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Do Pop Stars Deserve High Rewards ?

It seems that pop stars today enjoy a privileged style of living. Wherever they go, thousands of people turn out to greet them. The crowds go wild trying to catch a brief glimpse of their smiling, colour fully--dressed idols. Stars are surrounded by their managers, press--agents, and often by their bodyguards. Photographs of them appear regularly in the press and all their comings and goings are reported, as stars are news. They must constantly avoid meeting crazy fans, particularly teenagers who idolise them. Some people say that stars are no longer private individuals, but public property. The financial rewards they receive for this sacrifice is incalculable.

Is it right that the stars should be paid in this way? It's all very well for people engaged in many other professions to envy the successes and rewards of these stars. However, those who make envious remarks should remember that the most famous stars represent only the tip of an iceberg. For every famous star, there are hundreds of others struggling to earn a living. A man who attempts to become a star is taking enormous risks. He knows at the outset that only a handful of competitors ever get to the very top. He knows that years of concentrated efforts may be rewarded with complete failure. But he knows that the rewards for successes are very high indeed, and if he achieves the goal, he certainly earns them.

听力原文

Part I Listening Comprehension**Section A**

*Directions: In this section, you will hear 8 short conversations and 2 long conversations. At the end of each conversation, one or more questions will be asked about what was said. Both the conversation and the questions will be spoken **ONLY ONCE**. After each question there will be a pause. During the pause, you must read the four choices marked A, B, C and D and decide which is the best answer. Then mark the correct responding letter on Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre.*

Short Conversation

1.W: I'd like to take a trip to Florida for my spring break. Can you give me any idea where to go?

M: I could tell you about the places I visited, but I think you'd better look up a travel agency to help the arrangement.

Q: What does the man suggest the woman do?

2.M: I'm really tired of driving at night, even though the traffic seems fine.

W: I see. Let's stop for some food and then find a motel nearby, so we can start early tomorrow.

Q: What do we learn about the speakers?

3.M: Jeff's got a lot of good ideas. Do you think he is willing to come to the meeting?

W: Oh, I think he'd be glad to come, but what's difficult is getting the guy to speak before a large crowd.

Q: What does the woman imply about Jeff?

4.W: I hear you are leaving the company and going back to school this year.

M: Yes. I've enrolled in a graduate program in Public Administration.

Q: What is the man going to do?

5.W: Have you applied for the art director position?

M: No, I'd like to. But the job starts on the first of May and I wouldn't be available until June.

Q: What does the man mean?

6.W: Will my car be ready by the end of the day?

M: It should be. I'll call if there are any problems. We are open until 6:00.

Q: What is probably the man's job?

7.W: I have a big paper due Monday, but I promise Laura we, d clean the apartment this weekend.

What am I going to do?

M: Why don't you just see if Laura can wait for a week or two?

Q: What does the man suggest the woman do?

8.W: Construction on the bridge has really slowed the traffic.

M: I know. Since they started working* the time it takes me to get to work has doubled.

Q: What are the speakers talking about?

Long Conversation One

W: Sales department. Can I help you?

M: Oh, yes. I hope so. My name is Kings Bruce of GPF Ltd. (9) We need some supplies for our design office.

W: I see. What sort of things are you looking for, Mr. Kings Bruce?

M: Well, first of all, we need one complete new drawing board.

W: Well, in the standard range, we have the D044, and the D045 models.

M: Oh, what's the difference between them?

W: Well, the D045 has the mending system and it does cost slightly more as a result.

M: So what is the total price?

W: For the D045, it is 387 pounds 50 pence.

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M: And does that include value added tax?

W: Oh, yes.

M: Can you tell me how long it takes to deliver?

W: I can't give a definite date now I'm afraid, because it depends on the other orders we have to get out. But it will certainly be within three weeks.

M: OK, now we also want some drawing pens, ink and correction fluid, and some drawing paper.

W: (10)Ah, now the lady who deals with drawing office supplies isn't here this morning I'm afraid. But I could ask her to give you a ring this afternoon if you like.

M: Oh, yes. Thank you.

W: What is your telephone number?

M: It is Redding. (11)That is code 0734, 21653-51.

W: OK, I will get Miss Thompson to ring you this afternoon. Now would you like me to place an order for one D045 drawing board?

M: Yes, please. You've been most helpful. Goodbye.

W: Goodbye.

Questions 9 to 11 are based on the conversation you have just heard.

9. What's the man's purpose in making the telephone call?

10. Why can't the man order the other drawing office supplies right now?

11. What's the man's telephone number?

Long Conversation Two

W: I'm so worried about Mark these days.(12)Ever since he moved into his apartment, he has been losing weight. He really doesn't look well at all.

M: He should try to gain some weight. He is probably not eating enough.

W: Well, anyway, how is Tim these days?

M: Tim? Oh, Tim has been worried, too.(13)He is really getting much too fat. He needs to lose about 75 pounds now.

W: That's a lot of weight to lose. What does Tim eat?

M: I really don't know. But I am sure he is eating too much cake and candy.

W: Well, did I tell you Mark doesn't eat any meat now? He only eats vegetables and fruit.

M: That's probably why he is so thin. Does he smoke?

