

TEST 9

READING

PART 1

You are going to read a magazine article about computer technology and cars. 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 Cars in the future will help keep the environment clean.
- B Drivers can use more advanced technology to stay informed and make driving safer.
- C Cars are finally moving into the computer age.
- D These cars are relatively cheap compared to the present ones.
- E The next century will bring about great changes.
- F The on-board computer will even monitor parking.
- G In future, cars will monitor traffic as well as their drivers.
- H In spite of the problems they cause, we cannot do without cars.

The Car Enters its Golden Age

In the future, roads will be free from accidents and pollution.

0 H 4

The motor car has become the "baddie" of the 90's. It's blamed for everything from rising pollution levels to a reduction in road-free open spaces. And yet, while the car continues to be an easy target for criticism, after a hundred years on the road there seems little doubt that it's here to stay.

Some manufacturers are concentrating on making cars easier to park. Volkswagen, for example, has developed a car with wheels that can turn 90 degrees. This means it can slide sideways into a space no longer than itself. Other cars will have sensors built into the sides and rear which will enable a computer or light display in the rear window to show the exact distance from the car behind.

1

As we approach the 21st century, however, the car is being re-designed to make driving safer, more comfortable - and more suited to increasingly crowded highways. Tomorrow's cars will find their own way around and avoid crashes on their own initiative.

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Cars of the next century will also be equipped to reduce accidents. For instance, on-board computer systems are now being developed that will not only record important data about a vehicle's performance, but also warn drivers when they are going too fast or driving dangerously.

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The key to all this is a revolution in on-board computers. Thanks to these devices, the car will steer itself during straightforward motorway driving, even overtaking when necessary. When the computer lets you take the wheel, it will even warn you if you are not paying attention.

6

By the early 21st century, the car and the road will be in constant communication via information links. Every road sign and direction indicator may have its own electronic signal beaming out information. As the car goes by, a receiver picks up the signal and the information flashes up on a display in the dashboard. Useful but less essential information will pass from the roadside to the car at regular intervals: news bulletins, the latest weather reports and even the location of major tourist sights and sports venues. But the most important thing about all these new technologies is that they will make driving safer. These systems won't take control away from the driver, but they will ensure that there's less chance of an accident if the driver is distracted.

3

The car of the future will also be less destructive of the environment. Fuels such as petrol will be replaced by electric or hydrogen power. Neither is pollution-free, but the pollution is generated at a large central plant, far away from cities. The result is a smog-free urban environment.

PART 2

You are going to read a magazine article about shyness. For questions 7-13, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Shyness

Recent research in America has shown that shyness is determined by our genes; some people are simply born that way. Strangely enough, it's often those people who look as if they should be most confident (tall people, for example) who are most insecure. The 13-year research has now identified the gene that causes shyness, and the scientists believe that in fact we are all born more or less shy. It's just that some people are able to deal with it better than others. Personal circumstances have an influence as well.

Shyness may not seem to be a serious complaint, but for some who suffer from it, it can become unbearable. Even talking to a small group of people you know can seem like an ordeal - it can feel as if you've been asked to give a speech on a topic you know very little about to a number of experts. You start to feel hot and shaky, your heart beats faster, your knees feel weak, you begin to stutter and the whole experience seems to last forever.

The fact of the matter is that shyness is something we often recognise in others: blushing (going red) is one of the more visible signs, for example. Yet we don't judge someone harshly because of this. But shyness does mean you're harder to approach, so you become more isolated. As one shy person put it, "It's like being in a prison, and it's very hard to break out."

Experts on the subject have come up with various possible solutions, and one has been singled out as being the key to success - namely, finding an interest in common with other people. Spending a lot of time on the sidelines watching other people and envying them because they are much more outgoing doesn't help; remembering that some of the people you most envy are probably shy themselves, does. The secret is how you deal with it. And experts have come up with four things you can do today to help:

Firstly, you can start by listening to other people. You will find yourself getting interested in what they're talking about and asking questions - and before you know it, you'll be having a conversation.

Secondly, you could try asking neighbours if you can walk their dog. Like children, pets can be excellent icebreakers for conversations with passers-by.

Thirdly, try joining a class to learn something like tap-dancing or flamenco, where people are likely to laugh a lot. You'll feel relaxed, and also you'll be much too busy concentrating on what you're doing to feel shy.

Lastly, try telling yourself that it doesn't matter if you say or do something silly. Most people make a fool of themselves every so often - and it's not the end of the world if you do!

- 7 What do scientists believe?
 - A Only a few people possess the shyness gene.
 - B Shyness depends on height.
 - C Everybody is shy.
 - D People can learn to manage shyness.
- 8 What happens to shy people in a stressful situation?
 - A They keep talking for a long time.
 - B Their heart rate increases.
 - C Their legs can no longer support them.
 - D They start talking about difficult subjects.
- 9 What does "this" (line 14) refer to?
 - A shyness
 - B recognising others' shyness
 - C blushing
 - D judging others
- 10 Why do shy people become more reserved?
 - A Their social unease makes them more difficult to talk to.
 - B They see that others are shy too.
 - C Other people lack the patience to talk to them.
 - D Other people judge them.
- 11 What do experts believe is the answer to shyness?
 - A Studying others in social situations to see how they act.
 - B Discovering shared interests with others.
 - C Comparing yourself to other people.
 - D Finding out what makes other people shy.
- 12 To overcome their shyness, a person should
 - A learn to laugh more.
 - B learn to relax.
 - C take up a "social" hobby.
 - D help other people in the community.
- 13 What should shy people remember to give themselves more confidence?
 - A Everybody says stupid things sometimes.
 - B Everybody makes jokes sometimes.
 - C Everybody is foolish.
 - D Everybody is self-conscious.