

**PART I**

Text 1

1 [1] Everywhere one meets the idea that reading is an activity desirable in itself. It is  
2 understandable that publishers and librarians - and even writers - should promote this  
3 assumption, but it is strange that the idea is so widely held. Without taking into account  
4 either the purpose of reading or the value of what is being read, people seem to take it  
5 for granted that reading is virtuous. Teachers and parents praise the child who reads,  
6 whether the text be *The Reader's Digest* or *War and Peace*. This attitude toward reading,  
7 however, is unwarranted; most reading is no more intellectual than playing billiards or  
8 watching a game show on TV. Reading literature, of course, is different - there really  
9 ought to be another word for this activity, but that is the subject of another essay.

10 [2] In light of such widespread favorable feelings about reading, it is worth asking  
11 how the act of reading became something to value in itself. In recent times, one can  
12 argue that television has increased the value placed on reading since it provides a  
13 tempting anti-intellectual alternative. But mass literacy itself is a recent phenomenon,  
14 and I suggest that the high esteem that reading enjoys today goes back to the importance  
15 that our great-great grandparents placed on reading. Literacy used to be a mark of social  
16 distinction, separating a small portion of humanity from the rest. Having time to read in  
17 a period of history when most people had to work long and hard meant that the reader  
18 was free from the necessity of spending most waking hours making a living. In this  
19 sense, reading was an inactivity and, therefore, a badge of social class. Not surprisingly,  
20 the farm laborer who was ambitious for his children did not daydream of their becoming  
21 schoolteachers or doctors; he daydreamed that they would learn to read, and that a  
22 world would therefore open up to them in which they did not have to labor in the fields  
23 fourteen hours a day six days a week in order to buy life's necessities like salt and  
24 cotton.

25 [3] But most of the reading which is praised for itself today is not only not literary or  
26 intellectual, it is not even reading for information. It is a kind of drug. Cheap novels,  
27 sensationalist weekly magazines, tabloid newspapers and comic books. This drug is not  
28 harmful, but it is nothing to be proud of. This sort of reading is the idle daydream, the  
29 mindless escape of the bored housewife and the tired businessman, interested not in  
30 experience and feeling, but in turning off the possibilities of experience and feeling. Far  
31 from opening us up to the world and making us more sensitive to it - the aims of  
32 literature - it is reading to shut out the world, where books are not windows, but  
33 curtains.

56. According to the text, who places too much value on the activity of reading?
- Mainly people who work in the book industry.
  - Mainly people who watch a lot of television.
  - Generally only schoolteachers and parents.
  - Just about everybody who thinks about reading.
57. What can we assume the writer thinks about *The Reader's Digest*?
- It is primarily reading for children, not adults.
  - It is an example of desirable reading, like *War and Peace*.
  - It is a very different kind of reading from *War and Peace*.
  - It deserves to be more highly valued than it is.
58. What does the writer mean by "there really ought to be another word for this activity" (lines 10-11)?
- Reading literature gets more respect than it actually deserves.
  - People do not try hard enough to understand literature.
  - Reading literature requires more thought than other kinds of reading.
  - If we make a new word for reading, people may lower their opinion of it.
59. What does the writer suggest as the cause of the current high status of the act of reading?
- Promotion of the idea by publishers, librarians and writers.
  - Negative opinions that schoolteachers and parents have of television.
  - The fact that several generations ago being able to read was unusual.
  - A reduction in anti-intellectual attitudes in modern times.
60. Why, according to the writer, was reading highly valued several generations ago?
- Being able to read was a sign of high social class.
  - Reading gave a person much needed rest from hard labor.
  - Only readers could get high paying jobs.
  - Only readers could have access to great literature.
61. What can we assume about farm laborers of the sort mentioned in this text?
- They did not want their children to become doctors or teachers.
  - They were not likely to be able to read themselves.
  - They thought reading would make their children more successful farmers.
  - They valued hard labor more than reading ability.

