

SKILLS TEST 1 & 2

READING

1 Read the article. Match the people, Victoria (V), Duncan (D) and John (J) to the ideas.

Are you the smartest person you know?

In job interviews, managers may ask 'Who is the smartest person you know?' Most people answer by talking about someone they think is special. By doing this, the managers find out who you would like to be. However, the boss of Oracle, a big computer technology company in California, started asking a different question: 'Are you the smartest person you know?' Only people who answered 'yes' got the job.

So, what about you? Imagine someone asks 'Are you the smartest person you know?' in an interview. How do you answer?

1 VICTORIA

Who says 'yes' to this question? I guess it's only people who think they're smart, but that doesn't mean they are the smartest. You might get someone who is really laid-back and confident saying 'yes', but really, they aren't good at anything except saying great things about themselves. Is that really the kind of person they want working for them?

2 DUNCAN

I don't want to say 'yes', but I am always the smartest person in the room. Sorry, but it's true. I realised I was smart when I was young. I won lots of prizes as a child – and all the teachers recognised that I was really intelligent. I believe it's important that smart people like me get all the best jobs, and it's good that people are starting to ask the right questions in interviews.

3 JOHN

Maybe I'm smart. But the smartest?! I think it's important to be positive and happy in interviews. Saying 'yes, I'm smart' and explaining why isn't a bad thing. But, what is 'smart'? Good at computers, maths, or art or music? People have different skills. I know lots of people who are talented at one thing, but not another. For example, I have a degree in Geography, but my 11-year-old brother is great with computers. So he has taught me lots about computers, and that's good. The more I learn from other people, the better I get.

This person ...

- 0 was good at school.
- 1 thinks smart people don't say 'yes' to questions like this.
- 2 believes that he should get a good job.
- 3 thinks it's important to be cheerful in interviews.
- 4 isn't sure what 'smart' means.
- 5 thinks 'Are you the smartest person you know?' is a good question.
- 6 says that people who think they're the smartest probably aren't.
- 7 thinks that different people are good at different things.

D

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2 Read the article again. Mark these sentences T (true) or F (false), or DS (the article doesn't say).

- 0 Some job interviewers want to find out who you admire.
- 1 The boss of Oracle only wanted people who thought they were the smartest.
- 2 Victoria thinks that people who say 'yes' to this question are always smart.
- 3 She knows a lot of people who are too laid-back and positive about themselves.
- 4 Duncan thinks he is the smartest person he knows.
- 5 He didn't think he was smart when he was young.
- 6 He has a great job.
- 7 John doesn't think that everyone can be good at everything.
- 8 His brother doesn't know anything about Geography.

T

8

SKILLS TEST 1 & 2

LISTENING

3  Listen to two teenagers talking about things they don't learn. Tick [✓] the seven things they talk about.

They talk about:

- 1 Anna has a lot of problems.
- 2 She didn't remember to do something.
- 3 She's got a problem with one of her friends.
- 4 She doesn't like her teachers.
- 5 She wants to go out tomorrow.
- 6 Ben has just read something interesting.
- 7 He says that teenagers don't learn important things about life.
- 8 He thinks teenagers shouldn't learn things like Geography or Science.
- 9 Teenagers don't learn how to manage time or money.
- 10 They don't learn how to solve problems with friends and family.

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4  Listen again. Complete the notes with one word.

- 0 Anna hasn't done her *history* homework yet.
- 1 She says she's never going to _____ to her friend again.
- 2 She would like to go to the _____ tomorrow.
- 3 Her parents are angry with her because she left the _____ in a mess.
- 4 Ben says that teenagers don't learn about _____, and that's why they're often late with things.
- 5 He says that teenagers just ask their parents if they want _____.
- 6 He says that teenagers often have _____ with friends and family, but can't solve problems.
- 7 Anna's mother wants her to learn how to do _____.
- 8 Ben thinks teenagers need to understand what to do when things go _____.

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SKILLS TEST 1 & 2

WRITING

5 Write a short passage (100–125 words) about a school subject you like, and a school subject you don't like. Use the ideas below to help you.

- What are the subjects?
- How long have you studied them?
- How do you feel about them? Why?

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SPEAKING

6 Discuss these questions.

- 1 Where do you live?
- 2 How long have you lived there?
- 3 Tell me something about your family.
- 4 Do you have a favourite relative? What's he/she like?
- 5 Do you like your school?
- 6 What's your favourite subject?

7 Work in pairs. Think of something you would really like to do. Use the ideas below, or your own. Talk together about it. Try to offer encouragement to each other, using the phrases below.

That is a great idea.

You've got to make this happen.

You should definitely do it.

I'll help you if you want.

Something I'd like to do:

- learn a new language
- try a new sport
- make some new friends
- visit a new country
- change your clothes or hairstyle
- learn a musical instrument

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TOTAL SCORE

70