Part A: Reading Comprehension

“Volar”

Directions: Read the following text “Volar,” which means “to fly” in Spanish, and answer the questions that follow.

At twelve I was an avid consumer of comic books—Super girl being my favourite. I spent my allowance of a quarter a day on two twelve-cent comic books or a double issue for twenty-five. I had a stack of Legion of Super Heroes and Super girl comic books in my bedroom closet that was as tall as I. I had a recurring dream in those days: that I had long blond hair and could fly. In my dream, I climbed the stairs to the top of our apartment building as myself, but as I went up each flight, changes would be taking place. Step by step I would fill out: my legs would grow long, my arms harden into steel, and my hair would magically go straight and turn a golden color. Super girl had to be aerodynamic. Sleek and hard as a supersonic missile. Once on the roof, my parents safely asleep in their beds, I would get on tip-toe, arms outstretched in the position for flight and jump out my fifty-story-high window into the black lake of the sky. From up there, over the rooftops, I could see everything, even beyond the few blocks of our barrio; (1) with my X-ray vision I could look inside the homes of people who interested me. Once I saw our landlord, whom I knew my parents feared, sitting in a treasure-room dressed in an ermine coat and a large gold crown. He sat on the floor counting his dollar bills. I played a trick on him. Going up to his building’s chimney, I blew a little puff of my super-breath into his fireplace, scattering his stacks of money so that he had to start counting all over again. I could
more or less program my Super girl dreams in those days by focusing on the object
of my current obsession. This way I "saw" into the private lives of my neighbours,
my teachers, and in the last days of my childish fantasy and the beginning of
adolescence, into the secret room of the boys I liked. In the mornings, I'd wake up
in my tiny bedroom with the incongruous—at least in our tiny apartment—white "princess" furniture my mother had chosen for me, and find myself back in my body:
my tight curls still clinging to my head, skinny arms and legs . . . unchanged.

In the kitchen my mother and father would be talking softly over a café con leche (2). She would come "wake me" exactly forty-five minutes after they had gotten up. It was their time together at the beginning of each day and even at an early age I could feel their disappointment if I interrupted them by getting up too early. So I would stay in my bed recalling my dreams of flight, perhaps planning my next flight. In the kitchen they would be discussing events in the barrio. Actually, he would be carrying that part of the conversation; when it was her turn to speak she would, more often than not, try shifting

The topic toward her desire to see her familia on the Island: How about a vacation in Puerto Rico together this year, Querido (3)? We could rent a car, go to the beach. We could . . . And he would answer patiently, gently, Mi amor, (4) do you know how much it would cost for the all of us to fly there? It is not possible for me to take the time off . . . Mi vida, (5) please understand . . . And I knew that soon she would rise from the table. Not abruptly. She would light a cigarette and look out the kitchen window. The view was of a dismal alley that was littered with refuse thrown from windows. The space was too narrow for anyone larger than a skinny child to enter safely, so it was never cleaned. My mother would check the time on the clock over her sink, the one with a prayer for patience and grace written in Spanish. A birthday gift. She would see that it was time to wake me. She'd sigh deeply and say the same thing the view from her kitchen window always inspired her to say: Ay, si yo pudiera volar (.6)

1 barrio — a Spanish-speaking neighborhood
2 café con leche — coffee with milk
3 Querido — dear
4 Mi amor — my love
In paragraph 1, which specific action changes the author from a girl into a superhero?
A. turning a page in one of her comic books.
B. looking out over the houses in her neighbourhood.
C. climbing the stairs to the top of her apartment building.
D. playing a trick on the landlord of her apartment building

In the sentence above, the phrase “black lake of the sky” makes the sky seem:

Based on the essay, which characteristic best describes the author’s father?
A. ambitious B. Practical
C. Content D. Harsh

What is the main effect of the author's use of Spanish phrases in the essay?
A. It captures the author's cultural environment.
B. It identifies the intended audience for the essay.
C. It emphasizes the tension between the author’s parents.
D. It indicates the time period in which the essay takes place.