62. What does the writer mean by "reading was an inactivity" [2]?
- a. Little reading was being done in this period of history.
  - b. Most reading was easy and required little serious mental activity.
  - c. Inactive readers were not physically fit enough for hard work in the fields.
  - d. Time for reading was a luxury that only those who didn't work could afford.
63. In what sense does the writer think some types of reading are a kind of drug?
- a. Once one starts, one cannot stop.
  - b. It makes one forget about the outside world.
  - c. It causes one to become inactive.
  - d. It heightens one's sensitivity about things.
64. What is the writer's own attitude toward reading?
- a. Not all reading should be highly valued.
  - b. Most reading is superior to watching television.
  - c. People should only read works of great literature.
  - d. Reading can be harmful if one reads too much.

Text 2

1 [1] In America in 1996, everything is pretty easy. I do not mean to discount the slums  
2 of America's inner cities, or the poor communities in Appalachia; of course, everything  
3 is not easy everywhere. And of course, it is obvious that for middle-class Americans  
4 everywhere, college education costs too much, jobs are scarce, inflation is growing and  
5 everyone feels overworked. Nonetheless, middle-class Americans, and even most  
6 Americans in the working lower classes, have more security and more comforts than the  
7 middle classes and the lower classes did one hundred years ago. Everything we take for  
8 granted - from telephones to preventive dentistry - did not exist then. Ironically, the very  
9 things that make our lives convenient and remove us from risk also distance us from the  
10 basic human struggle to survive - a struggle that once made our lives so fundamentally  
11 meaningful.

12 [2] For example, it used to be that receiving a letter was an event. Great thought went  
13 into writing letters, and once they were written, letters were waited for impatiently, and  
14 read out loud as an afternoon's entertainment when they arrived. I'm not saying that it's  
15 a pity that a person today doesn't jump up and down when the telephone rings; I'm only  
16 pointing out that the level of excitement at the things that happen to us has dropped. The  
17 definition of what would be not just all right, but wonderful, has risen until it is  
18 unfulfillably high. We watch a lot of television and movies, which give us unrealistic  
19 visions of how well our lives can be lived, and cheapen what triumphs or achievements  
20 we have managed. We go on four-day holidays with air-conditioned rooms, air-  
21 conditioned pools and air-conditioned food, and return, exhausted, to our air-  
22 conditioned offices, homes and cars; and we wonder why we don't feel refreshed. In  
23 fact, we have so many opportunities to distract ourselves that we have lost the capacity  
24 to interest ourselves, or to entertain each other. We could use some more boredom and  
25 difficulty just for contrast, so we could know when something good was happening.

65. What does the writer of this text mean by "everything is pretty easy" in America today (line 1)?
- Slums and the poor won't be counted in the calculation of "easy."
  - Jobs and the cost of education are not part of the formula.
  - Life is generally safer and more convenient now than it was in 1896.
  - There are more middle-class people today and fewer in the lower classes.
66. What does the word "discount" mean in line 2?
- cheapen
  - ignore
  - bargain
  - disturb
67. Why does the writer admit that the middle-class suffers from high cost of living, job scarcity, inflation and overwork?
- To show that Americans take their lives for granted.
  - To prove that life really isn't easy in America.
  - To offer a more balanced picture of life in America.
  - To make readers feel sorry for these people.
68. What does the writer consider to be ironic about a modern convenience such as the telephone?
- It takes us farther away from the natural or basic human condition.
  - We do not really appreciate how much it has helped improve our lives.
  - It has removed us from direct contact with other people.
  - It has made us more dependent on technology to live our lives.
69. What is the writer's purpose in the last sentence of the first paragraph?
- To raise a question about the consequences of having modern comforts.
  - To suggest that modern comforts have little "real" value.
  - To demonstrate that modern comforts have actually made life worse.
  - To show how to avoid the risks involved in technological advances.
70. What does the writer seem to think about reading letters as an afternoon's entertainment?
- It's a pity more people don't put careful thought into it.
  - It meant more a hundred years ago than it would today.
  - It is probably more enjoyable than making phone calls.
  - It's too bad more people don't still pass the time this way.

