

IELTS Reading Sentence Completion



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IELTS Reading - Sentence Completion

Sentence completion Practice exercise 1

Answer **questions 1-5** which are based on the reading passage below.

The Halifax Explosion

Before the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima in 1945, the largest-ever non-natural explosion had taken place in 1917 in the eastern Canadian port city of Halifax. With the outbreak of World War I, Halifax was effectively transformed into a boomtown. Convoys gathered weekly in Bedford Basin (the north-western end of Halifax Harbour) in order to traverse the Atlantic, and Halifax Harbour became heavy with vessels of one variety or another. This spike in boat traffic was not dealt with efficiently, and collisions became almost normal. On December 1st, 1917, the French vessel *Mont Blanc* left New York in order to join a convoy in Halifax after being loaded with 226,797 kilograms of TNT (an explosive), 223,188 kilograms of benzol (a type of gasoline), 1,602,519 kilograms of wet picric acid (an explosive), and 544,311 kilograms of dry picric acid (another explosive). On December 6th, the *Mont Blanc* was ushered into Halifax's harbour after the U-boat nets had been raised.

At the same time, the cargoless Norwegian ship, *Imo*, left Bedford Basin en route to New York in order to pick up relief items for transport to war-torn Belgium. *Imo* was behind schedule and attempting to remedy that. She passed a boat on the wrong side before sending a tugboat retreating to port. By the time she reached the Narrows, she was in the wrong channel and going too fast. The *Mont Blanc* sounded her whistle, but the *Imo* sounded back twice, refusing to alter course. At the last moment, the *Mont Blanc* veered, and the *Imo* reversed, but it was too late. From the gash formed in the French boat's hull seeped a noxious spiral of oily, orange-dappled smoke. *Mont Blanc's* crew rowed to shore on the Dartmouth side, but no one could decipher their warnings. Their fiery vessel then casually drifted toward the Halifax side where it came to rest against one of the piers.

This spectacle drew thousands of onlookers. People crowded docks and windows filled with curious faces. As many as 1,600 died instantly when the boat exploded. Around 9,000 were injured, 6,000 seriously so. Approximately 12,000 buildings were severely damaged; virtually every building in town was damaged to some extent; 1,630 were rendered nonexistent. Around 6,000 people were made homeless, and 25,000 people (half the population) were left without suitable housing.



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The Halifax Explosion, as it became known, was the largest manmade detonation to date, approximately one-fifth the ferocity of the bomb later dropped on Hiroshima. It sent up a column of smoke reckoned to be 7,000 metres in height. It was felt more than 480 kilometres away. It flung a ship gun barrel some 5.5 kilometres, and part of an anchor, which weighed 517 kilograms, around 3 kilometres. The blast absolutely flattened a district known as Richmond. It also caused a tsunami that saw a wave 18 metres above the high-water mark depositing the *Imo* onto the shore of the Dartmouth side. The pressure wave of air that was produced snapped trees, bent iron rails, and grounded ships. That evening, a blizzard commenced, and it would continue until the next day, leaving 40 centimetres of snow in its wake. Consequently, many of those trapped within collapsed structures died of exposure. Historians put the death toll of the Halifax Explosion at approximately 2,000. Adapted from a passage in 'A Sort of Homecoming - In Search of Canada' by Troy Parfitt

Questions 1-5

Complete the sentences using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the passage for each answer

1. During World War One, Halifax Harbour was unable to handle the increased shipping traffic properly, and there were numerous _____.
2. The *Imo* was not in the correct _____ and travelling too fast.
3. _____ of people were watching the burning ship when it exploded.
4. The Halifax Explosion had about _____ of the power of the Hiroshima bomb.
5. Freezing weather brought by a blizzard caused the death of some survivors who were _____ under collapsed buildings.



Questions 1 - 5

Complete the summary below.

Write ONE WORD ONLY from Part A of the passage for each answer.

The earliest museums displayed personal **1** _____ belonging to rich people, and until the eighteenth century, only the elite class could visit these places. In the latter half of the century, the British Museum and the Uffizi Gallery opened their doors for the **2** _____, but not without restrictions. Finally, in 1793, the Louvre in Paris allowed access irrespective of class and **3** _____ and became a key factor in promoting nationalistic emotions.

