



**Part 1. Reading comprehension. Read the text and answer the questions that follow. (10 marks)**

**Why don't dogs like cats? You asked Google – here's the answer**

**Every day, millions of people ask Google some of life's most difficult questions, big and small. In this series, our writers answer some of the most common queries.**

John Bradshaw. The Guardian. 27 May 2015

Dogs don't like cats? Maybe that should be "cats don't like dogs", since it's usually the cat that ends up running away (although not always; there are some wimpish dogs out there). But both statements are generally true: most cats don't seem to have much time for dogs and dogs are usually happy to chase anything that is running away, whether that happens to be a cat or a squirrel.

That's not to say that a cat and dog can't make friends, or become part of each other's extended "family" – but they would have to work at it. Or rather, we (their owners) would – both dogs and cats can learn the difference between friend and foe. This is part of the way that domestication has changed the way their brains develop. Puppy and kitten alike go through what's called a "socialisation period", when it's quite easy to include a dog in a kitten's list of good company, and vice versa for a puppy.

However, the phrase "fight like cat and dog" has been in common use for more than a century, so it must have some truth in it. Nowadays it's rare to see a cat and a dog actually engage in anything more than a brief skirmish – so how did the phrase ever become established? In fact, cats and dogs probably were natural enemies once.

As recently as the 19th century, dogs and especially cats were not looked after as well as they are today. Both were allowed roam the streets, and in considerable numbers. Competition over scarce scraps of food would have led to frequent fights.

In terms of their relationship with humankind, cats are the interlopers. Dogs were originally domesticated by our hunter-gatherer ancestors, at least 15,000 years ago, possibly longer. Whether they were "man's best friend" in those early days is anybody's guess, but by the time cats came along dogs were playing a big part in our lives, hunting alongside us, guarding our houses, herding our flocks and even keeping us warm at night.

There's little evidence for humans actually liking cats for another 4,000 years, when the ancient Egyptians began to leave evidence of their affection, for example, by providing elaborate burials, complete with a symbolic bowl of milk, for favoured pet cats.



**Say whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F) according to the text:**

1. On the surface, it seems that cats and dogs don't like each other, but for different reasons.
2. Even if owners spend time training their pets, dogs and cats will never really accept each other.
3. Historically, dogs have always been kept for the emotional affinity people felt for them.

**Circle the letter corresponding to the correct answer:**

4. The socialisation period is
  - a) the time when cats and dogs can't distinguish between different species.
  - b) a developmental stage in the life of a young animal.
  - c) a period when owners train their dogs to like cats.
  - d) a period when kittens make friends with puppies.
5. The phrase 'fight like dog and cat' arose because
  - a) cats and dogs are natural enemies.
  - b) people didn't look after their animals properly.
  - c) there were too many cats and dogs.
  - d) cats and dogs had to fight for food.
6. Historical evidence shows that
  - a) cats became part of humans' domestic lives much later than dogs.
  - b) dogs and cats have always been part of our lives.
  - c) dogs have always been more popular than cats.
  - d) cats were more popular than dogs in ancient Egypt.

**Find a word or expression in the text that means**

7. easily frightened; not courageous:
8. fight:
9. walk around with no particular purpose:
10. be important:



**Part 2. Use of English. (10 marks)**

**Complete the sentences using the correct tense of the verb in brackets.**

1. I'm sorry I'm late. If I ..... (have) your mobile number, I ..... (send) you a text.
2. If Jane ..... (speak) Chinese, she ..... (improve) her chances of getting a job in Hong Kong.
3. You ..... (not need) wear a tie for the dinner this evening.
4. By the end of my first year at university, I ..... (study) English for fourteen years.

**Complete the sentence with the correct preposition.**

5. I haven't seen my brother .....(for/since/during) ages.
6. Greenwich Avenue is the second ..... (at/in/on) the left.
7. He left his bicycle leaning ..... (at/on/against) the garden wall.
8. Religious fanaticism has been the cause of wars ..... (through/throughout/along) history.

**Add the correct articles (a/an/Ø/the) to the text.**

9. Beijing will ban smoking in restaurants, offices and on public transport from Monday, as part of new curbs welcomed by ..... anti-tobacco advocates, though how they will be enforced remains to be seen.

Health activists have pushed for years for stronger restrictions on ..... smoking in China, ..... world's largest tobacco consumer, which is considering further anti-smoking curbs nationwide.



Under ..... new rule, anyone in China's capital who violates ..... bans, which include smoking near schools and hospitals, must pay 200 yuan (\$32).

Anyone who breaks ..... law three times will be named and shamed on ..... government website. And ..... businesses can be fined up to 10,000 yuan (\$1,600) for failing to stamp out smoking on their premises.



### **Part 3. Writing (20 marks)**

**Listen to the text and write a summary in Spanish (approx. 150 words).**

#### **Pocket money: why kids should work for it**

For adults, children's pocket money is a touchy subject. Parents naturally have their own policies on the topic, often as dependent on their own principles and ideals as on their income. But, as any parent or child who has had this discussion knows, these considerations mean nothing to an angry child who thinks they are the victim of monetary injustice.

'Why does Jenny get £5 a week when I only get £2?' kids complain. The realisation that we don't live in an egalitarian utopia can be a harsh one to bear when you're lying on the floor in Toys 'R Us wanting EVERYTHING.

It seems that the government's austerity measures have had a trickle-down effect on the pocket money economy in England: the annual pocket money survey not only showed a drop in the percentage of eight- to 15-year-olds receiving pocket money, but it also revealed that pocket money was down by 15p a week on average. Currently, the national average is £6.20.

When you're a child, pocket money (or the lack of it) illuminates class differences. Whether it's Richie Rich flashing his five pound's worth of Flying Saucer sweets, or the kid with eight brothers and sisters who's struggling along on 50p a week, it's something that can make you acutely aware of disparities in family income (wearing "Nick's" trainers instead of Nike's is the other thing).

While pocket money arguably no longer prepares children for the toils of labour in a capitalist economy, it certainly still prepares you for the wider world, however. This is especially true now that pocket money has shifted from being something you're expected to work for to being simply a gift for existing. Parents should be preparing their children for the harsh realities of the adult world: pocket money teaches you a hundred important lessons for the future.

There are many reasons why children should do chores for pocket money – the division of domestic labour is one of them. We should be raising little boys for whom helping out around the house is the norm, and a financial incentive can kickstart this. At the moment, just 22% of boys and 19% of girls are expected to do chores to earn their weekly payment.

**In English, answer the following question (approx. 150 words).**

**What do you think are some of the 'hundred important lessons for the future' that the author of the text says children and young people might learn from receiving pocket money?**