

U5 Find your passion

WARM UP

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Reference answers

• **Yes, we should always follow our passion.**

- 1 Passion tells us what we truly want to do.
- 2 Passion provides the strongest motivation.
- 3 Passion overpowers difficulties and challenges.
- 4 Passion is transferrable from one group member to another.

• **No, we should not always follow our passion.**

- 1 Passion is not as reliable as reason.
- 2 Passion can lead to frenzy.
- 3 Passion is temporal rather than everlasting.
- 4 Passion is not always realistic.

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Reference answers

Party A: We hold the view that we should always follow our passion. Passion is about what we truly want to do. If we have passion for something, we will be highly motivated to do it.

Party B: Contrary to what Party A holds, our side believes that we should not always follow our passion. It may be true that with passion, we could have strong motivation to do something. But when we always follow the passion, it can lead to frenzy. Too much passion may cause us to be unreasonable. That's why we say we should not always follow our passion. Instead, when we have tried something very hard and still see no progress or breakthrough, we should learn to adjust or give up.

Party A: No. We should never give up! As long as we have passion, we can overcome any difficulty or challenge. There are many examples that passion leads to success. And if a member in a team has passion, it will influence other members. Then the whole team will be stronger. A strong team can do anything!

Party B: We are sorry to remind Party A that passion is temporal rather than everlasting. Many times a person is filled with passion to do something at the beginning and they devote a lot of time and energy to it, but after a while, the passion gradually wanes. What's more, passion is not always realistic. When a passion is not realistic and we still stick to it, we will come to nothing in the end. So always following our passion is not necessarily advisable.

PRONUNCIATION

Script

Passion represents one of the most important aspects of becoming a successful entrepreneur. Without passion, your business will turn out to be just another job. Without passion, your business dream will become lost in the day-to-day grind of running a business. If you don't have passion for your work, you won't have the motivation and energy to keep pushing through obstacles, you won't be willing to take the necessary risks required to succeed, and you won't be able to sell your dream to others.

If your dream is based on something that you are truly passionate about, then it will be much easier for that dream to grow into a hugely successful business. Remember, a positive attitude and a lot of passion are absolutely necessary for running a successful business in the long term.

LISTEN TO UNDERSTAND

NEWS REPORT 1

Script

Running, climbing, suddenly swinging and rolling the body, then jumping from a high wall – these smooth parkour moves provide 24-year-old Li Jian with the freedom he loves so much.

Like many other extreme sports participants, Li has gained a lot from the pursuit. His passion for and devotion to parkour have never diminished in the 11-plus years since he took up the sport.

As a junior high school student, Li was immediately attracted when he saw parkour on a television program and he decided that was something he would like to do. Then, he began to imitate the moves whenever he had enough time. He has experienced countless failures and training injuries, but he has got back up again and again.

Before he became interested in parkour, Li was quiet and lacked confidence. He appreciates the way parkour has changed his life. "The sport has changed my inner world. I am no longer confused, and it has given me the courage to face and solve all difficulties and go beyond my limitations," he said.

Questions

- 1 What does the news report say about Li Jian?
- 2 How has parkour changed Li Jian?

Answers

1 B 2 B

NEWS REPORT 2

Script

For 40 years, Fred Fisher put his brush to anything with a flat surface. He worked constantly, painting for more than 15 hours a day, often through most of the night.

Fisher, a retired veteran, lived in New York, where most of his paintings were kept unseen by the public until his death. Though he dedicated countless hours to his craft, Fisher rarely sold his art, accumulating about a thousand works that are now in the care of a local gallery.

Last year, Fisher's son approached an art gallery regarding his father's works. Brian Wood, the owner of the gallery, was immediately fascinated by the quality of Fisher's artworks.

"I think he just had such a passion and it comes out in his art. And I like the enthusiasm that it brings to all the people who come in here," said Wood. "Mr. Fisher's works demonstrate a unique style. He was an undiscovered artist." Wood stressed the importance of art, calling Fisher's works a cultural benefit to the local community.

