

A. Read the text below and respond to tasks A1 and A2.

When I moved to Australia at the age of eight, I learned that the most difficult part of speaking another language was adjusting to live conversation and participating in debates. Unable to ask questions, let alone to raise objections, I began to wear a distant smile and to withdraw into my thoughts. When I told my mum and dad of my frustration, they advised me to be patient and understanding: "Try to imagine things from their perspective". Nevertheless, the differences between my peers and me seemed to pose a distance too great to bridge.

Things changed for me when I joined my primary school debate team. I had been attracted to the activity by the promise of getting others' attention. But I also discovered a new way of thinking and expressing myself. The experience left me convinced that debates can help us improve our lives and communities in these challenging times.

Consider the rules of a debate: two sides are randomly assigned to argue for and against a topic. To win a debate, one must understand not only one's own case but also that of the other side. In the last moments of preparation before a round, the best debaters go through a series of exercises known as side-switch. One such exercise involves taking out a fresh sheet of paper, placing oneself on the opposite side of the topic and brainstorming the four best arguments for this new position. From this switched position, you can consider the possibility that you are wrong.

Any group, whether a family, a workplace or a nation, has to manage its disagreements, but today so many of our arguments are useless and painful. Many times we get stuck and we end up shouting at one another from a distance, fixed in our respective places. Habits of mind such as the side-switch help us become unstuck and force us to consider the other side, not so that we may avoid disagreeing, but so that we may disagree better.

Debates can give us many other lessons, from constructing arguments to deciding when a disagreement is worthwhile. Most importantly, they train us to change other people's minds with nothing more than words.

Adapted from https://www.theguardian.com (2024)

ΤΕΛΟΣ 2ΗΣ ΑΠΟ 6 ΣΕΛΙΔΕΣ

Α. ΚΑΤΑΝΟΗΣΗ ΓΡΑΠΤΟΥ ΛΟΓΟΥ

A1. Answer questions 1-3, based on information from the text (max. 30 words each). (3 x 4 points = 12 points)

(30 points)

(6 x 3 points = 18 points)

C. participate in after-school

C. Politicians.

activities.

C. be tolerant to oth

C. more open-mind

C. speak clearly and

C. verbal persuasio

loudly.

- 1. What would be a suitable title for this text? How Debating Can Help us Disagree Be similar)
- 2. What is the purpose of the text? To inform readers regarding how the benefits of debates could be effectively used in everyday situations. (or similar)
- 3. According to the text, how can side-switch exercises help us manage a disagreement? Justify your answer. Through side-switching, we also consider arguments in favour of the other side, thus being more open-minded and "disagree[ing] better" as the author says instead of being "stuck" and starting shouting. (or similar)

A2. Choose the correct answer (A, B or C) for items 4-9, based on information from the text

- 4. Who would be most interested in reading this text? A. Lawyers.
 - B. The general public.

5. When he moved to Australia, the writer found it difficult to A. communicate with his B. adapt to the new

culture.

6. The writer's parents advised him to A. wear a confident smile.

peers.

B. learn the language faster.

7. By participating in the school debate team, the writer became A. more popular. B. more competitive.

8. To succeed in a debate, a participant must

A. consider different **B.** use complex vocabulary. viewpoints.

9. Debate practice can help us improve our

A. public speaking skills. **B.** problem solving skills.

ΤΕΛΟΣ 3ΗΣ ΑΠΟ 6 ΣΕΛΙΔΕΣ

Β. ΓΛΩΣΣΙΚΗ ΕΠΙΓΝΩΣΗ



B1. Use the correct form of the following words (A-H) to complete the gaps (10-14) in the following text, as in the example. There are TWO words you do not need.

| (5 x 2 | points = | 10 points) |) |
|--------|----------|------------|---|

| Α. | strategy | В. | power | C. | happy | D. | stimulate (example) |
|----|----------|----|---------|----|----------|----|--------------------------------|
| E. | body | F. | situate | G. | constant | Н. | involve |

The example is in **bold** and *italics*.

What are the benefits of playing chess?

Chess is a timeless and intellectually (ex.) stimulating game that has captivated players of all ages for centuries. While it may appear as a simple board game, its (10) powerful benefits reach far beyond the chessboard, offering players the opportunity to enhance their cognitive abilities and brain function. When in a game, players must anticipate their opponent's (11) strategic moves and respond accordingly. This level of personal (12) involvement directly stimulates the brain region responsible for concentration. In everyday life, enhanced concentration can help individuals manage stress and maintain a sense of calm, as they can more easily focus on the task at hand and block out unwanted distractions. In a world where our attention is (13) constantly being pulled in different directions, the ability to focus on one task or idea has never been more valuable. At the same time, chess teaches players to be patient in their actions, a skill that translates well into everyday (14) situations that require thoughtful decision-making.

