A colourful world

Reading

MULTIPLE CHOICE: PAPER 1, PART 1

1. You are going to read an article about the medical condition synesthesia. For questions 1-8, choose the answer (A, B, C, or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

1. What happens to people with synesthesia?
   A. They cannot see certain colours.
   B. They do not see things in the same way as other people.
   C. They have problems with counting and numbers.
   D. They are unable to taste and smell most things.

2. What do experts think about synesthesia?
   A. It is an illness.
   B. It is imaginary.
   C. It does not really exist.
   D. It is possible to prove.

3. How quickly do synesthetes see the triangle in Ramachandran and Hubbard’s picture?
   A. Very quickly.
   B. Very slowly.
   C. The same speed as ‘normal’ people.
   D. They cannot find the triangle.

4. What colour do synesthetes see the number 4?
   A. Different synesthetes will see a different colour.
   B. Most synesthetes think it is orange.
   C. Most synesthetes think it is green.
   D. For most synesthetes the colour is constantly changing.

5. What kind of colours do synesthetes see when they look at numbers?
   A. Vague colours.
   B. Unpleasant colours.
   C. Very precise colours.
   D. Very basic colours.

6. How do many artists feel about their synesthesia?
   A. They feel depressed.
   B. They feel frightened.
   C. They have been a major problem in their life.
   D. They think it has been beneficial.

7. It is likely that a synesthete knows someone else with the condition because
   A. a large percentage of people have it.
   B. people in the same family often have it.
   C. most people know they have the condition and they tell other people about it.
   D. it is very common nowadays.

8. How many synesthetes associate the same number with the same colour after a year?
   A. all of them
   B. about half of them
   C. the same number as ordinary people
   D. the minority of them

Wednesdays are red, but Mondays are green

Look at the numbers at the top of the page. What colours do you see? Probably none as the numbers are all in black and white, but there is a small group of people who would see these numbers in many different colours. These people have the condition synesthesia, which means that their five senses react to things in unusual ways. When they hear a sound, they may see a colour. When they touch something, they may smell something too – and smell something that no one else can. These people, synesthetes, see, hear, smell and touch things that other people do not. When they see a number, like those at the top of this page, they may see a colour. They may also associate colours with days of the week so that Wednesdays are red and Mondays are green. And this condition is not that rare: experts believe that 1 in 2,000 people are synesthetes.

There is an argument that synesthesia is just imagination, that it is not real. But two scientific researchers, Ramachandran and Hubbard have proved that it does exist. They use a picture with five examples of the number 2 mixed up with lots of examples of the number 5, because the two figures look very similar. The examples of number 2 were all placed in the shape of a triangle. When the picture was shown to synesthetes, they instantly saw the triangle made out of the number 2. Most people can only find the triangle by checking every number in the picture.

The strange thing is that synesthesia is different for everyone. So one synesthete may say that 4 is blue, and another might say that it is orange. Even more strange is that synesthetes do not just say that the number is red or green: they actually give a detailed description of the colour, such as ‘tomato red’ or ‘lime green’.

So is synesthesia a form of madness? The answer is simple: no. Most synesthetes lead normal lives and often do not know that they see the world differently to other people. Interestingly, many writers, composers and artists have been synesthetes and they credit it with being an inspiration in their work. For many of these people, their artistic life would have been very different if they had not had the condition. Indeed, now that more is known about it, scientists and historians are hypothesising about historical figures who may have been synesthetes.

So finally, how do the experts discover if someone is a synesthete? Firstly, many people with the condition are female, left-handed, and of normal, or higher than normal, intelligence. They possibly have relatives with the condition, as it is genetic. In addition to this, although there are hundreds of different forms of synesthesia, those who associate colours to numbers always associate the same colour with the same number. In tests held in 1993, non-synesthetes did not connect the same colour with a number after one week. Every one of the synesthetes could still identify the same colour with the same number twelve months later.
Reading

GAPPED TEXT: PAPER 1, PART 2

1 You are going to read an article about the Mongolian emperor Genghis Khan. Seven sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences (A-H) the one which fits each gap (1-7). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

A But the reverence in which he is held by mainstream Mongolians comes as a shock to visitors.
B During this event Mongolian men and boys compete in the three "manly sports" of wrestling, archery and horse-racing.
C Historians also point to the introduction to the West of inventions such as gunpowder and paper that his empire made possible.
D Throughout his lifetime he extended his rule to the south and west.
E The Mongolian president was formerly a student at Leeds University in the UK.
F This is because of disputes over building contracts.
G This is presumed to be Genghis himself.
H In a radical reshaping of Genghis's popular reputation, historians are increasingly taking the Mongolian side.

2 Find these words and phrases (1-8) in the text. Then match the definitions (a-h) to the words and phrases.

1 clan ______ 2 rituals ______ 3 overlooked ______ 4 an advocate ______ 5 the steppe ______ 6 hordes ______ 7 reinvigorate ______ 8 mass ______

a ignored, did not notice b a large area with open grass and no forests c using a large number of something d religious ceremonies e give energy to f a supporter g a large family group h a large group of people

The Mongolian capital has been covered with images of its former leader, Genghis Khan, for the anniversary of his unification of the nation in 1206. A crowd of onlookers including visiting royalty gathered in the city for the event. At the climax of celebrations in Ulan Bator yesterday, soldiers in traditional uniform heralded the unveiling of an enormous statue of the Great Khan in the main Sukhbaatar Square. The monument contains earth and stones from the holy and historic places in Mongolia associated with his rule.