Which best expresses the author's main purpose in writing this text?
a. She is narrating an imaginative story.
b. She is teaching people how to fly as a super girl.
c. She is comparing between super girl and super heroes.
6. Which best describes the author's tone in the first five sentences?
   a. Surprised
   b. Sarcastic
   c. Cheerful
   d. gloomy

7. Which title best expresses the main idea of this text?
   a. To fly in the plane.
   b. To dream of flying.
   c. To watch people.
   d. to read a story.

8. The underlined word “scattering” means:
   a. gathering
   b. sending
   c. dispersing
   d. collecting

9- Describe the view from the window.
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

10- Based on the text, compare the dreams of the author and her mother. Support your answer with relevant and specific details from the text
    ________________________________________________________________
    ________________________________________________________________
    ________________________________________________________________
    ________________________________________________________________

Part B: Informational Text
Direction: Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Refer to the text to check your answers when appropriate.

(1) I’m sure everyone in this room has heard of one of these famous companies: Microsoft Corporation, Federal Express, and Mrs. Fields cookies. But do you know anything about the people who started them?

(2) Well, Bill Gates was twenty years old when he and a friend started Microsoft in 1975. Gates became famous when he invented the computer operating system called MS-DOS. Today he is the richest man in America.

(3) Federal Express is the company that delivers packages anywhere in the United States in 24 hours. It was started in 1973 by a man named Frederick Smith. He was 26 years old at that time. Smith thought of the idea for his company when he wrote a paper for college. Today, his company is worth almost two billion dollars and employs more than 25,000 people.

(4) Debby Fields was a twenty-eight-year-old housewife who started the first chocolate chip cookie shop at a shopping center in her hometown. There are now more than two hundred Mrs. Fields cookie shops in North America and Asia.

(5) Bill Gates, Fredrick Smith and Debby Fields are famous examples of people who start a completely new business or industry.

(6) All three people mentioned started out with something that no other had ever done before. Are they hard-working people or is their success due to luck?

(7) Well, the three of them were creative. They were able to see a problem or a need, and they were able to think of a solution or a way to meet the need.

Answer the following questions based on the above passage.

1. The author thinks everyone has heard of one of the three people because they:

   a. Are famous for what they did
b. is known by Americans  
c. has studied hard  
d. they employed many people

2. Bill Gates worked on his project_____________.
   a. in the shopping center  
   b. with a friend  
   c. in his company  
   d. at college

3. The common quality that the three people share is ________.
   a. organization  
   b. career  
   c. creativity  
   d. employment

4. According to the text, someone who starts a business has to find out ___.
   a. how to be responsible for retail and customers.  
   b. what customers need and figure a way to solve their problem.  
   c. what makes a lot of money and opens business to benefit  
   d. a way to achieve success while promoting business

5. The purpose of the text is to _________________.
   a. narrates a story about famous people.  
   b. informs us about three exceptional people.  
   c. compare and contrast among three famous people.  
   d. to advertise about famous companies.

6. Why does the author describes them as creative people? Give examples from the text.
   Because they are able to create something that no other had ever done before, Bill Gates invented computer system............... Fredrick Smith started his company.
7. How can these projects benefit the society? Give examples from the text.

They employ thousands of people who invented new machines and services, as well as provided the society with different items.

**Part B: Language**

A- Rewrite the sentences; adding interjections, a coordinating conjunction, a subordinating conjunction or a correlative conjunction. Then punctuate them.

1- What an exciting way to spend a day.
   Bravo! What an exciting way to spend a day.
2- My mother can't play the piano. My father can't play the piano.
   Neither my mother nor my father can play the piano.
3- He didn't study. He failed the test.
   Because he didn't study, he failed the test.

B- Identifying the parts of speech of each underlined word as it is used in the sentence. Use these abbreviations.

N= noun, V=Verb, ADJ=Adjective, ADV=Adverb, Prep=preposition, P= pronoun

1. How does the world *commonly* view *scientists*? ADV/N
2. Some people see them as *evil* villains. ADJ
3. They regard themselves as people with a job to do. V/Prep
4. That record has practically gone off the charts. Prep
5. We will *hike down* the mountain later. V/Prep

C- Underline every infinitive and infinitive phrase or every gerund and gerund phrase in the following sentences.

