

Preliminary Short Passages

قطع تمهيدية قصيرة

- 1 -

Read the following passage and answer the questions :

اقرأ القطعة ثم أجب على الأسئلة
الزمن المثالي : 10 دقائق

Time allowed : 10 minutes

The scenery around Sherman is bleak and wild. Several famous peaks are said to be perceptible in the far distance. I have read a statement to the effect that Long's Peak, one of the principal mountains of Colorado, 75 miles to the southwest, and Pike's Peak, 165 miles to the south, are both plainly visible.



To the north, Elk Mountain is another noted landmark, about 100 miles distant. It is possible that these mountains may have been discerned in a vision by the compiler of guide books, but to the eye of the ordinary unimaginative traveler, they are invisible. What he does see to the left of the line looking westward is the snow-capped range of the Wasatch Mountains. On the right are rough and irregular elevations dotted over with dark pines. These are the Black Hills or Wyoming. A huge mass of red rock stands forth here and there on the solitary plain. Most welcome to eyes wearied with the savage grandeur of the scene are the patches of purple and yellow wild flowers which flourish amidst the short brown grass. It is with a feeling of relief that Sherman station is left behind.

Choose the right words :

- 1- To the north of Sherman is ...
a. Pike's Peak. b. Elk Mountain.
c. Long's peak. d. the Wasatch Mountains.
- 2- A pleasant sight to the viewer is that of ...
a. the pine trees. b. the Black Hills.
c. the wild flowers. d. the grass.
- 3- The author makes it clear that ...
a. one needs an excellent imagination to see the mountains described in the guide book.
b. the guide book writer could see all the mountains.
c. the ordinary traveler does not notice the things around him.
d. Elk Mountain was visible from Sherman.
- 4- The author's feeling on leaving Sherman is one of ...
a. sorrow. b. disdain.
c. satisfaction. d. anger.
- 5- The scenery in the area is ...
a. quaint. b. breath-taking.
c. lonely and savage. d. beautiful.

Vocabulary :

scenery	مشهد	bleak and wild	مكشوف وموحش
noted landmark	معلم واضح	plainly visible	مرئي بوضوح
unimaginative	غير قادر	discern	يرى - يدرك
	على التخيل	compiler	مؤلف - مصنف
westward	باتجاه الغرب	snow-capped	مغطى بالثلوج
wild flowers	زهور برية	amidst	وسط - بين

- 2 -

Read the following passage and answer the questions :

اقرأ القطعة ثم أجب على الأسئلة

Time allowed : 10 minutes

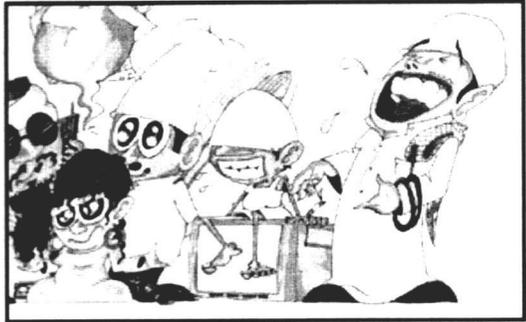
الزمن المئالي : 10 دقائق

The humorous story may be spun out to great length and may wander around as much as it pleases, and arrive

nowhere in particular; but the comic story and the witty story must be brief and end with a point. The humorous story bubbles gently along, the Other two burst.

The humorous story is strictly a work of art -high and delicate art- and only an artist can tell it; but no art is necessary in telling the comic and witty stories; anybody can do it. The art of telling a humorous story -I mean by word of mouth. not print- was created in America and has remained at home.

The humorous story it told gravely; the teller does his best to conceal the fact that he even dimly suspects that there is anything funny about it; but the teller of the comic story tells you beforehand that it is one of the funniest things he has ever heard, then tells it with eager delight and is the first person to laugh when he gets through. And sometimes if he has had good success, he is so glad and happy that he will repeat the 'nub' of it and glance around from face to face collecting applause and then repeat it again. It is a pathetic thing to see.



Choose the right words :

- 1- Which story takes the longest to tell ?
 - a. the humorous story
 - b. the witty story
 - c. the comic story
 - d. all three take the same amount of time
- 2- Which story has no particular point ?
 - a. the humorous story
 - b. the witty story
 - c. the comic story
 - d. all three
- 3- The humorous story ...

