

Comprehension Level 10

SECTION A COMPREHENSION

QUESTION 1

Read BOTH TEXTS A and B and answer the set questions.

TEXT A

ORGANIC FARMING – WHY THE FUSS?

We often hear people talk about organic food and see it on shop shelves but many of us do not know exactly what organic food is and why it is so expensive. Is it really better? And is eating organic food a healthier option?

Organic food is food that has been produced naturally, using only natural substances such as earth and water. No chemical fertilisers or poisons are used and the food is 100% natural.

Modern farming involves a lot more than just hoping for rain – it is a science. Thanks to scientific developments during the past decades, farmers can now produce larger quantities of food. They can, for example, feed animals hormones to make them healthier or fatter. On chicken farms, fowls are kept in small enclosures and given special food to make them and their eggs bigger.

Crop farmers can use seed that has been specifically developed to provide large harvests. To prevent their crops from being infected with pests and diseases, crop farmers spray insecticides and other chemicals on the fields.

But for some time now researchers have been wondering what quantities of these substances land up in our food and how dangerous they are. They started looking at farming methods and soon discovered that these were also harmful to the environment. Good soil contains minerals and very small living creatures among the plants. This is just one of the miracles around us: these small creatures take something from the soil but they also put nutrients back which can in turn be used by something else. This ensures a perfect life cycle in the soil and keeps it healthy and fertile.

When the natural cycle of these life forms in the soil is disturbed by the addition of chemical substances, it causes an imbalance. The ground becomes less fertile and requires more chemical fertiliser to make it fertile again. This causes a vicious circle: the more chemicals damage the soil, the more chemicals are needed to supplement it again. This is not ideal as poisons are harmful to the environment.

Organic farming really means that farmers are returning to the 'good old ways' of doing things. By not using chemicals, organic farmers give the environment a chance to recover naturally and at the same time they are producing food that is free from chemicals.

Organic farmers use natural methods and work with nature instead of against it. They plant different crops each year so that the nutrients in the soil do not become depleted. Animals, birds and insects are used to control pests. Ladybirds are very popular among organic farmers as they eat the plant lice that damage crops. Natural remedies are used to prevent or treat diseases and animals are allowed to wander and graze freely. Their dung fertilises the soil. Compost is made using animal droppings and plant material which is worked into the soil. Chickens are free-range and can move around scratching for food. A well-functioning organic farm is a natural environment all on its own.

If it is so simple, why is all food not organically produced? South Africa is still far behind other countries when it comes to organic farming methods. Many South African farmers are hesitant to change their old ways and need to be persuaded to switch to organic farming. There are currently 200 certified organic farms in our country. We do have organisations that control organic farms. They inspect the farms to ensure organic principles are followed.

When you buy organic food, make sure it carries a label which reads 'certified organic'. If the label is not there, you may be paying for something which is not what it pretends to be.

[Adapted from *YOU*, 27 July 2012]

NOTE:

- When answering the questions, use your own words as far as possible, unless you are asked for a quotation.
- For multiple-choice questions, write only the question number and the letter (A–D) of the correct answer.

1.1 Quote ONE word from paragraph 2 that best describes how organic food is produced.

(1)

1.2 State TWO ways in which modern farmers can produce fat, healthy animals.

(2)

1.3 How can a crop farmer use scientific methods to increase his profits? State TWO points.

(2)

1.4 Refer to paragraph 5. Explain why researchers started looking at alternative methods of farming.

(2)

1.5 Is the following statement TRUE or FALSE? Give a reason for your answer.
Small creatures are the biggest threat to the environment.

(2)

1.6 Choose the correct answer to complete the following sentence. Write down ONLY the question number (1.6) and the letter (A–D) of the correct answer.

The 'vicious circle' in line 28 means ...

- A** signs of violence.
- B** a dangerous repetition.
- C** irreversible damage.
- D** a circular movement.

(1)

1.7 Refer to paragraph 7.

1.7.1 Explain how organic farming assists in healing the earth.

(1)

1.7.2 How does organic farming benefit people?

(2)

1.8 Explain what the statement, 'work with nature instead of against it', in lines 35–36 means. State TWO points.

(2)

1.9 Name TWO organic methods which ensure that the soil remains fertile.

(2)

1.10 What is a 'free-range' chicken?

(1)

1.11 How are organic farms controlled in South Africa?

(1)

1.12 State TWO points that can be used to persuade farmers to change to organic farming.

(2)

