

READING COMPREHENSION

PASSAGE SET - 1

Migaloo is by far one of the world's most recognisable whales, because he is completely white. Thanks to genetic sampling of Migaloo's skin, scientists have identified that he's male, and his albino appearance is a result of a variation in the gene responsible for the colour of his skin. Simply by looking different, Migaloo has become an icon within Australia's east coast humpback whale population. Indeed, Migaloo has his own Twitter account with over 10,000 followers, and website where fans can lodge sightings and learn more about humpback whales.

He was first discovered in 1991 off Byron Bay, Australia, and has since played hide and seek for many years, with many not knowing where or when he'll show up next. He's even surprised Kiwi fans by showing up in New Zealand waters. With the last official sighting two years ago, the time has once again come for us to ask: where is Migaloo? Already this year there have been false sightings, such as a near all white whale spotted off New South Wales. To make things more confusing, regular-looking humpbacks can trick whale watchers when they flip upside down, due to their white bellies.

Q.1. What is the theme of the passage?

- (a) Protection of whales
- (b) The sighting of Migaloo
- (c) The extinction of Migaloo
- (d) Whale hunting and its aftermath

Q.2. How can regular-looking humpbacks trick whale watchers?

- (a) By posting tweets on Twitter
- (b) By appearing secretly and unexpectedly
- (c) By showing their white coloured bellies
- (d) By displaying their huge size

Q.3. Where was Migaloo first discovered?

- (a) South Wales
- (b) Australia
- (c) Jamaica
- (d) New Zealand

Q.4. Select the suitable word given in the passage which means 'turn over with a sudden quick movement'.

- (a) Albino
- (b) Flip
- (c) Humpback
- (d) Lodge

Q.5. What is the tone of the speaker?

- (a) Pessimistic
- (b) Descriptive
- (c) Cynical
- (d) Melancholic

Q.1- (c)

Q.2- (b)

Q.3- (b)

Q.4- (b)

Q.5- (b)

PASSAGE SET - 2

It is not an exaggeration to say that the question of where and when the Black Death, the deadliest pandemic ever, originated is one of the biggest mysteries in human history. After all, the Black Death was the first wave of the second plague pandemic of the 14th to early 19th centuries. It killed some 50-60% of the population in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa and an unaccountable number of people in Central Asia. Different proposals, based on competing theories, have been put forward. But in 2017, I came across some records describing an intriguing medieval cemetery in Kara-Djigach, Chuy Valley.

northern Kyrgyzstan, which I suspected may hold the key. As part of a multidisciplinary team co-led by Maria Spyrou at University of Tübingen, we have now investigated several specimens from individuals buried at that site and come up with an answer. The idea that the Black Death originated in the east territories overlapping, roughly speaking, Central Asia, Mongolia and China dates back to the contemporaries of the pandemic in Europe and the Islamic world. The modern, academic Chinese origin theory dates back to at least to in 1756-8 and a publication about the history of Central Asia by French scholar Joseph de Guignes.

Q.1. What is the tone of the speaker?

- (a) Humorous
- (b) Explanatory
- (c) Pessimistic
- (d) Informal

Q.2. What is the theme of the passage?

- (a) Pitfall of Black Death
- (b) Impact of Black Death
- (c) Origin of Black Death
- (d) History of Black Death

Q.3. How does the passage describe Black Death?

- (a) The first wave of the second plague pandemic
- (b) The worst specimen of human created tragedy
- (c) The specimen of human evolution and its evidence
- (d) The initiator of all the future pandemics

Q.4. Select the suitable word given in the passage which means 'areas of land under the jurisdiction of a ruler or state'.

- (a) Territories
- (b) Contemporaries
- (c) Population
- (d) Mysteries

Q.5. Which of the following may be the probable origin of Black Death, according to the passage?

- (a) Kyrgyzstan
- (b) India
- (c) Mongolia
- (d) China

Q.1- (b)

Q.2- (c)

Q.3- (a)

Q.4- (a)

Q.5- (a)

PASSAGE SET - 3

Ghana was the first true African state. The reason why we are saying this is that most African states lived in tribal villages but Ghana was the centre of gold trade. This gold trade opened new possibilities for the Ghanaians. The gold trade roots back to the 4th century, when African Soninke tribes were under the rule of the Maga, a Berber clan originating from Morocco. This clan has mastered trans-Saharan camel travel. They were known for trading salt for gold from the Soninke. When the Arabs invaded North Africa, there was an upsurge in the trade in gold. Ghana became rich and soon after, the Soninke ousted the Maga and built their own nation under Kaya Magan Cisse, who became the Soninke king around 790.