Genghis Khan was born in 1162, the son of a murdered clan chief. After a childhood spent mostly on the run from family enemies, he was elected the tribes' Great Khan in 1189.

1. Finally his reign came to an end when he fell from his horse and died in 1227.
2. Genghis has always had a cult of admirers.
3. After all, in the West his name is associated with bloodshed and terror.
4. To those who still think of themselves as his people, he is a unifying symbol. "People know his military side, but they do not know his philosophy," said Nomer Tsadnyaam, a 30th-generation descendant who is trying to revive the sky-worshipping rituals Genghis performed.
5. Mr Tsadnyaam is not alone in his assessment.
6. "The West was blinded by his conquests," said Jack Weatherford, the American author of Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World. "They overlooked his great impact on law and commerce. He outlawed the kidnapping of women, guaranteed diplomatic immunity to ambassadors and granted religious freedom to all people."
7. "He was an advocate of free trade and a flat tax system," Mongolian President Enkhbayar told a gathering of journalists. "He changed the whole world."
8. Unfortunately, the monument of Genghis Khan remains half-finished. Mr Enkhbayar unveiled it beneath scaffolding.

The ceremony was timed to match the beginning of the annual festival of Naadam. Visitors can also watch Genghis Khan - the Rock Opera in the state theatre. On the steppe outside Ulan Bator, 500 members of the armed forces are re-enacting the campaigns of the Khan's hordes.

Despite the money being spent on the monument and the celebrations, most Mongolians seem to appreciate the effort to reinvigorate the memory of Ghengis Khan.

Recent studies based on mass DNA testing have suggested that 16 million men living in Eurasia are descended from one person in the early 13th century. President Enkhbayar said: "That shows he is not just Mongolia's; he is the world's."
Part 3

You are going to read a magazine article in which various people talk about their jobs. For questions 16–30, choose from the people (A–D). The people may be chosen more than once.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Which person says their job involves

large amounts of paperwork?  

training high-level staff in their area of work?  

taking measures to protect public safety?  

accepting certain financial limitations?  

encouraging visitor participation?  

listening to disagreements?  

doing considerable background research?  

introducing problems that require solutions?  

balancing supply and demand?  

producing advertising literature?  

organising trips designed to increase people’s awareness?  

constant updating of their own materials?  

corresponding with the public?  

working in an area that has personal meaning for them?  

working with a team of colleagues?

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**My line of work**

Four people talk about their jobs.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>Lisa – Exhibition Programmes Organiser, Science Museum</th>
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<td>I’m responsible for putting temporary exhibitions together. This includes planning and designing the exhibition and promoting it. I have to read up about the subject of the exhibition beforehand and then talk to important people in the area so that I can establish the main themes and aims of the exhibition, and plan what objects and pictures should be displayed. I have to make sure the public can understand the thinking behind the exhibition, which means planning interactive displays, workshops and theatre. I also have to bring in engineers and electricians to make sure the final display is not dangerous to visitors. Before the exhibition opens, I help design and write the brochures and leaflets that we’ll use to tell people about it.</td>
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<th>B</th>
<th>Janet – Teacher of London Taxi Drivers</th>
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<td>The first thing I do when I get here at 7.30 a.m. is check the accounts. Then I see what new maps and documents need to be produced in order to learn the ‘runs’ or routes necessary to pass the London taxi-driver test. By midday, about 50 students are in school, working out how to make the journeys. They work out the most direct route, using the correct one-way streets, and right- and left-hand turns. I get involved when there’s a difference of opinion – like whether you can do a right turn at a particular junction. When they’re close to the test, I’ll give them a simple route and no matter what way they say they’ll go, I’ll tell them they have to use another route because the road is closed. The next student will have to find a third route and again I’ll come up with a reason why they can’t go that way. It’s just to make them think.</td>
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<th>C</th>
<th>Sarah – Marine Conservationist</th>
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<td>I live by the coast and work from home. This involves responding to telephone enquiries, producing educational resources and setting up training courses. Occasionally, I go into our main office but generally I am on the coast. I also work with schools and study centres and run courses for coastal managers and those involved in making decisions about the fate of the seas. I do things like take them out to sea in a boat in an attempt to make them think more about the life underneath them. This often changes their views as it’s very different from making decisions using a computer screen. I am extremely lucky because conservation is my hobby, so the job has many highs for me. The downside of the job is that I work for a charity, so there is a constant need for more money. This means I’m always looking for more resources and I’m not able to achieve everything I want.</td>
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<th>D</th>
<th>Chris – Map and Atlas Publisher</th>
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<td>My work is pretty varied. I have to make sure that the publishing programme matches market requirements, and ensure that we keep stocks of 300 or so of the books that we publish. We have very high standards of information and content. We receive many letters from readers on issues such as the representation of international boundaries and these in particular require a careful response. I discuss future projects and current sales with co-publishers. I work as part of an enthusiastic group which makes the job that much more enjoyable. The negative side, as with many jobs, is that there is far too much administration to deal with, which leaves less time to work on the more interesting tasks such as product development and design.</td>
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