- a . was created abroad.
 b. is essentially American.
 c. is also appreciated in other countries.
 d. is more popular in other countries than in the U.S.
- 4- The teller of a humorous Story ...
 a. laughs at his own joke.
 b. repeats it several times.
 c. is very serious when he tells it.
 d. is concerned about the reaction of his listeners.
- 5- The teller of a comic story ...
 a. tells it only once.
 b. tells the listener beforehand that his story is funny.
 c. doesn't care whether his listeners enjoy it or not.
 d. is very serious when telling it.

Vocabulary :

humorous	فكاهي - طريف	comic	هزلي - كوميدي
a work of art	عمل فني	conceal	يخفي
eager	متلهف - تواق	delight	بهجة - سرور
applause	تصفيق - إطراء	pathetic	مثير للشفقة
listener	مستمع	beforehand	مقدماً

- 3 -

Read the following passage and answer the questions :

اقرأ القطعة ثم أجب على الأسئلة
 الزمن المثالي : 10 دقائق

Time allowed : 10 minutes

Wild turkey has developed a high degree of ingenuity in evading its pursuers. In some places it appears to have learned a game of make believe; when caught at close quarters, it puts on the tame and innocent demeanor of the domesticated bird.



There were two hunters who came suddenly upon a flock of five in the road. They seemed quite unconcerned, walked deliberately in front of the two gunners, mounted a fence and disappeared slowly over a low hill. They took to

their legs. and presently to their wings, and soon placed a wide valley between themselves and their dupes. The chagrin of the sportsmen may be imagined. Their game had made game of them. Such birds would have been called half civilized.

Yet turkeys, like the rest of us, are wise in some respects and foolish in others. In old times, at least, great numbers were caught in pens built of logs, the only entrance to which was through a shallow narrow trench. The greedy birds following the corn which had been scattered in the trench. wedged themselves through the entrance; and then, when perhaps half a dozen of them were inside, and the grain was all eaten, they tried in vein to get out through the top or sides of the pen, never once looking down and passing out by the way they had come in, even though they might remain in the trap for several days or until they perished of hunger.

Choose the right words :

- 1- The passage tells about an experience involving ...
 - a. a traveler and some turkeys.
 - b. a hunter and two other men.
 - c. two hunters.
 - d. some little girls.
- 2- From the article we get the impression that turkeys are...
 - a. stupid.
 - b. clever.
 - c. innocent.
 - d. sometimes clever and sometimes stupid
- 3- The turkeys in the story ...
 - a. pretended to be frightened of the hunters.
 - b. pretended to be indifferent to the hunters' presence.
 - c. hurried down the road in front of the hunters.
 - d. suddenly disappeared and hid themselves in the bushes.

- 4- The hunters in the story ...
- were amused.
 - were impressed at the ingenuity of the birds.
 - were humiliated.
 - were very angry.
- 5- Turkeys were formerly caught in pens as a result of...
- their being wedged in so tightly.
 - their great desire for corn.
 - the trap door closing after them.
 - their trying to get out the same way they came in.

Vocabulary :

ingenuity	براعة - إبداع	pursuer	مطارِد
tame	وديع - أليف	innocent	ساذج - برىء
demeanor	تصرف - سلوك	domesticated bird	طائر أليف
came upon	يواجه فجأة	gunner	صياد ببندقية
hunter	صياد - مطارِد	dupe	ساذج - مغفل
chagrin	غم - حزن	turkey	ديك رومي
log	عرق خشب	entrance	مدخل
shallow	ضحل	narrow	ضيق
trench	خندق	wedge	يحشر
perish	يهلك - يموت	impression	انطباع

- 4 -

Read the following passage and answer the questions :

اقرأ القطعة ثم أجب على الأسئلة

Time allowed : 10 minutes

الزمن المثالي : 10 دقائق

The electromagnet was invented in England by William Sturgeon, who took an iron rod and bent it into the shape of a horseshoe. This "horseshoe" was coated with varnish and a layer of copper wire was wrapped around it. An electric current was passed through the wire, thus making the rod magnetic. The rod was now, because of magnetic attraction, able to support nine pounds of iron.

