

- Q3** Which of the following statements best describes most geniuses' academic achievement?
- A** They will work hard in order to finish top of the class.
 - B** They will often finish with average or bad marks.
 - C** Their marks will often be surpassed by hard-working high achievers.
 - D** Their marks are good although they do not study at all.
- Q4** According to Gloria, what is the main difference between high achievers and geniuses?
- A** High achievers never perform as well as geniuses.
 - B** High achievers mainly reproduce information they have learned.
 - C** Geniuses tend to develop concepts others don't understand.
 - D** Geniuses view and connect information in a different way.
- Q5** In Gloria's opinion, what is the biggest mistake geniuses can make in terms of social life?
- A** They let themselves be bullied by others.
 - B** They spend most of their time alone.
 - C** They refuse to blend in with their peers.
 - D** They try too hard to blend in with the crowd.

Gloria: I suppose it really depends on one's personality. There are, of course, some geniuses who are nothing but misunderstood, who spend most of their time alone, primarily sitting in front of the computer. There might also be geniuses who get bullied at school because they are different. I have also got to know a few people who have decided to push away their mental abilities in order to be like everybody else. In my opinion, this is both an illusion and sad. I think being a genius is a wonderful gift and one shouldn't push it away just to blend in. And then there are those who embrace their gift and refuse to be with their peers because their peers' immaturity just downright annoys them.

Female host: Are you an exception then?

Gloria: *(laughing a little)* I wouldn't call myself an exception. But I also love spending time with my friends. I guess what has made friendship so easy is the fact that we do have a couple of interests in common, sports in particular. We do sports because we love it, because it's refreshing and it frees our minds. And doing sports together is what we love even more. The cool thing is that most of my friends are always better than me ... I guess a brilliant brain does not necessarily help you run faster. *(laughing)*

Female host: *(laughing a little too)* Gloria, it's been a pleasure talking to you.

Gloria: And it's been a real pleasure being here.

Female host: While the show itself is over at this point, Gloria will be available via Facebook for a few couple of hours to answer your questions and maybe chat with you a little. Thank you Gloria and thanks to our fans for listening. Don't forget to come back next week when it's once again time for our next edition of "Teen Talk".

TAPESCRIPT

Announcer: You are going to listen to a recording about studying abroad. First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice. While listening, complete the sentences (1–6) using a maximum of four words. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you. After the second listening you will have 45 seconds to check your answers.

Male host: With me today is John Stevenson, a well-known American sociologist, who is sharing his views on studying abroad. John, thank you very much for being here.

John: You are welcome. Um, thank you for inviting me. It's a great pleasure.

Male host: I suppose a lot of people in the audience are now asking themselves why one should study abroad these days? Considering the challenging economic times we are going through at the moment. I mean it's often not easily affordable either, is it?

John: Em, sure ... em, I understand people's concerns. But interestingly, money is often not what causes the ultimate problem. What irritates particularly parents is the fact that their children – who are, of course, already past adolescence and well on their way to being mature when they leave the country – are far away and kind of harder to reach.

Male host: I see ...
Nevertheless, I'm strongly convinced that being given the chance to study abroad should be part of a person's educational career and can be seen as a vital investment in terms of your future career as well as personal development. While some call it a luxury, sending students to other countries in order to broaden their horizon is rather a necessity if a country is hoping for a new generation of innovators and leaders who are supposed to work and act effectively in this globalised world.

Take the United States of America for instance! I mean, the US is a pretty good example of how important well-educated people are. What it needs are young people with fresh ideas and a sophisticated worldview. In principle, they need to be able to not only understand their own problems but also to quickly react to whatever's happening in countries like China and India. In addition, economic developments are definitely becoming more and more important and they depend upon an open, tolerant view of the world. This is, of course, just a simple example.

Male host: I see ... what would you say is the biggest advantage when it comes to studying somewhere else?

