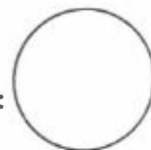


ANGLAIS (60 MINUTES)

Note :



Total des points : ____ /49 points

Votre nom et prénom : _____ N° de candidat : _____

Read the text below and do the exercises that follow.**Too Many Choices**

by Ginger Kuenzel (Spotlight Online)

It seems as if people are talking more and more about simplifying their lives these days. There are plenty of articles — and even a popular magazine called *Real Simple* — which tell you just how to do that. And there have certainly been a lot of innovations that make life easier, many of which are technology-based. Just think of all the smart appliances, such as refrigerators with built-in touchscreens or internet-connected TVs, that are now coming onto the market.

There's one area, though, where things are not becoming simpler. I'm talking about the increasing number of choices we face these days when shopping. Take ice cream, for example. When I was growing up, we were usually offered a choice of chocolate, vanilla, or strawberry. Today, the list of ice-cream flavors is endless. New ones are constantly being introduced, while unpopular ones, such as bubble gum or garlic, go out of fashion.

Should your clothes be clean or stainless?

After eating all that ice cream, you'll need some toothpaste. In the past, you just chose your favorite brand and size. Now, each brand offers not only a huge number of flavors, but also different benefits. You can decide if you want your toothpaste to whiten your teeth, strengthen them, make your gums healthier, freshen your breath, or eliminate plaque. Some toothpaste is just for kids — in which case, bubble-gum flavor is still popular — while other types are for people with sensitive teeth.

You'll also have to spend a lot of time in the supermarket, deciding which laundry detergent is right for you. Do you want a detergent that gets your clothes clean, or do you

prefer one that gets the stains out? Is there a difference? And how should your laundry smell when it comes out of the washer? Like lavender, perhaps? As far as I know, they're not making detergent that smells like bubble gum — at least not yet. And don't even get me started on choices in lightbulbs: halogen, LED, fluorescent, floodlight, spotlight, bright white, or soft light. The list goes on.

Choosing between 1,161 different toilet brushes

Even choosing the right peanut butter¹ is a challenge. Do I want all-natural or regular, chunky, crunchy, or smooth, honey-roasted, sugar-free, or low-carb? I don't think they've developed a peanut butter for people with peanut allergies yet, but it's probably in the works.

I recently read that having too many choices can be a bad thing. For example, does Amazon really need to offer 1,161 different toilet brushes? If we spend so much time worrying over our options, we might avoid making a decision because we are afraid of making the wrong one. In some cases, this could be a good thing. If I can't decide on a flavor of ice cream, I'll avoid all those extra calories. On the other hand, not being able to choose the right lightbulb, laundry detergent, or toothpaste could be more problematic.

¹ Le beurre d'arachides/de cacahuètes

A. Comprehension check (see the text!) **/ 12 marks**
Underline the best answer to each question according to the text.

1. There are plenty of articles means that...
 - A. there are few articles
 - B. there are a lot of articles
 - C. there are no articles
2. Smart appliances are appliances that
 - A. are less intelligent than a human
 - B. more intelligent than a human
 - C. use technology to make life easier
3. The number of choices we face means...
 - A. the number of choices we are confronted with
 - B. the number of choices we don't have to deal with
 - C. the number of choices we see on our face
4. Today's number of choices is...
 - A. going up
 - B. going down
 - C. stable
5. Bubble gum and garlic ice cream flavors are
 - A. unknown
 - B. not liked
 - C. sold very often
6. The writer says that toothpaste
 - A. is a new ice cream flavor
 - B. comes in a large number of flavors
 - C. is a new brand
7. The writer says that supermarkets are places where
 - A. you always spend a lot of time
 - B. you can find the best detergents
 - C. it can be difficult to choose the right detergent
8. "As far as I know" means...

- A. based on what I know
 - B. brands are far from producing new detergents
 - C. I don't know anything
9. A new brand of peanut butter for people who have a peanut allergy
- A. works very well
 - B. has already been invented but is not on the market yet
 - C. is possibly being developed right now
10. "If we spend so much time worrying over our options" means
- A. feeling satisfied
 - B. being able to make decisions
 - C. feeling unsure
11. How does the writer of the text feel about Amazon?
- A. He loves the fact that Amazon has so many toilet brushes on offer
 - B. He wonders if all the different brushes that Amazon offers are necessary
 - C. He appreciates the fact that Amazons offers brushes for free
12. The text explains that
- A. having plenty of choice is always positive
 - B. having plenty of choice can sometimes have negative sides
 - C. having plenty of choice will make us burn calories

B. Vocabulary / 10 marks

Match the key words in the box with the definitions.

⚠ There are two extra words/expressions which you do not have to use!

area | sensitive | stain | to avoid | inability | endless
sensible | crunchy | task | to whiten | to go on | to go with

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 1. _____ | to continue |
| 2. _____ | to stay away from something or someone |
| 3. _____ | a particular domain |
| 4. _____ | that makes a short loud noise when it is eaten |
| 5. _____ | the fact of not being able to do something |
| 6. _____ | describes a feeling where people are easily upset, embarrassed or angry |
| 7. _____ | it refers to something that never seems to finish |
| 8. _____ | a mark that can be difficult to remove |

9. _____ to decide, accept an idea
10. _____ to make white again

A. Grammar / 15 marks

Change the following sentences into a) questions, b) negative sentences, c) sentences in the past.

1. There are plenty of articles on this topic.
a. question: _____
b. negative: _____
c. past simple: _____
2. People talk about simplifying their lives.
a. question: _____
b. negative: _____
c. past simple: _____
3. You can decide on the benefits for your teeth.
a. question: _____
b. negative: _____
c. past simple: _____
4. A brand of toothpaste also offers a variety of flavours.
a. question: _____
b. negative: _____
c. past simple: _____
5. You have to spend a lot of time in the supermarket.
a. question: _____
b. negative: _____
c. past simple: _____

B. Composition / 12 marks

6 marks for content, 6 marks for language

Choose one of the topics - (a) or (b) – and write about it.

- a) Write about an activity that you often do in your life, explaining what it is, how you came to do it, why you enjoy this activity, and what makes it special.

OR

- b) Describe the first time you visited a new place: share your impressions, discoveries, and what made it memorable.

Your text should be approximately 100 words long.

TOPIC: ☐ A | ☐ B

[illegible]