In the U.S., a scientist named Joseph Henry improved on Sturgeon's electromagnet by insulating the copper wire with silk. He was able to wrap many turns of wire around an iron

core without danger of short circuits between the turns. His magnet could hold 2,300 pounds.

This experiment prompted Henry to try his hand at converting magnetism into electricity. First, he coiled some insulated wire around an iron bar, connecting both ends of the wire to a galvanometer. The iron bar was placed across the poles of the electromagnet. Then the coil of the electromagnet was connected to a battery. The galvanometer indicated a voltage, then dropped to zero. Henry signaled his assistant to disconnect the coil. The galvanometer showed that once again a voltage had been produced, although this time in the opposite direction. The principle of electromagnetic induction had thus been discovered. Unfortunately for Joseph Henry he did not publish his findings and someone else (Faraday) got the credit for the discovery.

Choose the right words :

- 1- Henry's electromagnet was ...
 - a. exactly like Sturgeon's.
 - b. an improvement over Sturgeon's.
 - c. more dangerous than Sturgeon's.
 - d. not as good as Sturgeon's.
- 2- Henry was encouraged by his experiment ...
 - a. to insulate the copper wire.
 - b. to change magnetism into electricity.
 - c. to convert electricity into magnetism.
 - d. to avoid short circuits.
- 3- He connected the wire to ...
 - a. a coil.
 - b. a galvanometer.
 - c. the poles of the electromagnet.
 - d. an iron bar.
- 4- The galvanometer indicated ...
 - a. that Henry's assistant had connected the wire.
 - b. that Henry had been able to produce a voltage.
 - c. zero constantly

- d. the iron bar had been placed across the poles of the electromagnet.
- 5- According to what appeared in print at that time ...
- Joseph Henry discovered the principle of electromagnetic induction.
 - Joseph Henry falsely tried to claim credit for the discovery of the principle of electromagnetic induction.
 - Faraday discovered the principle of electromagnetic induction.
 - Henry's experiment with electromagnetic induction was a failure.

Vocabulary :

electromagnet	كهرومغناطيس	iron rod	قضيب حديدي
horseshoe	حدوة حصان	varnish	دهان - طلاء
copper wire	سلك نحاسي	layer of	طبقة من
electric current	تيار كهربائي	attraction	جذب
experiment	تجربة	magnetic	مغناطيسي
voltage	فولت	opposite direction	اتجاه معاكس

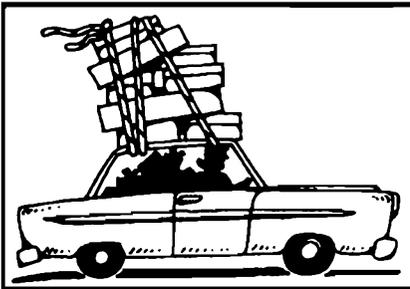
- 5 -

Read the following passage and answer the questions :

اقرأ القطعة وأجب على الأسئلة
الزمن المتاح : 10 دقائق

Time allowed : 10 minutes

We're more than halfway now; it's only two miles farther to the hotel,' said the driver, 'I'm glad of that !' answered the stranger, in a more sympathetic mood. He meant to say more but the east wind blew clear down the man's throat if he tried to speak, the girl's voice was something quite charming, however, and presently he spoke again.



"You don't feel the cold so much at twenty below zero out in the western country, There's none of this damp chill," he said, and then it

seemed as if he had blamed the uncomplaining young driver. She had not even said that it was a disagreeable day, and he began to be conscious of a warm hopefulness of spirit, and sense of pleasant adventure under all the woolen shawls.

'You'll have a cold drive going back,' he said anxiously, and put up his hand for the twentieth time to see if his coat-collar were as close to the back of his neck as possible. He had wished a dozen times for the warm old hunting rig in which he had many a day confronted the worst of weather in the Northwest.

"I shall not have to go back!" exclaimed the girl with eager pleasantness. 'I'm on my way home now. I drove over early just to meet you at the train station. We had word that someone was coming to the tavern.'