Ghana's ancient capital, Koumbi Salah, was the city where Africans and Berbers met and traded. Arab traders in the 9th century described Ghana as 'the land of gold. The gold came from Asante and Senegal, to the south and west. The trade routes led north and east to Morocco, Libya and Aksum and so on to Europe and Asia. Ghana had reached its peak in the 10th century. This was the country which controlled both the gold and salt trades. Other trading goods included woollen clothes, luxury items, leather goods and slaves. Traders transported goods hundreds of kilometres across the Sahara desert with camel caravans.

Q.1. Maga, a Berber clan originated from:

- (a) Morocco
- (b) Senegal
- (c) Aksum
- (d) Libya

Q.2. Select the most appropriate title for the passage.

- (a) Ghana - land of gold
- (b) Ghana - land of tribes
- (c) Ghana - land of Berbers
- (d) Ghana - land of trade

Q.3. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word. Controlled

- (a) Profuse
- (b) Promise
- (c) Practicality
- (d) Agitated

Q.4. Select the one-word substitute from the passage for the given group of words. Rapid or sudden rise

- (a) Caravans
- (b) Ousted
- (c) Upsurge
- (d) Ancient

Q.5. _____and_____ were the foundation of Ghana's trade in ancient times.

- (a) Woollen clothes; luxurious items
- (b) Leather goods; slaves
- (c) Gold; salt
- (d) Camel; caravans

Q.1- (a)

Q.2- (a)

Q.3- (d)

Q.4- (c)

Q.5- (c)

PASSAGE SET - 4

While there is no denying that the world loves a winner, it is important that you recognise the signs of stress in your behaviour and be healthy enough to enjoy your success. Stress can strike anytime, in a fashion that may leave you unaware of its presence in your life. While a certain amount of pressure is necessary for performance, it is important to be able to recognise your individual limit. For instance, there are some individuals who accept competition in a healthy fashion. There are others who collapse into weeping wrecks before an exam or on comparing mark sheets and finding that their friend has scored better. Stress is a body reaction to any demands or changes in its internal and external environment.

Whenever there is a change in the external environment such as temperature, pollutants, humidity and working conditions, it leads to stress. In these days of competition when a person makes up his mind to surpass what has been achieved by others, leading to an imbalance between demands and resources, it causes psycho-social stress. It is a part and parcel of everyday life. Stress has a different meaning, depending on the stage of life you are in. The loss of a toy or a reprimand from the parents might create a stress shock in a child. An adolescent who fails in the examination may feel as if everything has been lost and life has no further meaning. In an adult the loss of his or her companion, job or professional failure may appear as if there is nothing more

to be achieved. Such signs appear in the attitude and behaviour of the individual, such as muscle tension in various parts of the body, palpitation and high blood pressure, indigestion, and hyperacidity. Ultimately, the result is self-destructive behaviour such as eating and drinking too much, smoking excessively, relying on tranquilisers. There are other signs of stress such as trembling, shaking, nervous blinking, dryness of throat and mouth and difficulty in swallowing. The professional under stress behaves as if he is a perfectionist. It leads to depression, lethargy, and weakness. Periodic mood shifts also indicate the stress status of the students, executives, and professionals.

Q.1. What is the tone of the passage?

- (a) Authoritative
- (b) Anxious
- (c) Informative
- (d) Dejected

Q.2. Which situation does NOT lead to stress?

- (a) Finding a penny on the ground
- (b) Giving exams as a teenager
- (c) Loss of job as an adult
- (d) Losing a toy as a child

Q.3. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of 'success' from the passage.

- (a) Neglect
- (b) Laxity
- (c) Default
- (d) Failure

Q.4. What does excessive stress NOT result in?

- (a) Hypertension
- (b) Indigestion
- (c) Relaxation
- (d) Palpitation

Q.5. Select an appropriate title for the passage.

- (a) Levels of Stress in Different Age Groups
- (b) Stress and Relief
- (c) Life and Stress
- (d) Stress and its Consequences

Q.1- (c)

Q.2- (a)

Q.3- (d)

Q.4- (c)

Q.5- (d)