

READING

PART 1

You are going to read a magazine article about money. Choose from the list (A-H) the sentence which best summarises each part (1-6) of the article. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0).

- A Royal portraits on coins made them easier to use.
- B It has become more difficult to say what money actually is.
- C Criminals made a profit while reducing the value of coins.
- D Cash may disappear as cards take over.
- E For most people, money means the things it can get them.
- F Banknotes were introduced as a more convenient form of money.
- G Weight, not number, was once the key to a coin's worth.
- H The type of metal in coins can mean stability for governments.

PART 2

You are going to read an extract from a novel. For questions 7-13, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

The great train was going along with such dignity of motion that a glance from the window simply seemed to prove that the plains of Texas were pouring eastward. Vast flats of green groves, dull-coloured spaces of plants, little groups of houses, woods of light and tender trees, all were sweeping into the east, sweeping over the horizon.

A newly married couple had got on this train at San Antonio. The man's face was reddened from many days in the wind and the sun. He was wearing new black clothes and from time to time looked down respectfully at them. He sat with a hand on each knee, like a man waiting in a barber's shop. He occasionally looked at other passengers in a secretive and shy way.

The bride was not pretty, nor was she very young. She wore a blue dress, with small amounts of velvet on it. The careless looks of other passengers made her blush, giving her a colour which was strange to see on her plain face, with its calm, almost emotionless lines.

They were obviously very happy. "Ever been in a train before?" he asked, smiling with delight. "No," she answered. "It's fine, isn't it?" "Great! After a while we'll go forward to the dining car and get a big meal. Finest meal in the world. Charge a dollar." "Oh, do they?" cried the bride. "Charge a dollar? Why, that's too much - for us - isn't it Jack?" "Not on this trip," he answered bravely. "We're going to do the whole thing right."

To their minds, their surroundings reflected the glory of their marriage that morning in San Antonio. This was the environment of their new state, and the man's face in particular shone with joy, which made him appear ridiculous to the porter.

"We are due in Yellow Sky at 3.42," he said, looking tenderly into her eyes. "Oh, are we?" she said, as if she had not been aware of it.

At last they went to the dining car, and came back to the coach with satisfied looks on their faces.

But despite his look of satisfaction, Jack Potter was beginning to worry about what he had done. He, the policeman of Yellow Sky, a respected man, had gone to San Antonio to meet a girl he believed he loved, and married her, without consulting Yellow Sky about any part of the business. He was now bringing his bride before an innocent and unsuspecting community.

Making Money

Coins are survivors in the changing world of finance.

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The pound coin in your purse or pocket is a form of money that is easy to understand: it might buy a pound of apples, three chocolate bars or a tube ride across central London. If you're on the average wage of £240 a week, it takes you about ten minutes to earn one, and of course it can take only seconds to spend one. Whatever its value is in theory, to most of us the only point of a pound coin is in what it can buy us.

Governments used to reduce the amount of precious metal in coins, but this devaluing of coinage has been blamed for the collapse of entire political systems. The empires of ancient Greece and Rome were built on stable coinage; the quantity of silver in Greek coins hardly changed in four centuries. But when Roman emperors began to devalue their coins in order to make money for the government, the empire began to fail.

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This form of money has not changed much since coins were first introduced in Asia Minor in the 7th century BC. The first coins were made from a mixture of gold and silver, and to judge their value they had to be weighed rather than counted. This of course made buying things more complicated than it is today.

The world of money has become very complex. The financial and banking system is so complicated that people cannot even agree on a precise definition of money. At one extreme it is seen as simply the notes and coins which we use every day, while at the other money is defined as any valuable goods or services which can be exchanged for cash.

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Money has always meant power, so governments naturally want to control the supply of money. They originally did this by stamping the ruler's head on each coin. Governmental control of money became a guarantee that a coin was worth its face value, and also meant that people could just count coins rather than weighing them, thus saving time and effort.

Nowadays money comes in three commonly used forms: notes, coins and plastic cards. Coins are now the least important part of the financial system, and will probably become even less important as more and more people use credit and debit cards as an easy alternative to filling their pockets and purses with cash.

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While this arrangement made life easier, some cheats came up with the idea of trimming bits of metal from the edges of coins, which they then melted down for profit. This meant that the coins were not actually worth what they were supposed to be, so special rough edges were introduced in the late seventeenth century to prevent this practice.



- 7 What effect had the weather had on the man's face?
 - A It had given him a suntan.
 - B It had made him look older than he really was.
 - C It had given him a reddish, outdoor look.
 - D It had made him look very healthy.

- 8 Why was the man so conscious of his clothes?
 - A They were new, but didn't fit properly.
 - B They were newer and more formal than he was used to.
 - C He didn't like them very much.
 - D He felt guilty about how much they had cost.

- 9 What was the bride's face like?
 - A Rather beautiful and fine.
 - B Deeply lined.
 - C Very expressive.
 - D Uninteresting and expressionless.

- 10 How were the couple feeling?
 - A Sad and quite depressed.
 - B Embarrassed and ashamed.
 - C Full of regret.
 - D Extremely happy.

- 11 What does the word "it" in line 13 refer to?
 - A The food in the restaurant.
 - B The bride's dress.
 - C Travelling by train.
 - D The fact the couple were married.

- 12 Why didn't Jack mind paying \$1 for lunch?
 - A Because it was a special occasion.
 - B Because it was a bargain.
 - C Because he had plenty of money.
 - D Because he was hungry.

- 13 Why did Jack feel guilty about his marriage?
 - A Because he didn't love his wife.
 - B Because he hadn't considered his wife's feelings.
 - C Because he was a policeman.
 - D Because he hadn't warned anyone at home about it.