

Before the European exploration of the West Coast of Africa started, many North African and Greek sailors had reached the West African Coast.

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Which group, according to the passage, were the early visitors to the West African Coast?

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Some people tend to make it in the face of harsh odds; others tend to be doomed to fail even in the most favourable conditions. Indeed, the inclement social and economic conditions seem to have carved out the exact favourable conditions necessary for success for some. Yet, during our years of boom, some seemed to have been condemned to the abyss of penury. Why are there some yet unproven natural laws which govern man's propensity for success? Probably yes, for success seems to come as a result of the interplay of some factors inherent in man's nature. First, there is man's will to succeed. I mean man's rugged determination to scale the rough heights. Those who keep afloat on the turbulent economic currents need this if they are not to sink. With such unbending zeal, such men ward off depression whenever they run into the rough weather which, after all, is an unavoidable experience of life. Consider Lincoln, for instance, because a man who failed in virtually all areas of life but whose iron will propelled him to success.

According to the passage which of these propels a man to succeed?

- [A]  favourable climate
- [B]  economic climate
- [C]  man's determination
- [D]  man's height
- [E]  social interaction

Can a 14-year old read? What about a 10-year old, a 6-year old, a 4-year old? It rather depends on how one defines reading, recognizing one or two familiar phrases is an adequate description of a very complex activity. Reading is a process by which the child can, on the run, extract sequence of cues from printed texts and relate these one to another that he understands the precise message of the text. The child continues to gain in this skill throughout his entire education, interpreting statements of ever-increasing complexity.

Who then is a 'problem' reader? Presumably he has much more difficulty than the average child in coping with the day-to-day lesson in reading, and therefore he accumulates this skill at a slower rate than the average child, slipping further and further behind. This kind of definition allows us to escape from having to state how far behind the child is. He

According to the passage, children who read slowly fall into

- [A]  two years retarded speech growth.
- [B]  limited language skills.
- [C]  unclassified language level.
- [D]  two categories.
- [E]  retarded growth rate.

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What makes a man succumb to defeat according to the passage is?

- [A]  dependence on one's will.
- [B]  frying without success.
- [C]  reliance on friends.
- [D]  nursing the feeling of failure.
- [E]  dependence on one's parents.

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According to the passage, a problem reader is one

- [A]  who has more difficulty than the average child.
- [B]  whose reading speed is generally low.
- [C]  who needs the attention of an instructor.
- [D]  who accumulates higher skill than the average child.
- [E]  who has less difficulty than the average child.

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Astrolabe, according to the passage is an instrument for

- [A]  navigating the sea.
- [B]  locating position on the sea.
- [C]  calculating the position of celestial bodies.
- [D]  calculation distance in space.
- [E]  showing wind directions on maps.

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Which of these statements is true according to the passage?

- [A]  Nations which were financially strong enough supported efforts at closing the Mediterranean and Black sea.
- [B]  Nations which were financially strong enough supported efforts at finding several ways to reach the spice Island.
- [C]  Nations which were financially strong enough supported efforts in reaching the West Coast at all cost.
- [D]  Nations which were financially strong enough supported efforts in planning and executing voyages.
- [E]  Nations which were financially strong enough supported efforts in sending the Arabs away.

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Who then is a 'problem' reader? Presumably he has much more difficulty than the average child in coping with the day-today lesson in reading, and therefore he accumulates this skill at a slower rate than the average child, slipping further and further behind. This kind of definition allows us to escape from having to state how far behind the child is. He

One particular difficulty of a problem reader is

- [A]  semantic problem.
- [B]  analyzing the language.
- [C]  identifying the structural differences of sentences.
- [D]  understanding the language.
- [E]  breaking up the language into parts.



Back in the days of our fathers, reading was part and parcel of the learned such that those who were not well educated strive to go to college in order to acquire more knowledge. Reading then was bedrock of greatness in every individual, regardless of age and gender. It is alarming how this practice, which use to be widespread among Nigerian students, youths and even adults, is fast eroding in our society at a jet speed.

Reading stimulates imagination, encourages quick learning, curiosity and expands horizons. It also enhances acquisition of skills for handling complex ideas or issues and it is the mother of strategic planning. Every piece of write-up is the manifestation of experience garnered by a writer over time. As important as education is, it hurts to know that the sharp decline in our reading culture is attributed to a number of factors in the society.

The word 'underscores' as used in paragraph five means

- [A]  Debilitates
- [B]  Promotes
- [C]  Conceals
- [D]  Emphasises
- [E]  Undermines

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The main idea in paragraph two is

- [A]  Merits of reading and the degenerating culture.
- [B]  Creativity, skills acquisition and strategic planning.
- [C]  The importance of education.
- [D]  A manifestation of the experiences of a writer.
- [E]  Factors affecting reading culture in our society.

Can a 14-year old read? What about a 10-year old, a 6-year old, a 4-year old? It rather depends on how one defines reading, recognizing one or two familiar phrases is an adequate description of a very complex activity. Reading is a process by which the child can, on the run, extract sequence of cues from printed texts and relate these one to another that he understands the precise message of the text. The child continues to gain in this skill throughout his entire education, interpreting statements of ever-increasing complexity.

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The rhetorical questions in the first paragraph of the passage are

- [A]  narrative
- [B]  argumentative
- [C]  persuasive.
- [D]  descriptive
- [E]  speculative

Secondly, the military interventions, in the East which had resulted in the closure of the Mediterranean and Black sea by the Ottoman Turks.

These seas were the main routes through which spices and other essential luxury goods from Asia came to Western Europe.

Thirdly, and perhaps the most important reason, was the introduction of navigation instruments like the compass and the astrolabe. Also, Europe's ability to build Ocean-going ships.