John: What I'm most concerned with is the fear a lot of people feel. Look at what the media present us with. Just watch the news for a few minutes ... it's fear that's being promoted, especially fear of anything that is foreign to us. The people who travel usually quickly learn to

adopt a different attitude because it's necessary. There is actually not much room for fear when you are trying to find your way in a different country. Fear would just lock you in place and not allow for clear thinking. And what's even more ... people who travel extensively learn to embrace diversity. They realise that being different does not automatically create problems but can actually be beneficial. And when that's the case, they automatically learn that understanding is the flip side of fear. Plus ... by being confronted with other cultures and by learning how other people solve problems, our view of the world often changes dramatically. The look from the outside in can usually not be replaced by anything.

Male host: Now ... you also ... you talked about investing in a country's future by sending people abroad. I'd really like to come back to this after the break. (*enthusiastically*) Could you just quickly whet our appetite for it a little?

John: Em ... sure. We live in a world which is more and more turning into a huge marketplace that is rapidly evolving. What the world needs are flexible people, people who can speak various languages and enjoy multicultural settings. If we want to be competitive we definitely need to promote these skills ... and if going abroad helps us achieve that, then I'm all for it.

Male host: John, thank you very much for this first insight. We'll be right back after a short break ...

3. Reading: Teenagers and cosmetic surgery

Read the text below, then choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for questions 1–6. Put a in the correct box. The first one (0) has been done for you.

Teenagers and cosmetic surgery

Sandra is 16 years of age and has just had a nose job done. Even though she cannot see the results yet because half of her face is covered with layers of tape, she is absolutely excited and entirely sure that her life has fundamentally changed due to the amazing result. Ever since she was nine years old, she thought her nose was too big and distorting her facial features. She first started dreaming about having surgery when she was 14. Initially, her parents were against the procedure and tried to convince her that the only problem she had was her self-perception. They even forced her to go to a psychiatrist who they hoped would help her. Since Sandra's urge to look different kept overshadowing everything else in her life, they ultimately gave in. Their only condition was that she would wait until her 16th birthday because they were secretly hoping for their daughter to change her mind, which she did not.

According to American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) statistics, Sandra is one of approximately 220,000 teenagers aged 13–19 who undergo plastic or cosmetic surgery every year, with numbers constantly rising. Specifically in industrialised countries where patients-to-be are in the economic position to afford purely cosmetic procedures and do not have to rely on insurance to cover the costs, plastic surgeons are in high demand.

While adults tend to have cosmetic surgery to stand out from the crowd, teenagers are more likely to undergo a procedure because they want to blend in with their peers. Their lack of self-esteem often lets them doubt their own attractiveness. Combined with the images presented in the media where stars' and celebrities' bodies and faces are more than perfect, this fact pushes them to make rash decisions they might regret later on.

When talking to experts, they agree that while correcting misshapen noses and protruding ears might even be advisable in a person's teenage years, breast surgery, both reduction and augmentation, or liposuction do not only pose a high risk but can have irreversible side effects. Among those are excessive scarring and lifelong pain.

Another aspect that often complicates the situation further is that teenagers tend to have quite unrealistic expectations towards the operation they undergo. Most of them have a perfect image of themselves in mind and believe that the changes to their appearance will turn out exactly the way they want them to. They cling to the idea that an improved look will automatically change their emotional well-being and commonly end up far from being entirely happy. Fears, doubts and social difficulties are believed to magically disappear. However, if the result is disappointing the consequences can be severe. Anything from depression to complete social withdrawal, which might even be followed by suicide, is possible.

The numbers of teenagers signing up for plastic surgery are not likely to decrease any time soon. As a consequence, the role of the consulting doctor has become even more important than before. At the very least surgeons should make both patients and parents aware of the possible risks and the likeability of imperfect results. In addition to the necessity of every patient having a realistic idea of the procedure's outcome, the doctor in charge must have made sure that the teenager entering the operation room is mentally and physically mature enough to undergo surgery.

No matter how much money is spent on the perfect body, it does not change anything about the people themselves.

0 Sandra, a teenager, is

- A recovering from surgery.
- B planning on having a nose job done.
- C thinking about consulting a doctor for surgery.
- D suffering from the outcome of her surgery.

