

Olympiáda v anglickom jazyku

32. ročník celoštátne kolo 2021/2022

kategória 2B

READING COMPREHENSION

Task 1: Read the text carefully. Complete the task below.

Book Review: *Generation Me: Why Today's Young Americans Are More Confident, Assertive, Entitled - and More Miserable - Than Ever Before* by Jean M. Twenge; Review by Aaron Shulman

A. As a 23-year-old American who considers himself mildly confident and assertive but neither miserable nor entitled, I was curious to see what Jean M. Twenge, a San Diego State University psychology professor in her mid-30s, had to say in her new book, *Generation Me: Why Today's Young Americans Are More Confident, Assertive, Entitled – and More Miserable – Than Ever Before*.

B. Twenge saddles herself with the task of describing the defining characteristics of the children of baby boomers born from 1970 to the end of the twentieth century, a group she terms “Generation Me.” The members of this generation, while remarkably diverse in many respects, share a unifying aspect: we are “unapologetically focused on the individual,” a trait inherited from our boomer parents and fanned to extremes by the culture they gave rise to.

C. While no one – especially a generation raised to worship individualism – likes to have their sameness within a group pointed out to them, I was struck by how consistently Twenge’s generalizations about GenMe rang true about me and most of my friends. We think of work more as a path toward self-fulfilment than as a means to a stable livelihood. We feel we can have it all and believe in “following our dreams” and doing things our own way; and we view our 20s as a period to bounce around and “find ourselves,” because otherwise we won’t be ready for married family life in our late 20s and early 30s. As to whether these trends are good or bad, Twenge only occasionally makes an outright judgment, letting her research speak for itself.

D. In sketching out how these conditions came to be, Twenge tells an engaging story, fuelled and supported by a solid base of data, illustrative quotes from her and others’ research, and barometric examples from TV shows, movies, comics, and advertisements. She explains how the defiance of authority and rejecting social approval pioneered by boomers in the ‘60s and ‘70s was absorbed by the mainstream and incorporated into the status quo of GenMe. Twenge also serves up a well-argued critique of the self-esteem industry in the United States, which she says has a narcissistic quality that is harming America’s youth vastly more than it helps. Throughout the book, her analyses of myriad topics articulated a number of ideas on the tip of my mind’s tongue, getting me to think about myself and my parents, as well as the culture we come from and help create.

E. *Generation Me* is thoughtful, and fun to read, but over the course of the book, I couldn’t shake my discomfort with the sensationalistic use of the word “miserable” to describe my generation. In spite of all the dispiriting trends that dog GenMe – depression, crushing disappointment when the real world doesn’t deliver on the things we’ve been taught to expect, credit card debt, mountainous student loans, divorce-like breakups, estrangement from the community – to say we’re miserable seems to forget that we can be flexible. Yes, GenMe must confront some black obstacles, but doesn’t every generation? Thinking of ourselves as miserable doesn’t seem to be a move in the right direction. Twenge does realize this and closes her book with some optimism: “Generation Me needs realistic expectations, careful career guidance, and assistance when we become parents. In return, we will gladly lend our energy toward our work and toward helping others.”

1.

READING COMPREHENSION - TASK

Task: Based on what you have read in the article, decide which paragraph answers the following questions (in three questions, the answer appears in 2 paragraphs). Write the letter of the corresponding paragraph/paragraphs in the spaces provided. The statements do not follow in the same order as the information appears in the article.