Choose the right words :

- 1- How far was the drive from the train to the tavern?
 - a. one mile
 - b. two miles
 - c. a little over four mile
 - d. less than four miles
- 2- The driver was...
 - a. an old man.
 - b. a girl.
 - c. a stranger.
 - d. we don't know
- 3- From the passage we gather that the two speakers are in...
 - a. the West.
 - b. the East.
 - c. the Northwest.
 - d. the South.
- 4- According to the stranger, in the West, winter is
 - a. dry and cold
 - b. humid and cold.
 - c. warmer than in the East.
 - d. temperate.
- 5- The driver ...
 - a. had to return to the train station after leaving the stranger at the tavern.
 - b. was going home after leaving the stranger at the tavern.
 - c. lived at the tavern
 - d. was going away on the train.

Vocabulary :

mood	مزاج - حالة نفسية	sympathetic	ودي
below zero	تحت الصفر	chill	قشعريرة
hunting rig	ملابس الصيد	hopefulness	مفعم بالأمل
woolen shawl	شال صوف	disagreeable	كراهه - غير محبب
tavern	فندق - خان	confront	يواجه - يتحدى
charming	ساحر - فائن	northwest	الشمال الغربي
collar	ياقة	weather	جو - طقس
a dozen times	مرات عديدة	anxiously	بقلق - بشغف

- 6 -

Read the following passage and answer the questions :

اقرأ القطعة وأجب على الأسئلة
الزمن المثالي : 10 دقائق

Time allowed : 10 minutes

For as long as he lived, Cosimo de Medicj was in charge of the running of the city of Florence. He ruled by pretending not to rule at all. He did not hold a public office himself but the city council



was loaded with his friends. Due to a change in the laws it was impossible for these cronies to lose an election and the citizens of Florence did not even realize that they had little to say about their government. In any case, the city prospered under this agreement.

The Florentine artists benefited from Cosimo's rule, among them the sculptor, Donatello, and two monk painters Fra Angelico and Fra Filippo Lippi. The two friars could not have been more different.

For thirty years Cosimo was the power behind the government in Florence, and when, in 1464, he died, he was buried in San Lorenzo, one of the city's splendid churches, with the words "**THE FATHER OF HIS COUNTRY**" carved in Latin on his tomb.

Choose the right words :

- 1- Cosimo de Medicj ruled Florence ...
a. behind the scenes.
b. as a public officer.
c. openly although not as an elected officer.
d. as a prince.
- 2- In the city elections, Cosimo friends ...
a. always lost. b. seldom lost.
c. never lost. d. often lost.
- 3- The citizens of Florence ...
a. objected to Cosimo's type of rule.
b. did well under Cosimo's government.
c. realized that Cosimo pulled the strings.
d. had a lot of influence over the city council.
- 4- Fra Angelico and Fra Fitippo Lippi ...
a. had a lot in common.
b. had nothing in common.
c. had only their artistic ability in common.
d. had their love of the joys of earth in common.
- 5- Cosimo began his rule of Florence ...
a. during the first half of the 14th century.
b. during the latter half of the 14th century.
c. during the first half of the 15th century.
d. during the latter half of the 15th century.

Vocabulary :

in charge of	مسئول عن	cronies	أصدقاء حميمون
carved	منقوش	tomb	قبر
Latin	اللغة اللاتينية	splendid	ممتاز - مشرف
benefit from	يستفيد من	city council	مجلس المدينة
loaded of	ملء بـ ..	public office	منصب عام
painter	رسام	artist	فنان
church	كنيسة	citizen	مواطن

Read the following passage and answer the questions :

اقرأ القطعة ثم أجب على الأسئلة

Time allowed : 10 minutes

الزمن المسموح : 10 دقائق

Many steps are required in successfully prosecuting a criminal case nowadays. Once the crime has been committed and discovered, the police force is dispatched to the crime scene to begin the investigation. Simultaneously, any possible suspects or witnesses are taken in for questioning at the local police station having jurisdiction over the case.

Suspects and witnesses can be subjected to mild inquisition or full-scale interrogation, depending upon the severity of the matter. During this time, suspects might be held in detention until their denial of the crime, or alibi, can be verified. In the event that a confession is given or enough evidence is uncovered to incriminate the suspect, he or she is charged with the crime, if there are no extenuating circumstances. Thereafter, the suspect is taken into custody or released on bail.

