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**A-Reading Comprehension(10 Marks)**

**Read the following passage then answer the questions below:**

The Coliseum is an ancient stadium in the center of Rome. It is the largest of its kind. It is very old. They started building it in the year 70. It took ten years to build. It is still around today. The Coliseum has been used in many ways. In ancient Rome, men fought each other in it. They fought against lions, tigers, and bears. Oh my! It was dreadful. But most of the people loved it. As many as 80,000 Romans would pack inside to watch. These gruesome events went on until 523. The Coliseum has been damaged many times over the years. It was struck by lightning in the year 217. This started a fire. Much of the Coliseum is made of stone. But the fire damaged the upper levels. They were made of wood. This damage took many years to repair. It was not finished until the year 240.

The worst damage happened in 1349. A mighty earthquake shook Rome and the Coliseum. The south side of the building collapsed. Pieces of the arena were all over the ground. Many people took the fallen stones. Others took stones from the seating areas. They used them to repair houses and churches. The Romans of those days were not connected to the Coliseum. It had last been used as a castle. Before that it was a graveyard. It has been hundreds of years since the games. The damage to the Coliseum was never repaired. It's a good thing the outer wall of it still stands strong.

Today the Coliseum is one of Rome's most popular attractions. People from all over the world come to Italy to see it. The Pope leads a big march around it every Good Friday. It is a symbol that many know. It has even appeared on the back of a coin. I guess that makes it a symbol that many people want too.

**I- Read the questions and choose the correct answer for each.**

1. When did the Romans finish building the Coliseum?

- a. The year 70
- b. The year 523
- c. The year 80**
- d. The year 240

2. What caused the fire that damaged the upper levels of the Coliseum?

- a. A bolt of lightning**
- b. Rowdy people who came to watch the events
- c. An attacking army
- d. An angry mob



3. For which purpose was the Coliseum not used?

- a. **People fought other people in it.**
- b. It was a private castle.
- c. People fought animals in it.
- d. It was a meeting place for the government.

4. What did the people do with the stones that they took from the Coliseum?

- a. **They repaired buildings.**
- b. They sold them.
- c. They used them as weapons.
- d. They used them as tombstones.

5. Which best defines the word gruesome as it is used in the second paragraph?

- a. Exciting
- b. Funny
- c. **Horrible**
- d. Boring

6. Which best describes the main idea in the last paragraph?

- a. This is about all the things the Coliseum has been used for throughout history.
- b. This is about how the Coliseum is a popular place to visit today.
- c. **This is about how the Coliseum is a symbol that many people know.**
- d. This is about how the Coliseum is used today.

II-Find words in the passage which mean:

7-Theatre.

**Coliseum**

8- Broke down.

**Damaged / collapsed**

9- Famous.

**Popular**

**Read the following passage then answer the questions below:**

Meerfus the Wand-Making Magician had a new commission. He had to make a new wand that could make fireworks for celebrations. This was going to be an interesting and exciting piece of work, and even his apprentice, Duncan, was excited to help gather the required materials.



After some consideration, Meerfus decided that he would need the following things to make the wand: lightning bugs, black powder, crushed gemstones, and a stick from a black walnut tree. Most of these were not too hard to obtain, but the crushed gemstones would be expensive. Thankfully, his rich client could pay for the materials.

First, he set Duncan to collecting fireflies or lightning bugs. He gave the boy a net and a small mesh cage to keep them in. The boy ran himself dizzy, darting to and fro, gathering the dozens of bugs required for the magic. It was a fine summer evening, and it was a fun way to pass the time.

The next day they went to find black powder. There was a mine the next town over, so they went there. Demolitions were used to clear parts of the mountain to get the gold out more easily, so it really just took some talking and a bit of coin to convince the foreman to part with a sack full of black powder.

The crushed gemstones came from a jeweler's market in the next county. It was a long ride and a pricy thing, all made up of green emerald dust, red ruby dust, and blue sapphire dust. There was a bit of garnet, tourmaline, and amethyst in there, too, adding the blood red, greenish-yellows, and purples that would really round out the fireworks.

Finally, the black walnut branch came from a grove that Meerfus himself was growing. He had learned long ago that he would save much time if he had his own grove of trees. He had many different trees growing, all in different sizes, shapes, and ages. He never knew when he might need a branch or a twig from one of them, so it paid to keep gathering seeds and saplings to grow his collection.

With all the ingredients assembled, it was time for the magic! He squeezed the glowing but guts out, stirred it into the mortar full of gemstone dust, and carefully added spoonfuls of black powder. He mixed it around and then stuck the black walnut twig he'd cut into the mix. He shaped the goopy mixture into a ball and said the magic words: **Explocicus Beautificus Skywardimus**. Meerfus didn't get excited often, but testing out that new wand was something he certainly enjoyed. The magic had caused the wand to harden into a sparkly, glittering orb atop the polished black walnut stick. Flicks of the wrist sent bursts of flowering light into the night sky, snapping, sizzling, and popping in a rainbow of colors.



Magic was fun. He loved his job, and his apprentice Duncan loved the fireworks. Meerfus knew that this wand was bound to make one happy customer!

