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COMPREHENSION [ 30 MIN. ] SECTION A READING

COMPREHENSION [ 25 MIN. ] In this section there are four passages followed by questions or unfinished statements, each with four suggested answers marked A, B, C and D. Choose the one that you think is the correct answer. Mark your choices on your

ANSWER SHEET. TEXT A In Britain arrangements for inviting and entertaining guests at a wedding are usually the responsibility of the bride ' s family. In most cases it is mainly friends and relations of both families who are invited, but when the bride ' s father is businessman of some kind, the wedding reception may provide a useful occasion for establishing social connections with clients or customers and other people whose good will may be of advantage to him. It is, however, the bride ' s mother who had the job of sending out the formal printed invitation cards. In the case of a church wedding, the vicar of each parish in which the ceremony bride and bridegroom live is normally informed about a month in advance of the ceremony so that an announcement of the coming wedding can be made in church on each of three Sundays before it takes place. Anyone who may know of an existing marriage of either partner is ordered to give information about it, though this means of avoiding bigamy must have been more effective in the days when people moved about the world less than they do today. Often up to a

hundred or more people attend the religious service and the bride usually wears the traditional long white dress and veil, while her bride-maids, who are often children, wear long dress in attractive colors. This may also happen in the case of a civil wedding in a register office but is probably less usual. The reception which follows may be held in a restaurant, a local hall or, when there are few guests, in the bride's own home. Refreshments are provided, a special iced wedding-cake is cut (usually to the accompaniment of speeches) and distributed to the guests, toasts are drunk and dancing may follow. At some point in the celebrations, the bride goes off to change into everyday clothes and then leaves the party with her husband to go on their honeymoon, the journey they will make together, often in romantic surroundings abroad.

66. According to the passage some guests may be invited because \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. they are likely to be annoyed if they are not  
B. they may give valuable presents  
C. their presence could provide future benefits  
D. they may help with the expenses of the wedding

67. What possible difference is suggested between a church and a civil wedding?  
A. Civil weddings are less commonly followed by a reception.  
B. It is less usual for guests to attend the civil wedding formalities.  
C. Guests at civil weddings are less formally dressed.  
D. There could be less attention paid at the latter to convention and picturesque effect.

68. Why are the arrangements for a church wedding usually made some time before?  
A. To allow the necessary length of time for publishing the wedding.  
B. To provide time for organizing the reception.  
C. To make sure that the guests can arrange to be free on the day.  
D. To ensure a thorough investigation of the

couple ' s existing marital status. 69. The couple leave for their honeymoon \_\_\_\_\_.A. after the church or register office ceremonyB. immediately after the cake has been cut and the speeches madeC. at the end of the receptionD. as soon as the bride is ready to leaveTEXT

BThe great treasure of America is not the land, as bountiful as it is. Nor is it the gold and paper currency in bank vaults. America ' s greatest treasure can be found in any telephone directory that lists a representative sample of the millions of skilled working men and women who make this country go. As with most blessings, we take these people for granted. Were it not for this great army of people who know how to do things and how to do them right America would collapse overnight. But they are mostly absent from television, movies and newspapers. When a new high-rise office complex is announced, the emphasis is on who will occupy it and who is financing it. Virtually nothing is said about the team of workers who, from bare ground and blueprints, will build it. Those in the building trades are only part of the treasure. The millions of men and women who make our industries, businesses and service organizations work are also part of this largely untold story. It ' s fashionable these days to talk about American ' s decline. It ' s also fashionable to talk about the loss of the work ethic. Fashionable bunk. America is not in decline. Since 1982 the economy has grown at an impressive average annual rate of four percent. and the productivity of workers in our manufacturing industries has risen at the fastest rate since World War II averaging an unheard-of five percent a year. Nor has our work ethic 0dropped off. More Americans are working now than ever, and

the unemployment rate is the lowest it has been in over 15 years. Look away from the TV screen at the real world. What do you see? Men and women, working day and night, seven days a week. They are the heart that pumps life into the American economy.<sup>70</sup>

According to this passage, the great treasure of America is \_\_\_\_\_.A. the telephone directoryB. the gold and paper currency in bank vaultsC. the team of workers of building tradeD. millions of skilled

working men and women<sup>71</sup>. The great army of working people \_\_\_\_\_.A. are often taken for grantedB. seldom watch TV, go to the cinema or read newspaperC. are heroes in storiesD. are looked down

upon in the society<sup>72</sup>. What's the writer's attitude toward the saying about America's decline and the loss of the work ethic?A. Supportive.B. Optimistic.C. Opposed.D. Pessimistic.<sup>73</sup>

Through the last paragraph, the writer wants to prove \_\_\_\_\_.A. it's fashionable these days to talk about America's declineB. it's fashionable to talk about the loss of the work ethicC. it's fashionable bunk to talk about the loss of the work ethicD. America's economy is growing at an impressive rate

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