**A READING COMPREHENSION -STRAY DOGS IN ATHENS**

**A** Stray dogs are a problem in Athens. Not because they will attack you or chase you through the city streets. It is mostly an image problem. You have this big modern city and wandering around, lounging in the shade, solo and in packs, are dogs. Some are pets, some are former pets and some have never been pets at all.

Let’s have a look at the Greek relationship with animals to understand the problem. The concept of animals as pets is relatively new. The majority of Athenians come from rural roots and people had animals for a purpose. A donkey was for carrying things. A cat was to kill rats. A dog was to tend sheep, hunt or keep wolves and predators away. When I moved to Athens in the sixties, dogs as pets were as common as chinchillas are now. (Our landlady had a French poodle. But she spoke French too.) Normal people did not have dogs. In the seventies dogs suddenly became fashionable, especially collies, and every one was named 'Lassie'. But only a small percentage of people realized that having a dog was not as easy as owning a plant and when they found out, they did what people in the USA used to do (and some still do). They took the dogs for a ride. When they were far enough to be sure that the dog would not find its way back home they opened the car door and 'set him free'.

The fact is that there is a problem with the Greek attitude towards animals which won't be fixed overnight. For whatever historical reason there are still people that have either a fanatical dislike or fear of animals, or they have a compulsion to kill and animals are easy victims. The poisoning of strays has been going as long as I have been coming to Greece and it won't go away easily.

Choose the right answer to the following questions.

1 Stray dogs have become a problem in Athens because : A they attack people B they will chase you C it doesn’t look good for a metropolis like Athens

2 Athenian farmers have always had animals as A pets B helpers in their daily tasks C guards for their houses

3 When Athenians finally found out the responsibility of keeping a pet they A sold it B gave it to a friend C got rid of it somewhere in the middle of nowhere for the pet

4 We can easily conclude that Greek people mistreat and abuse animals because A they easily have gotten bored of them B they have a faulty relationship and behavior towards animals C they are threatened by the animals

5 Find a word in the text that means *agricultural ,farm* ,*rustic*

6 The word ***compulsion*** in the last paragraph refers to A obsession B wish C talent

7 Greek attitude towards animals A can easily be dealt with in one night B needs a lot of hard work C has found a solution over one night (7x5=35%)

**B 1 VOCABULARY**

The following words have been taken from the text,use them to fill in the gaps in the sentences below.

**wander lounge concept former predator**

1 Because the wolf is a …………………its diet consists of weaker animals it kills.

2 After complete exhaustion Henry decided to ………………….on the sofa for a few hours.

3 We need a letter of reference from your ………………….employer.

4 People have no ………………………..of time when relaxing on holidays.

5 She …………………………in the shop browsing at the clothing items.

5x2=10 points

**B2** Fill in the following gaps with one word only

Zoos

Animals in zoos are forced (1)………….live in artificial, stressful, and downright boring conditions. Removed from their (2)……………habitats and social structures, they are (3)…………….to small, restrictive environments that deprive them(4)…………. mental and physical stimulation. While zoos claim to provide conservation, education, and entertainment, their primary goal is to sustain public support in (5)………………….to increase profits. 5x2=10 points

**C GRAMMAR**

**Rewrite the following passage in the Passive.**

*Some people saw a UFO in the sky above London last night. They reported it to the police. The army sent a helicopter to look at it more closer. The UFO shot the helicopter down and killed both men in it. People have given photographs of the UFO to the police. Experts are looking at them now.*

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5 points

**Turn from Active to Passive**.

a. Someone is helping her with the housework. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_b. The mail-order company sent Mrs Green a parcel. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

c. My friend sent me an invitation. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

d The secretary has given Mrs Jones some letters. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

e. The traffic warden had already given him a ticket for illegal parking. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

10 points