Questions

- 1 What do we learn about Fred Fisher?
- 2 What did the owner of the gallery think of Fisher's paintings?

Answers

1 D 2 C

NEWS REPORT 3

Script

Barbara Stewart has been a passionate volunteer for children's charities for over 50 years.

"When I first got involved, it was very, very heartwarming because I was with the children," says Barbara. "I went to events with them, and learned so much about their needs. I just love the work. One of the other wonderful things about it is that I've met so many people and made many great friends."

One of her proud achievements is chairing a program which has raised over \$100 million worldwide. Barbara has received a number of awards for her volunteer work, although she gets embarrassed when she receives such awards.

People who have worked with Barbara describe her as an energetic and active member of many organizations and somebody who just won't quit. She displays an ability to get everyone around her involved in having a good time.

"Volunteering is very rewarding, especially if you're working with people who have the passion that you do. And I am passionate about my volunteering," says Barbara.

Questions

- 1 What has Barbara been doing in the past 50 years?
- 2 What do we learn about the program Barbara chaired?
- 3 How do Barbara's co-workers describe her?

Answers

1 B 2 C 3 B

LISTEN TO COMMUNICATE

CONVERSATION 1

Script

Andrew: Congratulations on winning the Passion for Fashion Competition, Anna.

Anna: Thank you.

Andrew: Tell us how you got started in fashion.

Anna: I started getting into fashion when I was really young. My mom said that I always wanted to dress myself and I would never let her do it, and that I always had a passion for fashion.

Andrew: You obviously have a talent for it. How will the winning of the competition influence you?

Anna: Well, it is a cool experience. It gives me more confidence and makes me more determined to become a fashion designer.

Andrew: Great! What do you plan to do?

Anna: I plan to start my own fashion company and then get into women's shoe design. I'd like to bring a more unique style of fashion. I'd like to work in that area of the fashion industry. I'd like to see it develop into more creative forms of fashion.

Andrew: Sounds good.

Anna: I would like to see everyone getting involved in fashion. I know that not everybody can afford to be completely fashionable, but I think my

contribution is trying to make it more affordable for everyone. So they have a chance to enjoy fashion at an affordable price.

Andrew: That's nice. And how do you see the Passion for Fashion Competition?

Anna: I have to say it's a very good platform for young people who have a dream of fashion design. The young talent will bring a very fresh and youthful perspective to the fashion industry. I think that can be a great asset.

Andrew: It's good to have you with us today. Thank you, Anna. Good luck!

Anna: Thank you.

Questions

- 1 Why does the man congratulate the woman?
- 2 What do we learn about the woman?
- 3 What does the woman plan to do?
- 4 What does the woman think of the Passion for Fashion Competition?

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Answers

1 B 2 D 3 A 4 D

②

Answers

1 T 2 F 3 T 4 T

CONVERSATION 2

Script

Carol: We often hear people saying: "You should follow your passion." What do you think of that advice?

Jim: It's appealing. But it is bad advice.

Carol: Why is it bad?

Jim: It's bad advice because this is not how passion works. "Follow your passion" assumes: a) you have pre-existing passion, and b) if you match this passion to your job, then you'll enjoy that job. However, when I studied the issue, it was more complex. Most people don't have pre-existing passion.

Carol: I see your point there. You suggest cultivating your passion, instead of following your passion. What are the key differences?

Jim: “Follow” implies that you discover the passion in advance, and then match it to a job. “Cultivate” implies that you work toward developing passion for your job. This is a longer process, but it’s more likely to pay off.

Carol: Often, people get excited about an idea, but they soon lose the excitement to see their idea through. Why does this happen?

Jim: An issue here is that we rarely talk about what true passion feels like. True passion arises after you’ve put in long hours to really become a craftsman in your field, to gain respect, and to control your career destiny.

