# SOCRATES

Module E — Full Practice Exam · 90 minutes · 100 points

## WRITTEN RECEPTION (70 points)

(ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM WRITTEN TEXTS)

Read the text and then answer questions 1–9. In the multiple-choice questions, circle the number of the correct answer. In the other questions, follow the instructions.

### THE TRUE COST OF FAST FASHION

**I** When fifteen-year-old Maya opened her wardrobe, she counted forty-seven items of clothing she had never worn. Like millions of teenagers, she had bought them online for a few pounds each, attracted by colourful advertisements and continuous sales. Her crowded wardrobe illustrates a worldwide phenomenon known as fast fashion: cheap clothing that mass-market companies produce and sell at remarkable speed in response to the latest trends. Each item resembles a bargain, but its true cost is considerably higher than the price on the label.

**II** The speed of the industry is astonishing. While traditional brands once released two collections a year, some online retailers now add thousands of new designs to their websites every week. To maintain low prices, garments are made from inexpensive synthetic fabrics and manufactured in factories where expenses are reduced to the minimum. Shoppers are encouraged to treat clothes as disposable: research indicates that the average garment today is worn only seven to ten times before it is thrown away.

**III** The environmental price of this system is enormous. Producing a single cotton T-shirt requires around 2,700 litres of water — enough for one person to drink for two and a half years. Textile dyeing pollutes rivers surrounding factories in several manufacturing countries, and synthetic fabrics release minuscule plastic fibres into the water every time they are washed. Worst of all, mountains of discarded clothing end up in landfills, or are simply burned, sending dangerous smoke into the air.

**IV** There is a significant human cost as well. Most fast fashion is produced in developing countries, where garment workers — the majority of them young women — often earn less than a living wage and spend long hours in unsafe buildings. After a factory collapse in Bangladesh in 2013 killed more than 1,100 people, international attention increased, and several brands promised to improve conditions. Critics argue, however, that progress has been slow and that low prices still depend on low wages.

**V** Fortunately, attitudes have started to change. Sales of second-hand clothing are increasing faster than the fashion market itself. Repair cafes, where volunteers teach people to mend damaged garments, have opened in hundreds of cities, and the slow fashion movement encourages shoppers to buy fewer clothes of better quality. Maya has joined them: since

spring she has bought just one second-hand jacket. If millions of young shoppers follow her example, the true cost of fashion may finally begin to fall.

## QUESTIONS — PART I (70 points)

**1.** What is "fast fashion"?

i. Expensive clothing made slowly by hand.

ii. Cheap clothing produced and sold quickly to follow the latest trends.

iii. A wardrobe with many items that are never worn.

iv. An online advertisement for seasonal sales.

*(7 points)*

**2.** Fast fashion companies work much faster than traditional brands. COMPLETE: Some online retailers now add

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*(8 points)*

**3.** What does research suggest about the average garment today? (paragraph II)

ANSWER:

.....

.....

*(8 points)*

**4.** Apart from using large amounts of water, give TWO ways the fast fashion industry harms the environment. (paragraph III)

(1)

.....

(2)

.....

*(8 points)*

**5.** Producing one cotton T-shirt uses a surprising amount of water. COMPLETE: The water needed for a single T-shirt would be enough for one person

.....

.....

*(8 points)*

**6.** What do we learn about garment workers in paragraph IV?

i. Most of them are professional fashion designers.

ii. They refuse to work for international brands.

iii. They mostly work in Europe and America.

iv. Many earn less than a living wage and work in unsafe buildings.

*(7 points)*

**7.** What do critics say about the brands' promises to improve conditions?

i. Progress has been slow because low prices still depend on low wages.

ii. The promises have already been fully kept.

iii. The brands promised to raise their prices.

iv. The workers rejected the improvements.

*(8 points)*

**8.** Give ONE example of how attitudes to fashion are changing. (paragraph V)

ANSWER:

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.....

*(8 points)*

**9.** What is the main purpose of the text?

i. To advertise a popular second-hand clothing shop.

ii. To explain how to design fashionable clothes cheaply.

iii. To describe the hidden costs of fast fashion and how attitudes are changing.

iv. To prove that the fashion industry can never change.

*(8 points)*

## PART II — VOCABULARY (30 points)

Answer questions 10–14. In each question, match THREE of the six words or expressions (1–6) to the definitions. Write the number of the word next to the definition.

**10.** *(6 points)*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. fetch | 2. squeeze | 3. sculpture |
| 4. brilliant | 5. not at all | 6. wildlife |

____ a) press something firmly from both sides

____ b) used to say no strongly, or to answer thanks

____ c) a work of art made from stone, metal or wood

**11.** *(6 points)*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. van | 2. (be) in your twenties / 20s /thirties/30s, etc | 3. mention |
| 4. defeat | 5. expense | 6. nonsense |

____ a) a covered vehicle used for carrying goods or people

____ b) money that you spend on something

____ c) to talk about something briefly

**12.** *(6 points)*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. theme | 2. disturb | 3. verse |
| 4. concern | 5. resort | 6. bitter |

____ a) having a sharp unpleasant taste, not sweet

____ b) a feeling of worry, or something that makes you worried

____ c) a place where many people go on holiday

**13.** *(6 points)*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. rubbish | 2. behind | 3. frighten |
| 4. strike | 5. set | 6. give away sth or give sth away |

____ a) waste material that you throw away

____ b) to hand something to people without asking for money

____ c) to stop working as a protest, demanding better pay or conditions

**14.** *(6 points)*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. term | 2. occasional | 3. symbol |
| 4. be out of sth | 5. next door | 6. sweep |

____ a) to have no more of something left

____ b) the conditions or rules of an agreement or contract

____ c) a sign or object that stands for something else

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