B2. Fill in the gaps with TWO words in the statements of column B, so that they are similar in meaning to the statements (15-19) of column A, as in the example.

 $(5 \times 2 \text{ points} = 10 \text{ points})$

| _ | | | |
|----------|--|---|--|
| Exa | nple: I have not seen Mary for over six | It has been over six months since I last saw | |
| mon | ths. | Mary. | |
| <u> </u> | COLUMN A | | |
| | COLUMIN A | | |
| 15. | It appears that we have no milk left; we need | It appears that we have <u>run out</u> of milk; | |
| | to buy some on our way home tonight. | we need to buy some on our way home tonight. | |
| 16. | I have already said I'm sorry for being late. | I have already <u>apologised</u> / <u>apologized</u> for being late. | |
| 17. | He did not thank us for our help when he left. | He left without thanking us for our help. | |
| 18. | Could you look after my cat while I'm away | Would you mind taking care of my cat while | |
| | on a business trip? | I'm away on a business trip? | |
| 19. | We couldn't get to the city centre because of | The bus strike <u>prevented</u> us <u>from</u> getting to the | |
| | the bus strike. | city centre. | |

ΤΕΛΟΣ 4ΗΣ ΑΠΟ 6 ΣΕΛΙΔΕΣ

B3. Choose the best option A-F (Column B-headings) for items 20-24 (Column A-paragraphs). There is ONE option you do not need.

(5 x 2 points = 10 points)

2

Dr. Jane Goodall's vision and work around the world

| | COLUMN A | |
|-----------------|--|--|
| 20. | In July 1960, at the age of 26, Jane Goodall travelled from | A. ONLY THE BASICS |
| D | England to what is now known as Tanzania to study the remarkable lives of chimpanzees. When she discovered that the survival of their species was threatened, she developed a breakthrough approach to species conservation that improves the lives of people, animals and the environment. | |
| 21. A | Equipped with little more than a notebook, binoculars, and her fascination with wildlife, Jane Goodall managed to give the world a remarkable window into humankind's closest living relatives. With open eyes and an open mind, Dr. Jane Goodall made discoveries that rocked the scientific world, forever changing the way we look at our closest living relatives and ourselves. | B. CLOSE TO EACH OTHER |
| 22. B 23. | From the day she began her legendary chimpanzee research in Gombe, Jane Goodall took an unconventional approach towards her subjects. She immersed herself in their forest habitat with a fresh mind. She explored their complex society as a fellow neighbour rather than a remote observer and came to know and interact with them as individuals over many years. In 1977, Dr. Jane Goodall founded the Jane Goodall Institute | C. A GLOBAL MISSION D. HEALTHY HABITATS |
| C | to ensure that her vision will continue to mobilize the collective power of individual action to save the natural world we all share. Today, she travels the world, speaking about the threats chimpanzees are facing, urging each one of us to take action on behalf of all living creatures on our planet. | du.g |
| 24. F | Over the years, Dr. Jane Goodall's ground-breaking research has attracted many women, who were nearly absent from her field. She also inspires thousands of young people to take action in their own communities through the <i>Roots & Shoots</i> program that gives young people the confidence to make a difference by being part of something bigger than themselves. | E. HEADING TO THE UNKNOWN |
| | τελός 2ης από 6 σελίδες | F. SETTING AN EXAMPLE |

(40 points)

n,

Γ. ΠΑΡΑΓΩΓΗ ΓΡΑΠΤΟΥ ΛΟΓΟΥ

TASK: A European Youth magazine is asking teenagers to share their memories on the following topic: "My best day at school". Write an article (180-200 words) to submit to the magazine in which you:

a) describe what happened on that memorable school day

and

b) explain the effect that day has had on your life.

Provide your own title for your article.

Do not mention your name anywhere in the text.

ΤΕΛΟΣ ΜΗΝΥΜΑΤΟΣ

Sample answer

A School Day to Remember

As we grow older, we tend to forget our childhood memories, keeping only those which induced intense feelings to us. One such day, which still makes me grin, is the last day in primary school.

After six years, it was time for us to say 'goodbye' and go to junior high school. Indeed, we would not see our teachers again, whom we used to greet every day, and who knew each one of us by our first names. We also had to bid farewell to friends and classmates, as not all of us would go to the same school.

Consequently, a party was held. Everyone brought something: food, music and speakers, decorative items... Even our teachers were eager to be involved, contributing to an exquisite party! We danced, laughed, hugged, and cried. Most importantly, though, we were all together and enjoyed our last moments as a 'family'.

I remember this day as if it happened yesterday, since I can feel the mutual love, appreciation and respect we shared back then. Overall, I know that, despite the distance, we are still thankful for having been a part of each other's life for those six years.

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