

# A ENTRANCE EXAMINATION 2018 – READING TEST - **KEY**

## PART ONE

1. Match the following headings to the paragraphs. Write the appropriate letter next to each number of paragraph. **You will not use one of the headings.**

**10 points**  
**2 points each**

- a. Defining squatters
- b. Different is not always bad
- c. Housing conditions for squatters
- d. Prejudiced approach to squatters
- e. ~~Problems with alcohol~~
- f. Viewing contemporary culture

1. Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. Write **T** if the statement is true and **F** if it is false.

**20 points**  
**2 points each**

- 1. “Choose Life” is a title of a popular film. **F**
- 2. Squatters are considered the dark side of most European countries. **T**
- 3. Squatters reject to live in council flats. **F**
- 4. The number of squats in Hampstead has risen recently. **F**
- 5. Squatters gradually move to the suburbs. **T**
- 6. Drinking alcohol prevents squatters from getting a job. **F**
- 7. Czech people often look down at vegetarians. **T**
- 8. Work has always been the most important part of life for British people. **F**
- 9. The attitude of businessmen to work has been changing in Prague. **T**
- 10. The author is sympathetic with the squatters. **T**

3. Find the words in the text with the same or similar meaning as the following.

**20 points**  
**2 points each**

- 1. a group of words taken from a text or a speech and repeated by someone else (par.1) **QUOTE**
- 2. not attractive or exciting (par.1) **UNGLAMOROUS**
- 3. lacking excitement or variety, boring (par.1) **HUMDRUM**
- 4. avoided, kept away from (par.1) **SHUNNED**
- 5. deserted and allowed to fall into ruins (par.2) **DERELICT**
- 6. the freedom to make a choice(par.3) **OPTION/OPTIONS**
- 7. a legal agreement by which a bank lends money to a person (par.3) **MORTGAGE**
- 8. to force someone to leave by legal process (par.3) **EVICT**
- 9. a quarrel, a disagreement (par.3) **DISPUTE**
- 10. slow to show feeling or express opinions (par.5) **RESERVED**

# **A ENTRANCE EXAMINATION 2018 – READING TEST - KEY**

## **PART TWO**

### **CHOOSE LIFE?**

**10 points**

#### **Paragraph 1 F**

A popular quote from a very popular film: “Choose life.” Why are films in the same style and genre as *Trainspotting* so popular considering that they deal with such unglamorous issues such as unemployment and drugs? An answer could be that they represent a part of culture so different from the normal, humdrum lifestyle which a lot of people today have difficulty relating to. These sub-cultures throughout the world are shunned because society in general doesn’t accept them.

#### **Paragraph 2 A**

One particular group of “outsiders” that is represented in both the Czech Republic, the UK and many other countries throughout Europe is squatters. Are these people just lazy, useless addicts? Or are they people without the opportunity to be accepted into mainstream society? Squatters basically move into derelict or unused property and make it their home. So why?

#### **Paragraph 3 C**

For whatever reason, squatters have no place to live and they have a few different options. They can buy or build a house, which is expensive; in the UK they can get a mortgage but only if they have guaranteed income for the next few years; they can inherit a house from family or a relative, which in the Czech Republic is probably the most common way to get yourself a house or flat; they can live on the street, which is dangerous wherever you are; or they can live rent free, warm and without relying on good luck in a squat. Recently in Hampstead, London, there have been attempts to evict squatters from council owned properties. These buildings were unused because of a dispute over ownership. This area had over 500 squats at one time, but now there are only about five. Many squats had to close due to their unpopularity with residents. It isn’t surprising that many squats are located away from city centers, for example in Prague and Dresden, as they have more chance of surviving without too many neighbours, but why?

#### **Paragraph 4 D**

Squatters are generally considered to be good for nothing because of their social habits. “They are lazy, drunks or drug addicts...” We have already seen that squatters will find it difficult to get a job just as many other people too, so it is sometimes unfair to consider them all to be lazy. The Czech Republic has one of the highest consumptions of alcohol in the world so why is it different when a squatter drinks and enjoys it?

#### **Paragraph 5 B**

Squatters and other minorities are treated differently because they are in the minority in their choice of lifestyle. Let’s take a look at a few differences between the UK and the Czech Republic. Being almost a vegetarian I can say from experience that it isn’t easy here in the Czech Republic and I’m not just talking about availability of alternatives to meat products but simply of the attitude towards eating or not eating meat. I can also say that for quite a few years business people in the UK have been becoming increasingly work-oriented to the point of it becoming the most important thing in their lives; a direction that I feel at least the Prague business community is taking too. What about national stereotypes? I’m English and without a doubt I am more reserved than people I have met from other countries; similarly, many of my friends have commented on the Czech habit of relaxed personal contact, especially between males. All these attitudes, habits, stereotypes or whatever come from somewhere or someone but do not include everywhere or everyone and do not necessarily mean they are bad. Therefore choose life, whichever it may be.

*After Bridge 3/2000*