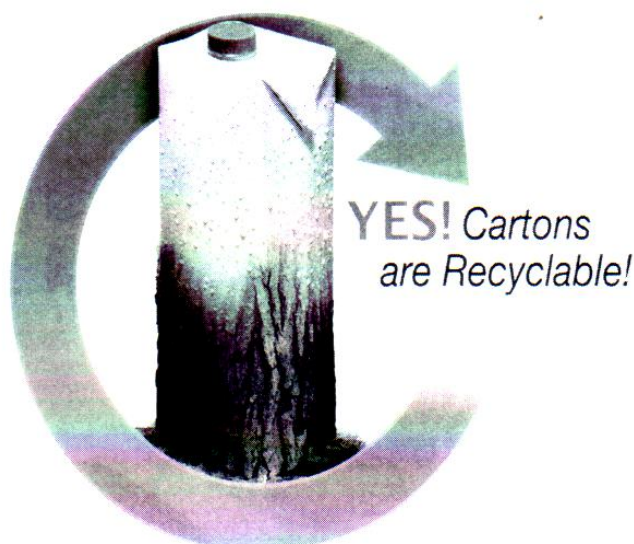
1.13 After reading this passage, will you buy organic food? Discuss your view.

(2)

1.14 Even on organic farms, animals are killed for their meat. What is your opinion on this practice? Give a reason for your answer.

(2)

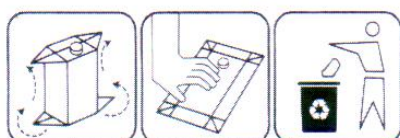
TEXT B



NOW! The last drop of milk or juice does not mark the end of a carton's useful life if you recycle.

HOW? – CARTONS – JUST ANOTHER TYPE OF PAPER

Carton packaging is made mainly from paper board, so please empty, rinse and flatten the used pack (lid and all) and place it in the same drop-off bin as your other paper recyclables.



Used cartons are
100% recyclable.

NOTE: When answering the questions, use your own words as far as possible, unless you are asked for a quotation.

1.15 What is used to make milk and juice cartons?

(1)

1.16 Explain why the arrow in the picture is circular.

(2)

1.17 Discuss your view on recycling cartons.

(2)

SECTION B SUMMARY

QUESTION 2

You are concerned that South Africa will eventually be without water. Prepare a talk for learners at your school on how to save water.

Read the passage (TEXT C) below and write a list of SEVEN points for inclusion in your talk.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. List SEVEN points in full sentences using no more than 70 words.
2. Number your sentences from 1 to 7.
3. Write only ONE point per sentence.
4. Indicate the total number of words you have used in brackets at the end of your summary.

TEXT C

SAVE OUR RIVERS AND STREAMS

If each South African performed a positive action every day our rivers and streams would benefit. Try to avoid using too many plastic containers. Bottles and bags pollute our waterways and also kill many water animals and birds.

A simple thing like closing the tap while you are brushing your teeth, or taking a shower instead of filling a bath tub with water can make an enormous difference. You can also have a positive impact if you think twice before buying appliances. Do a little research and buy energy-saving appliances which you can then use responsibly. Washing two small loads of clothes in a washing machine uses more water and electricity than washing one big load.

Do not dump dangerous waste. There are safe ways to get rid of hazardous materials like paints, drain cleaners and used motor oil. When people, unthinkingly, pour these materials down the drain they land up in rivers or the ocean, doing harm.

Try not to over-use pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers. The run-off from these products lands in our water resources and poisons our animals and plants living in the water.

Washing a car at home allows dangerous substances like oil and petrol to soak into the groundwater where they kill water life and pollute drinking water. Commercial car washes have ways to process water containing grease and oil.

Cleaning up after your pet can make a difference. Pet waste should not be allowed to land up in water resources as it contains harmful bacteria which kill fish and encourage the growth of harmful algae.

Much rainwater goes to waste as it just runs off roofs. Rainwater tanks can be installed to store water for use in the garden, washing machine or toilet.
[Source: *Reader's Digest*, June 2012]

(10)

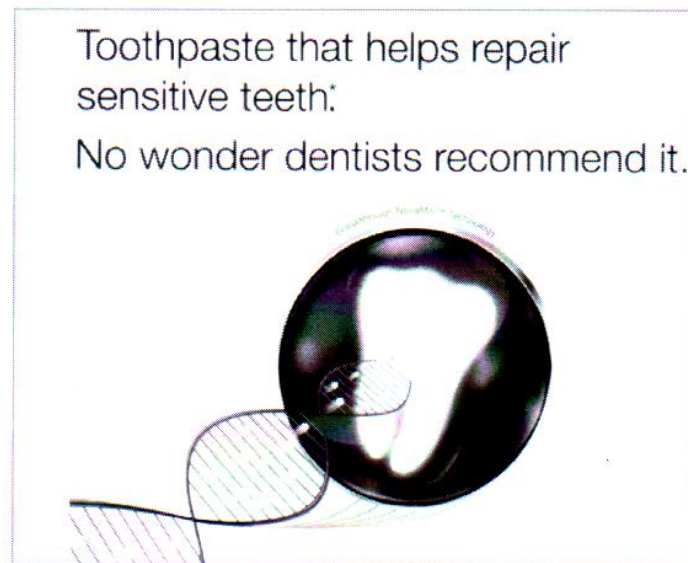
SECTION C LANGUAGE

QUESTION 3 ANALYSING AN ADVERTISEMENT

NOTE: For multiple-choice questions, write only the question number and the letter (A–D) of the correct answer.

