

Reading Comprehension

This part consists of two passages, each followed by several related questions. For each question, **choose the most appropriate answer based on the text.**

Text I (Questions 13-17)

- (1) Napoleon I (1769-1821) is remembered as one of the greatest military leaders of all time. His armies won so many wars that it seemed as if they would never be defeated. For nearly twenty years, many European nations fought against Napoleon but had little success. He built an empire that stretched from Portugal in the west to Russia in the east, and from Sweden in the north to Italy in the south.

- In 1802, the people of France appointed Napoleon to be head of their government for the rest of his life. But Napoleon was not satisfied; he wanted to have absolute power. In May 1804, the French senate voted to give him the title "Emperor of the French." The coronation ceremony took place at Notre Dame Cathedral on December 2.
- (10) As the Pope prepared to put the crown on Napoleon's head, Napoleon grabbed it from the Pope's hands and placed it on his head himself. He wanted to show that he had – by himself and without the help of God – won the right to be emperor. He then crowned his wife, Josephine, as empress.

- Josephine did not remain empress for long. She was six years older than Napoleon and had not borne him any children. Napoleon wanted an heir to his empire. He decided to divorce Josephine and marry a younger woman. On April 2, 1810, he married Archduchess Marie Louise, the daughter of Emperor Francis I of Austria. In 1811, she bore him a son, Napoleon II, who received the title "King of Rome."

- But Napoleon II did not inherit an empire from his father. In 1812, Napoleon sent a huge army into Russia. Most of the soldiers died of hunger or froze to death in the harsh Russian winter. This was the beginning of Napoleon's downfall. Later, he was defeated by the combined armies of Great Britain, Prussia, Russia, Spain and Sweden, and lost everything that he had planned to leave to his son.

Questions

13. Portugal, Russia, Sweden and Italy are mentioned in the first paragraph -

- (1) to show how large Napoleon's empire was
- (2) because their armies fought against Napoleon
- (3) as examples of countries that Napoleon could not defeat
- (4) because their leaders were not as strong as Napoleon

14. The main subject of the second paragraph is -

- (1) the French people's love for Napoleon
- (2) Napoleon's success as a military leader
- (3) Napoleon's coronation as emperor
- (4) the Pope's relationship with Napoleon

15. According to the second paragraph, Napoleon wanted people to know that he -

- (1) had won the right to be emperor without God's help
- (2) could be emperor of many countries, not only of France
- (3) had married Josephine because she would be a good empress
- (4) was a more important and powerful leader than the Pope

16. Which of the following statements about Napoleon II is not true?

- (1) His mother was Archduchess Marie Louise.
- (2) He was born in 1811.
- (3) His title was "King of Rome."
- (4) He inherited his father's empire.

17. It can be understood from the last paragraph that in Russia, Napoleon -

- (1) had to fight against the armies of many countries
- (2) was helped by his son, Napoleon II
- (3) decided that his son would become emperor
- (4) was defeated by the winter, not by an army

Text II (Questions 18-22)

(1) Corporations like Sony and IBM use them to decorate their lobbies. The butterflies in the American Museum of Natural History's live-butterfly exhibit prefer them to the authentic varieties. They do not attract pests or trigger allergic reactions. And, increasingly, they are to be found not only in the living room but even in the garden.

(5) Sales of these artificial leafy plants, flowers and trees – known as permanent botanicals – have blossomed over the past five years. Christian Duvernois, a New York landscape designer who creates arrangements of the polyester and plastic plants, explains that one of their attractions is convenience. They do not need water, soil or light. The only maintenance they require is washing and straightening about once a month. Delicate items like hydrangea flowers can be popped off their stems and rinsed in the kitchen sink.

(10) One of Duvernois' recent projects was an entire garden surrounded by tall buildings, where the lack of sunlight made it impossible to grow live plants. The garden, which looks remarkably authentic, includes such small touches as a watering can placed to one side for effect. In fact, the result is so convincing that plastic owls have had to be installed in order to discourage pigeons from visiting. The garden's owners intend to mark the passage of the seasons by removing the flowers in autumn and having them reappear in the spring as plastic buds.

(15) Thanks to improved materials and new technologies like photographic transfer, artificial plants are more realistic than they were even five years ago. Close attention to fresh-flower trends also helps. But the rapid changes in flower fashion mean that permanent botanicals do not necessarily last longer than their live counterparts. For example, it is now nearly impossible to find last year's craze – sunflowers – in any store.

Questions

18. The main purpose of the text is to -

- (1) describe new gardening technologies and reactions to them
- (2) describe Christian Duvernois' landscaping projects
- (3) discuss permanent botanicals and their increasing popularity
- (4) compare the advantages of real and artificial plants

19. The word "they" in line 4 refers to -

- (1) allergic reactions
- (2) authentic varieties
- (3) live butterflies
- (4) artificial plants

20. The main purpose of the second paragraph is to -

- (1) discuss sales of artificial plants over the past five years
- (2) show that artificial plants can be as attractive as live ones
- (3) explain why permanent botanicals have become so popular
- (4) describe Christian Duvernois' projects using permanent botanicals

21. It can be inferred from the third paragraph that Christian Duvernois added _____ to the artificial garden in order to make it look more authentic.

- (1) plastic buds
- (2) a watering can
- (3) pigeons
- (4) owls

22. It can be inferred from the last paragraph that -

- (1) many artificial sunflowers were sold last year
- (2) many people own both artificial and real plants
- (3) permanent botanicals are more fashionable than real plants
- (4) permanent botanicals are more expensive than real plants