71. Why does the writer think we have lost our capacity to amuse ourselves?
- Pressures from work prevent paying attention to amusement.
  - Modern life is too full of pain and sorrow to be amusing.
  - Amusement is not high on the human list of psychological needs.
  - Our expectations for amusement have risen to unrealistic levels.
72. According to this text, how have television and Hollywood affected our lives?
- They have made us less able to appreciate our own accomplishments.
  - They have shown us ways to live our lives better.
  - They have helped raise our enjoyment of life to a healthy level.
  - They have helped us see how our lives have gotten better over time.
73. What is the point of the vacation story [2]?
- Vacations do not really break up the "sameness" of modern life.
  - People need to take longer vacations in order to feel refreshed.
  - Vacations take up too much of our valuable time.
  - People no longer go on vacation in order to get refreshed.
74. Which of the following sentences is the best paraphrase of the last sentence in this text?
- We need to contrast boredom with difficulty so we can appreciate both.
  - Boredom and difficulty would help us appreciate the good in our lives.
  - We should create boredom and difficulty to make our lives better.
  - Our lives would be better if we could just ignore the bad things.
75. What is the main point of this text?
- Life is easier than it was 100 years ago.
  - Americans today take too many things for granted.
  - Vacations do not refresh Americans the way they should.
  - Americans should return to a simpler lifestyle.

**PART II**

1 [1] One of the first mysteries humans tried to solve was the meaning of the constant  
2 beat of their own hearts. That they were not stupid was soon evident, (76) by 2000 BC  
3 some had worked out (77) it was the pump that circulated blood (78) their bodies. But  
4 this was understood (79) in China where the Medicine Book of The Yellow Emperor  
5 was sophisticated (80) to distinguish between twenty-eight different kinds of pulse. (81),  
6 these ideas remained known only (82) the people who practiced traditional Chinese  
7 medicine and did not stir curiosity among people (83) widely.

8 [2] Though people are not stupid, they (84) have tended to be stubbornly attached to  
9 their old ideas (85) from fear of the unfamiliar, but because an old idea is (86) a system  
10 of thought, which is like a cobweb: every part sustains (87), and once you are in such a  
11 web, you (88) escape. China's discovery was ignored by the rest of the world, (89) was  
12 tied up in other cobwebs and which (90) to believe different stories about what the (91)  
13 did. Both Christians and Muslims, for example, remained (92) in a cobweb of ideas  
14 spun by Galen, who taught that the heart was not a pump but (93) fireplace, producing  
15 the body's heat. Galen's textbooks were memorized by virtually (94) doctors in the  
16 West and Middle East (95) about a thousand years, and (96) they saw in their patients  
17 could stir their curiosity towards a different explanation. The (97) for this was that  
18 Galen's ideas formed a coherent whole. Galen's mistakes survived (98) he taught that  
19 (99) should not slavishly believe ancient books. (100) his disciples listened to him more  
20 carefully, they would not have been paralyzed by his ideas.

76. a. because  
b. early  
c. if  
d. so
77. a. evidence  
b. to support  
c. that  
d. which
78. a. about  
b. all  
c. of  
d. through
79. a. briefly  
b. likely  
c. mostly  
d. only
80. a. advice  
b. enough  
c. such  
d. so
81. a. As a result  
b. Perhaps  
c. Previously  
d. Unfortunately
82. a. among  
b. because  
c. for  
d. within
83. a. more  
b. outside  
c. quite  
d. spread
84. a. never  
b. once  
c. seldom  
d. usually
85. a. away  
b. mostly  
c. not just  
d. partly
86. a. at once  
b. centering  
c. part of  
d. supporting
87. a. every other  
b. itself  
c. more  
d. some
88. a. cannot  
b. don't want to  
c. had better  
d. should not
89. a. although it  
b. but it  
c. so it  
d. which
90. a. admitted  
b. continued  
c. had  
d. rejected
91. a. Chinese  
b. heart  
c. parts  
d. web
92. a. afraid  
b. at last  
c. caught  
d. still
93. a. a sort of  
b. also a  
c. burning a  
d. somewhat a
94. a. all  
b. experienced  
c. most  
d. the earliest
95. a. during  
b. for  
c. over  
d. through
96. a. anything  
b. much  
c. nothing  
d. something

97. a. belief  
b. cause  
c. effect  
d. purpose

98. a. as though  
b. because  
c. even though  
d. yet

99. a. Chinese  
b. one  
c. patients  
d. those

100. a. Even if  
b. Had  
c. If  
d. Until