By the early twentieth century, museums had started gaining recognition as centres of knowledge. The **4** _____ had moved from history to art and science. During this century, with urbanization and more funds coming in, museums were modified to provide learning as well as **5** _____.

Questions 6 - 9

Complete the summary based on Part B of the passage using the list of words, A- G, below.

Museums of 21st century

Modern museums have become **6** _____ places to visit with the adoption of various interactive technologies. In the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, visitors can get **7** _____ about any artwork by scanning it through their smartphones. The National Museum of African Art provides the opportunity for a virtual **8** _____ with the curator, artists, and social media groups through an app. Thus, the latest technology is **9** _____ the existing museums by giving an enriched experience to the visitors.

- A - dull
- B - communication
- C - information
- D - tour
- E - interesting
- F - complementing
- G - replacing



Answers with Explanation

1. Collisions

Explanation: Paragraph 1 – This spike in boat traffic was not dealt with efficiently and collisions became almost normal. During World War One, Halifax Harbour was unable to properly handle the increased shipping traffic, and there were numerous collisions.

2. channel

Explanation: Paragraph 3 – By the time she reached the Narrows, she was in the wrong channel and going too fast. The Imo was not in the correct channel and travelling too fast.

3. Thousands

Explanation: Paragraph 4 – This spectacle drew thousands of onlookers. Thousands of people were watching the burning ship when it exploded.

4. one-fifth

Explanation: Paragraph 5 – The Halifax Explosion, as it became known, was the largest manmade detonation to date, approximately one-fifth the ferocity of the bomb later dropped on Hiroshima. The Halifax Explosion had about one-fifth of the power of the Hiroshima bomb.

5. trapped

Explanation: Paragraph 5 – Consequently, many of those trapped within collapsed structures died of exposure. Freezing weather brought by a blizzard caused the death of some survivors who were trapped under collapsed buildings.



Sentence completion Practice exercise 2

Answer Questions 1-7 which are based on the reading passage below.

Alaskans' vitamin D production slows to a halt

Interested people are needed to participate in a one-year study to assess the effects of long dark winters on the vitamin D and calcium levels of Fairbanks residents.

So began a recruitment poster Meredith Tallas created 25 years ago. Now living in Oakland, California, Tallas was a University of Alaska Fairbanks student in 1983 who wanted to study how levels of a vitamin related to sun exposure fluctuated in people living so far from the equator. "The most obvious vitamin to study in Alaska is vitamin D, because of the low light in winter," Tallas said recently over the phone from her office in Berkeley.

Forty-seven people responded to Tallas' 1983 request, and her master's project was underway. By looking at the blood work of those Fairbanks residents every month and analysing their diets, she charted their levels of vitamin D, which our skin magically produces after exposure to a certain amount of sunshine. We also get vitamin D from foods, such as vitamin-D enriched milk and margarine, and fish (salmon are a good source). Vitamin D is important for the prevention of bone diseases, diabetes, and other maladies.

If you live at a latitude farther north than about 42 degrees (Boston, Detroit, or Eugene, Oregon), the sun is too low on the horizon from November through February for your skin to produce vitamin D, according to the National Institutes of Health. Tallas also saw another potential Alaska limitation on the natural pathway to vitamin D production.

"Most outdoor activity requires covering all but the face and hands approximately seven months of the year," she wrote in her thesis. "During the summer months residents keep much of their bodies clothed because of the persistent and annoying mosquitoes and biting flies and because of this, an Alaskan summer suntan becomes one of the face and hands." But even over-bundled people like Alaskans show signs of enhanced vitamin D production from the sun. Tallas found the highest levels of vitamin D in the Fairbanks volunteers' blood in July, and the lowest levels in March. Tallas attributed the July high occurring about a month after summer solstice to the time needed for the body's processing of sunlight and the conversion to vitamin D.

In Tallas' study, volunteers showed low levels of vitamin D in the winter months, but most got sufficient doses of vitamin D from sources other than the sun. Tallas also found that males had an average of 16 percent more vitamin D in their blood throughout the study, which she attributed in part to men being outside more.