Study the following advertisement (TEXT D) and answer the set questions on the next page.

TEXT D



The occasional twinge you get when you drink something cold means a specific area of the tooth is vulnerable.

Now you can help repair that area with a new kind of toothpaste. New Sensodyne® Repair and Protect seeks out and helps repair sensitive areas, using the same minerals teeth are made of. Brush twice a day, every day and stay protected.

"This breaks new ground for toothpaste. I recommend it."
Mark Hughes
Dentist, London



SENSODYNE®
CLINICALLY PROVEN RELIEF AND DAILY PROTECTION FOR SENSITIVE TEETH

**REPAIR
& PROTECT**
POWERED BY NOULAMIN



SENSODYNE® – No. 1 dentist recommended brand for sensitive teeth.**

*Clinically proven relief with twice daily brushing.

**Touchstone research results – February 2012

3.1 Who is the target market of this advertisement?

(1)

3.2 Choose the correct answer to complete the following sentence. Write down ONLY the question number (3.2) and the letter (A–D) of the correct answer. In the context of this advertisement, the word 'twinge' means ...

- A** shout.
- B** pain.
- C** damage.
- D** thirst.

(1)

3.3 According to this advertisement, what can cause dental sensitivity?

(1)

3.4 Name ONE technique the advertiser uses to attract the reader's attention.

(1)

3.5 Why has the advertiser included Mark Hughes's picture and comment?

(2)

3.6 How does the main picture support the text of the advertisement?

(2)

3.7 In your view, are the claims made about the product realistic or exaggerated? Give a reason for your answer.

(2)

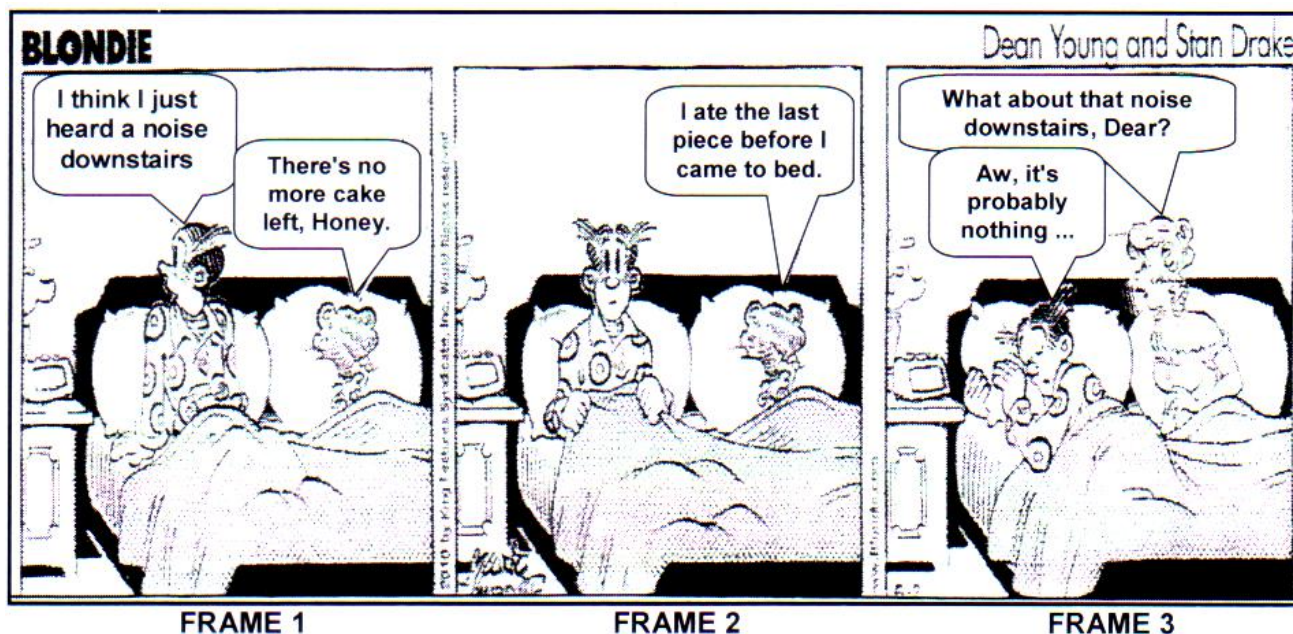
QUESTION 4

ANALYSING A CARTOON

NOTE: For multiple-choice questions, write only the question number and the letter (A–D) of the correct answer.

