Question: What are some things that you know about Oxford University?

Read the article below and then answer the questions.

Oxford University

You probably already know some things about Oxford University, but there is probably a lot you don’t know. It’s called ‘Oxford University’ because it is located in the town of Oxford, England (about ninety kilometers outside of London). Classes first began there in 1096, almost a thousand years ago, and it is one of the best universities in the world. Most colleges and universities are located on just one main campus, but this university is special. It’s located in many different places around the town of Oxford. For example, near South Parks Road, you can find the Science Area, while just behind Broad Street you can listen to music at the Sheldonian Theater. Do you like to read? If ‘yes’, there are millions of books at the university’s Bodleian Libraries. In addition, the university has a large number of parks – there is the Botanic Garden, for example, on High Street. It has more than 8,000 different kinds of plants. Of course, the students are the most important part of Oxford University – there are more than 21,000 of them from many countries around the world. Over the past several hundred years, many famous people have studied there, people such as William Penn (the founder of the American state of Pennsylvania), the astronomer Edmund Halley and J.R.R. Tolkien (the author of ‘The Hobbit’ and ‘The Lord of the Rings’). Finally, if you’re thinking of visiting (or studying at) Oxford, there is a gift shop at 106 High Street where you can buy souvenirs to remember your time at this world-class university.
# COLLEGES and UNIVERSITIES

## READING COMPREHENSION

### 1. The university is called ‘Oxford’ because it is located in England.
- **(a) TRUE**
- **(b) FALSE**
- **(c) It doesn’t say.**

### 2. How old is Oxford University?
- **(a) about ninety years old**
- **(b) about a thousand years old**
- **(c) It doesn’t say.**

### 3. Where is the Sheldonian Theater located?
- **(a) behind Broad Street**
- **(b) near South Parks Road**
- **(c) in many different places in the town of Oxford**

### 4. How many books are there at the Bodleian Libraries?
- **(a) 21,000**
- **(b) 8,000**
- **(c) millions**

### 5. What does the word ‘It’ refer to?
- **(a) Oxford University**
- **(b) High Street**
- **(c) the Botanic Garden**

### 6. What is most important about Oxford University?
- **(a) its students**
- **(b) the famous people**
- **(c) its books**

### 7. What does the word ‘them’ refer to?
- **(a) students**
- **(b) countries**
- **(c) parks**

### 8. Where did Edmund Halley study?
- **(a) America**
- **(b) England**
- **(c) Pennsylvania**

### 9. Why was J.R.R. Tolkien famous?
- **(a) he was a writer**
- **(b) he studied at Oxford University**
- **(c) he visited Oxford University**

### 10. What can you find at 106 High Street?
- **(a) a book store**
- **(b) a restaurant**
- **(c) a gift shop**

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COLLEGES and UNIVERSITIES

Grammar-in-Context
- Complete the paragraph by circling the correct words.

You probably already know some things about Oxford University, but there is probably a lot you (1)____ know. It’s called ‘Oxford University’ because it is located in the town of Oxford, England (about ninety kilometers outside of London). Classes first (2)____ there in 1096, almost a thousand years ago, and it is one of (3)____ universities in the world. Most colleges and universities (4)____ located on just one main campus, but this university is special. It’s (5)____ in many different places around the town of Oxford. For example, near South Parks Road, you can find the Science Area, while just behind Broad Street you can listen to music at the Sheldonian Theater. Do you like (6)____? If ‘yes’, there are millions of books at the university’s Bodleian Libraries. In addition, the university (7)____ a large number of parks – there is the Botanic Garden, for example, on High Street. It has more than 8,000 different kinds (8)____ plants. Of course, the students are the most important part of Oxford University – there (9)____ more than 21,000 of them from many countries around the world. Over the past several hundred years, many famous people have studied (10)____, people such as William Penn (the founder of the American state of Pennsylvania), the astronomer Edmund Halley and J.R.R. Tolkien (the author of ‘The Hobbit’ and ‘The Lord of the Rings’). Finally, if you’re (11)____ of visiting (or studying at) Oxford, there is a gift shop at 106 High Street (12)____ you can buy souvenirs to remember your time at this world-class university.

1. (A) no (B) aren’t (C) not (D) don’t
2. (A) began (B) begin (C) begins (D) beginning
3. (A) better (B) good (C) best (D) the best
4. (A) did (B) are (C) is (D) was
5. (A) locates (B) locating (C) located (D) locate
6. (A) to read (B) reads (C) read (D) reading
7. (A) has (B) had (C) have (D) having
8. (A) a (B) of (C) at (D) have
9. (A) have (B) are (C) is (D) has
10. (A) that (B) they’re (C) there (D) their
11. (A) think (B) thinks (C) thought (D) thinking
12. (A) where (B) when (C) how (D) what
WRITING PRACTICE

● DESCRIPTIVE WRITING: “Write a paragraph to describe the place where you study.”

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Aim  Reading and Grammar Practice
Level  Intermediate

NOTES

Begin the lesson by asking your learners what they already know about Oxford University.

Distribute the Reading Comprehension sheet (the ten questions on page 2) before your learners actually read the text on page 1. Give them about a minute to quickly go over the questions and remind them that they want to skim and scan the text to answer the questions quickly – remember: good readers do two things: (1) understand what they read; (2) read quickly. Consider giving your learners an appropriate time limit to read and answer all the questions (about 10 – 15 minutes) – write this on the board so everyone is aware of it. This time may vary somewhat depending on your own specific group of learners, so be flexible.

For the Grammar-in-Context section, make sure that your learners have put away the original reading text before completing the exercise.

My Notes

ANSWER KEY

Reading Comprehension

1. B  6. A
2. B  7. A
3. A  8. B
4. C  9. A
5. C  10. C

Grammar-in-Context