In charting an average for people's time outside (you can't convert sunlight to vitamin D through windows), she found December was the low point of sunlight exposure when the sun



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struck the skin of her volunteers for less than 20 minutes per day. People spent an average of more than two hours exposed to Alaska sunlight in June and July. They seemed to hunker down in October when time outside in the sun dropped to about half an hour after almost two hours of daily sun exposure in September.

Vitamin D levels in the volunteers' blood dropped in August, September, October, November, December, January, February, and March, but Tallas saw an occasional leap in midwinter.

"When someone had gone to Hawaii, we could see, very exactly, a significant spike in their vitamin D levels," Tallas said. "The only surprise was how it came a month or two after."

In her thesis, Tallas wrote that a midwinter trip to somewhere close to the equator would be a good thing for boosting Alaskans' vitamin D levels. "Presuming that an individual's lowest circulating vitamin D level is found in March or April, such trips could potentially have a very significant effect in improving late winter vitamin D status," she wrote in her thesis.

"Unfortunately a majority of Alaskan residents do not take such trips often." An easy alternative for Alaskans not travelling southward during the winter is eating foods rich in vitamin D or taking vitamin D supplements, Tallas said.

Questions 1 - 7

Complete the sentences below.

*Write **ONE WORD ONLY** from the passage for each answer.*

- 1 Tallas invited Fairbank residents to her ____ through an advertisement.
- 2 Tallas examined the food intake as well as ____ samples of the subjects to record their vitamin D levels.
- 3 As you move up _____, there is insufficient availability of sunlight.
- 4 To avoid insect bites, Alaskans remain almost entirely _____.
- 5 Spending more time ____ led to higher vitamin D levels in male volunteers.
- 6 At its lowest, Alaskans are exposed to the sun for only a few _____ every day.
- 7 A ____ to sunny regions during winters can surge the vitamin D levels of Alaskans.



Answers with Explanation

1. study/ project

Explanation: The subtitle of the passage and the first sentence of the first paragraph are answered. Interested people are needed to participate in a one-year study to assess the effects of long dark winters on the vitamin D and calcium levels of Fairbanks residents. So began a recruitment poster Meredith Tallas created 25 years ago.

Paragraph 2 - Forty-seven people responded to Tallas' 1983 request, and her master's project was underway.

2. blood

Explanation: Paragraph 2 - By looking at the blood work of those Fairbanks residents every month and analyzing their diets, she charted their levels of vitamin D,...

3. north

Explanation: Paragraph 3 - If you live at a latitude farther north than about 42 degrees (Boston, Detroit, or Eugene, Oregon), the sun is too low on the horizon from November through February for your skin to produce vitamin D,...

4. clothed

Explanation: Paragraph 4 - "During the summer months residents keep much of their bodies clothed because of the persistent and annoying mosquitoes and biting flies...

5. outside

Explanation: Paragraph 6 - Tallas also found that males had an average of 16 percent more vitamin D in their blood throughout the study, which she attributed in part to men being outside more.

6. minutes

Explanation: Paragraph 7- ... she found December was the low point of sunlight exposure when the sun struck the skin of her volunteers for less than 20 minutes per day.

7. trip

Explanation: Paragraph 9 - In her thesis, Tallas wrote that a midwinter trip to somewhere close to the equator would be a good thing for boosting Alaskans' vitamin D levels.



Sentence completion Practice exercise 3

Answer questions 1-8 which are based on the reading passage below.

HOW GEESE MIGRATE

Weighing over twenty pounds, the Canada Goose is the largest in the world. Generally, most geese weigh around 5 to 14 pounds. Females are smaller in size than their male counterparts. A full-grown Canada goose has a wingspan of 50 to 75 inches.

The Canada goose is the most widely distributed in North America. The breeding grounds of the geese cover the stretch from eastern Labrador to Western Alaska, and it is the only goose in North America to breed south of 49°N. The geese are known to occupy a wide range of habitats in temperate to low arctic areas including The Tundra which is not so rich in geographical features, The Boreal forest, The Parklands, The Prairies, meadows, and the higher mountains.