Carol: If someone is lost and they don’t know what their passion is, what first step do you recommend to get them on the right track toward cultivating their passion?

Jim: There is no special passion waiting to be discovered. Passion is something that is cultivated. Therefore, it doesn’t make sense to say, “I don’t know what my passion is.” What does make sense is to say, “I haven’t yet cultivated a passion. I should really focus on a small number of things and start this process.”

Questions

- 1 What does the man think of the advice that “you should follow your passion”?
- 2 What does the man say about true passion?
- 3 What is the first step to cultivate your passion according to the man?
- 4 What are the speakers mainly talking about?

①

Answers

1 C 2 C 3 B 4 D

②

Answers

- 1 pre-existing passion; enjoy that job
- 2 discover the passion in advance; developing passion for your job; pay off

ACT-OUT

Reference answers

- 1 Many students feel obligated to keep up with their academic workload, which can lead to unsatisfactory performance.
- 2 It can be observed from those students who are academically successful that they like what they are doing and are even passionate about academic achievements.
- 3 In order to develop passion for academic work, you can:
 - adjust to life as a college student;
 - understand the demands of your professors;

- eliminate harmful roadblocks and negative attitudes;
- make positive changes by setting and working toward realistic goals;
- move beyond your comfort zone and challenge ourselves.

Conversation for reference

A: I had a talk with my supervisor yesterday. It's truly thought-provoking.

B: Really? What did you talk about?

A: We talked about the phenomenon that many students felt obligated to keep up with their academic workload, which can lead to unsatisfactory performance.

B: That is really true! When you don't like something, you don't want to do it, and you won't get a good result.

A: Exactly! Then it's no surprise that those students who are academically successful have one thing in common.

B: What is it?

A: Passion for academic achievements.

B: Right. Do you think that's something they are born with?

A: No. I tend to think it can be developed.

B: So do I! And I believe there are certain ways for us to develop passion for academic work.

A: Yeah. My supervisor said first of all we need to adjust to life as a college student. Life and academic work in college are different from those in high school, where the teachers decide the specific tasks and the exact schedule for students. And all students need to do is follow the planned schedule.

B: Yes. But at college, you need to set up your own goals and make a plan for how to achieve them.

A: No doubt about it! At the same time, you should understand the demands of your professors and set up goals. But the general idea is that you need to be more active.

B: That's very important. But there are also times when you fail some of the goals and then you get upset.

A: My suggestion would be to try to avoid negative attitudes. Even when you fail a goal, don't take it as a fault of your ability. Instead, it means you should set and work toward realistic goals.

B: Reasonable! But realistic goals don't equal comfort zone. If we always stay at the comfort zone, then we couldn't develop passion.

A: You are correct! Move beyond our comfort zone and challenge ourselves is critical to developing passion.

LISTEN TO SHARE

PASSAGE 1

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Reference answers

- 1 Passion plays a crucial role when choosing a job as it directly impacts one's motivation, job satisfaction, and overall success in their career. When someone is passionate about their work, it becomes more than just a means to earn a living; it becomes a source of personal fulfillment and purpose.

- 2 If passion cannot be combined with work when looking for a job, there are still several factors to consider when choosing a career. First, it is important to assess my skills and strengths to determine which industries and jobs align best with my abilities. Next, consider the potential growth opportunities that come with the job, as well as the job's stability and work-life balance. Additionally, consider the company culture and values, as well as its potential impact on society and the community. Ultimately, choosing a job should involve careful research, self-reflection, and consideration of all relevant factors to ensure long-term success and satisfaction in my career.

Script

As a career advisor, I love to be inspired by people who are willing to take risks and build a career from scratch. I recently interviewed artist Marcia Smith. Her career story shows us how we can successfully build a career doing what we are passionate about.

Marcia, a former accountant, learned how to paint from scratch. She had no art background and didn't even know what painting materials and tools to use. With the help of a friend, she began to paint, selling certain items to her friends and then a small gallery.

