READING COMPREHENSION TEST

Reality TV - media hype or genuine hit?

Tony Christian, member of the media watchdog group ‘Airwave’ and Jenny Doyle, winner of last year’s Big Brother are discussing reality shows.

Jenny: It’s been a lot of fun since I left the house. Lots of interviews on radio and TV and people recognise me wherever I go. It hasn’t completely changed my life, though. No offers to present TV programmes, but then that’s not why I went on in the first place. I’d seen earlier series and thought, ‘She’s in it for the money,’ or ‘He wants to be a star,’ and I thought the programme could be so much more than that. I thought it could show what the young people of Britain are really like right now so I went on just to be myself, really.

Tony: But in real life we don’t decide who we want to get rid of and then vote on it. It’s that anti-social aspect that worries me and other members of Airwave and similar organisations.

Jenny: Well, having to nominate your housemates isn’t easy because you become very emotionally attached to the other people. But we all knew that at the end of the day it was a game. And I disagree with you, it’s not supposed to be real life, but rather a TV programme, and I’m sure everyone watching is aware of that.

Tony: Maybe when you’re talking about adult viewers. But what concerns me is very young viewers. There have been reports of children as young as seven or eight years old playing Big Brother in the playground and using the game to bully other children, by nominating them and then voting them out. That can be a very hurtful experience at that age.

Jenny: Well, that’s not something I would defend. But, doesn’t it also teach them a lot about making friends, about showing tolerance and giving other people their own space?

Tony: What we propose is tighter controls over times of broadcast rather than a complete ban. That means broadcast when we can reasonably expect very young viewers to be in bed.
READING COMPREHENSION TEST

Circle the most appropriate option:

1. Jenny has
   a) been interviewed a few times since the programme ended
   b) never presented a TV programme yet
   c) rarely been recognised in the street
   d) decided to change her life completely

2. Why did Jenny go on the television programme?
   a) to teach people something
   b) to make money first of all
   c) to become a star like others
   d) to learn about other young people

3. What worries Tony about reality TV?
   a) People develop very strong relationships on these programmes.
   b) The programmes should be more educational.
   c) People have to behave in ways that he disapproves of.
   d) The voting system is not politically correct.

4. What does Jenny say about nominating the other housemates?
   a) She found it fun because it was all a game.
   b) The relationships they developed made it hard.
   c) She felt emotionally weak during the programme.
   d) It was difficult because it took place at the end of the day.

5. Jenny
   a) does not share Tony’s opinion on anything
   b) prefers the TV programme to real life
   c) does not find real life and the reality show the same
   d) is sure that everyone watching the show thinks the same as her

6. Tony gives an example of how Big Brother can
   a) be used negatively by children.
   b) give children the wrong idea about real life.
   c) get children into trouble with their parents.
   d) cause pain to people.

7. Jenny thinks that these programmes teach young people
   a) to protect themselves from strangers
   b) to tell who is a real friend
   c) to be polite
   d) to develop useful social skills

8. What does ‘Airwave’ want?
   a) A complete ban on this kind of programme
   b) A ban on these programmes in the early evening
   c) A ban on programmes involving young children
   d) A more reasonable choice of programmes on TV
We can learn a great deal about behaviour by simply observing the actions of others. However, everyday observations are not always made carefully or systematically. Most people do not attempt to control or eliminate factors that might influence the events they are observing. As a consequence, incorrect conclusions are often drawn.

Consider, for example, the classic case of Clever Hans. Hans was a horse that was said by his owner, a German mathematics teacher, to have amazing talents. Hans could count, do simple addition and subtraction (even involving fractions), read German, answer simple questions (“What is the lady holding in her hands?”), give the date, and tell the time. Hans answered questions by tapping with his forefoot or by pointing with his nose at different alternatives shown to him. His owner considered Hans to be truly intelligent and denied using any tricks to guide his horse’s behaviour. And, in fact, Clever Hans was clever even when the questioner was someone other than his owner.

In 1904, a scientific commission was established with the goal of discovering the basis for Hans’s abilities. The scientists found that Hans was no longer clever if either of two circumstances existed. First, Hans did not know the answers if the questioner also did not know the answers. Second, Hans was not very clever if he could not see his questioner. A slight bending forward by the questioner would start Hans tapping, and any movement upward or backward would cause Hans to stop tapping.
LISTENING COMPREHENSION TEST

Circle the most appropriate answer

1. Observation helps us to
   A) teach others proper behaviour
   B) improve our knowledge about something
   C) be careful or systematic
   D) behave better in everyday life

2. During observation, people should
   A) not attempt to control others
   B) carefully choose the events they are observing
   C) eliminate factors leading to incorrectness
   D) make drawings of their conclusions

3. A German maths teacher
   A) possessed unusual talents
   B) had a gifted horse
   C) taught horses how to count
   D) was said to be a very clever man

4. According to the text, Hans was able to show all of these, except one. Which one?
   A) three times one
   B) four minus two
   C) two halves
   D) five past two

