

2016

Stage III National Students Olympiad in the English Language
Listening Comprehension Test for 10th Form Students

To Fix A Few Potholes, 'Guerrilla' Group Takes Matters Into Its Own Hands

Task 1. Choose whether the statements are True or False.

- True**___ 1. Hamtramck, Michigan is surrounded by Detroit.
False___ 2. John Sucher is a mechanic who owns a tire business.
False___ 3. In Hamtramck many people have garages.
False___ 4. The cost of fixing Michigan's roads will be more than three billion dollars.
True___ 5. When a vehicle approaches the volunteers they yell, "Car!" to avoid blocking traffic.
False___ 6. Hamtramck officials are angry with the 'guerrilla' group.
False___ 7. The roads are really great in most of Michigan.

Task 2. Choose the best answer.

8. The volunteer group raised more than
a) Three billion dollars
b) Two billion dollars
c) Four thousand dollars
d) Five thousand dollars
9. The group calls themselves the
a) Barometer For Road Conditions
b) Hamtramck Volunteer Road Club
c) Hamtramck Guerrilla Road Crew
d) Just Yell Out Car!
10. The term 'guerrilla', in this story, most probably refers to:
a) A small, independent, volunteer group taking part in 'irregular' work.
b) A powerfully built great ape with a large head and short neck, found in the forests of central Africa.
c) A group of government workers on strike
d) A group of people angry and apathetic about the potholes of Michigan
11. John Sucher is kind of a barometer for road conditions in Hamtramck because.
a) He talks to many people who are agitated by the government failing to fix the roads.
b) He knows when the weather is bad, and the affect it will have on the city's roads.
c) He repairs cars damaged by the city's potholes.
d) His cars are often damaged by the roads.

12. When Jeff Salazar says that the tire guys are “making a killing off of” the bad roads, he most likely means that:

- a) The mechanics are sad about the number of people killed by Michigan's bad roads.
- b) The people who sell tires and repair tire rims are making a ton of money.**
- c) The tire guys are not making enough money to cover their costs.
- d) The tire guys are hoping that the roads will be repaired soon.

13. The three steps to filling a pot hole are:

- a) sweep the hole, pour in the asphalt, tamp it down.**
- b) pour in the asphalt, sweep the hole, tamp it down.
- c) Call the city for help.
- d) Tamp it down, sweep the hole, pour in the asphalt

14. When the journalist says that, “Politicians at the State Capitol have been squabbling for years over how to raise the money needed to fix the state's roads”, she most likely means that:

- a) Politicians have been physically fighting over the need to fix the state's roads.
- b) Politicians don't agree about how to pay for the required infrastructure improvements.**
- c) Politicians have had a lot of constructive dialogue about how to fix the state's roads, and are near a solution.
- d) Politicians have been paying a lot of money over the years to fix the state's roads

15. Tabitha Hojna and Jeff Salazar said that they were already paying to fix their cars, so they thought:

- a) Why not instead put some of that money into fixing the roads?**
- b) Why not call the city to fix the roads?
- c) Why not pay more taxes to the city to fix the roads?
- d) Why not create more potholes to teach the city a lesson?

10th Grade Reading Key for Regional 2015-16 English Olympiad

1. B
2. B
3. A
4. D
5. C
6. B
7. A
8. D
9. A
10. A
11. C
12. A
13. D
14. B
15. C

Articles adapted from:

1. How cockroaches could save lives - BBC News. (2015, November 3). Retrieved November 3, 2015, from <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-34517443>
2. Eckel, S. (2015, September 22). The Psychology Behind Sibling Estrangement | Reader's Digest. Retrieved November 3, 2015, from <http://www.rd.com/advice/relationships/adult-sibling-estrangement/>