. Changes in demographic direction cannot be predicted but their economic results can.
  - c. Economists fear that both rich and developing countries may soon have more consumers than producers.**
  
5. One of these sentences is true. Which one?
  - a. In the new economic organisation, mature age is becoming more important than youth.
  - b. We ask ourselves if in this century war and recession may cause changes in the predictable demographic tendencies.**
  - c. We can state that in the near future conflict between generations will be a thing of the past.

**PART AUDITIVA:****An interview with success**

In this TV programme you are going to hear the following words. Read and listen to them. Make sure you know what they mean.

Kindness	-	Amabilitat / amabilidad
Achieve	-	Aconseguir / conseguir
Down to earth	-	Amb els peus a terra, realista / con los pies en el suelo, realista

Ready?

Now read the questions on the next page. Read them carefully before listening to this interview.

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Interviewer: Welcome to "Stairway to the Sky". One of our most popular television programs these days is "Mission: Success", a talent-search contest similar to "American Idol" in the US or to the British show "Pop Idol". Young people perform on television every week trying to get the votes they need to stay in the music Academy. Only three of them will be the winners and represent our country in the next Eurovision contest.

Our guest tonight is Jimmy Stevens, one of the six semifinalists. He is very talented. He has thousands of young supporters, and many people think he could win.

Int.: Good evening, Jimmy. Thanks for visiting us tonight. We know how difficult it is for you to leave the Academy.

Jimmy: Yes. Producers are not very willing to allow contenders out of the Academy, but I'm delighted to be here.

Int.: First of all, we would like to know how you got into this, Jimmy.

Jimmy: I had finished university, and I couldn't get a job. I had lots of free time, and I heard about the program. They were looking for people with some experience in the world of music, you couldn't be older than 30, and you had to agree to spend three months living with the group of contenders, sharing lessons, daily routines...

Int.: What did your family think?

Jimmy: My father was not happy about it. He couldn't understand why for three months he could only see me on the television screen. Fortunately, my mother convinced him.

Int.: Was the selection process very difficult?

Jimmy: We had to sing in different styles, and we had to dance in front of professional dance teachers. It was hard. To be honest, I didn't have much hope.

Int.: You were selected. And then, you moved into the Academy. What was it like at first?

Jimmy: Strange. Everybody was very friendly, but we didn't feel really comfortable until we got to know each other. Now we get on quite well, even with those who have been voted off the program.

Int.: It must be hard to wait and see whether you are selected for the next round. Do you feel nervous before hearing the verdict?

Jimmy: Yes, especially now that we are so close to the finals. It's sad for us to see any of our friends leave, even though it means we are staying. I didn't think that would be so difficult to accept.

Int.: Do you actually have such good relationship? It seems hard to believe.

Jimmy: We get along very well. You see? We are partners in the same adventure. People with a common goal. I see my colleagues as people trying to achieve the same objective: to become a famous pop singer.

Int.: But, you're runners competing in the same race, aren't you?

Jimmy: Not really. We may be runners, but we are running on different races. Certainly not against each other. Our main objective is not just to win the contest. We want to become pop singers for the whole of our life, not just for a television program!

Int.: What about fame, popularity. Is it easy to live with?

Jimmy: Not at first. Having lots of people around you, shouting your name and asking for an autograph is not easy. And you must be very careful. Fame can easily go to your head. It takes time, but I honestly think I'm used to it now.

Int.: You really sound like a very down to earth person, Jimmy. What do you think are your chances in this contest?

Jimmy: Well, I could be the next one to be voted out and, frankly, I would be disappointed. I've worked hard, but if I have to go, I will accept it and wish my friends good luck in Eurovision. Still, I have the feeling that I can get to the finale.

Int.: We'll be there to support you, Jimmy. Well, time is over, and we must say good-bye. Maybe next time you visit us, it will be as the Eurovision winner, or a popular singer with millions of fans across the country. Good luck, and thank you for your being with us at "Stairway to Sky", Jimmy.

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## Questions

1. Jimmy Stevens decided to take part in the contest because:
  - a) He had always wanted to work as a pop singer.
  - b) He needed the money because he didn't have a job.
  - c) **He had a lot of free time after finishing university.**
  
2. How did his parents feel about the whole idea?
  - a) **His father wasn't happy first, but later Jimmy's mother convinced him.**
  - b) Both believed he wouldn't be able to see Jimmy until two weeks before the end of the contest.
  - c) His father convinced his mother that she could only see him after two weeks.
  
3. What was it like when the selected people moved into the Academy?
  - a) They felt friendly and comfortable since the beginning.
  - b) They didn't feel comfortable because not everybody was friendly.
  - c) **They were friendly but they didn't know each other very well.**
  
4. When they know the name of the next person selected to leave...
  - a) They feel relieved because they are staying.
  - b) They feel sad because they can be the next one to leave.
  - c) **They feel sad about their friends.**
  
5. Contenders see one another...
  - a) As people who are fighting against each other fiercely.
  - b) **As people who have the same goal.**
  - c) As potential competitors.
  
6. Does Jimmy agree with the idea that participants are like runners competing in a single race?
  - a) No, they run different races because their interests are different.
  - b) No, he thinks they help each other to win the contest.
  - c) **No, they run together, but the finish line is to become a pop singer, not only to win the contest.**
  
7. Jimmy finds popularity...
  - a) **Something difficult to understand first, but he has got used to it in the end.**
  - b) Something necessary for promotion and success.
  - c) As a constant surprise when people come to you and ask for an autograph.
  
8. Does Jimmy think he has any chance to win?
  - a) No, he thinks he will be the next to be expelled.
  - b) Yes, but he wouldn't like to lose at all.
  - c) **Yes, he has the feeling he can get to the end of it.**