The case is then prosecuted in court. Many witnesses testify during the trial, giving testimony to implicate or exonerate the accused. When the judge strikes his gavel, he thereby indicates that the jury should recess for impartial deliberation of the verdict. The jury may find the accused innocent of the crime, whereupon he or she will be acquitted and released. On the other hand, the jury might find the accused guilty of the crime. The accused is then formally convicted of the crime, sentenced to the appropriate number of years for the violation of law, and imprisoned.

1- A criminal case

- a. begins when the suspect is sued.
- b. consists of various systematic phases.
- c. is finished at the local police station.
- d. is dependent upon the seriousness of the crime.

2- According to the passage, which of the following

statements is true?

- Suspects and witnesses may receive different degrees of questioning.
- Law enforcement divisions from various neighborhoods have authority over the case.
- Suspects receive more intense questioning than witnesses.
- The amount of questioning presented to the suspects and witnesses is always the same.

3- Witnesses are compelled to

- give a sworn statement in court during the trial.
- be held in custody while their testimony is investigated.
- serve time in detention with suspects.
- be prosecuted in court.

4- After a suspect is charged with a crime

- he or she will be required to do time in jail.
- he or she will always be released on bail.
- he or she may be taken into custody.
- evidence is discovered to implicate him or her.

5- Which of the following statements is false according to the passage?

- Once acquitted, the accused will be imprisoned.
- If found innocent, the accused is freed.
- The accused will be sentenced after being convicted of the crime.
- Witnesses may support or contradict the suspect's alibi.

Vocabulary :

prosecute	يحاكم	court	محكمة
crime	جريمة	commit	يقترف - يرتكب
investigation	تحقيق	suspect	مشبوه - مشکوك فيه
testimony	دليل - بينة - شهادة	witness	شاهد
implicate	يورط - يثبت تورط	exonerate	يبريء
severity of the matter	جسامته الأمر	detention	اعتقال - حجز
		confession	اعتراف

Reading Comprehension for Advanced Students

evidence	دليل - برهان	incriminate	يجرم - يتهم بجرم
custody	حبس	the accused	المتهم
released on bail	يطلق سراحه بكفالة	gavel	مطرقة
jury	هيئة المحلفين	recess	تختلي (هيئة المحلفين)
verdict	حكم	deliberation	مناقشة
guilty	مذنب	acquit	يبرئ
violation	انتهاك (القانون)	convict	يُدان

- 8 -

Read the following passage and answer the questions :

اقرأ القطعة ثم أجب على الأسئلة

Time allowed : 10 minutes

الزمن المثلالي : 10 دقائق

The eyes of human beings are not sensitive to all light, but only to that between wavelengths of 380 and 760 millimicrons. This fact prevents us from being aware that our bodies **emit** electromagnetic waves. These waves are mostly longer than those we are sensitive to, but thermographic techniques can translate them into extraordinary color pictures.

Because they are instantly in motion, atoms generate infrared rays, and the warmer the atoms are the more active they become. This results in thermographic pictures revealing different parts of the body in different colors: black and blue for the cold, green and yellow for the cool or slightly warm **ones**, and orange and red for those which are hot.

All this has a health application, for such problems as tumors, arthritis, and cancer are shown as isolated red areas in the thermographic portraits.

Choose the right answer :

1- What is the main topic of this passage ?

- The human eye
- Thermographic techniques
- Photography
- Light

- 2- According to the passage :
- human beings are not sensitive to light
 - some light cannot be seen by the human eye
 - human beings are not aware of their bodies
 - some translation techniques are extraordinary
- 3- The word "emit" in line 4 is closest in meaning to
- give off
 - collect
 - turn into
 - transform
- 4- It may be inferred from the passage that the atoms in the tumors are
- serious problems
 - isolated
 - exceptionally active
 - red in color
- 5- The bold word "ones" refers to
- colors
 - pictures
 - results
 - parts

Vocabulary :

human beings	بشر	sensitive to light	حساس للضوء
wavelength	طول الموجة	electromagnetic waves	
mostly	غالبا	موجات كهرومغناطيسية	
thermography	تصوير حراري	extraordinary	استثنائي
tumor	ورم	always in motion	في حركة دائمة
arthritis	التهاب المفاصل	infrared rays	أشعة تحت الحمراء
cancer	سرطان		

- 9 -

Read the following passage and answer the questions :

