



Reading Comprehension

(Part 2 : News, editorial
and article 20 items)

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Reading Comprehension Part 2



Item 41 - 45

News

(CNN) The Japanese government enacted a bill Wednesday lowering the age of adulthood from 20 to 18, but teenagers beware: the legal age of drinking will stay fixed at 20.

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The change, the first of its kind in 142 years, will allow 18-year-olds to take out credit cards and loans, apply for a passport that is valid for 10 years as opposed to five, and marry without parental consent. Currently men aged 18 and women aged 16 are able to marry, but must first seek, parental consent.

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The revision to the civil code, which is due to take effect from April 1, 2022, won't alter the legal age of drinking, smoking or gambling, however, owing to health concerns.

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A combination of falling birth rates and improving life expectancy across Japan has resulted in a progressively shrinking, and aging population.

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By 2060, the country's population is expected to plummet to 86.74 million from its current total of 126.26 million, according to a projection by the Japanese Health Ministry.

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But fewer workers paying taxes, means less money to support a growing aging population in need of pensions and healthcare services.

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"Given Japan's aging society and the growing budget deficit, there's a need for more young workers to increase tax payments," said Jeff Kingston, Asian Studies director at Japan's Temple University.

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"Lowering the age of adulthood could be a way to convince them that they have a stake and voice in society," he added.

In 2015, the government changed the voting age from 20 to 18. That move, coupled with Wednesday's revisions, indicated an increased attempt within the government to make young people more aware of their responsibilities.

Item 41

What would be the best headline for this news?

- 1. Roles of Young People in Society**
- 2. Japan's New Social Security Law**
- 3. Percentage of Old People in Japan**
- 4. Japan Lowers Age of Adulthood to 18**
- 5. Problems of Aging Population in Japan**

Item 42

According to the bill, which of the following is NOT allowed for an 18-year-old?

- 1. Getting married**
- 2. Getting a credit card**
- 3. Applying for a ten-year passport**
- 4. Borrowing money from a bank**
- 5. Having an alcoholic drink in a bar**

Item 43

Which of the following is TRUE about the revised civil code in Japan?

- 1. The law will not go into effect immediately.**
- 2. Young people are required to pay more tax.**
- 3. The law mainly focuses on how to improve life expectancy.**
- 4. The law had not been changed for more than 150 years.**
- 5. The legal age of smoking and drinking will be reconsidered.**

Item 44

What is the government's main purpose in revising the civil code?

- 1. To increase pensions for the elderly**
- 2. To make the young realize of their responsibilities**
- 3. To urge young people to spend more money**
- 4. To persuade young people to join political parties**
- 5. To encourage young people to interact with others in society**

Item 45

Which of the following is an effect of the shrinking of youth population?

- 1. Falling life expectancy rate**
- 2. Higher unemployment**
- 3. Not enough workers to pay taxes**
- 4. Decreasing numbers of the old people**
- 5. Lack of pension and healthcare services**

Item 46 - 52

Editorial

(1) Two years after the World Health Organization labelled air pollution a global "public health emergency", and the House of Commons environment committee used the same phrase to describe the situation in the UK, new evidence shows that breathing unsafe air causes a loss of intelligence.

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The research, carried out in China, showed that test scores declined when people breathed toxins including nitrogen dioxide and particulate, with language ability more affected than maths.

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This news, though alarming, is unlikely to change anything straight away. China has been engaged in a "war against pollution" for five years, while governments and policymakers around the world already have ample evidence that pollution is extremely harmful.

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Top of the list of dangers is the way it worsens heart and lung diseases including asthma and respiratory disorders, while one study last year suggested a link to mental disorders.

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(2) The problem is both global and national: urbanization and increasing car use mean that pollution is on the rise internationally, while the UK government is under huge pressure to clean up air that has broken EU legal limits for the past eight years. Western capitals do not feature in the WHO's lists of the planet's most polluted cities, and levels of most pollutants in the UK have fallen (though not ammonia, a by-product of farming).

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But increased scientific understanding of the damage to health caused by gases such as nitrogen oxides makes inexcusable the complacency of which we have seen so much, both under the current Conservative government and its coalition predecessor.

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(3) London mayor Sadiq Khan's "ultra low-emission zone", which comes into force next year and will charge the most polluting vehicles to enter central London. Government analysis shows clean air zones to be by far the most effective measure in reducing nitrogen oxides. But critics think it is still too timid, while leaders of other cities are calling for government funding to implement their own clean air zones, as well as a new clean air act provide a national framework.

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Campaigners struggle to understand why the public outcry is not loud or angry enough to force the government to act, when air pollution is thought to be a factor in shortening the lives of 40,000 people in the UK every year.

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The usual answer is cars, and the fact that even if people would like their cities to be cleaner, they don't want restrictions on their freedom to drive. It is imperative that we move beyond this stand-off. Recent history shows that when well-evidenced public health measures deliver benefits in improved safety and well-being, people accept them with little fuss.

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The 11-year-old ban on smoking in public places and 35-year-old law making seatbelts compulsory are good examples.

Item 46

What is the main idea of the first paragraph?

1. The effects of air pollution differ from person to person.
2. Breathing polluted air causes many physical and mental diseases.
3. The research findings indicated that breathing unsafe air causes a loss of intelligence.
4. Exposure to high levels of air pollutants raises the risk of respiratory infections and heart disease.
5. The World Health Organization used the term "public health emergency" to describe the pollution problems in UK

Item 47

According to the passage, pollution from which source has NOT been reduced in the UK?

- 1. Car use**
- 2. Farming**
- 3. Smoking**
- 4. Construction**
- 5. Urbanization**

Item 48

According to the second paragraph, what is the writer's opinion about what the government has done to reduce air pollution?

- 1. It has saved more people's lives.**
- 2. It should be proud of its work on pollution.**
- 3. It should do more to protect people's health.**
- 4. It should pay more attention to the levels of car emissions.**
- 5. It has taken too many actions to deal with air pollution problems.**

Item 49

Which of the following is TRUE about London's "ultra low-emission zone"?

1. The plan will come into force later this year.
2. Leaders of other cities will join the project next year.
3. All kinds of cars entering central London will be charged.
4. Critics think it will not be enough to solve the pollution problem in London.
5. London's Mayor initiated the plan "ultra low-emission zone" to increase revenues.

Item 50

Which of the following diseases are caused by breathing polluted air?

- 1. Diabetes**
- 2. Diarrhea**
- 3. Hypertension**
- 4. Lung disease**
- 5. Kidney disease**

Item 51

What is the writer's tone at the end of the last paragraph?

- 1. Tolerant**
- 2. Exhilarated**
- 3. Indifferent**
- 4. Optimistic**
- 5. Persuasive**

Item 52

What does the writer suggest at the conclusion of the passage?

- 1. Polluting vehicles must be strictly banned from entering London.**
- 2. Research should be done to further study the impact air pollution.**
- 3. The government should go ahead and impose stricter regulations that will protect public health.**
- 4. People must receive training about the effect of air pollution on public health.**
- 5. The government should publicize the information about the link between air pollution and loss of intelligence.**