

Unit 06: Work, work, work

READING 01 Do you believe in IQ tests?

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.

Do you believe in IQ tests?

Although IQ tests have been used for quite some time to determine the intelligence of the people taking them, the question remains whether you can really judge somebody's mental capabilities by letting them answer questions concerning language patterns or mathematical operations. In order for an IQ test to be considered reliable, it has to examine more than one cognitive skill and has to be conducted by a professional, for example a psychiatrist. This ensures that the test taker's intelligence is measured correctly and the results are interpreted in a meaningful way.

Most of us are interested in what kind of result they would receive, but what keeps most people from taking such a test is the insecurity about what they will learn about themselves. The relatively high costs are only a minor obstacle for most of us. Even though we do not think of ourselves as less intelligent as the people around us, being given a number that is below average might change the way we perceive ourselves forever. In addition, we are aware of the fact that the chance that we are geniuses and simply did not know about it is very small. Thus, it seems safer to live without knowing the details.

In recent years another point of discussion concerning this issue has been raised. Many people have difficulties believing that answering a couple of questions is enough to provide valid information about their cognitive skills, especially since one of the most important aspects of a human being, their emotional intelligence, is not addressed in an IQ test at all. This fact is even more crucial since the way we socially interact with others has a huge impact on our job performance and can also influence our success in personal life. After all, we respond much more to how a person talks to us than to the actual content of their words.

But does the result of such a test come as a surprise to most people having taken it? Well, it must be said that although there are occasional exceptions, the majority of test takers have a quite precise idea of how they performed. Apart from the fact that they should be able to pass a certain judgment on how they were doing throughout the test, namely whether they had trouble answering questions or not, most people compare their skills and abilities to those around them their entire lives. They usually know if they are having trouble learning and understanding and do not need a test telling them exactly that. It might even make matters worse for them if they receive a rating below average. A person's self-esteem could be seriously damaged or even vanish entirely if they do not perform well due to having a bad day. Following such a blow to their self-image, they might suffer from family or job problems.

So should we abandon IQ tests as a whole? Of course, this is not the best way of dealing with this matter. We simply need to realise that the result we get is only a number and it does not by far give anyone an idea of who we are and what we can do. We might even see it as a challenge to prove to ourselves that this number cannot possibly be right since we can do and achieve so much more.

0	An IQ test measures _____ .	<i>the intelligence/the mental capability</i>
Q1	In order to be valid an IQ test has to test _____ .	
Q2	Most people do not take an IQ test to avoid _____ .	
Q3	Our perception of our intelligence might suffer from _____ .	
Q4	Emotional intelligence affects the way we _____ .	
Q5	Most test takers _____ by their rating.	
Q6	If their fears are confirmed, they might lose _____ .	

VOCABULARY 02 Volunteer work

You are going to read a text about volunteer work. In most lines of the text there is a word that should not be there. Write that word in the space provided after each line. Six to eight lines are correct. Indicate these lines with a tick (✓). There are two examples at the beginning.

Volunteer work

When I was younger, I never considered myself to be a person who does	✓	0
volunteer work. My parents kept telling to me that it was a really	to	00
rewarding experience and that I would see the advantages gained from	_____	Q1
volunteering later on in the life, but I just never took the step.	_____	Q2
Both of them always did volunteer work as far as I could remember. My	_____	Q3
mum helped out at a food kitchen on a regular basis and on the most	_____	Q4
public holidays, while my dad spent at least two weeks of his yearly	_____	Q5
vacation in building homes for the poor. Even though I was impressed by	_____	Q6
their actions, I did not think that it was to the right decision for me.	_____	Q7
However, next after a really bad break-up with my first girlfriend I did	_____	Q8
not know what to do with myself for the summer. Thus, I have decided to	_____	Q9
volunteer as a coach at a summer camp for the handicapped children.	_____	Q10
Right before going I doubted the wisdom of my decision, because after it	_____	Q11
all I would not be paid and I would spend my entire summer taking care of	_____	Q12
children I had never been met before. I figured this could not turn out to	_____	Q13
be great fun. Imagine my surprise when after the first few days I realised	_____	Q14
as I was having the best time. There was so much to learn from children	_____	Q15
who had been living with handicaps of all their lives. Most of them were	_____	Q16
so positive and happy personalities that I felt ashamed of the way I had	_____	Q17
been thinking on about my own life which had turned out really well. Back	_____	Q18
at the home I found out that my voluntary summer job had not only	_____	Q19
been proved to be beneficial for my personal development, but also	_____	Q20
helped me get into better colleges.	_____	Q21

Answer key

READING 01 Do you believe in IQ tests?

- | | | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 0 | the intelligence/the mental capability | Q4 | interact socially |
| Q1 | more than one skill | Q5 | are not surprised |
| Q2 | getting bad results | Q6 | their self-esteem |
| Q3 | low results/results below average | | |

VOCABULARY 02 Volunteer work

When I was younger, I never considered myself to be a person who does volunteer work. My parents kept telling **to** me that it was a really rewarding experience and that I would see the advantages gained from volunteering later on in **the** life, but I just never took the step. Both of them always did volunteer work as far as I **could** remember. My mum helped out at a food kitchen on a regular basis and on **the** most public holidays, while my dad spent at least two weeks of his yearly vacation **in** building homes for the poor. Even though I was impressed by their actions, I did not think that it was **to** the right decision for me. However, **next** after a really bad break-up with my first girlfriend I did not know what to do with myself for the summer. Thus, I **have** decided to volunteer as a coach at a summer camp for **the** handicapped children. Right before going I doubted the wisdom of my decision, because after **it** all I would not be paid and I would spend my entire summer taking care of children I had never **been** met before. I figured this could not turn out to be great fun. Imagine my surprise when after the first few days I realised **as** I was having the best time. There was so much to learn from children who had been living with handicaps **of** all their lives. Most of them were so positive and happy personalities that I felt ashamed of the way I had been thinking **on** about my own life which had turned out really well. Back at **the** home I found out that my voluntary summer job had not only **been** proved to be beneficial for my personal development, but also helped me get into better colleges.

✓	0
to	00
✓	Q1
the	Q2
could	Q3
the	Q4
✓	Q5
in	Q6
to	Q7
next	Q8
have	Q9
the	Q10
it	Q11
✓	Q12
been	Q13
✓	Q14
as	Q15
of	Q16
✓	Q17
on	Q18
the	Q19
been	Q20
✓	Q21