For most goose populations, nesting areas in the Arctic are secure; however, the development of gas and oil industries poses a danger to these groups. During migration, the geese head for warmer places where food is readily available. Canada geese migrate in the V-formation and are always in large groups. Scientists believe that geese travel in V-formation because of what is called the 'drafting effect.' It aids the birds to preserve their energy as they cover long distances. The same paths are followed by the migrating birds each year. The name given to these paths is 'flyways' or 'routes'. The four flyways that the Canada Geese use are: the Atlantic Flyway which is along the eastern coast of North America, the Mississippi Flyway, the Central Flyway which spans the Rocky Mountains, and the Pacific Flyway which is the route along the west of the Rocky Mountains.

Canada geese follow seasonal patterns of migration. The autumn migration is seen from September to the starting of November. The early migrant geese are likely to migrate faster as they spend less time at the designated rest stops. Some geese are known to return year after year to the same nesting grounds and lay their eggs with their partners. The chicks are raised in the same way every year. We know this from the records of many geese that have been tagged by scientists on the East Coast. However, It has been noticed that a few migratory populations of the Canada Goose are not flying as far south in the winter months as they used to. This Northward range shift is probably because of the availability of waste grain in the fall and winter months. Agricultural fields offer food that is available in abundance and is also of superior quality for the geese compared to natural crops. Changing weather patterns and hunting pressure are the other reasons.

Every autumn, the snow geese move from their chief breeding area in central Canada to Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge where they make a stopover before moving to their destination in the Gulf of Mexico. They breed during the Arctic summers and then migrate to

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Mexico to spend the winter. During the summer, the young geese grow rapidly and become ready to fly. By the end of August, the birds make their journey to Mexico with the young ones on their first migration. They travel back to Canada in late spring along with their young ones. Some birds make the entire journey without stopping for rest, making it a journey of 70 straight hours of flying. Most of the geese are not inclined to make a stop on their return journey north as they are eagerly waiting to mate.

The Squaw Creek National Park is an essential stopover for the geese on the Central Flyway migratory route. The area was a private hunting area, but now the wildlife here is protected by law.

Questions 1 - 8

Complete the sentences below.

*Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.*

- 1 The geese live in various types of _____.
- 2 Extraction of _____ and _____ in the Arctic can be a threat to goose population.
- 3 Migrating geese can save energy due to the _____ created by flying in V-formation.
- 4 Some groups of Canada geese do not migrate to the far south anymore because they can get plentiful _____ on farmlands.
- 5 After _____ in central Canada, Snow geese migrate to Mexico for the winters.
- 6 The return journey to Canada takes place by the end of _____.
- 7 Some geese do not take _____ as they fly back to the north.
- 8 _____ is not allowed in the Squaw Creek National Park.



Answers with Explanation

1. habitats

Explanation: Paragraph 2 - The geese are known to occupy a wide range of habitats in temperate to low arctic areas including the tundra ...

2. oil, gas/ gas, oil

Explanation: Paragraph 3 - For most goose populations, nesting areas in the Arctic are secure; however, the development of gas and oil industries poses a danger to these groups.

3. drafting effect

Explanation: Paragraph 3 - Scientists believe that geese travel in V-formation because of what is called the 'drafting effect.' It aids the birds to preserve their energy as they cover long distances.

4. food/ waste grain

Explanation: Paragraph 4 - However, it has been noticed that a few migratory populations of the Canada Goose are not flying as far south in the winter months as they used to. This Northward range shift is probably because of the availability of waste grain in the fall and winter months. Agricultural fields offer food that is available in abundance ...

5. breeding

Explanation: Paragraph 5 - Every autumn, the snow geese move from their chief breeding area in central Canada to ... before moving to their destination in the Gulf of Mexico. They breed during the Arctic summers and then migrate to Mexico to spend the winter.

6. spring

Explanation: Paragraph 5 - They travel back to Canada in late spring along with their young ones.

7. rest

Explanation: Paragraph 5 - Some birds make the entire journey without stopping for rest; ...

8. Hunting

Explanation: Paragraph 6 - The Squaw Creek National Park is an essential stopover for the geese on the Central Flyway migratory route. The area was a private hunting area, but now the wildlife here is protected by law.



