

# 予想テスト

答えは別冊12ページ



- 次の英文の内容に関して、(1)～(6)までの質問に対して最も適切なもの、または文を完成させるのに最も適切なものを **1, 2, 3, 4** の中から一つ選びなさい。

## The Pony Express

In 1848, gold was found in California, and thousands of people rushed there, dreaming of making a fortune at one stroke. By 1860, the population of California had grown to nearly 380,000. In those days, the railroad had not reached California yet, so people needed a faster way of getting news to and from the West. In response to such a growing demand, in April 1860, William Russell and his two partners began a rapid mail delivery service called the Pony Express.

The Pony Express had 184 stations 7 to 10 miles apart along the trail, and every third station was a home station. The rider changed horses at each station, and when they got to a home station, they handed the mail bag to a new rider, and rested. In this way, the mail never stopped moving toward the destination, even while the horses and riders were sleeping. Each rider had to weigh less than 57 kilograms so that horses could run at top speed. Most riders were teenage boys, and they covered up to 250 miles a day. The ingenious relay system allowed riders to deliver mail almost 2,000 miles in only 8 to 10 days. In those days, it usually took weeks or even months to ride that far.

In spite of its expensive price settings, the Pony Express became very popular. In March 1861, the riders carried Abraham Lincoln's inaugural address from Nebraska to California in just seven days and 17 hours. However, it cost too much money to maintain the rapid delivery service, so it never turned a profit. To make matters worse, on October 24, 1861, the transcontinental telegraph line connected California to the rest of the country, which enabled people to send messages across the country in an instant. Two days later, the Pony Express closed. During the operation of 19 months, the Pony Express riders delivered about 35,000 letters and traveled about 650,000 miles across the American frontier with almost no accidents.



- at one stroke : 一気に     ingenious : 巧妙な     inaugural address : 就任演説  
 turn a profit : 利益を生み出す     transcontinental : 大陸間の     telegraph line : 電信線  
 in an instant : 一瞬で     operation : 業務、運営

- (1) The purpose of the Pony Express was
- 1 to transport the gold mined in California to major cities in the eastern states.
  - 2 to carry an increasing number of passengers to and from the western states.
  - 3 to provide a rapid delivery mail service which linked California to other states.
  - 4 to send experienced workers to gold mines in California, which was suffering from a serious labor shortage.
- (2) What is unique about the delivery system of the Pony Express?
- 1 Each rider covered a distance of nearly 2,000 miles without stopping to rest.
  - 2 Mail was relayed from one rider to another so that it would never stop until it arrived at the destination.
  - 3 Customers could get a refund when riders could not deliver the mail by the expected date.
  - 4 More than 180 home stations along the trail offered food and water to exhausted riders and horses.
- (3) What was one reason that the Pony Express lasted only 19 months?
- 1 Their delivery charge was so expensive that they couldn't get enough customers.
  - 2 As long as they used horses, their service never met the demand for delivering mail faster.
  - 3 A considerable amount of mail was lost during delivery, which resulted in customers losing confidence in the Pony Express.
  - 4 It was difficult for them to make a profit because operating costs were very high.

## CSI Effect

Every year, a considerable number of crime-fiction TV drama series are produced around the world. Most of the dramas are set in the real world, and real-life streets, parks, and clusters of skyscrapers give the story a realistic taste. On the other hand, the crimes solved in each of the episodes are often bizarre, psychotic, and inexplicable murders. In these crime-fiction dramas, a team of investigators work together to solve crimes, usually with the help of science, forensics, and computer technology. The investigators collect material evidence, decipher the criminal mind behind the cases, and eventually dig up the truth about the case.

One of the most popular crime-fiction TV drama series so far is *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation* and its spin-off series. *CSI* was awarded the "most watched drama series in the world" title in 2007, 2008, and 2010. According to Nielsen Media Research, each new episode got an average of 73.8 million viewers in 2010. The success of the *CSI* series has spawned similar forensic dramas, such as *Cold Case* and *Bones*. Usually, most people have little opportunity to see how the police investigate a murder case with their own eyes. They just learn about ghastly murders in newspapers or on TV shows. Crime-fiction dramas allow viewers to understand how scientific methods can help solve crimes. In the thrilling story line of each episode, even difficult technical terms such as DNA tests, rifling marks, and brain fingerprinting can be easily understood without any professional knowledge.

If crime-fiction TV dramas help citizens understand how the police work to solve crimes with the help of science, it may be a good thing. However, these dramas have also caused some problems called the "CSI effect." Under American law, citizens are chosen to take part in criminal trials as jurors. These days, more jurors are asking for clear and scientific evidence. Law experts believe that watching TV dramas like *CSI* has caused jurors to make such demands. Some attorneys and judges even say that *CSI* has caused jurors to wrongfully acquit guilty defendants when no scientific evidence has been presented. Many crime experts support the opinion that *CSI* or similar dramas are having an effect on jurors or potential jurors in the real world. According to a survey of 500 people in a jury pool, the defense found that about 70% were viewers of *CSI* or similar crime-fiction TV dramas.

- (4) How do investigators solve crimes in crime-fiction TV dramas?
- 1 They use extraordinary and unrealistic methods that are not possible in the real world.
  - 2 They try to solve crimes using scientific methods, based on material evidence.
  - 3 They depend on their own experience and intuition when they've reached an impasse.
  - 4 They aim at finding out the truth behind the case, using traditional methods.
- (5) What is a positive aspect of crime-fiction TV dramas?
- 1 The general public can see how science helps investigators find out the truth.
  - 2 The police's decisive attitude shown in realistic stories can prevent potential criminals from committing crimes.
  - 3 The success of crime mystery dramas boosted the number of TV drama viewers.
  - 4 Advanced equipment used in the dramas have encouraged the police to introduce high-tech devices into real investigation scenes.
- (6) Law and crime experts believe that
- 1 crime-fiction TV dramas such as *CSI* are accelerating crimes in real society, far from preventing them.
  - 2 the "CSI effect" is only a groundless criticism, and people who insist on it have no data to prove it scientifically.
  - 3 the popularity of *CSI* and similar dramas will encourage people to take part in criminal trials.
  - 4 scientific methods used in crime-fiction TV dramas are affecting the way jurors make demands or decisions in the courtroom.



- clusters of ~ : ~の集まり【塊】     skyscraper : 高層ビル     bizarre : 奇妙な     psychotic : 異常的な  
 inexplicable : 不可解な     forensics : 科学捜査, 法医学     decipher : ~を解読する  
 dig up ~ : ~を掘り出す     crime scene : 事件現場     spin-off : スピンオフ, 副産物     spawn : ~を生み出す  
 cold case : 未解決事件     ghastly : ゾっとするような     rifling mark : 源条痕, ライフリングマーク  
 brain fingerprinting : 脳指紋     juror : 陪審 (jury) の1人     attorney : 弁護士, 法定代理人  
 acquit : ~に無罪判決を言い渡す    (4)  intuition : 直感     reach an impasse : 行き詰まる  
 (6)  groundless : 根拠のない