1. Which paragraphs analyse the strengths of the book? A / B / C / D / E A / B / C / D / E
2. In which paragraph is the purpose of the book described? A / B / C / D / E
3. Which paragraph discusses the limitations of the book? A / B / C / D / E
4. In which paragraph does the reader learn that the reviewer represents the same generation as the author? A / B / C / D / E
5. In which paragraphs does the reviewer express his disagreement with one word used in the title? A / B / C / D / E A / B / C / D / E
6. In which paragraph does the reader learn about the professional background of the author of the reviewed book? A / B / C / D / E
7. In which paragraph does the reviewer mention varied research methods used by the author of the reviewed book? A / B / C / D / E
8. In which paragraph does the reviewer support the author's generalizations by using his own examples and those of his friends? A / B / C / D / E
9. In which paragraph does it become clear that the main feature of GenMe has been passed on to them by their parents? A / B / C / D / E
10. In which paragraphs does the writer identify with Twenge's conclusions about American culture? A / B / C / D / E A / B / C / D / E

2.

VOCABULARY

Task 1: Complete each sentence with an appropriate expression from the box. Be careful; there are more words in the box than you will need.

PUT OFF

GIVE AWAY

BEAR OUT

RULE OUT

TURN OUT

1. It's not likely to happen but I wouldn't / / / / the possibility.

2. The other witnesses will / / / / what I say.

Task 2: Fill each blank space in the extract below with the correct form of the word in capital letters.

Who Really Doesn't Like Dancing?

Cinema too is having an effect. Evita, The Tango Lesson, and Strictly Ballroom all celebrate traditional dance (3)

(ARTIST), and expect the profile of the incredible Argentine style to (4)

(ROCKET) after several new releases. For many years, the pop music played in night clubs

consigned ballroom, Latin, and rock'n'roll to the (5) (LAUGH) middle-class scrapheap.

But now dancing in all its different styles has made a revival. Behind its rebirth lies a confluence of factors: the global village, delight in the accessories, and being fed up with the loud (6) (UNFRIENDLY) of modern dance.

Clubbing, with its (7)

(DEAF) music, solo dancing, and heavy (8)

(COMPETITIVE), provides less and less social contact, and becomes an (9)

(AVOID) activity. Now people are embracing the old forms again. Social dancing is a (10)

(RITUAL) reaching out.

Task 1: Fill each of the numbered blanks in the passage with one suitable word.

What helps every top corporate boss relax?

EXAMPLE: (0) *on*

The success of many leading companies depends (0) *on* an effective management team and they are always seeking ways to encourage managers to get (1) *along* with each other. In previous years, (2) *those* ways have ranged from weekends (3) *where;w* managers were camping together to white-water rafting. Now the latest corporate team-building technique that is becoming increasingly popular in the management world is sitting for hours round a table making shapes (4) *out* of Lego, the well-known building bricks that so many children have grown up (5) *with*. But don't be fooled (6) *by* those familiar green and yellow plastic blocks – this is Lego for adults, and (7) *among* senior executives it is the hottest management tool (8) *since* the go-everywhere laptop. Companies are now eager to send senior staff along to learn what Lego can do for (9) *their* corporate ethos, and management consultants are even dedicating (10) *themselves* to running Lego sessions to meet the demand. They claim that the multicoloured bricks can help free managers (11) *from* a limited imagination. What is most important, staff joining a session (12) *are* encouraged to unlock their creative potential (13) *while* building models to understand how their business work.

Task 2: Select the correct option.

14. Despite the likely opposition from local residents, the council

has suggested widening / has suggested to widen / has suggested widen the road.

15. Now that Rob has bought a house in Edinburgh, I will have to

advertise someone sharing / *advertise for someone to share* / advertise someone to share my flat with me.

LISTENING

You will hear a tour guide describing Dereham Palace. Decide if the following statements are true (T), false (F), or the information was not stated (NS). Write the corresponding letter/letters in the spaces provided.

1. F / NS / T Originally, Dereham Palace was the property of a Saxon landlord representing the upper class.
2. F / NS / T Two massive fireplaces in the main hall have persisted from the old days.
3. F / NS / T The mansion's conversion into a castle with six towers lasted only for 7 decades.
4. F / NS / T Charles Dereham's investments into the Palace made him unable to pay his debts.
5. F / NS / T Catherine Dereham was a wealthy descendant of a royal family.