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Högskoleprovet

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Swedish National Agency for Higher Education

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Detta prov innehåller ett antal engelskspråkiga texter av olika längd. Till varje text hör en eller flera uppgifter, var och en med fyra svarsförslag. Endast ett är rätt, nämligen det som passar **bäst** i det givna sammanhanget.

Observera att du ska lösa uppgifterna med ledning av den information som ges i respektive text.

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Cry Woolf

A review of a book by Victoria Glendinning

At the end of his life in 1969, aged 88, Leonard Woolf knew that he would be better known to history as the husband of Virginia than as an innovative colonial administrator in Ceylon, an important publisher of modernist literature or the graceful writer of a classic autobiography. He was spared having to defend himself from the bizarre speculations of those who have adopted Mrs Woolf as their mascot. The internet and academic journals blaze with accusations against him, ranging from her murder to culpable neglect.

The charges against Woolf are convoluted but, Glendinning shows definitively, false. Far from feeling himself diminished by her growing reputation, he appreciated his wife's genius and did all he could to make it possible for her to express it. The centre of the mystery is why Virginia Stephen, who shared the conventional, mild antisemitism of pre-Great War, upper-middle-class England, married "a penniless Jew" who looked like an Old Testament prophet.

There is a good deal to be learnt about multiculturalism from examining Woolf's early life, for the Woolfs were assimilated to the extent that his father was a Queen's Counsel and Leonard was educated at St Paul's and Trinity, Cambridge, where he was elected to the Apostles, the secret society then in its golden age, including as members G E Moore, Bertrand Russell, Lytton Strachey and John Maynard Keynes.

Even after his marriage, and though Virginia was never entirely comfortable with his large Jewish family, Woolf continued to see them every week.

Woolf, the future colonial civil servant, and the homosexual Lytton Strachey made an odd couple, but from the day they met at Trinity in 1899, "Leonard began to

define himself by discovering his differences from Lytton," writes Glendinning. Though Leonard could not share Lytton's sexual tastes he was a sympathetic listener and correspondent for the sex-crazed (and probably sex-starved) Strachey.

In February 1909, Lytton proposed to Virginia Stephen and for an agonising moment thought she'd accepted. With relief, he wrote to Woolf that it would really be much better if he himself were to marry her, as he'd "have the immense advantage of physical desire". It was another three-and-a-half years before the match was accomplished, and the marriage will be the chief reason this book will appeal to most of its readers.

There was, however, a great deal more to Leonard Woolf than being Virginia's consort and nurse. An entire political biography of Leonard was written by Duncan Wilson, but Glendinning gives an account of his dealings with the political sphere that is as full and fair as the general reader will want.

In a chapter called "Aftermath", Glendinning goes into the dispersal of Virginia's manuscripts and letters by the late Misses Hamill and Barker, the two old American ladies who looted them, often paying in cash and disappearing back to Chicago with suitcases full of Britain's literary heritage. Though the author has hidden some of her tracks by failing to give page numbers when citing books, her deft writing and striking sympathy for her subject make this a landmark biography.

Paul Levy, Guardian Weekly

Ouestions

1. What is implied about Leonard Woolf in the opening paragraph?

- A He was a talented writer of modern fiction
- B He was a man chiefly known for his famous wife
- C He was a mixture of intelligence and brutality
- D He was a successful and energetic academic

2. What are we told about Leonard Woolf's family?

- A The Woolfs were a close family who kept strictly to themselves
- B His father was a member of the Apostles society
- C They belonged to the wealthy English middle class
- D The Woolfs were active in different sectors of contemporary English society

3. Why, according to the text, was Lytton Strachey important to Leonard Woolf?

- A Leonard Woolf and Lytton Strachey had a sexual relationship
- B Lytton Strachey contributed to shaping Leonard Woolf's sense of identity
- C Lytton Strachey was the one who introduced Virginia to Leonard Woolf
- D Leonard Woolf regarded Lytton Strachey as a rival for Virginia

4. What happened to some of Virginia Woolf's material?

- A It was transferred from Britain in a rather unconventional way
- B It was long stored in an American university library
- C It was removed by American scholars for research purposes
- D It was finally brought back to Britain from the US

5. Why, according to the reviewer, are readers likely to find Glendinning's book of special interest?

- A It provides new insights into the complex character of Virginia Woolf's work
- B A lot of previously unrecorded political material has been included in it
- C The literary importance of Leonard Woolf is stressed for the first time
- D It gives a lot of information about Leonard and Virginia's married life

Normal or Abnormal?

The idea that human nature can be refracted through personality traits – distinct clusters of thoughts and feelings that color all of a person's actions – has been around a long time. But it is gaining new momentum. For one thing, it gives us a high-definition picture of human character and its variety. It also encourages renewed appreciation for the diversity of influences on behavior, from genes to lifestyles. As a result, the new view of personality heralds a revolution in how we view disorder, marking a shift away from rigid categories of pathology to a more organic sense of the way individuals fit in their world.