Sentence completion Practice exercise 4**What Is An Asbo**

A. Ask somebody to make a list of crimes and they will probably come up with the usual suspects that you or I would: murder, robbery, assault burglary and so on. They might even include acts which are merely against the law' like parking on a double yellow line.

B. But if you ask them to make a list of anti-social behaviours, you are getting into an area where there is going to be considerable disagreement. This didn't stop the UK government which introduced Anti-Social Behaviour Orders, or ASBOs, in 1998 as part of the Crime and Disorder Act – legislation designed to deal with practically all aspects of criminal activity and disorderly behaviour.

C. A subjective definition of anti-social behaviour permits you to cast your net wide and include anything you find personally disagreeable; the legal definition is also widely inclusive. To quote the Crime and Disorder Act it is behaviour which 'causes or is likely to cause harassment alarm or distress to one or more people who are not in the same household as the perpetrator'. This includes, among many other things, foul and abusive language, threatening behaviour, shouting, disorderly conduct, vandalism, intimidation, behaviour as the result of drug or alcohol misuse, graffiti and noise which is excessive, particularly at night.

D. The idea is that ASBOs are sanctions designed to deal with issues that affect everyone in the community and as such are civil sanctions, not criminal ones, and need the cooperation of the community to be effective. For example, a private individual cannot apply for an ASBO; he or she must make a complaint to the police or local authority, who will then work together to gather more information and build up evidence. This involves getting witnesses, among whom will no doubt be neighbours and acquaintances, to make statements to the authorities. When the authorities are satisfied that they have enough evidence, the local council applies to the magistrates court to have an ASBO imposed.

E. We still haven't decided what constitutes anti-social behaviour. It doesn't have to be physical violence, of course, but is far easier to identify and deal with if it is. What about threatening behaviour? We're not talking here about direct threats such as 'If you come round here again, I'll beat you up!', but situations perceived as threatening. Let's say a pensioner or a person of timid disposition is on their way home and they run into a group of young people who are shouting, swearing and kicking a ball about and who happen to make a few unkind . remarks as the person passes. Let's say the person is alarmed or feels threatened by the situation. Does it merit getting the ASBO process going?

F. In fact, young people merely hanging out in public places, however boisterous their



behaviour might seem to be to some people, are not considered to be indulging in anti-social behaviour. However, there is a proviso. Such behaviour in its own right is not considered anti-social unless it is thought it is being done with other, more serious, behavioural attitudes involved. This, of course, can be very subjective.

G. A person faced with an ASBO can argue in their defence that their behaviour was reasonable and unthreatening. This too is subjective, and both sides' claims are open to wide interpretation. Something else that has to be taken into account here is that ASBOs are made on an individual basis even if that person is part of a group of people committing anti-social behaviour. If a case reaches the magistrates court, witnesses can be called to provide further evidence for or against the defendant. However, the magistrate, as well as considering the complaints made against the defendant, will take into account his or her family situation, welfare issues, and whether or not he or she has been victimised or discriminated against. It is worth bearing in mind, though, that witnesses can be intimidated or otherwise persuaded not to appear in court and give evidence.

H. When the Crime and Disorder Act came into force, ASBOs were generally intended to be a measure to deal with adult anti-social behaviour, yet within the Act it states that an order can be applied for against any individual over the age of ten years old. It is a striking fact that the majority of ASBOs imposed since the law was enacted have been handed out to young people and children.

I. The question is, have they been effective? The government, naturally, claims that they have brought about a real improvement in the quality of life in communities around the country. Nay-sayers, such as civil rights campaigners, claim the measures are far too open to abuse. Some say they go too far and some that they don't go far enough and lack bite. However, a genuine impediment to their effectiveness is that to impose an ASBO takes a lot of time and paperwork, involving the cooperation of community, police and local council, and they are very expensive to implement. One estimate is that an ASBO can cost in excess of £20,000. What all this means is that ASBOs are being used very rarely in many parts of the country. So the jury is still out as to how effective they really are.

Questions 1-7

Complete the sentences.

Choose NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS from the passage for each answer.

