



I – READING COMPREHENSION (15 marks)

1. Evie Eaves, 97, recently earned her General Educational Development high school diploma. Her accomplishment was honoured by about 60 organizations at the Canyons Retirement Community, where she's been a resident for a few years. Born in Oklahoma in 1910, Evie went to school up through the eighth grade in rural Stevens County but would have had to travel seven miles to the nearest high school. Her parents didn't encourage education over working on the farm, so when her older brothers left the family to start their own lives, Evie had to work.

"My father had only one arm and didn't have any boys to help work on the farm, so I worked," said Evie.

2. Evie married at 17 and worked in cafés before giving birth to her only child at the age of 20. She was married for 62 years when her husband died in 1989. Eleven years later, relatives brought her to live at the Canyons Retirement Community because they didn't think she could live alone anymore. During a conversation with her great-granddaughter Coleen Reynolds, Evie said she was urged to study for and take the test to receive her GED. Evie had no self-confidence but Coleen kept saying: "You can do it, you can do it."

3. Evie took a big step earlier when she decided that, yes, she probably could do it. By studying on her own and with the help of relatives and friends, Evie scheduled to take five parts of GED exam at Amarillo College. Evie, who lives with macular degeneration – a vision disease – had to have some accommodations to be able to take the five tests that make up the GED. She got extra time to take the test and a companion to drive her each day to the college.

4. Evie was tested on writing, reading, math, social studies and science. "I enjoyed math the most", she said. "And for me, the hardest was general science." She had to score a minimum of 410 to attain her GED. Evie's lowest score on any of the tests was 450. She was surprised to learn that her highest grade, 510, came in her hardest subject – science.

"Now I can do anything", she said. She may have a lot of time to figure out what she wants to do next because longevity is in her genes – her oldest sister is 103.

Adapted from a report by Associated Press
November 15, 2007



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1) Match titles and paragraphs. Write the corresponding letters in the answers box. (4 marks)

Par	TITLE	Answers
1	a – Evie's exam results	1 —>
2	b – Evie sits for the GED	2 —>
3	c – Evie was prevented from pursuing her studies at school	3 —>
4	d – Evie starts learning again	4 —>

2) The following statements are false. Correct them with details from the text. (4 marks)

a) Evie's achievement went unnoticed. (paragraph 1)

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b) For Evie's parents, education was a top priority. (paragraph 1)

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c) No special measures were taken to help Evie sit for the exam. (paragraph 3)

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d) As it was very hard, Evie performed badly in science. (paragraph 4)

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3) Pick out two sentences from the text showing that (2 marks)

a) Evie's father was handicapped.

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b) People live long in Evie's family.

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4) What do the underlined words in paragraph 2 refer to ?(2 marks)

a) They refers to

b) You refers to

5) Find words that have the same meaning as : (2marks)

a) encouraged (paragraph 2) :

b) understand (paragraph 4) :

6) Would you do what Evie did if you were her age ? (1 mark)

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