For many years, serious problems of character and personality were believed to be relatively rare. What's more, they were regarded as virtually untreatable – and bereft of any benefit or utility. Personality disorders were sequestered on their own island of pathology.

But a flood of new theories, surveys and techniques is sweeping aside the old assumptions about problematic personalities. Dysfunctional personalities actually appear to be quite common, affecting more than 30 million Americans — about one person in seven. This increased awareness of the prevalence of personality problems is stimulating breakthroughs in understanding and treating them, as well as a dawning realization that what we call mental illness might once have had, and may still serve, highly adaptive functions. Most surprising of all, researchers are accumulating evidence that the line between normal and abnormal personality is much more subtle than anyone imagined. Which may mean that our conception of mental illness is due for a revision — and that we "normal" people are all just a little bit crazy.

Central to the emerging perspective is a distinction between personality *styles* and personality *disorders*. Any specific pattern of thinking and feeling may be expressed as a healthy, though perhaps quirky, personality style, or it may be expressed more floridly as a clinically diagnosable personality disorder.

People with an avoidant personality, for example, may be homebodies who like routine and cherish a few intimates, or they may shun people for fear of rejection and avoid risk-taking or new activities for fear of the humiliation of failure. The former have an avoidant personality style, the latter an avoidant personality disorder.

So what's the difference between a personality disorder and a personality style? One gauge is, simply, extremity: The personality disordered think, feel and act in ways that are at the outer edge of what most people experience. A second guideline is inflexibility. They get stuck, unable to respond fluidly to changing circumstances.

Many psychologists are shifting from the old you-haveit-or-you-don't perspective on personality disorders, the "categorical" model, to the more nuanced "dimensional" model. In it, personality is located along a continuum, with healthy personality traits at one end, personality disorders at the other — and innumerable gradations in between. The dividing line between normal and abnormal becomes much less important in the new dimensional model, and some proponents refuse to recognize one at all.

Personality disorders contribute an important insight to reformulated ideas of mental health: Context is everything. Behavior that creates havoc in one situation may be celebrated in another, and finding the right niche may mean – for any one of us – the difference between psychological health and sickness. From this perspective, personality problems are not burdens we carry wherever we go but latent vulnerabilities that are exacerbated by specific environments. They are also potential assets.

One provocative notion emerging from evolutionary psychology is that many of the behaviors found in personality disorders – perverse as they may appear to us now – originated as adaptations necessary for survival. Looking closely, it's not hard to see the germ of something useful in what on the surface appear to be self-defeating patterns of behavior. Avoidant personality disorder, for example, may be a holdover from a time when strangers posed a very real danger.

Annie Murphy Paul, Psychology Today

Ouestions

6. What is implied in the opening paragraph?

- A The role of genes as the greatest force in human life is now beyond doubt
- B Changing ideas about personality mean seeing mental illness in a new light
- C The notion of personality traits confirms earlier definitions of humanness
- D Individual differences between people are smaller than usually assumed

7. What are we told in relation to personality problems?

- A Recent research has established clear-cut categories as regards mental health
- B The problem of personality disorders has often been disregarded in the past
- C No sharp division exists between ordinary behavior and personality disorders
- D More people than ever seem to be suffering from serious mental diseases

8. What are we told with regard to personality styles and personality disorders?

- A Distinguishing between a personality style and the corresponding disorder is extremely difficult
- B Personality disorders are often less easily diagnosed than personality styles
- C Any personality style may strike other people as more than a little abnormal
- D People with personality disorders find it hard to modify their behavior to suit new situations

9. What is claimed within the new theoretical framework of mental health and illness?

- A With regard to personality disorders, genetic factors are clearly more important than environmental ones
- B Psychological problems should be regarded as nothing but social problems
- C Depending on circumstances, the same reaction may be seen as fully functional or totally inadequate
- D It makes little sense to speak about personality problems in contextual terms

10. What is said about personality disorders from a longer historical perspective?

- A What is now considered questionable behavior may once have been regarded as socially appropriate
- B Today's personality problems are likely to be the result of biological failure
- C In old times the distinction between personality styles and personality disorders was irrelevant
- D Sexually provocative behavior may once have served useful social purposes

AND HERE ARE SOME SHORTER TEXTS:

Japanese Men

In theory, younger Japanese men are far more open to equality than their fathers. They have to be: two incomes are often the only way that a family can maintain a comfortable lifestyle in Japan's big cities. Still, the pressures of a workaholic culture dissuade men from cutting out early and doing a little dusting.

