

Text 1

On August 3, 1492, three ships left Spain under Christopher Columbus's command. Nearly ten weeks later, one sailor saw land for the first time. It was a small island in the present-day Bahamas. As many people know, Columbus was not aware of the fact that he discovered a new land. He thought that he reached Asia, but in fact, he was in America. His failure is one of the most important voyages in history as it led to the Age of Discovery, which lasted from the late 15th century to the mid-17th century. During that time, there was a great desire to explore the unknown parts of the world. For many Europeans, the Age of Discovery is a time of glory. For many others, on the other hand, it was a dark time because they lost their lands to foreigners. In short, positive or negative, geographical discoveries had serious effects on humanity. The biggest consequence of geographical discoveries was on the economy. By discovering new routes to Asia, Europeans could reach old and necessary products, such as Asian spices and silk, more easily and securely. Also, they could get new **ones** such as tobacco, potatoes, cocoa and sugar cane. In other words, with geographical discoveries, Europeans both secured the supplies of their old needs and introduced new products to their markets. After the discovery of the New World (the North and South Americas), Spanish and Portuguese ships brought huge amounts of gold and silver to Europe. However, too much gold and silver had a negative effect on European economy. Before the discovery of America, gold and silver were rare, so they were valuable. However, when the Spanish and Portuguese merchants brought a lot of gold and silver, **their** values decreased. As a result, everything became much more expensive. Today this is known as 'The Price Revolution'. During the Price Revolution, people with fixed incomes started to lose their wealth because their money was losing value continuously. On the other hand, people who had fixed payments or debts like rent had a great advantage because the real value of their debts was decreasing. The economy of Portuguese and Spanish Empires was affected worse because of gold and silver from America. They suffered from high inflation rates in the 16th century. Another problem was the lack of manufacturing facilities in Spanish and Portuguese Empires. Because these countries did not produce goods, they had to import them from other countries – mainly from England, France and the Netherlands. But there was a problem: gold and silver were not valuable any more. Therefore, Spain and Portugal had to pay a lot of money to England, France and the Netherlands. While these three countries increased their industrial and financial power, Spanish and Portuguese Empires **lagged behind**. (460 words)

Choose the best option according to the text.

1. We understand from the paragraph that ...
 - A. It took ten weeks to reach Asia.
 - B. Columbus knew he discovered a new place.
 - C. The Age of Discovery began with a failure.
 - D. The Bahamas were islands in Asia.
2. Which of the following is **NOT** true about the Age of Discovery?
 - A. It continued for nearly two centuries.
 - B. It was a good time for everyone in the world.
 - C. There was a desire to travel to new places.
 - D. Some people lost their lands to foreigners.
3. The pronoun "**ones**" refers to:
 - A. products
 - B. discoveries
 - C. needs
 - D. routes
4. Thanks to geographical discoveries, ...
 - A. Europeans were introduced to silk for the first time.
 - B. Europeans stopped using Asian spices and silk.

- C. consuming foreign goods became harder.
 - D. getting necessary goods became more secure.
5. The pronoun "**their**" refers to:
- A. gold and silver's
 - B. merchants'
 - C. prices'
 - D. Spain and Portugal's
6. Who benefited from the *Price Revolution*?
- A. People who brought new products.
 - B. People who had fixed incomes.
 - C. People who had fixed debts and payments.
 - D. People who brought silver and gold.
7. According to the text, manufacturing facilities were ...
- A. necessary for production.
 - B. harmful for the economy.
 - C. advanced in Portugal and Spain.
 - D. a way of spending too much money.
8. The verb "**lagged behind**" is closest in meaning to ...
- A. improved
 - B. spent money
 - C. produced
 - D. failed

Text 2

There is not one simple definition of politics and there is not one method of applying politics within or outside a country. Negotiation is one of the most common methods of political practice. With this method, parties come together and discuss the situation in detail. Then, they come up with solutions that satisfy both sides. Nobody gets what they want completely, but they settle down an agreement and follow it. The other method is making laws. Laws concern all citizens, and whether they like these laws or not, each citizen has to obey them. Laws are not negotiable; if citizens do not obey them, they commit a crime and they are punished. Punishment can range from paying a small fine to a life time sentence in prison, so the severity of the punishment is related to heaviness of the crime. War is another political method. Although it is not a preferable method, sometimes governments see it the only way to solve **dispute** between parties. Like all the other methods, war may be within the country itself, or it could be against other countries. Governments decide on the best solution considering the benefits of their public interest. All these methods can be applied according to the political regime of the country. In other words, in a dictatorship, for instance, it is not possible to talk about negotiation within the country. The dictator does whatever he sees fit. (237 words)

Choose the best option according to the text.

9. Negotiation is ...
- A. a practice that allows for solutions.
 - B. harder when there are too many parties.
 - C. a method that gives everybody what they want.

- D. impossible if discussions are made in detail.
10. Because laws are not negotiable, ...
- A. citizens can choose not to obey them.
 - B. there is a consequence of each crime.
 - C. small fines are preferred for all crimes.
 - D. politicians are not required to obey them.
11. In paragraph 4 the word “**dispute**” is closest in meaning to:
- A. structure
 - B. belief
 - C. disagreement
 - D. goal
12. What is the main idea of the paragraph?
- A. Governments try to find solutions to problems.
 - B. There are different applications of politics.
 - C. Dictatorship does not allow negotiation.
 - D. Wars are sometimes used as a political method.