**1-) Read the questions and choose the correct answer for each.**

**1. Which of the following is not an ingredient required for the wand-making process?**

- A. crushed gemstones
- B. black powder
- C. a steel rod**
- D. lightning bugs

**2. Which ingredient do they gather first?**

- A. crushed gemstones
- B. black powder
- C. black walnut stick
- D. lightning bugs**

**3. Which ingredient do they gather last?**

- A. crushed gemstones
- B. black powder
- C. black walnut stick**
- D. lightning bugs

**4. By growing his own trees for use in his wand-making, how would you describe Meerfus?**

- A. showing foresight and planning**
- B. thoughtful and careful
- C. unorganized and haphazard
- D. careless, but lucky

**5. Meerfus seems successful at his job because of all of the following except which one?**

- A. He likes what he does.**
- B. He has a good assistant.
- C. He works quickly and carelessly.
- D. He seems knowledgeable in his field.

**Read the following passage then answer the questions below:**

You know that you're doing something big when your company name becomes a verb. Ask Xerox. In 1959 they created the first plain paper copy machine. It was one of the most successful products ever. The company name Xerox grew into a verb that means "to copy," as in "Bob, can you Xerox this for me?" Around 50 years later, the same thing happened to Google. Their company name grew into a verb that means "to do an internet search." Now everyone and their grandma knows what it means to Google it.

Unlike Xerox, Google wasn't the first company to invent their product, not by a long shot. Lycos released their search engine in 1993. Yahoo! came out in 1994. AltaVista began serving results in 1995. Google did not come out until years later, in 1998. Though a few years difference may not seem like much, this is a major head start in the fast moving world of tech. So how did Google do it? How did they overtake their competitors who had such huge leads in time and money? Maybe one good idea made all the difference.

There are millions and millions of sites on the internet. How does a search engine know which ones are relevant to your search? This is a question that great minds have been working on for decades. To understand how Google changed the game, you need to know how search engines worked in 1998. Back then most websites looked at the words in your query. They counted how many times those words appeared on each page. Then they might return pages where the words in your query appeared the most. This system did not work well and people often had to click through pages and pages of results to find what they wanted.

Google was the first search engine that began considering links. Links are those blue underlined words that take you to other pages when you click on them. Larry Page, cofounder of Google, believed that meaningful data could be drawn from how those links connect. Page figured that websites with many links pointing at them were more important than those that had few. He was right. Google's search results were much better than their rivals. They would soon become the world's most used search engine.

It wasn't just the great search results that led to Google becoming so well liked. It also had to do with the way that they presented their product. Most of the other search engines were cluttered. Their home pages were filled with everything from news stories to stock quotes. But Google's homepage was, and still is, clean. There's nothing on it but the logo, the search box, and a few links. It almost appears empty. In fact, when they were first testing it, users would wait at the home page and not do anything. When asked why, they said that they were, "waiting for the rest of the page to load." People couldn't imagine such a clean and open page as being complete. But the fresh design grew on people once they got used to it.

These days Google has its hands in everything from self-driving cars to helping humans live longer. Though they have many other popular products, they will always be best known for their search engine. The Google search engine has changed our lives and our language. Not only is it a fantastic product, it is a standing example that one good idea (and a lot of hard work) can change the world.





**1. Which event happened last?**

- a. Lycos released their search engine.
- b. Yahoo! released their search engine.
- c. Google released their search engine.**
- d. Xerox released their copy machine.

**2. Which statement would the author of this text most likely disagree with?**

- a. Part of Google's success is due to the design of their homepage.
- b. Google succeeded by following examples of others in their field.**
- c. Google wasn't the first search engine, but it was the best.
- d. Google's success may not have been possible without Larry Page.

**3. Which best expresses the main idea of the third paragraph?**

- a. There are lots and lots of websites connected to the internet.
- b. Google created a better way to organize search results.
- c. Many smart people have worked on search engines over the years.
- d. Older search engines used unreliable methods to order results.**

**4. What is the author's main purpose in writing this article?**

- a. To explain how Google overtook its rivals**
- b. To compare and contrast Google and Xerox
- c. To persuade readers to use Google for internet searches
- d. To discuss how companies can influence language over time

**5. Which statement would the author most likely agree with?**

- a. Google became successful because its founders were well-connected.
- b. Google was the world's first and best search engine.
- c. Google changed the world by solving an old problem in a new way.**
- d. Google's other products are now more important to its success than search.

**6. Which best expresses the main idea of the fourth paragraph?**

- a. Links allow people to surf from one website to the next.
- b. Larry Page's ideas about links helped Google get to the top.**
- c. Larry Page contributed to the internet by inventing the link.
- d. Google is a website that serves important links to users.



**7. Which best explains why the author discusses Xerox in this text?**

- a. He is discussing big companies that came before Google.
- b. He is explaining how companies must change with the times.
- c. He is showing how companies can affect our language.**
- d. He is comparing and contrasting Google and Xerox.

**8. How did Google improve search quality in 1998?**

- a. They counted how many times queries appeared on each page.
- b. They looked more closely at the words in search queries.
- c. They linked to more pages.
- d. They studied the relationships of links.**

**9. Which was cited as a reason why Google became so popular?**

- a. Google's homepage was clean.**
- b. Google provided catchy news stories on their homepage.
- c. Google homepage loaded quickly.
- d. Google provided useful stock quotes on their homepage.

**10. Which title best expresses the author's main purpose in writing this text?**

- a. Xerox Vs. Google: Battle of the Titans
- b. Search Engines: How They Work and Why They're Important
- c. A Better Way: How Google Rose to the Top**
- d. Search Engines: A Short History of Important Tools