5. To give an answer, Hans:
   A) tapped the questioner on the hand with his foot
   B) nodded his head several times
   C) directed his head towards a solution offered
   D) used special tricks that he was taught to

6. Hans was not able to answer questions:
   A) unless he could see the questioner
   B) if the questioner was an unknown person
   C) although the questioner was familiar to him
   D) when he suddenly lost his abilities

7. Hans’s skills depended on
   A) scientific discoveries from early 20th century
   B) how smart the questioner was
   C) his ability to move forward and backward
   D) the questioner’s physical gestures
I Circle the correct option (a, b, c or d):

1. They offered us a couple of holiday resorts but John didn’t seem to like ________ of them.
   a) either       b) any       c) none       d) neither

2. Hey guys, let’s go to the swimming pool today, ________?
   a) won’t you     b) will you     c) would you     d) shall we

3. This brochure consists _______ practical tips so you can use it ______ a guide book.
   a) in … for     b) from … like    c) of … as     d) from … as

4. My parents don’t care what I study, ________ I’m happy.
   a) as long as    b) as soon as    c) so long     d) until

5. I ________ going to help you ________ you stop making so much noise.
   a) don’t ……if   b) ’m not …. whether   c) will not … except   d) ’m not ….. unless

6. Make sure you collect all the data before ________ for that seminar.
   a) applying     b) application   c) inviting     d) registration

7. You keep coming home ________. I’ll have to punish you next time.
   a) least        b) latest       c) late        d) lately

8. Although such brochures contain lots of pictures and tips, people find them quite ________.
   a) interestingly b) uninteresting c) interested d) interesting

9. I wonder how Sheila’s ________ on with her new flatmate.
   a) holding      b) going        c) hanging     d) getting

10. I loved performing but it was very hard ________ and I finally gave it up.
    a) work        b) effort       c) job        d) career
II Complete the text using the appropriate form of the verbs in brackets. Do not add any other words.

These days, computer viruses are part of everyday life. But as early as 1940, a man called John von Neumann (1) _______________ (predict) that computer programmes would be able (2) _______________ (make) copies of themselves – and he was right.

This ability (3) _______________ (mean) that people can make viruses which can travel from computer to computer. But what (4) _______________ (we / know) about the history of viruses? And who (5) _______________ (write) them? The first virus (6) _______________ (travel) from PC to PC, called ‘Brain’, (7) _______________ (create) in 1986 by a couple of men, owners of a computer store in Pakistan, who wanted to find out how many people (8) _______________ (steal) their software then. They were amazed when their virus (9) _______________ (spread) all over the world and (10) _______________ (become) international news.

III Complete the second sentence so that it has the same meaning as the first sentence, using the word given. Do NOT change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given.

1. When I was young I wasn’t allowed to watch much TV. / let
   When I was young my parents __________________________________ much TV.

2. Please dad, don’t give my CDs to anyone else. / to
   The girl asks her dad ______________________________________ to anyone else.

3. I can’t drink this tea because it’s too sweet. / sugar
   There _____________________________________________ in this tea for me to drink it.

4. The last time I went abroad was three years ago. / for
   I _________________________________________________ three years.

5. The players did absolutely nothing to make the situation better. / by
   Absolutely nothing __________________________________ to make the situation better.

IV Read the whole text first. Then fill in each blank with one suitable word:

Roger Press, 40, has changed his career. After spending five years (1) __________ a concert pianist he has gone into business, recently setting (2) __________ his own company. ‘When I gave up my performing career, people around me were more sad and disappointed (3) __________ I was. But I felt free and (4) __________ last I knew I was getting serious about life. Although the stress is high and I work long hours, the stress involved in piano playing was (5) __________ worse.’
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reading Comprehension Test</th>
<th>Time: 20 min.</th>
<th>Max. 8 / Min. 6 points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. b) 2. a) 3. c) 4. b) 5. c) 6. a) 7. d) 8. b)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Listening Comprehension Test</th>
<th>Time: 15 min.</th>
<th>Max. 7 / Min. 5 points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language in Use</th>
<th>Time: 45 min.</th>
<th>Max. 30 / Min. 25 points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I Circle the correct option (a, b, c or d): Max. 10 points</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. a) 2. d) 3. c) 4. a) 5. d) 6. a) 7. c) 8. b) 9. d) 10. a)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

II Complete the text using the appropriate form of the verbs in brackets. Do not add any other words. Max. 10 points

1) predicted 2) to make 3) means 4) do we know 5) writes
6) to travel 7) was created 8) were stealing 9) spread 10) became

III Complete the second sentence so that it has the same meaning as the first sentence, using the word given. Do NOT change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given. Max. 5 points

1. …..didn’t (did not) let me watch….
2. …. not to give her CDs…. 
3. ….is too much sugar…..
4. …..haven’t (have not) been abroad for…..
5. …..was done by the players…..

IV Read the whole text first. Then fill in each blank with one suitable word: Max. 5 points

1) as 2) up 3) than 4) at 5) much / (even)