Finally, the exploration was the outcome of a movement in Europe called the Renaissance. The movement opened men's minds to new ideas.

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the location in the CBD where it can be accessed easily.

The poor reading culture can also be attributed to the high level of illiteracy in our society, which conforms to the recent report by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), that there are 62 million illiterates in our beloved country... This statistics actually underscores the level of illiteracy in the country. It is no gain saying that the many years of neglect of our educational institutions, especially adult literacy education have come to hunt us in the face at a time the world is becoming a global village. This is therefore a clarion call to the federal and states' ministries of Education to declare state of emergency in the education sector.

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Spain and Portugal struggled against the Arabs

- [A]  to conquer the Arabs.
- [B]  because the African Coast could be discovered.
- [C]  because the Arabs had over stayed their welcome.
- [D]  to dominate the West Coast alone.
- [E]  to reclaim their land.

Some people tend to make it in the face of harsh odds; others tend to be doomed to fail even in the most favourable conditions. Indeed, the inclement social and economic conditions seem to have carved out the exact favourable conditions necessary for success for some. Yet, during our years of boom, some seemed to have been condemned to the abyss of penury. Why are there some yet unproven natural laws which govern man's propensity for success? Probably yes, for success seems to come as a result of the interplay of some factors inherent in man's nature. First, there is man's will to succeed. I mean man's rugged determination to scale the rough heights. Those who keep afloat on the turbulent economic currents need this if they are not to sink. With such unbending zeal, such men ward off depression whenever they run into the rough weather which, after all, is an unavoidable experience of life. Consider Lincoln, for instance, how many men who failed in virtually all cases of life, but whose iron will propelled him to success.

Which of the following can replace 'crucial' as used in the passage?

- [A]  hard
- [B]  strong
- [C]  essential
- [D]  menial
- [E]  simple

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From the expression "- - - most of them are taller than the average men - - -" who are referred to as 'them'?

- [A]  The poor.
- [B]  The leaders.
- [C]  Abraham Lincoln and Churchill.
- [D]  The successful.
- [E]  People born with silver spoon.



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According to the passage, one of these is not a factor that contributes to one's success

- [A]  careful planning
- [B]  natural endowment
- [C]  harsh economic conditions
- [D]  rugged determination
- [E]  the will to succeed

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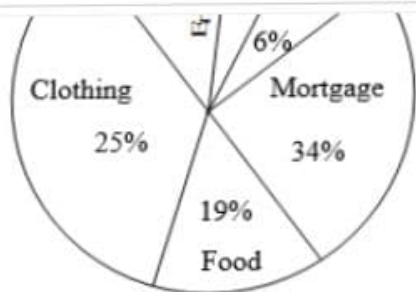
From the passage it is clear that children with retarded language have

- [A]  good sound discriminating attitude.
- [B]  language difficulty.
- [C]  speech difficulty.
- [D]  language activity
- [E]  reading difficulty.

# SPDC NUMERICAL ASSESSMENT 2020

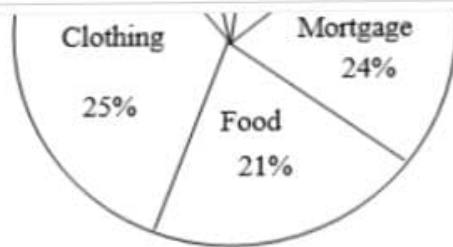
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**2001**

Total Income: ₦50,000



**2002**

Total Income: ₦75,000

Calculate the total percentage of savings in both years.

- [A]  20
- [B]  21
- [C]  11
- [D]  50
- [E]  40

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The African continent could not be explored by the Europeans because of

- [A]  limited know how and tools.
- [B]  lack of ship for voyages.
- [C]  economic structure.
- [D]  fear of tropical diseases.
- [E]  political power.

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In the second place, European sailors lacked modern instruments of navigation and had limited knowledge of the geography of the African Continent.

Thirdly, the Europeans were reluctant to embark on the exploration of the African coast because they had, for long, obtained all they needed from the East through the Arab middlemen.

By the fifteenth century, however, several factors encouraged the exploration of West Africa.

Firstly, the ethnic and class struggle in Europe which had gradually given way to more centralized and united countries or nations which were financially strong enough to support efforts at discovering alternative routes to the spice

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One of these is a proper description of reading in paragraph one.

- [A]  Acquisition of knowledge and imaginations
- [B]  Historical antecedence and contemporary reading culture
- [C]  Mother of strategic planning
- [D]  Bedrock of greatness and gender sensitivity
- [E]  Quick learning, curiosity and expanses horizons.

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How did the writer buttress the fact that poverty is a great challenge to the poor reading culture in Nigeria. Through the use of

- [A]  Critical imagination
- [B]  Educational assessment
- [C]  Creative illustration
- [D]  Economy of words
- [E]  Statistical presentation

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According to the passage, the factors that are responsible for poor reading culture are

- [A]  Poverty, illiteracy, population, distraction and noisy environment.
- [B]  Poverty, adult literacy, distraction, neglect and noisy environment.
- [C]  Poverty, noisy environment, literacy, distraction and neglect.
- [D]  penury, noisy environment, Central business districts, neglect and distraction.
- [E]  Penury, Un-serene environment, distraction, neglect and illiteracy.



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or nations which were financially strong enough to support efforts at discovering alternative routes to the spice Islands-New nations which included Spain, Portugal, England, Holland and France. As Spain and Portugal struggled to push the Arabs away from their country to North Africa and beyond, they came to know that African Coast could be reached.

Secondly, the military interventions, in the East which had resulted in the closure of the Mediterranean and Black sea by the Ottoman Turks.

These seas were the main routes through which spices and other essential luxury goods from Asia came to Western Europe.

Thirdly, and perhaps the most important reason, was the introduction of navigation instruments like the compass and

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