Text 3

Democracy does not have one simple definition or one **rigid** model because the countries that are governed democratically have their differences. For example, democracy in Norway is not exactly the same as the democracy in the USA. 2015 Democracy Index report shows the most democratic twenty countries in the world. According to this list, Norway is the most democratic country in the world. Iceland and Sweden follow Norway quite closely on the index. Interestingly, the USA became the 20th country in the list. Torkil Vederhus, a 27-year old Norwegian political consultant explains the situation quite clearly: “In Norway, politicians are regular people; they do not make a lot of money. They are like you and me; this is the way to have a healthy relationship with people.” He also mentions that for real democracy, the citizens should be involved in the system; they should be a part of the democracy. Apparently, in the USA, there is a lot of money going around for the campaigns right before the elections. So, the whole process turns into a financial show and whoever has the most money has the right to rule the country. Moreover, politicians in many countries are the elites, not like common people in Norway. In spite of the differences on how democracy is being applied, there are some significant aspects of democracy that stay the same everywhere. These aspects are crucial when citizens are considered. In other words, democracy is beneficial for a country’s citizens in more than one way. Perhaps most importantly, democracy ensures equality. In front of law, all citizens are equal in terms of their rights. To put it differently, the richest man and the poorest man in the country are the same in terms of civil rights. In a democratic country, there can be no discrimination between genders, class, wealth or religion. Secondly, in democracy, each and every citizen has a say in the elections. Once a citizen becomes an adult, they gain the right to vote; in other words, they choose the person who is going to represent them. Another benefit of democracy is that it prevents monopoly. The government is elected to be in power, but this power cannot be forever; there is a specific period of time that the government can stay in power. Once this period of time ends, elections are held again. This means, if the government fails to work for the benefit of its citizens, it will not be re-elected.

13. In paragraph 6, the word “**rigid**” is closest in meaning to:
- A. complex
 - B. exact
 - C. easy
 - D. accessible

14. Torkil Vederhus ...
- A. is a 27-year-old politician in Norway.
 - B. prepared the Democracy Index in 2015.
 - C. explains Norway has a good political system.
 - D. shows how to earn money from elections.
15. Which of the following is **NOT** true about Norway?
- A. It is more democratic than the USA.
 - B. Ordinary people are involved in politics.
 - C. Politics is not a way to make money.
 - D. Politicians earn money during their campaigns.
16. In the text, the USA is given as an example to show that ...
- A. democratic countries are similar to each other in many ways.
 - B. money is a determining force in the elections in some countries.
 - C. democracy is always beneficial for all the citizens of a country.
 - D. there is no discrimination between citizens in the western democracies.
17. Democracy is a way to prevent monopoly as a result of ...
- A. regular elections.
 - B. equality between genders.
 - C. governmental power.
 - D. benefits of a country.

Text 4

Charisma is obviously a primary quality that makes an actor a good one, or at least an admirable one. **But think of actors like Danny DeVito or Dustin Hoffman, who aren't considered charismatic but they are considered powerful actors.**

Natural talent or gift from birth is another characteristic that explains why an actor is good. Of course, it is impossible to ignore the importance of natural talent in any art form, not just acting. However, natural talent alone, without hard work and commitment, is not enough. Actors have a huge amount of work to do, which includes memorizing all the lines in the script, learning and practicing physical activities to bring a character to life. All this hard work involves different mental processes. However, the most distinct mental process takes place when they memorize the script, or the text of the film or play. In fact, a recent neuroscientific study has shown that the brain of an actor works differently. When actors memorize, or learn all those long sentences, they use the part of their brains called the "intraparietal sulcus" (IPS). The major functions of the IPS are visual attention, visual and spatial memory, and understanding the intention of others by looking at their faces. In short, this area of the brain is responsible for processing a variety of visual information. Interestingly, actors use this part of the brain during memorization, but ordinary people don't use the same area when they memorize a piece of text. According to neuroscientists, during memorization, the IPS is activated in an actor's brain for three reasons. First, when they memorize their roles, they always look at a page and read. Memorizing by reading is visual because the brain tries to understand the visual characters on the page – the letters become words, words become sentences, etc. Secondly, when actors study the text, they are not sedentary; on the contrary, they are in full action. As a result, they remember the words and the sentences in relation to their movements. Finally, facial expressions are a crucial part of acting because the words that actors say must be reflected on their faces. Reading is an integral part of acting as a profession, and its impact on the brain is not limited to the activation of the IPS. When actors read, they are exposed to information all the time. As a result of the exposure to information, actors' intelligence improves drastically. If you watch interviews with actors, you might notice how smart their ideas are. The interesting thing is that a lot of actors are university dropouts, or they have not attended university at all. However, the brain continues to develop throughout our lives, and the more information it receives, the bigger capacity it has. Obviously, this is not only true for actors. Any individual who reads a lot will be exposed to new information, and the result will be improved intelligence.

18. We understand from the sentence "**But think of actors like Danny DeVito or Dustin Hoffman, who aren't considered charismatic but they are considered powerful actors,**" that...
- Dustin Hoffman is more charismatic than DeVito.
 - powerful actors are the most charismatic of all.
 - some actors aren't charismatic, but they are good actors.
 - charismatic actors do not need to have powerful acting skills.
19. Which of the following is **NOT** a reason why IPS is activated in an actor's brain?
- Learning the script by reading it.
 - Moving around while playing the role.
 - Thinking of facial expressions.
 - Working hard to act differently.
20. Acting can improve intelligence ...
- because most actors go to university.
 - despite actors' dislike of reading.
 - as a result of actors' reading skills.
 - although actors are not well-informed.