1. The official _____ says that anti-social behaviour is behaviour which can cause alarm or distress.



2. Along with swearing and destruction of public or private property, making _____ noise is considered anti-social behaviour.
3. ASBOs are considered to be part of _____ law rather than criminal law.
4. Citizens have to _____ go to either the local council or the police before any action can be taken.
5. In their efforts to collect evidence the authorities may call on _____ to get more information.
6. ASBOs are issued at a _____
7. _____ is the most straightforward form of anti social behaviour to determine



Answers with Explanation

1. Definition

Explanation: In the first two lines of paragraph C, "A subjective definition of anti-social behaviour permits you to cast your net wide and include anything you find personally disagreeable; the legal definition is also widely inclusive".

2. Excessive

Explanation: In the last two lines of paragraph C, "threatening behaviour, shouting, disorderly conduct, vandalism, intimidation, behaviour as the result of drug or alcohol misuse, graffiti and noise which is excessive".

3. Civil

Explanation: In the first two lines of paragraph D, "The idea is that ASBOs are sanctions designed to deal with issues that affect everyone in the community and as such are civil sanctions".

4. Make a complaint

Explanation: In paragraph D's third and fourth lines, "a private individual cannot apply for an ASBO; he or she must make a complaint to the police or local authority, who will then work together to gather more information and build up evidence".

5. Witnesses

Explanation: In the fifth line of paragraph D, "This involves getting witnesses, among whom will no doubt be neighbours and acquaintances".

6. Magistrates court

Explanation: In the last two lines of paragraph D, "When the authorities are satisfied that they have enough evidence, the local council applies to the magistrates court to have an ASBO imposed".

7. Magistrates court

Explanation: In the first two lines of paragraph E, "We still haven't decided what constitutes anti-social behaviour. It doesn't have to be physical violence, of course, but is far easier to identify and deal with if it is".



Sentence completion Practice exercise 5

Answer questions 1-7 which are based on the reading passage below.

The Secret Schizoid IELTS reading practice test

It is psychiatrist Ralph Klein who was credited with first coining the phrase 'secret schizoid'. Unlike the overtly schizoid or schizotypal individual who is characterised by aloofness, coldness and indifference, the secret schizoid may present himself as an engaging and interactive individual according to Klein. Thus, Klein argues, there are not one but two distinct schizoid personality types: the overt schizoid and the covert schizoid.

Covert schizoids are difficult, on first glance, to identify. They have erected a convincing defensive barrier of social assuredness, engaging with the external reality, superficially at least. This engagement might, to the casual onlooker, appear quite normal. However, if quizzed about their behaviour, covert schizoids will probably reveal that they are still, on a deeper level, withdrawn from the real world. Their outward persona should be viewed, therefore, as little more than an act; the actual personality only being revealed in a safe place within the confines of the schizoids' own mind; in other words, only ever known to the schizoids themselves.

The covert schizoid, as Fairbairn identified as long ago as 1940, is capable of 'schizoid exhibitionism'; covert schizoids can appear to express a lot of feeling and make impressive social contacts without revealing anything of great significance about themselves. In effect, they disown the 'character' they play in public - the very credible front they put up - preserving their real personality intact. What the schizoids fear most is the consequences of emotional intimacy, so by erecting an invisible barrier between their public persona and their real self, the schizoids can avoid ever having to confront this fear and yet lead a relatively active and inclusive lifestyle.

Is the secret schizoid schizophrenic? Certainly not. Though the two fall within the realms of the same family of illnesses, the schizophrenic personality disorder is far more destructive. Whereas schizoids can, depending on the severity of their affliction, function fairly normally and even form relationships with others (based on intellectual, physical, familial, occupational or recreational, but most certainly not emotional, activities), and have a relatively fair grasp of reality, schizophrenics are plagued by hallucinations, delusions and disorganised thinking, all of which are likely to affect their functional capacity in a very negative way. It is true, however, that a family background of schizophrenia leaves one more vulnerable to or likely to develop a schizoid or schizotypal personality.

The causes of schizoid personality disorder are not clear, but it is theorised that an absence of parental affection and attention during early childhood may encourage the defensive



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tendencies and fear of intimacy that schizoids exhibit. It is also hypothesised that so-called secret schizoids are highly intelligent and have learned to develop their act as an effective coping mechanism which allows them to have the superficial relationships they so often crave without compromising that which they hold most valuable - their privacy.