اقرأ القطعة ثم أجب على الأسئلة

Time allowed : 10 minutes

الزمن المسموح : 10 دقائق

the black necked stilt has certain features that help it to find its prey; ironically some of the same **features** make this bird a more likely target of its own predators. long, slender legs allow the stilt to wade into ponds and find aquatic invertebrates, but long, thin legs have little utility as weapons; and black-and-white plumage above grayish blue or red legs makes it difficult for the bird to find hiding places. Essentially the only protection a stilt has comes alert and fleeing predators. Living in flocks reduces their chance

of being ambushed because there are more birds to keep watch. Even with the difficulties stilts face in protecting themselves, there are up to six stilt species and representatives of the family in every continent except Antarctica.

Choose the right words :

- 1- What is the main topic of the passage ?
 - a. The survival mechanisms of the black-necked stilt
 - b. The physical beauty of the black-necked stilt
 - c. The black-necked stilt's legs
 - d. the distribution of the black-necked stilt around the world.
- 2- The bold word "features" is closest in meaning to
 - a. systems
 - b. preferences
 - c. abilities
 - d. characteristics
- 3- According to the passage the black-necked stilt protects itself by
 - a. using its legs as weapons against predators
 - b. hiding its black and white plumage
 - c. wading into ponds.
 - d. remaining vigilant and running from its enemies
- 4- The bold word "face" is closest in meaning to
 - a. envision
 - b. discern
 - c. encounter
 - d. overcome
- 5- According to the passage, which of the following is not true ?
 - a. The black-necked stilt is carnivorous.
 - b. Stilts congregate in large flocks.
 - c. There are no black-necked stilts in Antarctica.
 - d. The stilt's features offer useful camouflage.

Vocabulary :

ironically	بطريقة ساخرة	stilt	طائر بحري
predator	مهاجم	ling slender legs	أرجل نحيلة وطويلة
utility	فائدة	hiding places	أماكن الاختباء
weapons	أسلحة	alert	يقظ - محترس - حذر

ambushed	يهاجم - يكمن	representative	مندوب - ممثل
continent	قارة	Antarctica	القارة القطبية الجنوبية
plumage	ريش الطائر	grayish	مائل إلى الرمادي

- 10 -

Read the following passage and answer the questions :

اقرأ القطعة ثم أجب على الأسئلة :
الزمن المثالي : 10 دقائق

Time allowed : 10 minutes

One of the greatest problems for settlers in Nebraska in the last quarter of the century was fuel. Little of the state was forested when the first settlers arrived, and it is probable that, by 1880, only about one-third of the originally area remained, down to a mere one percent of the state's 77,000 square miles. With wood and coal **out of the question**, and with fuel needed year round for cooking – and during the harsh winters for heating – some solutions had to be found.

Somewhat improbably, the buffalo provided the answer. Buffalo chips were found to burn evenly, hotly, and cleanly with little smoke and no odor. Soon, collecting them became a way of life for the settler's children who would pick them up on the way to and from local schools, or take part in competitions designed to counteract **their** natural reluctance. Indeed, even a young man seeking to impress the girl he wanted to marry would arrive with a large bag of chips rather than with an **enticing** box of candy or an attractive bunch of flowers.

Comprehension Questions :

- 1- According to the passage, how much of Nebraska was forested when the first settlers arrived ?
 - a. 1 %
 - b. 66 %
 - c. 33 %
 - d. 3 %
- 2- The bold phrase "out of question" means :
 - a. irrelevant
 - b. disdained
 - c. impossible
 - d. undesirable

- 3- The passage implies that buffalo chips were needed
a. in greater amount in summer.
b. in greater amount in winter.
c. only in summer.
d. only in winter.
- 4- The bold word "their" refer to
a. competitions
b. buffalo chips
c. settlers' children
d. schools
- 5- The word "enticing" means
a. pretty
b. delicious
c. imposing
d. tempting

Vocabulary :

settlers	مستوطنون	one-third	ثلث
fuel	وقود	percent	في المائة - %
buffalo	جاموس	square mile	ميل مربع
to burn	يحترق	evenly	بهدوء
odor	رائحة	competition	تنافس
counteract	يقاوم	reluctance	نفور
harsh = severe	قاس	enticing	ملفت - جذاب
chip	روث	candy	حلوى

