

English Test - 13.02.2013

CHESS GOES TO SCHOOL

Justin Brown from Chicago was eight years old when his father brought home a chess set he had bought at a local store. Now, five years later, Justin is captain of a team of 13- to 15-year-old chess players at the city's Oak Park Public School. His team has recently won an inter-school championship, where they played against seventeen other teams.

This was Justin's first major chess competition, and the third that Oak Park has won. Melissa Jones, head of the chess program, attributes much of **the team's success** to the school's policy and atmosphere. All students, she explains, are required to take weekly chess classes as part of the regular school day, and beginners are given a chance to practice with advanced learners. **Moreover**, the whole school shows its support for the team, especially in the weeks before important competitions. Jones points to eye-catching posters hung along the corridors, with photos of all the team members. "These were made by our youngest students," she says.

Oak Park is just one of many schools throughout the USA that have introduced chess as a regular school subject. **Another** is Bennington High in Dallas, whose principal, Paul Turner, claims that he is seeing the effects in many areas of students' lives. "During chess lessons kids really learn to concentrate, and this contributes to their achievements in other school subjects too," he says. "**In addition**, winning a game does a lot for a child's self-confidence, because chess is such a hard game to master."

Turner notes further advantages of having a chess program in school. "Unlike with music or sports," he says, "there's no need for expensive equipment, so even a school with limited funds can add the game to the curriculum." He **also** speaks of the positive feedback from parents. "We have a boy here who used to get angry and aggressive whenever he lost a game. He has been playing chess since the beginning of the year, and last week his **mother** told me that he has learned to remain calm even when he loses, whether he's playing chess or anything else." It seems, then, that the lessons learned from chess may serve children well throughout their lives.

1) What is the topic of this text (title, paragraph I+II):

ANSWER: (10 points)

2) Read all the questions and write what you learn about the text.

ANSWER: (5 points)

3) What do we learn about Justin from paragraph 1?

ANSWER: (7 points)

4) Melissa Jones speaks of "the team's success" (paragraph 2). What is she referring to?

Base your answer on paragraph 1.

ANSWER: (8 points)

5) What may help Oak Park students learn to play chess well?

Give ONE answer from paragraph 2.

ANSWER: (8 points)

6) According to paragraph 2, why do Oak Park students prepare posters?

ANSWER: (8 points)

7) What are we told about both Oak Park and Bennington High? (paragraphs 2 & 3)

ANSWER: (8 points)

8) According to Turner, what ability do children develop when learning to play chess?
(paragraph 3)

ANSWER:(7 points)

9) Give ONE benefit of chess that is mentioned by Paul Turner. (paragraph 3)

ANSWER: (8 points)

10) What does Turner say about having a chess program in school? (paragraph 4)

ANSWER: (8 points)

11) What did the mother who is mentioned in paragraph 4 tell Turner about her son? (paragraph 4).

ANSWER: (8 points)

12) Fill in the following chart (10 points):

Topic:				
Topic(Synonyms & References):				
	Main Idea:			
		Major detail:		
			Minor detail:	

13) Give the meanings of the underlined words in Arabic

A For the words in bold, write the meaning and part of speech

If you are older than four, digging in the **dirt**⁽¹⁾ may not sound like a lot of fun. Strangely enough, however, more and more adults are choosing to get their hands **dirty**⁽²⁾ by volunteering at archeological excavations

With such exciting prospects awaiting them, it is **likely**⁽³⁾ that even more people will choose to go digging in their **spare**⁽⁴⁾ time.

In an **ideal**⁽⁵⁾ world we would never use untrained people to sift dirt and **map**⁽⁶⁾ the location of ancient civilizations.

- (1) (2) (3)
(4) (5) (6)

B Fill in the blanks below using words from the word bank.

consequence	excavating	amateur
prospect	exotic	ancient
civilization	rudimentary	presence

- 1) *Fertile land and a steady supply of water made possible in the valley.*
- 2) *The of war made everyone afraid.*
- 3) *Her father wants her to be a professional musician, but she is happy being an*
- 4) *Her stomach pain was a of eating too much.*

- 5) Rome is an city with many buildings.
- 6) *He has only skills in math.*
- 7) The builders are the ground where the new house will be.
- 8) The police officers talked with the suspect in the of his lawyer.
- 9) *The zoo in Chicago has birds from Africa.*

I wish you all the very best,

Ahmad Amer