

READING

Part Nine / Questions 1-15

15 points / 1 point per question

You are going to read an article about **rats**. For questions 1-15, choose the correct answer: A, B or C.

The Feared but Amazing Rat

"It's a rat!" The sight of a rat fills most people with fear and disgust. Every ratty idiom in the English language makes it 1 _____ that being a rat is always a bad thing. A "rat" is an unpleasant person 2 _____ is not loyal. When you "smell a rat", you suspect that somebody did something wrong. When you "rat on someone", you betray them. Rats 3 _____ as dirty, evil creatures. But is this fair?

For a long time, rats were blamed 4 _____ spreading the plague, a dangerous disease that 5 _____ millions of Europeans between the 14th and 19th centuries. A recent study, however, 6 _____ that the "Black Death" was almost certainly spread via types of fleas and lice* that feed on humans, not rats. 7 _____ it was probably dirty humans, not dirty rats, who were to blame for the deadly epidemics.

In fact, rats can help fight disease and save lives. For example, a charity in Africa trains rats 8 _____ to the smell of explosives so that they can find landmines*. Searching for landmines is usually expensive and time-consuming, and poor countries, such as Tanzania, 9 _____ afford to do the work. It takes 10 _____ person with a metal detector about 25 hours to search an area of 200 square metres; a rat can do it in 20 minutes. Moreover, rats are light 11 _____ that landmines do not explode when they step on them.

Trained rats can also smell tuberculosis. Each year, about three million people infected by this dangerous disease do not get the necessary medicine because their disease is not diagnosed. 12 _____ a laboratory technician needs four days to check 100 samples for tuberculosis, a rat can do it in less than half an hour.

As any rat owner will eagerly tell you, rats also make great pets. 13 _____ their bad reputation, rats are not dirty, and they spend more time cleaning 14 _____ than cats do. Rats are also clever, and they enjoy 15 _____. One woman even taught her rat to bring her a tissue every time she sneezed*.

Glossary*

fleas and lice – blechy a vši
landmine – nášlapná mina
to sneeze – kýchnout



- | | | | |
|----|--------------|--------------|--------------------|
| 1 | A clean | B clear | C bright |
| 2 | A which | B what | C who |
| 3 | A see | B are seen | C are seeing |
| 4 | A for | B from | C with |
| 5 | A killed | B has killed | C has been killing |
| 6 | A find | B finds | C has found |
| 7 | A But | B So | C Although |
| 8 | A react | B to react | C reacting |
| 9 | A must not | B might not | C cannot |
| 10 | A - | B a | C the |
| 11 | A much | B almost | C enough |
| 12 | A However | B While | C Since |
| 13 | A Because of | B Despite | C In spite |
| 14 | A them | B themselves | C itself |
| 15 | A learn | B learning | C to learn |

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