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TEST 1 Put the words to complete the sentences.

1. Nowadays it is especially important to know foreign _____.
a) countries **b)** languages **c)** people
2. Everyone, who knows _____ can speak to people from other countries.
a) foreign languages **b**) foreign poets **c)** foreign literature 13
3. Nowadays English has become _____ in politics, science, trade and cultural relations.
a) the world's most important language
b) more important language
c) is not important language
4. Over 300 million people speak it as mother _____.
a) language **b)** tongue **c)** speaker
5. English is one of the official languages of the _____ and other political organizations.
a) International organizations
b) Paris
c) Ukraine
6. It is the language of _____.
a) books **b)** movies **c)** computers technology

TEST 2 Read the text below. Match each task (1–6) with the corresponding letter (A–G) and title. Write down the letter next to the task. There is one extra letter (title). For each correct answer you get 1 point.

A more than gestures
B easy to learn
C more than a visual representation of speech
D no limits for creativity
E international differences
F another benefit
G similar processes

SIGN LANGUAGES

We have all seen deaf people talking to each other using gestures. Very few of us, however, ever bother to find out how sign languages work. As a result, we often hold false views about them.

1_____

One of many myths about sign languages is that they are the same in every country around the world. It is true that they share some common features, such as certain visual and spatial ways in which words are expressed, but they all have their own unique rules and vocabularies. 14

2_____

Another commonly heard theory that is completely false is that sign languages cannot refer to abstractions. In fact, it is quite the opposite: not only can you tell jokes that have double meaning but you can also create sophisticated poetry. Sign languages have signs for all the abstract concepts found in spoken languages.

3_____

Furthermore, sign languages are not just visual representations of the words of a spoken language. For example, deaf people do not draw a tree in the air with their hands when they want to say 'a tree', nor do they mime the act of sleeping when they talk about sleeping. There are a lot of gestures which are specific to sign languages only and cannot be easily interpreted.

4_____

Besides, it's not only simple gestures with the hands that make up a sign language. Equally important are facial expressions, which are an integral part of communication and can change the meaning of your sign. For example, when a user of American Sign Language makes his or her facial expression intense when signing the word "quiet", he or she means "very quiet".

5_____

Therefore, learning a sign language is not as easy as it may look. It is just like learning any other foreign language: it takes time and requires a lot of patience. The beginnings can be difficult because there are a lot of signs to learn and many of them are similar to each other. Also, like any other living languages, sign languages are developing all the time.

6_____
Finally, it is not true that sign language is only for deaf people. Researchers have shown that teaching it to hearing children helps their language development. Even when they are still not able to produce vocal speech, babies can often communicate with their parents by using gestures! So, it seems quite logical to teach them sign language.

TEST 3 Read and translate the text below.
ENGLISH AS A MEANS OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION
English is the national language in such countries as Britain, the United States of America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. It is the mother tongue of nearly 15

three hundred million people. Many people speak English in Japan, China, India and African countries. But many more use it as arm international means of communication, because English has become a truly international language.
Science, trade, sport and international relations of various kinds have given the English language the status of one of the world's most important languages. Many scientific and technical journals are written in English although they are not necessarily published in England or other English-speaking countries. At numerous- international meetings and conferences, English is the main language. The Olympic Games and other multinational sports events cannot do without it.
The role English plays today are the result of historical processes. The English language, in the course of its historical development, has met with so many influences from abroad that its lexical and grammatical structure has come to reflect in many ways its international use.
English a language which is indeed able to cope with the most diverse tasks of international communication.

TEST 4 Read and translate the text. Choose the best answer (A–C) to complete the sentences (1–4).
Today, millions of people want to learn or improve their English but it is difficult to find the best method. Is it better to study in Britain or America or to study in your own country?
The advantages of going to Britain seem obvious. Firstly, you will be able to listen to the language all the time you are in the country. You will be surrounded completely by the language wherever you go. Another advantage is that you have to speak the language if you are with other people. In Italy, it is always possible, in the class, to speak Italian if you want to and the learning is slower.
On the other hand, there are also advantages of staying at home to study. You don't have to make big changes to your life. As well as this, it is also much cheaper than going to Britain but it is never possible to achieve the results of living in the UK. If you have a good teacher in Italy, I think you can learn in a more concentrated way than being in Britain without going to a school.
So, in conclusion, I think that if you have enough time and enough money, the best choice is to spend some time in the UK. This is simply not possible for most people, so being here in Italy is the only viable option. The most important thing to 16
do in this situation is to maximize your opportunities: to speak only English in class and to try to use English whenever possible outside the class.
1. What is the article about?
A How many people learn English.
B The best way to learn English.
C English schools in England and America.
2. What is one of the advantages of going to the UK to learn English?
A There are no Italians in Britain.
B You will have to speak English and not your language.
C The language schools there are better.
3. What is one of the advantages of staying in your country to learn English?
A The teachers aren't very good in Britain.
B You have to work too hard in Britain.
C Your life can continue more or less as it was before.
4. People who don't have a lot of time and money should...
A Learn English in Britain.
B Try and speak English in class more often.
C Go to Italy to learn English.