Read the cartoon (TEXT E) below and answer the set questions.

TEXT E



NOTE: In this cartoon, the man is Dagwood and the woman next to him is his wife, Blondie.

4.1 Refer to frame 1.

4.1.1 What is Dagwood's explanation for being awake?

(1)

4.1.2 According to Blondie, what is the reason for Dagwood's sleeplessness?

(1)

4.1.3 Choose the correct answer to complete the following sentence.

Write down ONLY the question number (4.1.3) and the letter (A–D) of the correct answer.

Blondie calls Dagwood 'Honey' because ...

- A she is a sweet person.
- B that is his surname.
- C he is always hungry.
- D it is her nickname for him.

(1)

4.2 Refer to frame 2.

4.2.1 How does the picture show that Blondie is probably used to incidents like this one?

(1)

4.2.2 What does Dagwood's facial expression tell the reader about his feelings?

(1)

4.2.3 Explain the reason for Dagwood's feelings.

(2)

4.3 Refer to frame 3.

Why does Blondie now sit upright?

(1)

4.4 Do you think Blondie is being spiteful? Discuss your view.

(2)

QUESTION 5

LANGUAGE AND EDITING SKILLS

NOTE: For multiple-choice questions, write only the question number and the letter (A–D) of the correct answer.

5.1 Read the following passage (TEXT F), which contains some deliberate errors, and answer the set questions.

TEXT F

WHAT MAKES US HAPPY?

Experts have discovered some interesting facts of what makes us happy.

In work and leisure, using your skills are rewarding and makes for a happier you. Dr David Myers, psychology professor and author of *The Pursuit of Happiness* says, 'Happy people are often absorbed in tasks that challenge but do not overwhelm them.' He believes if your work is stimulating, it will enrich you.

Studies have proved that more money does not always mean more happiness. For a poor person, increased income brings an increase in happiness, but ones a person is comfortably off, with a home and enough food and so on, more money does not really make a change. Lottery winners expereince a period of intense happiness, but that does not last. When it wears off, they are just as happy as before the win.

Humans long for meaning in their lives. This is brought about by contributing to a cause, a community or a family. There is even a name for it: 'helper's high'. People who make a positive difference are more likely to be happy.

The bottom line is: You create your own happiness.

[Adapted from *Your Family*, January 2012]

5.1.1 Write down and correct the SINGLE error in each of the following sentences:

(a) Experts have discovered some interesting facts of what makes us happy.

(1)

(b) In work and leisure, using your skills are rewarding and makes for a happier you.

(1)

(c) But ones a person is comfortably off, with a home and enough food and so on, more money does not really make a change.

(1)

(d) Lottery winners expereince a period of intense happiness, but that does not last.

(1)

5.1.2 Change the following sentence into a tag question:

Experts have discovered some interesting facts.

(1)

5.1.3 Write out the correct abbreviation for 'professor'.

(1)

5.1.4 Choose the correct answer to complete the following sentence.

Write down ONLY the question number (5.1.4) and the letter (A–D) of the correct answer.

The Pursuit of Happiness is written in italics because it is ...

A somebody's direct words.

B the title of a book.

C the name of a place.

D an incomplete sentence.

(1)

5.1.5 Rewrite the following sentence in reported speech:

'Happy people are often absorbed in tasks that do not overwhelm them.'

Begin with: Dr David Myers said ...

(3)

5.1.6 Rewrite the following sentence in the past tense:

Studies have proved that more money does not always mean more happiness.

5.1.7 Give the correct form of the word in brackets:

Money adds to the degree of (comfortably) in your life.

(2)

5.1.8 Rewrite the following sentence in the negative form:

Humans long for meaning in their lives.

(1)

(1)

5.2 Study the following text (TEXT G), and answer the set questions.

TEXT G



Coffee provides powerful protection against cancer and stroke and lowers the risk of depression by 20%.

Your favourite cup contains a life-saving miracle drug.

A simple cup of coffee works wonders in the body.

Coffee has astonishing benefits.

5.2.1 Rewrite the following sentence in the passive voice:

Coffee provides powerful protection.

(2)

5.2.2 Your favourite cup contains a life-saving miracle drug.

(a) Identify the part of speech of the underlined word.

(1)

(b) Give a synonym for 'miracle'.

(1)

5.2.3 Choose the correct dictionary entries from the following list to complete the sentences below:

moderate *adj.* **1** average in size or amount and not too much **2** not extreme

moderate *verb* to make something less extreme

moderation *noun* in moderation – not too much, in a controlled manner

You must have **(a)** _____ habits. If you do not use coffee in **(b)** _____ it can be harmful.