1- The road at the edge of the frozen lake needs *paving*.
2- Putting a label on a can at food is more complicated than you may think.
3- I plan to visit my country next vacation.
4- I was among the first runners to enter.
D. Choose the correct form of the verb that agrees with the subject.
1. Maya and her sisters (is, are) at school.
2. Neither my mother nor my father (is, are) coming to the meeting.
3. The team or the coaches (is, are) outside.
4. Either my coat or your shoes (is, are) always on the floor.
5. Hamad and Salma (doesn’t, don’t) want to see that movie.
6. Jasmine (doesn’t, don’t) know to play football.

E. Underline every prepositional phrase in the sentences below and label the
ADJ for an adjective phrase or ADV for an adverb phrase.
1. He loved art but an art school in Vienna rejected him. ADJ
2. For years, he lived in a state of poverty. ADV/ADV/ADJ
3. The birds in the aviary flew into the trees. ADJ/ADV
4. The bird on the stamp is a scarlet tanager. ADJ

F. In each of the sentences below, underline the subordinate clause and circle
the subordinating conjunction or coordinating conjunction.
1. Mr. Ali, who is my closest friend, is the chief of the police department.
2. Dubai, where modern Emirati culture flourishes, is full of the old and new.
3. If I had a car, I would visit Mecca to perform Haj.
4. I like to eat lunch outside when the sun is shining.
5. We chose that site because my father loves the view.
6. John and his sister are twins. They look alike but they don’t think alike.

G. Identify whether the sentences are simple, complex, compound or
compound-complex sentences:
1. The educational Testing Services recently studied the influence of five types of policies. S

2. I looked for Salma and Hamad at the bus station, but they arrived at the station before noon and left on the bus before I arrived. CX & CD

3. Because he was sick, he can't come to school. CX

4. Serious offences include physical violence, and none serious offenses include cheating on test. CD

**Part C: Vocabulary**

**A. Fill the blanks with the correct word. The meaning of the text should stay the same:**

1.- The coordinator in our school exercised __________ as the children crossed the street.
   - a- tangible
   - b- vigilance
   - c-imperative

2.- The teacher __________ the question because the students didn't understand it.
   - a- reiterated
   - b- exposed
   - c- neutralized

3.- The city expressed __________ that budget constraints would limit the ability to fund new programs.
   - a- conflagration
   - b-apprehension
   - c-affection

**B. Figure out the meaning of the bold word by using the context clues in the sentence. Circle the correct meaning of the word given in bold:**

1.- I have learned a lot from my **mentor**.
   - a- Counsellor
   - b- Observer
   - c- Interloper
2- The criminal’s degrade behaviour included lying and stealing.
   a- Reprehensible
   b- Corrupted
   c- Absorbed

3- She emphatically endorsed the candidate.
   a- With great eagerness.
   b- With strong emphasis
   c- With enthusiasm

C. Use the following words in meaningful sentences:
   1. Negotiable:

   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

   2. Tremulous:

   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

D: Choose the correct synonym for each of the following words:

1. Oblivious:      a. splendid                        b. unsteady       c. unaware
2. Condolence:    a. expression of sympathy        b. expression of happiness c. attention
3. Rapt:          a. entranced          b. infatuated        c. interested

E: Choose the correct antonyms for each of the following words

1. Avidly:        a. enthusiastically       b. unenthusiastically c. cowardly
2. Tact:          a. understanding         b. insensitivity      c. Tactfulness
3. Tremulous:    a. shaking               b. fearful           c. daring
Your community’s animal shelter is running dangerously low on food and other supplies they need to take care of its animals, as a volunteer at the shelter, you are worried about what will happen to the animals if the shelter runs out of supplies. Write a persuasive essay in your school newspaper persuading members of your school to support the shelter. Explain why you think the shelter is worthy cause and use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

Directions: Write at least 3 paragraphs, using 100-150 words.