

Por favor, recuerde que cada acierto sumará 0,40 puntos a la calificación del examen. Cada error resta 0,13 puntos del resultado (tres errores anulan un acierto). La nota mínima del aprobado es 6.

MOCK READING COMPREHENSION. 4 Parts

Part 1: MULTIPLE CHOICE TEXT

You are going to read *an excerpt/excerpts* from an article. For questions 1-8, choose one (and only one) answer.

Excerpted from *Blackmailers don't shoot* by Raymond Chandler.

1933

The man in the powder-blue suit--which wasn't powder-blue under the lights of the Club Bolivar--was tall, with wide-set gray eyes, a thin nose, a jaw of stone. He had a rather sensitive mouth. His hair was crisp and black, ever so faintly touched with gray, as by an almost diffident hand. His clothes fitted him as though they had a soul of their own, not just a doubtful past. His name happened to be Mallory.

He held a cigarette between the strong, precise fingers of one hand. He put the other hand flat on the white tablecloth, and said:

"The letters will cost you ten grand, Miss Farr. That's not too much."

He looked at the girl opposite him very briefly; then he looked across empty tables towards the heart-shaped space of floor where the dancers prowled under shifting colored lights. They crowded the customers around the dance-floor so closely that the perspiring waiters had to balance themselves like tightrope walkers to get between the tables. But near where Mallory sat were only four people.

A slim, dark woman was drinking a highball across the table from a man whose fat red neck glistened with damp bristles. The woman stared into her glass morosely, and fiddled with a

big silver flask in her lap. Farther along two bored, frowning men smoked long thin cigars, without speaking to each other.

Mallory said thoughtfully: "Ten grand does it nicely, Miss Farr."

Rhonda Farr was very beautiful. She was wearing, for this occasion, all black, except a collar of white fur, light as thistledown, on her evening wrap. Except also a white wig which, meant to disguise her, made her look very girlish. Her eyes were cornflower blue, and she had the sort of skin an old rake dreams of.

She said nastily, without raising her head: "That's ridiculous."

"Why is it ridiculous?" Mallory asked, looking mildly surprised and rather annoyed.

Rhonda Farr lifted her face and gave him a look as hard as marble. Then she picked a cigarette out of a silver case that lay open on the table, and fitted it into a long slim holder, also black. She went on:

"The love letters of a screen star? Not so much anymore. The public has stopped being a sweet old lady in long lace panties."

A light danced contemptuously in her purplish-blue eyes. Mallory gave her a hard look.

"But you came here to talk about them quick enough," he said, "with a man you never heard of."

She waved the cigarette holder, and said: "I must have been nuts."

Mallory smiled with his eyes, without moving his lips. "No, Miss Farr. You had a damn good reason. Want me to tell you what it is?"

Rhonda Farr looked at him angrily. Then she looked away, almost appeared to forget him. She held up her hand, the one with the cigarette holder, looked at it, posing. It was a beautiful hand, without a ring. Beautiful hands are as rare as jacaranda-trees in bloom, in a city where pretty faces are as common as runs in dollar stockings.

She turned her head and glanced at the stiff eyed woman, beyond her towards the mob

around the dance-floor. The orchestra went on being saccharine and monotonous.

"I loathe these dives," she said thinly. "They look as if they only existed after dark, like ghouls. The people are dissipated without grace, sinful without irony." She lowered her hand to the white cloth." Oh yes, the letters, what makes them so dangerous, blackmailer?"

Mallory laughed. He had a ringing laugh with a hard quality in it, a grating sound.

"You're good," he said. "The letters are not so much perhaps. Just sexy tripe. The memoirs of a schoolgirl who's been seduced and can't stop talking about it."