One of the most damaging aspects of life as a secret schizoid can be what is termed 'depersonalisation', namely, the loss of one's sense of identity and individuality. Without the feedback which may be gleaned from real interpersonal relationships, schizoids' perception of self may become skewed, or worse, they may begin to lose all self-perception. Effectively, this leaves the individuals feeling a deep sense of emptiness. Their emotional needs continue to go unfulfilled despite the fact that, on the face of it, the secret schizoids are leading an active and engaging lifestyle. The schizoids begin to question who or what they are and, tragically, yearn for the emotional attachment needed to confirm or reaffirm their perceptions of self an emotional attachment that they are incapable of seeking.

The public perception of the schizoid is misinformed at best. Just because they suffer from the illness does not mean secret schizoids are apathetic, dispassionate or indifferent. In actual fact, the schizoids can experience very strong emotions, but do so in both the comfort and discomfort of their own mind; the comfort of not feeling emotionally violated and the discomfort of not being able to share one's inner fears with another person in order to alleviate them. Schizoids are often extremely sensitive people and their defensive front exists for the sole purpose of protecting themselves from criticism with which they are incapable of coping.

Questions 1-7

Complete the sentences below.

Choose NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS from the passage for each answer.

1. Whereas a typical schizoid might behave in an aloof or indifferent manner, the secret schizoid tends to appear, superficially at least, a very person, and one who is capable of interacting very successfully with those around him.
2. The secret schizoid appears socially assured, but this is only a very good, put up make it seem as if he is in tune with what is going on in the real world, whilst at the same time protecting him from it.
3. The way the secret schizoid behaves in public is only, the outside world never gets a glimpse of his real self, which remains hidden.
4. As they are unwilling to try to overcome their innate fear of emotional intimacy, schizoids who wish to lead a full and inclusive life must develop a separate and create an invisible barrier between this and their private self.



5. Schizoids differ from schizophrenics in that they have fairly decent understanding and are not inclined to suffer from the same incapacitating symptoms, like hallucinations, delusions and disorganized thinking.
6. A history of schizophrenia in the family leaves a person more to developing schizoid tendencies.
7. Although it is not known what causes schizoid personality disorders, some suggest a lack of during the first few years of life is partly to blame.

Answers with Explanation

1. Answer: Engaging

Explanation: "Unlike the overtly schizoid or schizotypal individual who is characterised by aloofness, coldness and indifference, the secret schizoid may present himself as an engaging and interactive individual according to Klein". With this line it is clear that whereas a typical schizoid might behave in an aloof or indifferent manner, the secret schizoid tends to appear, superficially at least, a very engaging person, and one who is capable of interacting very successfully with those around him. Hence the given answer is located in the 2-4 lines of paragraph A.

2. Answer: Defensive barrier

Explanation: "Schizoids are often extremely sensitive people and their defensive front exists for the sole purpose of protecting themselves from criticism with which they are incapable of coping". With this line it is clear that the secret schizoid appears socially assured, but this is only a very good defensive put up to make it seem as if he is in tune with what is going on in the real world, whilst at the same time protecting him from it. Hence the given answer is located in the last 3 lines of paragraph G.

3. Answer: an act

Explanation: "It is also hypothesised that so-called secret schizoids are highly intelligent and have learned to develop their act as an effective coping mechanism which allows them to have the superficial relationships they so often crave without compromising that which they hold most valuable - their privacy." with this line it is clear that the way the secret schizoid behaves in public is only an act, the outside world never gets a glimpse of his real self, which remains hidden. Hence the given answer is located in the last 4 lines of paragraph E.

4. Answer: public persona

Explanation: "What the schizoids fear most is the consequences of emotional intimacy, so by



erecting an invisible barrier between their public persona and their real self, the schizoids can avoid ever having to confront this fear and yet lead a relatively active and inclusive lifestyle". With this line it is clear that they are unwilling to try to overcome their innate fear of emotional intimacy, schizoids who wish to lead a full and inclusive life must develop a separate public persona and create an invisible barrier between this and their private self. Hence the given answer is located in the last 4 lines of paragraph C.