Q1 Sandra's parents

- A talked to her about the problem when she was nine.
- B told her to wait until she was 14 years old.
- C suggested that Sandra should see a psychiatrist.
- D thought that Sandra did not see herself realistically.

Q2 Plastic surgery is

- A decreasing in industrialised countries.
- B more expensive in industrialised countries.
- C covered by insurance in industrialised countries.
- D affordable for many people in industrialised countries.

Q3 Many teenagers choose plastic surgery

- A to be more attractive than their peers.
- B to look similar to their peers.
- C to avoid being teased by their peers.
- D to impress their peers.

Q4 Experts claim that

- A all cosmetic procedures pose too much risk for teenagers.
- B cosmetic procedures should not be carried out until later in life.
- C some cosmetic procedures should be done on teenagers.
- D breast augmentations and reductions pose the highest risk.

Q5 After having had surgery

- A many teenagers are dissatisfied with the outcome.
- B most teenagers regret having made this decision.
- C many patients suffer from depression.
- D most teenagers have more social difficulties than before.

Q6 Consulting doctors should

- A refuse to do dangerous surgery on teenagers.
- B scare teenagers off by presenting them with the risks.
- C make sure the teenagers' bodily development is sufficient.
- D check the teenagers' mental health.

KEY

- 0–A** recovering from surgery.
- Q1–D** thought that Sandra did not see herself realistically.
- Q2–D** affordable for many people in industrialised countries.
- Q3–B** to look similar to their peers.
- Q4–C** some cosmetic procedures should be done on teenagers.
- Q5–A** many teenagers are dissatisfied with the outcome.
- Q6–C** make sure the teenagers' bodily development is sufficient.

4. Reading: Sitcoms

Read the text below, then complete the sentences (1–6) using a maximum of four words. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

Watching sitcoms never goes out of style

Sitcoms such as *I love Lucy*, *Friends* or *How I met your mother* have been around for about 80 years now and from the beginning onwards there has been something special about them. Ever since the two words situation and comedy were fused to define a new TV concept, sitcoms have been loved and enjoyed by millions of viewers all over the world.

The basic structure is similar for all of those shows. They commonly focus on a few main characters, either a family, a group of friends or work colleagues and their professional as well as their private lives. We watch them interact with each other and the outside world, fall in and out of love, go through the typical ups and downs life holds in store for them and are amused by all the little mishaps we know so well, because they happen in our own lives, too.

The reason why sitcoms tend to be more popular than other TV formats is that they introduce quirky characters who fascinate the viewers by displaying weird habits such as obsessive cleaning, an addiction to shopping or the inability to commit to a serious relationship. Due to the fact that those characters still show numerous likeable character traits and are loyal to their family and friends, the spectator feels drawn to them and is likely to identify with at least one of the protagonists. Thus, the cast usually contains a variety of personalities, for example a quite intelligent but nerdy type, a character seeking a loving partner, a workaholic striving for professional success and a rather homely person. This way, almost everyone finds part of themselves in such shows, which is their main key to success.

Naturally, sitcoms emphasise the aspect of fun and entertainment, since this is also one of their selling points. Therefore, they employ jokes, misunderstandings or word plays to capture the audience's attention and make them laugh. Every character embodies a certain type of humor, which hardly ever changes throughout the series. This guarantees continuity

for the viewers, since they expect typical reactions from the individual characters. In addition, this enables the show to cater to various kinds of humour and thus increase the number of target groups.

If you now think that sitcoms are simply about providing the viewer with a good time during the 20 to 30 minutes one episode usually covers, this is not entirely true. Apart from some lightheartedness and entertainment, sitcoms also have a more serious side to them. It is not rare for them to include current issues into their story lines and to help the audience see other aspects they might have overlooked before. Surrogate motherhood, immigration or disabilities are just a few of the topics such shows have covered. They do not even shy away from the sad truths we have to face in life, such as death, divorce or sickness. However, this is also why people love them so much, because they provide us with happiness and the hope that life turns out well after all.

