

# TOEFL 読解問題演習

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*Read the passage and choose the best answer from among the four choices for each question.*

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In spite of the wealth of examples of urban architecture in older cities, both in Europe and in the United States, solutions to current problems of the physical decay of cities have come slowly. Prior to World War II, the volume of urban architecture in Europe was far greater than that in the United States, but much was lost to wartime air raids. Immediately after the war, architects and urban planners in both Europe and the United States went with the mood of the times in creating pragmatic designs. The first reaction was to bulldoze older structures and build bright new towers and efficient roadways, but these solutions did not respond to people. Rather than create the fast-paced, modern lifestyle builders had hoped for, the sacrifice of mature buildings took the spirit from cities, disheartening young and old alike. By the close of the 1960's it became more common to deal gently with the existing urban fabric and to insert new buildings in such a way as to complement the physical and social environment; in other cases valued buildings have been rehabilitated and returned to economic productivity.

A particularly striking example is the rehabilitation of Ghirardelli Square, San Francisco. This hillside *mélange* of nineteenth century commercial buildings, clustered around a chocolate plant, was purchased in 1962 by William Roth to forestall wholesale development of the waterfront as a district of high-rent apartment towers. Nearly all of the nineteenth century buildings were retained and refurbished, and a low arcade was added on the waterside. There are several levels, dotted with kiosks and fountains, which offer varied prospects of San Francisco Bay. Perhaps most telling is the preservation of the huge Ghirardelli sign as an important landmark; it is such improbable, irrational, and cherished idiosyncrasies which give cities identity and character.

\* *mélange* : a mixture of different things

## QUESTIONS

1. The author's main purpose in the passage is to describe
  - (A) the differences between urban architecture in Europe and in the United States
  - (B) the most striking features of San Francisco's scenic waterfront district
  - (C) nineteenth-century buildings in twentieth-century cities
  - (D) characteristics of recent solutions to urban architectural problems
2. According to the passage, after the war many of the attempts of urban architects failed because
  - (A) buildings were not built quickly enough
  - (B) new roads required too much space
  - (C) the needs of the urban residents were overlooked
  - (D) the towering buildings were too tall
3. In paragraph 1, the word sacrifice could best be replaced by
  - (A) admiration
  - (B) refurbishing
  - (C) destruction
  - (D) rebuilding
4. In paragraph 1, the word fabric could best be replaced by
  - (A) outlook
  - (B) landscape
  - (C) social situation
  - (D) building structure
5. It can be inferred from the passage that Roth advocated
  - (A) waterfront development
  - (B) preservation of the urban architectural heritage
  - (C) living in the older central cities
  - (D) low-rent apartment buildings
6. According to the passage, the primary change in urban architecture in the 1960's centered on the
  - (A) construction of high-rise apartments
  - (B) preservation of the character of old neighborhoods

- (C) development of waterfront areas
- (D) design of commercial arcades

7. The author discusses Ghirardelli Square in order to illustrate which of the following procedures?

- (A) the construction of new buildings to conceal older structures
- (B) the selective removal of old buildings to create space for residential units
- (C) the restoration of old buildings to make them commercially useful
- (D) the demolition of apartment towers to make way for more attractive construction

8. According to the passage the Ghirardelli sign was preserved because it

- (A) was designed and built by a famous artist
- (B) is included in an advertising contract with the Ghirardelli Chocolate Company
- (C) is suitable as a vantage point from which to view San Francisco Bay
- (D) has long-standing importance as a symbol in the community

9. The passage implies that much urban architecture in Europe was destroyed by

- (A) earthquakes
- (B) hurricanes
- (C) bombs
- (D) decay

10. In line 11 in the second paragraph, the word idiosyncrasies could best be replaced by which of the following?

- (A) characteristics
- (B) chronology
- (C) creations
- (D) economic decay