At first her sales were slow and Marcia was worried that people would overlook her work because she didn't have an official educational background in the fine arts. However, with a willingness to learn, hard work and a creative talent, she became successful in an arts career without the much emphasized degree to go with it.

Contrary to what some may think, a career in fine arts is laborious and time-consuming. Marcia maintains that in any creative job one needs to push and challenge oneself to produce good products and finish projects on time. This often means

working long hours. It really is a full-time job and Marcia usually works late into the night to meet her deadlines.

Her passion to create and make something new is mixed together with a natural talent for art. This is the biggest factor behind Marcia's success so far.

Questions

- 1 What do we learn about Marcia when she began to paint?
- 2 What does Marcia say about people doing creative jobs?
- 3 What can best account for Marcia's success?

②

Answers

- 1 A 2 D 3 C

③

Answers

- 1 F 2 F 3 T 4 T 5 F

PASSAGE 2

①

Reference answers

1 To be a leader, one should:

- have the ability to bring out the best in others;
- have the ability to inspire employees with words and actions;
- be genuine and sincere;
- be positive and confident;
- have a professional presence;
- be trustworthy and trust others;
- preach and practice accountability;
- aim at great results;
- empower others.

2 The only way to really learn leadership is by doing it! When we learn about the attributes that make a good leader, we should start to practice. Get involved in leading a group, whether it is a group project, a student society, or a sports team. Carefully observe what works for you and learn from mistakes.

Script

The way businesses function now is very different from how they functioned a decade ago. With the development of technology and a number of other factors, the world of business is witnessing a sea of changes, forcing leaders in the business realm to endure demands like never before. These changes have to be dealt with by the leaders if they really intend to take their businesses forward. While personal growth is crucial, it is also important that leaders take their teams forward with them in their venture. That's what leaders are for. And this book titled *What It Takes to Be a Leader with Passion* will guide you on how you can become the perfect leader.

The book is a general guide for leaders who not only have to think about tackling the issues of the present, but also foresee the future and make preparations accordingly. One of the crucial traits one should possess for this is an intense passion, as it is the only thing that can keep one going without giving up. This book is all about arousing passion in the leader in you. It includes strategies and techniques that cultivate core values, spirit, attitude, and competencies leaders should possess.

The book is a product of the author's extensive experience accumulated over the years, while working with a number of companies. With the pearls of wisdom presented in a way which is easy to understand, this is the book you need for your life and career.

Questions

- 1 What is important for leaders according to the speaker?
- 2 What is the book mainly about?
- 3 What do we learn about the author of the book?

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Answers

1 C 2 B 3 B

③

Answers

- 1 function; decade; development; factors; witnessing; forcing; endure
- 2 general; tackling; foresee; accordingly; crucial; intense

PRESENTATION

Reference answers

Dear fellow students,

For most students, success in college means learning, growing, achieving goals and obtaining a degree. While high school life may seem to you a hard-working stage with

the only goal of entering a good college, college can be a life-changing experience that unlocks doors to infinite possibilities. The key to achieving your dreams is establishing priorities, managing your time, focusing on academics and becoming a well-rounded individual.

You can receive a better education and improve your grades by faithfully attending class, paying attention and actively engaging in discussion. According to a study by Kelly A. Roca, students who come to class prepared and ask questions learn more and grasp the material at a deeper level than passive students. Successful students also work alongside faculty on research projects, which can lead to excellent recommendations for jobs and graduate schools. Besides doing well academically, landing a paid or unpaid internship is critical to gaining real-world experience coveted by employers.

Successful students manage their time by developing a schedule that allows them to balance school, work, recreation and personal interests. Academics must be your top priority. Start by charting how much time you must devote each day to classes and studying. The professors recommend spending three hours on homework activities for every hour you're in class. Use a planner that includes a daily to-do list and a calendar with exam dates and assignment deadlines. Set goals for yourself, such as sleeping eight hours every night.

