



I- READING COMPREHENSION (15 marks)

THE TEXT

1 -The oldest of five children, Alfredo began work aged five, pumping petrol at his father's garage. It was hard work, but Alfredo didn't mind. "My father kept telling me, 'You want to be like me? Just never go to school.' And I was not going to follow the same path." At 18, Alfredo qualified for an accelerated program that prepared students for jobs as primary school teachers. Each morning, he rose at 4.30 a.m. to go to school . As there was no bus home in the afternoon, he hitchhiked or walked in the blistering heat. Shortly after, he decided to leave Mexico in search of better options in the U.S.A.

2 - On his arrival, he made a living picking tomatoes with other illegal immigrants. "I ate what I was picking," he said. "I wore the same pair of jeans the whole year. But sometimes you have to be willing to take a risk." He had saved almost all of his meagre pay and took a job later in a railway yard so he could attend night school and continue learning English. Alfredo switched to the night shift and began full-time studies in Science and Maths. To make ends meet, he also tutored other students.

3 - After graduating with a foundation degree, Alfredo was accepted by the University of California and became a teacher's assistant in three departments. Then he got a good chance of getting into Harvard Medical School in 1994. After graduating, Alfredo became a US citizen and continued his training, in neurosurgery, at the University of California. It was an exciting but daunting prospect. Could an illegal Mexican farm worker become a brain surgeon? It didn't seem possible.

4- Although Dr Alfredo is a relatively young doctor, his colleagues are impressed. Not only is he a talented and conscientious surgeon, but he's also very sensitive to the needs of patients. "I think my background allows me to interact with my patients in a more humanistic way," Alfredo said . "When they're scared, I'm one of them. I'm just lucky that patients allow me to touch their brains, their lives."

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COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Tick (✓) the right alternative. (1 mark)

The text is mainly about an illegal immigrant who :

- a- accidentally completed his studies. ()
- b- enthusiastically accomplished his goals. ()
- c- disappointingly gave up his fight. ()

2. Complete the following summary with 4 words from paragraphs 1,2 and 3. (4 marks)

Driven to have a better life than the one he had in, Alfredo went to the USA where he earned a by doing several jobs. As he was a hard-working student, he got a universityand became a well-known, caring and humanistic

3. For each of the following statements, pick out one detail from the text showing that it is false. (3 marks)

a- Alfredo obeyed his father and did the same job.(par1)

.....

b- Alfredo never doubted his capacity to make it to the top. (par3)

.....

c- Alfredo believes that his higher education has enabled him to care for his patients . (par4)

.....

4. Find words or expressions in the text meaning the same as : (2 marks)

- a. to earn just enough money to be able to buy the things you need (par. 2) :.....
- b. taking care to do things carefully and correctly (par. 4) :.....

5. Circle the 2 adjectives that best describe Alfredo. (2 marks)

naughty/ ambitious/ regretful/ outstanding/ anxious

6. What do the following underlined words in the text refer to ? (2 marks)

- a. it (par. 3) refers to
- b. them (par. 4) refers to

7. Give a personal justified answer to the following question. (1 mark)

If you were Alfredo's father, would you be proud of him ? Why or why not ?

If I were Alfredo's father, I.....
because.....