W: Does he smoke? About two packs of cigarettes a day. That's my son, a smoking vegetarian.

M: En, if he stops smoking, he would gain weight. I know he would. Tim put on a lot of weight when he stopped smoking.

W : Does Tim play any sports?

M: (14)Play sports? Oh, my! I keep telling him,“Tim, dear, you really need to get some exercise.” And you know what he does? He just gets angry.

W: (14) I know Mark doesn’t take exercise, either.

M: Did you tell him?

W: Of course, but you know what it is like being a mother of a 13-year-old boy. They just don’t think they need your advice anymore.(15)I wish Mark could find a nice girlfriend to relax and have fun with. I heard Tim has a girlfriend at last. That’s wonderful.

Questions 12 to 15 are based on the conversation you have just heard.

12. When did Mark start losing weight according to the woman?

13. Why is the man worried about Tim?

14. What did Mark and Tim have in common?

15. What is the woman's wish for Mark?

Section B

Directions: In this section, you will hear 3 short passages. At the end of each passage, you will hear some questions. Both the passage and the questions will be spoken TWICE. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A., B, C.and D. Then mark the corresponding letter on Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre.

Passage one

Good afternoon. This is Diane Martinet with the midday news on KALF. (16)Fires in California continue to burn out of control, and several small towns in the forests near San Francisco are still in danger. One of the greatest dangers to the 500 firefighters, however, comes not from the fires, but from poison plants in the forest. (17)Many firefighters have got skin problems after touching the plants, and at least three have had to go to the hospital for treatment for their skin problems.

NASA, the National Aeronautics and Space Agency, today announced in Florida that the next space shuttle mission has been canceled. The mission was scheduled for an 11:30 a.m. takeoff on Tuesday. (18)However, the flight has been canceled because of problems with the spaceship’s central computer system. NASA technicians noticed the computer problems during last-minute checks.

Seven teenager computer specialists have been arrested by police in New Jersey. (19) After taking an advanced computer course at school, the seven boys, all from Princeton, New Jersey, illegally obtain top-secret information from government computers in Washington. They also started to use their home computers to access telephone networks.

In New York, the value of the dollars stayed the same today. But in Tokyo, the dollar fell

dramatically. At the end of the day, it was worth 83 yen, compared to 88 yen yesterday.

Questions 16 to 19 are based on the passage you have just heard.

16. What does the midday news on KALF say about fires in California?

17. What do we learn about many of the firefighters?

18. What do we learn from the news about the space shuttle mission?

19. What do we learn about the seven boys in New Jersey?

Passage Two

(20) When you live in an apartment building, where only wall separates you from your neighbors, everyone needs to be considerate of each other. That’s not what happened in my apartment building. Someone was always leaving the clothes in the washers and dryers in the laundry room. I got tired of running up and down the stairs to see if the clothes had been removed,so I could start my own one. Obviously someone else got tired, too. (21)Because one day, someone took clothes from the washer and dryer,and dumped them in the corner. This act started a battle of letters posted on the wall of the laundry room. The first letter was from Mindy Lance who was really angry that her clothes had been removed from the washer and dryer, and dumped. She then threatened to dump everybody else’s clothes she herself found in the washer and dryer. Mindy Lance’s letter enraged other residents and they posted the letters to her. Eventually, Mindy began to behave properly but hard feelings remained. (22)The problem couldn't have been resolved better. If residents had informed the building manager> she then could inform all residents that the clothes should be removed from the washers and dryers within 50 minutes after their wash is done. Those who refuse to obey might not have their leases renew. That could be a fare consent solution. Neighbor problems may sometimes seem inevitable, but it’s important to resolve them fairly.

Questions 20 to 22 are based on the passage you have just heard.

20. What does the speaker think residents in an apartment building need to be?

21. What started a battle of letters in the laundry C room?

22.What does the speaker think might be a better way to resolve the problem?

Passage Three

In today’s class, we’ll discuss Toni Morrison's novel Beloved. As I’m sure you all know, (23)Morrison is both a popular and highly respected author and it’s not easy to be both. Born in 1931, Morrison has written some of the most touching and intelligent works on the African-American experience ever written by anyone. And yet to call her an African-American writer doesn’t seem to do her justice. In many ways, she’s simply an American writer and certainly one of the best. Beloved is a truly remarkable work. It was recommended for nearly every nature literary class, including the

National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award, and it in fact won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1988. (24) Morrison herself is distinguished for having won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1993. What makes *Beloved* unique is the skillful sure way in which Morrison blends intensely personal storytelling and American history, racial themes and gender themes, the experience of blacks with the experience of all people everywhere, the down-to-earth reality of slavery with the sense of mysterious spirituality. We will be paying special attention to these themes as we discuss this work and I'm particularly interested in your views on the relative importance of grace and gender in this book. (25) Is it more important that Sethe, the main character is black, or that she is a woman? Which contributes more to her being? What does Morrison tell us about both?

Questions 23 to 25 are based on the passage you have just heard.

23. What do we learn about Toni Morrison?
24. What honor did Toni Morrison receive in 1993?
25. What does the speaker tell us about Sethe, the main character, in Morrison's novel "Beloved"?