1. The man in the powder-blue suit
 - A. Was enlightened.
 - B. Was elegantly dressed.
 - C. Had a huge soul.
2. The man and the lady were
 - A. Placing a bet.
 - B. Negotiating a deal.
 - C. Engaging in small talk.
3. He sat:
 - A. In front of her.
 - B. Next to her.
 - C. Far from her at an empty table.
4. The place where they met was:
 - A. Spacious.
 - B. Only for dancing.
 - C. Full of people.
5. Rhonda Farr was
 - A. Unattractive with the white wig.
 - B. Dark and slim.
 - C. Elegant, but hiding her appearance.

6. Rhonda was apparently being:
- A. Blackmailed.
 - B. Threatened.
 - C. Complimented.
7. Mallory and Rhonda were
- A. Lovers, and she was nuts about him.
 - B. Strangers before meeting.
 - C. Very close friends.
8. Mallory managed to
- A. Upset her.
 - B. Reason with her.
 - C. Escort her.

Part 2: LEXICAL CLOZE

For questions 9-15, read the text excerpt below and decide which answer (A, B, C, or D) best fits the gap.

Self-driving cars will be considered unthinkable 50 years from now by Meredith Broussard.

Vox.com, 3 April 2019

The vision of the “smart city” of the future involves driverless cars. Driverless trucks. Driverless buses. Driverless trains. But what happens to the (9) inside vehicles when nobody is driving? Is it really a smart social strategy to get (10) of drivers?

Recently, I rode a bus uptown in Manhattan with a visibly (11) and distressed man. As we passed 14th Street, the man got up from his seat and started throwing air punches and talking loudly to an imaginary (12). Those of us seated near him started to lean away and wonder if we ought to move.

(13) the bus driver’s voice came over the bus’s sound system: “All passengers must remain seated. All passengers riding on this bus, please sit down.” The bus driver sounded (14). The man sat down. All the passengers looked relieved. I exchanged a look with a woman seated across the aisle. The look said we were both worried that the boxing man’s behavior might have escalated, and we were grateful for the driver.

The (15) explanation for why this situation didn’t escalate: the unspoken social contract of the bus driver’s authority in this space. We have invested years in developing social contracts around both private and public transportation.

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|-----|------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 9. | A engine | B space | C navigation | D seat-belts |
| 10. | A rid | B overwhelmed | C behind | D next to |
| 11. | A terrific | B disoriented | C disheveled | D rude |
| 12. | A coworker | B foe | C cohort | D companion |
| 13. | A Then | B There | C Thus | D Moreover |
| 14. | A excited | B truthful | C authoritative | D dubitative |
| 15. | A simple | B obvious | C intelligent | D cynical |

Part 3: WORD FORMATION CLOZE

For questions 16-22, read the text excerpt below and decide which answer (A, B, C, or D) best fits gap.

Liverpool get out of jail as Alderweireld's late own goal earns victory over Spurs by Daniel Taylor

The Guardian, 31 March 2019

The clock was seconds away from the 90-minute mark when the final, (16) blow sparked euphoric scenes at Anfield. Liverpool were a few minutes of stoppage-time away from a result that – who knows? – could have been a grievous setback. But then the ball was aimed high towards Mohamed Salah at the far post and what (17) next, put bluntly, changed everything.

Suddenly it did not seem quite so important that Salah had played so (18) below his point of maximum expression. Hugo Lloris, who can be surprisingly error-prone for a World Cup-winning goalkeeper, had not been able to hold on to his header. The ball came off his hands, bounced against Toby Alderweireld, the (19) defender, and started trickling towards the goal-line, almost in slow motion. [...]

Every team that finishes as champions needs a bit of luck along the way and Liverpool certainly had it here, bearing in mind the (20) drama a few minutes earlier when Moussa Sissoko and Son Heung-min sprung a two-on-one breakaway. Fortunately for Liverpool the one they had back was Virgil van Dijk, who concluded it would be better to let Sissoko take aim and blocked out the pass rather than going for the tackle. It was a (21) decision. Sissoko's shot was wild and high when, at that stage, another goal for Spurs would have left City with an opportunity to go four points clear by winning their game in hand, at home to Cardiff City, on Wednesday.