Participating in student activities can help you make friends and hone practical skills useful in securing a job after graduation. For instance, students in activities such as drama, debate, the school newspaper and student union develop enhanced critical thinking skills, time management skills and problem-solving abilities. Research also found a correlation between extracurricular participation and higher grades, which stems from a positive outlook on school and self-confidence. Further, students involved in extracurricular activities are more likely to feel satisfied with the college experience, as noted in a national survey of student engagement.

College is a stage of self-growth and expansion. With careful planning, you can excel academically and prepare for a rewarding career, while also enjoying extracurricular activities and socializing.

Thank you for your attention.

TALK ABOUT CHINA

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Reference answers

There is no easy path to success in any industry. Difficulties and challenges are inevitable on the journey to achieving final success. Passion can help see us through these obstacles. For instance, Nan Rendong, known as the father of China's Celestial

Eye, faced unimaginable challenges while leading his team to complete the FAST project, which made China a world leader in the field of single-aperture radio telescopes. At the project's inception, there was a shortage of technology development and professional talent. Many people even doubted its feasibility. Nevertheless, Nan Rendong never retreated. His love for the country and passion for his career enabled him to create this remarkable achievement.

VIEW THE WORLD

Script

So there was a wonderful article by Steven Kotler published in *Forbes* about how to find your passion. It's a question we ask ourselves every single day. We've all been told that a life of passion is a life that means something. But how do we identify our passions? It's not always easy.

So one of the things that Steven Kotler breaks down is that he says that passion essentially exists in the intersection between multiple things you are curious about. So he says the first thing you should do if you want to identify your passion is to make a list of all the things that you are curious about, all the things that you wonder about, be as specific as you can.

And then create kind of a Venn diagram, and try to figure out where, of the things that you are curious about, three or more intersect. And that's the sweet spot. That's where there is energy. That's where there is dopamine and neurobiology: Multiple streams of curiosity intersect at a space called passion, right?

And then once you've identified your passion, then you could figure out how to turn that passion into a purpose. To turn that passion into a purpose, make a list of 15 things in the world, 15 challenges you'd like to see solved, and then figure out which one of those challenges can be served by your passion.

So then you see, curiosity leads to passion. Multiple streams of curiosity leads [lead] to passion. Identifying problems in the world that can be served by your passion leads to purpose. Then my friends, you have impregnated your life with a sense of significance, with a sense of meaning. And then you can go forth, my brothers. You can go forth.

①

Answers

- 1) curious about
- 2) want to identify
- 3) make a list of
- 4) wonder about

- 5) figure out
- 6) there is energy
- 7) identified your passion
- 8) see solved
- 9) be served by
- 10) leads to

②

Reference answers

A: I totally agree that curiosity leads to passion.

B: So do I. Without curiosity, there's no ground for passion. In his best-selling book *The Corner Office*, Adam Bryant interviewed over 700 leading executives in America. One of the most interesting questions he posed to the business leaders was, "What qualities do you see most often in those who succeed?" Overwhelmingly, they responded: passionate curiosity. You see, you can even hardly divide curiosity from passion.

A: Right! Another example is Stephen Hawking. What made him such a great man and what drove him to great heights? If I had to attribute one word to his success, it would be curiosity.

B: Yeah, he is an infinitely curious person. And all the great thinkers in history were extremely curious people. They looked at the world as it was, and pondered on what could possibly be done to change the world and people's perception of it. Every invention, such as the light bulb, the automobile, the airplane, and many others, was born out of curiosity and imagination.

A: We have ample examples from China, too. Take the famous geologist Li Siguang for example. His passion for traveling all around China for investigation originated from his curiosity about huge rocks when he was a young boy.

B: You are absolutely right! No wonder it is said that curiosity is the best motivation for learning.

FURTHER LISTENING

NEWS REPORT

Script

Many young people dream of becoming a dancer for a top ballet school. That dream is now a reality for 15-year-old Harper Ortlieb.