0	People have been watching sitcoms for	<i>80 years/about 80 years</i>
Q1	The namesakes of this TV concept were	
Q2	Sitcoms usually centre around	
Q3	Some protagonists of sitcoms are interesting because they cannot	
Q4	Sitcoms are successful mostly because the viewers	
Q5	The various types of humour provided in sitcoms lead to	
Q6	Many sitcoms are loved by their viewers because they also	

KEY

- 0** 80 years/about 80 years
- Q1** situation and comedy
- Q2** a few main characters/the main characters/families/groups of friends/work colleagues
- Q3** commit to a relationship/enter a serious relationship
- Q4** see themselves in them/find themselves/identify with the characters
- Q5** more/different target groups
- Q6** cover current issues/talk about sad truths

5. Language in use: Mystery literature

You are going to read a text about mystery literature. Some words are missing from the text. Choose from the list (A–O) the correct part for each gap (1–12) in the text. There are two extra words you should not use. Write your answers in the boxes provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

Mystery literature

Mystery literature typically **(0)** ... creatures that are more than a little out of the ordinary, such as vampires, werewolves or magicians. Over the last years we have seen an incredible increase in **(Q1)** ... of mystery literature, which might be **(Q2)** ... our fascination with their supernatural powers that we as **(Q3)** ... do not possess ourselves. The **(Q4)** ... of such novels can fly, shift shape, read other people's minds and do magic.

Compared to all these **(Q5)** ... , our own seem somewhat boring. After all, how many of us would love to be **(Q6)** ... using magic spells to turn their lives into the direction they would like them to **(Q7)** This might be the reason why people have always craved to experience magic and mystery through film and literature, seeing as they cannot do so in real life.

As a response to the **(Q8)** ... in interest, more and more authors have set their stories in strange worlds which have only slight **(Q9)** ... to the one we live in and which are inhabited by mysterious **(Q10)** However, literature strongly **(Q11)** ... the demands of its readers and so it is to be expected that at some point their interest will **(Q12)** ... to new areas.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| A abilities | E creatures | I humans | M sacrifice |
| B be moving on | F depends on | J protagonists | N sales numbers |
| C capable of | G due to | K revolves around | O similarities |
| D careful | H head into | L rise | |

0	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12
K												

KEY

0	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12
K	N	G	I	J	A	C	H	L	O	E	F	B

KEY

The life of a student is not as pleasant as many adults remember it to	✓	0
be. There are tests and exams to be take, home assignments and	be	00
papers to write, and the hundreds of pages of studying material to go	the	Q1
through them . Thus, it has become more and more important to	them	Q2
prepare for an exam effectively in order to receive good grades.	✓	Q3
The first step students should have take when studying for exams is to	have	Q4
create their own perfect learning environment. This does usually	does	Q5
includes a quiet and well-organised workspace, good lighting and few	✓	Q6
of distracting devices such as computers or televisions.	of	Q7
Finding out about any learning preferences and to utilising them to	to	Q8
study more quickly and more efficiently is at the next important step.	at	Q9
Some students might need the visual support, while others learn best	the	Q10
by reading the information of out loud or moving around their room	of	Q11
when studying. Depending on the individual's learner type the ideal	✓	Q12
preparation method should be chosen.	✓	Q13
Since the studying is commonly an activity that people do not enjoy	the	Q14
doing, it makes sense to form study groups. Revising on material	on	Q15
together with other people usually means more fun, especially if it is a	✓	Q16
group of friends sitting around a table. In addition, you do not get stuck	✓	Q17
in as easily, because others might have knowledge you are lacking and	in	Q18
be able to explain topics that are unclear to you.	✓	Q19

7. Writing: Health issues: Smoking

Your class has been discussing the topic of smoking for two weeks now. Having read that despite the many risks smoking among teenagers is still on the rise, you decide to write an **article** for the school magazine in which you warn your fellow students of this dangerous habit. In your article, you should:

- discuss why so many teenagers start to smoke
- outline which health problems smoking can cause
- suggest what measures should be taken by educators and the government to prevent teenagers from smoking

Write an **article** of about **250 words**. Give your article a **title**.