5. Answer: of reality

Explanation: "Though the two fall within the realms of the same family of illnesses, the schizophrenic personality disorder is far more destructive. Whereas schizoids can, depending on the severity of their affliction, function fairly normally and even form relationships with others (based on intellectual, physical, familial, occupational or recreational, but most certainly not emotional, activities), and have a relatively fair grasp of reality". With this line it is clear that schizoids differ from schizophrenics in that they have a fairly decent understanding of reality and are not inclined to suffer from the same incapacitating symptoms, like hallucinations, delusions and disorganized thinking. Hence the given answer is located in the 1-6 lines of paragraph D.

6. Answer: vulnerable

Explanation: "It is true, however, that a family background of schizophrenia leaves one more vulnerable to or likely to develop a schizoid or schizotypal personality". With this line it is clear that a history of schizophrenia in the family leaves a person more vulnerable to developing schizoid tendencies. Hence the answers are located in the last 2 lines of paragraph D.

7. Answer: parental affection/ parental attention

Explanation: "The causes of schizoid personality disorder are not clear, but it is theorised that an absence of parental affection and attention during early childhood may encourage the defensive tendencies and fear of intimacy that schizoids exhibit". With this line it is clear that although it is not known what causes schizoid personality disorders, some suggest a lack of parental affection during the first few years of life is partly to blame. Hence the given answer is located in the first 3 lines of paragraph D.



General Reading Sentence completion Practice exercise 1

Answer questions **1-5** which are based on the reading passage below.

Rapid Police Response Reading Passage

Police bureau in the USA and Canada believe it is important to respond to calls for help as fast as possible. The ability to act fast has been improved with the help of technology. The phone and radio, already in use, is useful in reducing police response time. Recently, the '911' emergency system was introduced, which allows the people easier and quicker contact with police, and the use of police computer systems, that allows police to plan patrols and assign emergency calls to the police officers closest to the location of the emergency.

As an important part of police strategy, rapid police response is seen by police officers and the public alike as offering tremendous benefits. The best benefits of rapid response are the ability of police to apply first-aid life-saving techniques fast and the greater chance of arresting people who have committed a crime. It aids in finding those who witnessed an emergency or crime, and to collect evidence. The overall prestige of a police force is enhanced if a rapid response is persistent, and this in itself leads to prevention of crime. Rapid response offers the public some level of trust in the police force.

While these may be the expected results of rapid police response, actual research has not shown it to be quite so useful. For eg., it has been shown that rapid response leads to a greater chance of arrest only if the police responds in the order of 1-2 minutes after a call is received by the police. Even when the times increase to 3-4 minutes (still quite a rapid response) the likelihood of an arrest is substantially reduced. Similarly, in recognising witnesses to emergencies or crimes, police are far more likely to be fortunate if they arrive at the scene no more than 4 minutes, on average, after receiving a request for help. Still both police officers and the public outline 'rapid response' as reaching to the spot up to 10-12 minutes after calling the police for help.

Questions 1-5

Complete the sentences using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

- 1 In the USA and Canada, it is important for the ____ to respond to calls for help as fast as possible.
- 2 The ____ was introduced, which allows people easier and quicker contact with police.
- 3 One of the best benefits of rapid response is the ability of police to apply ____ life-saving techniques fast.



4. Rapid response offers the public _____ in the police force.
5. A rapid response leads to a greater chance of arrest only if the police respond within _____ after a call is received by the police.

Answers with Explanation

1. Police bureau

Explanation: Police bureau in the USA and Canada believe it is important to respond to calls for help as fast as possible.

2. 911 Emergency system

Explanation: Recently, the '911' emergency system was introduced, which allows the people easier and quicker contact with police, and the use of police computer systems, that allows police to plan patrols and assign emergency calls to the police officers closest to the location of the emergency.

3. First-aid

Explanation: The best benefits of rapid response are the ability of police to apply first-aid life-saving techniques fast and the greater chance of arresting people who have committed a crime.

4. Trust

Explanation: Rapid response offers the public some level of trust in the police force.

5. 1-2 minutes


Explanation: For eg., it has been shown that rapid response leads to a greater chance of arrest only if the police responds in the order of 1-2 minutes after a call is received by the police.




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