



ECL próbavizsga

Pécsi Tudományegyetem Idegen Nyelvi Titkárság

English

Reading

C1

Név: _____

Iskola: _____

Osztály: _____

Reading Part 1

You are reading an article about museums. The gaps need to be filled in with the proper answer. There is an example already done for you.

Michelangelo's Captives can tell you a few things about museums and popularity. These two great nudes, one struggling heroically against the ropes binding him, the other dying **0** _____, stand in the Louvre in Paris, and by any sane definition they are, among its treasures, the most exciting sculptures by Michelangelo anywhere outside Italy. And the crowds ignore them. It is heartbreaking to see **1** _____ rush by with barely a glance at these wonderful works of art. It's positively surreal. Anywhere else, these sculptures would be what people came to see, but this is the Louvre, and a disturbingly high proportion of visitors only have eyes for one thing – they are all hunting for the Mona Lisa.

No one can visit the Louvre and see **2** _____ many of its visitors exhibit without wondering if it's better for museums to be unpopular. It is so much more inspiring, in a way, to visit a place like the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna where **3** _____. But in reality museums want and need people. With high attendance figures like those just announced by the British Museum come more shop and ticket proceeds and better **4** _____ eager to back a winner.

The British Museum's director, like a Roman general at a triumph, should have Michelangelo's slaves at his shoulder **5** _____ by whispering: remember the Louvre. Also remember Tate Modern. Many of the pitfalls of popularity were exhibited there during its first few years. Why were the crowds coming? What did they want and, more importantly, what did they need? Tate Modern **6** _____ on a slippery slide of mass cultural folly. It has been too easy to go there and come away again without learning anything. Why does it have to have its current display of street art painted all over it, like something that might decorate a Nike store? Museums don't need to pursue fashion that desperately.

The British Museum's road to success has been very different, and should give every museum confidence in the intelligence of the public. Give people ideas and they get excited: that's the admirable lesson it teaches. The director set out to make it a radical museum, using its collections **7** _____. His blockbusters have a point, and this means when people flooded in to see the Terracotta Army they were being invited to think big thoughts about China, ancient and modern, while even the current show of American prints is framed as a meditation on American identity. And there is the potential danger for the British Museum: not all art is "relevant". The American prints show is really just a nice collection of American prints. It is being promoted as if it were something much more urgent.

The British Museum **8** _____ to turn itself from a neglected old London institution to regain its rightful place as one of the world's leading museums. It has done that through serious ideas, and hopefully it will gradually be able to present its wonders more and more **9** _____, especially as better funding improves the look of some of its rather tired, old permanent displays. A museum with no one to look at its collection is a sad place. But one **10** _____ without seeing anything is even sadder.

Reading Part 2

Read the following article about dreams. Then complete the statements about the article. The first statement is done for you as an example.

What did you dream about last night?

Were you chased by some unseen phantom through dark woods; did you get intimate with a Hollywood film star; or were you simply doing some shopping in your local supermarket? According to new research that has analysed more than 22,000 dreams, you're most likely to have dreamt the latter.

There are many theories on the purpose, if any, of dreams. One suggests that dreams are random images created by the brain as it reworks the previous day's events, while another proposes that dreaming is simply the brain keeping itself occupied with home-made B movies while the body sleeps. Yet another theory is that they are a part of a survival strategy that evolved in early Man to help him to learn while he slept so he could recognise and deal with threats in a hostile world. Others suggest that dreams have a kind of mulling-over effect, helping to solve problems that cannot be dealt with while awake, or that they are part of the process of memorising the previous day's events, or that they can somehow foretell the future.

Although there are many of these theories they broadly split into two camps: those that suggest a function for dreams; and those that propose they have no purpose. "The fact that we remember so few of our dreams, a few per cent at best, argues against any function for dreams. If they are so important, why don't we remember more of them? If dreams are important, why aren't the recallers of them better off in some way?" says Dr Bill Domhoff from the University of California. "We are thinking creatures because thinking is a valuable adaptation, but that doesn't mean that all forms of thinking have a function."

Dr Domhoff and his colleagues have used new search tools to investigate the content of the individual dreams in the Dreambank, a database whose contributors range from scientists and academics to teenagers, middle-aged women and pensioners. It includes 86 dreams from a physiology graduate student at Massachusetts Institute of Technology that date back to 1897 and 90 dreams from a psychologist recorded between 1913 and 1965.

The findings raise questions about what people dream about. According to the research as many as 75 to 80 per cent of dreams deal with everyday personal concerns and interests. A dream series from one man that they analysed in detail showed that his mother and father appeared in 23.09 per cent of dream reports, friends in 53.9 per cent, driving 24.5 per cent, outdoor activities 17 per cent, eating 13.7 per cent and sport 6.1 per cent.

The theory that dreams are not full of magical worlds and bizarre fantasies but are about events in our day-to-day lives has been bolstered by other research, for example researchers at the University of Florence found that musicians dream of music more than twice as often as non-musicians. Other research has shown that the number of women dreaming about work has increased at the same time as the proportion of women in the workforce has risen.

But although the everyday content seems to support the idea that dreams have no function other researchers have shown otherwise. Researchers at the University of Turku in Finland have found support for an evolutionary purpose of dreams. When they analysed nearly 600 dreams they found that two thirds contained at least one threat, and that more than 60 per cent of these threats were likely to be experienced in real life.

The idea is that during dreaming the brain builds up a model of the world taking into account what happened in the real world so that strategies can be planned and problems solved. "In the ancestral environment human life was short and full of threats" says Dr Antti Revonsuo a psychologist at the

University of Turku. “A dream-production mechanism that tends to select threatening waking events and simulate them over and over again would have been valuable for the development of threat-avoiding skills.”

Research at Harvard University has found support for another idea, that sleeping and dreaming boost daytime learning. When they woke people as soon as they had fallen asleep and then analysed the content of their dreams researchers found that the subjects were already processing images from a computer game they had been playing beforehand. That, say the researchers, suggests nocturnal brain processing was helping them to play the game better.

Jim Horne, the director of the Sleep Research Centre at Loughborough University, and author of *Sleepfaring*, is sceptical about the value of analysing the dreams of others.

The idea that dreams have an essential function is further undermined, he adds, by research showing that people taking some drugs, including certain anti-depressants, do not dream at all for months. Dreaming, he suggests, is a consequence of the brain not wanting to be switched off for eight hours and its needs to be stimulated. The job of dreams, it seems, may be to keep the brain entertained and the body asleep. “They are the cinema of the mind where the brain creates junk B movies that are entertaining, but which mean little and are best forgotten.”

Statements

E.g. New research suggests that last night’s dream was probably about shopping in the supermarket.

1. One theory indicates that dreaming is the brain’s way
2. Because of our weak memory of dreams, some researchers believe
3. The Dreambank contains the dreams of people
4. The Dreambank’s research suggests most
5. Other researchers have found that how we spend our time
6. Finnish research findings show that a large proportion of dreams
7. It may be that when we dream the brain is preparing us
8. may be another benefit of dreaming.
9. Studying other people’s dreams may
10. According to Jim Horne, dreams function as