Question

11. What can be concluded about Japanese men from this text?

- A They are happy to accept workloads that clash with their private lives
- B The idea of shared household work no longer strikes them as strange
- C Their views on equality have remained the same for generations
- D They can now spend more time at home instead of working late

Aboriginal History

In southern Australia, the Ngarrindjeri women have been campaigning against development of their tribal land, arguing that it was sacred to them in oral history passed down only by spoken communication and only through women. They were not believed because the state authorities could find no written text and no 'experts' to support their claim. 'The white government doesn't believe blackfellas until they see things written down by whitefellas,' says Aboriginal historian Doreen Kartinyeri.

Question

12. What are we told here about the state authorities?

- A They were openly prejudiced against women
- B Only evidence in writing was considered legally relevant by them
- C Their decision was based only on racial prejudice
- Religious arguments as such were unacceptable to them

Relationships

One of the greatest threats to satisfying relationships, says Anthony Wolf, a practicing clinical psychologist, is our overwhelming need to be right when we disagree. This innate characteristic, which he defines as our "baby self," can damage or destroy relationships, especially with those closest to us.

Question

13. What are we told in this text?

- A It is important to avoid disagreement in a relationship
- B Disagreement may be seen as a sign of closeness in a relationship
- C Telling your partner that you disagree will harm a relationship
- D Refusing to admit being in the wrong may have a negative effect on a relationship

Woman's Hour

Along with *Desert Island Discs, Woman's Hour* is one of the staples of Radio 4: taken for granted, but constantly unearthing insights and revelations. It began when housewives had no choice but to keep the home fires burning until the master returned from breadwinning. So it was 'knit your own doormat' and 'how to hang your husband's suit'. In its seventh decade it's more 'don't be a door mat' and 'how to hang your husband'.

Question

14. What is implied here about Woman's Hour?

- A It had a clear feminist agenda right from the start
- B Its conservative views still appeal to many of its female listeners
- C It was always meant to avoid controversial issues
- D Its history reflects radical changes since the mid-20th century

Therapists and Patients

For most of psychotherapy's history, self-disclosure has been anathema; in the Freudian tradition, the analyst assumes the role of an aloof observer. But because the bond between therapist and patient is now considered the best instrument of therapy's success, many therapists agree that a well-considered bit of personal revelation can be a good, if tricky, technique.

Question

15. What is said here about therapist-patient relationships?

- A For therapists to give information about their own lives is no longer as controversial as it used to be
- B Patients should not disclose details about their personal experiences
- C Freudian therapy is based on equality between patient and therapist
- D Private matters have no place in a therapeutic relationship aimed to promote mutual trust

Biochemical Weapons

For most countries in Southeast Asia, at least for the fore-seeable future, the only defence against chemical and biological warfare is good intelligence to prevent an attack, or a good public-health system to deal with the aftermath. There are signs that such threats will be given far more weight in future.

Question

16. What is implied here about the situation in Southeast Asia?

- A Up till now too little attention has been paid to the possibility of biochemical attacks
- B Most countries cannot afford to set up an efficient defence against biochemical weapons
- C Hospitals should be given more responsibility to take care of the victims of biochemical warfare
- D Intelligent planning has proved unable to reduce the risks of biochemical terrorism

In the following text there are gaps which indicate that something has been left out. Look at the four alternatives that correspond to each gap and decide which one best fits the gap. Then mark your choice on your answer sheet.

"Pharm" Crops

Traditional varieties of major US food crops have been widely contaminated by DNA from genetically modified (GM) crops. Some scientists have gone as far as to suggest that this may pose a serious risk to human health.

Crops engineered to produce industrial chemicals and drugs – so-called "pharm" crops – could already be 17_____ ostensibly GM-free crops grown for food, according to a study by the Union of Concerned Scientists, based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. "If genes find their way from pharm crops to ordinary corn, they or their products could 18____ in drug-laced corn-flakes," says microbiologist Margaret Mellon, the report's co-author.

In trials, crops have been genetically engineered to manufacture antibodies to fight cancer, vaccines against rabies, cholera and foot and mouth disease, and proteins for healing wounds and treating conditions such as cystic fibrosis. But 19_____ conventional pharmaceutical factories are subject to stringent controls to prevent drugs entering the food chain or polluting the environment, no such controls exist to prevent the spread of DNA sequences from pharm crops.

Concern about contamination by GM crops has focused on cross-pollination in the field. However, much of the contamination has arisen from a failure to keep GM and traditional seeds apart during distribution.

The US **20**_____ are likely to inflame opinion in Europe, where governments are edging towards an accommodation with GM technology.

Fred Pearce, New Scientist

Alternatives

17.

A involving

B admitting

C poisoning

D restricting

18.

A wind up

B fall apart

C catch on

D come across

19.

A since

B whether

C unless

D while

20.

A findings

B advances

C policies

D intentions