Harper Ortlieb left her small town in Oregon to move to Moscow. She is following her dream of becoming a ballet dancer. She was accepted for study at the Bolshoi Ballet Academy.

There are around 700 students in the academy and only a small portion of them are foreigners. Harper is younger than most. She is also among the few to be integrated into the regular Russian program.

The academy took notice of Harper when she took part in a Bolshoi summer program held in Oregon. The academy then offered her a place in its school.

Harper says she feels accepted by her classmates and teachers. But she says the experience has been harder than she expected.

“It has been very difficult, but with that comes strength and with that I improve,” she says.

Harper hopes to become one of the rare foreigners to receive a diploma from the Bolshoi Ballet Academy. She has three difficult years ahead to reach her goal.

Questions

- 1 Why did Harper move to Moscow?
- 2 What does Harper say about her experience in the academy?

Answers

- 1 D 2 A

CONVERSATION

Script

Jane: Welcome to our program, Philip. How are you doing with your work?

Philip: Just fine. But I sometimes find myself feeling a bit bored.

Jane: It's normal. Boredom is something that many people face today.

Philip: Yes. I think it's a feeling we have to learn to cope with.

Jane: You're right. We have to learn to deal with it successfully. People often feel they are too fixed in one kind of job. It makes them feel bored and tired. They want to change their life, to change their job.

Philip: Yes. I sometimes dream of something a bit more exciting like being a professional diver or maybe even a pilot of a really fast plane.

Jane: Well, guess what, even pilots get bored, you know?

Philip: Not when they are flying anyway.

Jane: Wrong. Even when they're up in the air!

Philip: No way! I don't believe you!

Jane: Yes, indeed so. I know a pilot and this is what he told me.

Philip: Hard to believe!

Jane: But some experts think there is something good about feeling bored.

Philip: Really?

Jane: Yes. They say boredom is a very useful emotion. It's an emotion which spurs people on to change something about their environment. If you're bored, that gives rise to creativity.

Philip: Doesn't sound too bad.

Jane: So what are you going to do, Philip? How will you change your life?

Philip: Well, I'm going to book myself a fantastic holiday! Hope I can come back refreshed and creative!

Jane: Good idea! And thank you for this conversation. I hope you didn't find it boring.

Philip: Not at all. I loved it!

Questions

- 1 How is the man doing with his work?
- 2 What does the man sometimes dream of?
- 3 What do some experts say about boredom?
- 4 What is the man going to do?

Answers

1 B 2 B 3 A 4 A

PASSAGE

Script

Paola has been passionate about perfume for as long as she can remember. In fact her nose is so sensitive that she used to feel ill whenever she picked up a bad smell on the street. Now a top perfume creator, Paola has turned her fascination with scents into a promising career.

Although her working life began in the music industry, Paola was always drawn to perfume. Following a summer course in France, she was one of only a dozen students selected from around the world for a one-year intensive course there.

Since her return to Rome, Paola has built a name for herself by creating men's fragrances. Her clients range from large fashion companies to famous athletes. She believes they are adding a new dimension to the Italian capital.

When Paola develops a new fragrance, she prepares several samples for her clients, complete with original design for the bottles, caps and labels. Once the formula is approved, she takes it to a laboratory near Venice. There, a team of experts produce large quantities of the perfume according to her precise formula and strict guidelines.

Asked to design a fragrance for the gentlemen's collection, Paola began with the concept of elegance. She wanted to come up with something that was both classic and also current. As for the future, there may be a signature fragrance on Paola's favorite shelf one day. "It will happen in the future. But while my work is going well, I don't feel it's urgent to do it now. It's beautiful to have your feet on the ground and take small steps." Paola said.

Questions

- 1 What has Paola been passionate about from an early age?
- 2 What do we learn about Paola's clients?
- 3 What did Paola say about her future work?

Answers

1 D 2 A 3 A