

II. READING (part 1)

Read the text and answer the questions according to the text.

They say the secret of silk goes back to the Yellow Empress of China, who was enjoying her afternoon tea beneath a mulberry tree when a silkworm cocoon fell into her cup. As she tried to fish it out, the cocoon began to unravel. The shine of that long, silken thread would inspire the Empress to invent *sericulture*, or the art of raising silkworms. (Moral of the story: as Newton would no doubt agree, there is something to be said for hanging out under a tree and waiting for a falling object to give you a bright idea).

This was way back in 2700 BCE, and China would guard the secret of silk for many thousands of years. They even issued an **imperial decree** condemning to death anyone who tried to take silkworms or their eggs out of the Empire. Meanwhile, foreign demand for the luxurious stuff was growing. In the 2nd century BCE, the Han Emperor sent a man named Zhang Qian to find potential military allies against the dangerous Xiongnu tribes that bordered China to the west. Qian returned home to report that there was not much enthusiasm for fighting the Xiongnu (who apparently were just not people you really wanted to mess with). However, he did find the lands of Central Asia to be excellent trading partners, noting in particular their fascination with the silk clothes he'd been wearing when he made his appearance there. This intelligence would ultimately lead to the development of the Central Asian link of the Silk Road, which connected China to the Mediterranean Sea.

And speaking of the West, the Roman appetite for silk was so great that the government tried to prohibit it, both on moral and economic grounds. Here's Seneca the Younger, getting his **toga in a twist**:

I can see clothes of silk, if materials that do not hide the body, nor even one's decency, can be called clothes... Wretched flocks of maids labor so that the adulteress may be visible through her thin dress, so that her husband has no more acquaintance than any outsider or foreigner with his wife's body.

So, who eventually smuggled the secret out of China? There are a lot of theories. One about a Chinese Princess claims that, upon leaving to marry the Prince of Khotan, she could not live without her favorite fabric and took some silkworms along with her. Another theory is about Japanese spies who stole silkworm eggs, along with four girls who knew the art of sericulture. Then there's the story about the Nestorian monks sent to Central Asia by Byzantine emperor Justinian, who hid their booty in bamboo staffs.

Today, China remains the world's leading silk producer, with India coming in at 2nd place, and Uzbekistan at 6th. Visit any Uzbek silk factory, however, and they'll tell you that their silk is of much finer quality than its Chinese counterpart. The reason? According to our guide at [Rasuljon Mirzaahmedov's ikat factory in Margilan](#), where we purchased some extremely fine silk scarves, Chinese producers chop up the cocoons before unraveling them, while the Uzbek method leaves the cocoon intact. When we head to China, we'll let you know what Chinese silk-makers have to say about that.

31. What is the author's purpose in writing this article?
- To tell about the different qualities of silk in the world
 - To tell the history of how silk was smuggled out of China
 - To tell about the problems silk has caused in history
 - To persuade the reader to choose other products rather than silk
32. According to the article, what is true about the event that led to the invention of *sericulture*?
- A girl was playing in a tree and discovered a leaf made of silk
 - A girl used silk to flavor her tea, but later found that it could be used as clothes
 - A girl was sitting outside and something fell into her drink that would later become silk
 - A girl was sitting under a tree when the gods inspired her with the idea of silk
33. Who were the Xiongnu people?
- A dangerous tribe in the west of China
 - A military ally of China's
 - A tribe of people who stretched from Central Asia to the Mediterranean
 - The people that stole the secret of sericulture from China
34. What does **imperial decree** mean in the second paragraph?
- Law
 - Military
 - Decision
 - Importance
35. What can you infer about Seneca by the idiom **toga in a twist** in the third paragraph?
- Seneca is physically moving while he speaks
 - Seneca is overly upset
 - Seneca is extremely excited
 - Seneca is unaffected by his words
36. What does the author believe is the most likely way that silk was stolen from China?
- Chinese royalty stole them when she was married off
 - The Japanese secretly took them along with some silk workers
 - Some religious visitors hid them in their staffs
 - The author does not show preference for any one theory
37. Which country produces the 3rd most amount of silk in the world?
- China
 - India
 - Uzbekistan
 - The article does not say
38. According to Uzbekistan, why is their silk better than China's?
- The Chinese princess brought the best worms from China a long time ago
 - Uzbekistan has higher quality machinery in their factories
 - The Uzbeks don't cut up the silk string
 - The Chinese unravel the cocoon into one long string

II. READING (part 2)

Read the text and answer the questions according to the text.

PHILADELPHIA — Some American women stayed home from work, joined rallies or wore red to demonstrate their economic clout Wednesday as part of a multitude of International Women's Day events held around the globe. The Day Without a Woman protest in the United States was put together by organizers of the vast women's marches that drew more than 1 million Americans into the streets the day after President Donald Trump's inauguration.

The turnout this time appeared in many places to be far smaller. And there were no immediate estimates of how many women **heeded** the call to skip work. A crowd of about 1,000 people, the vast majority of them women, gathered on Fifth Avenue in the shadow of Trump Tower to demonstrate. Women dressed in red and waved signs reading "Nevertheless she persisted," "Misogyny out of the White House now" and "Resist like a girl."

"Trump is terrifying. His entire administration, they have no respect for women or our rights," said 49-year-old Adina Ferber, who took a vacation day from her job at an art gallery to attend the demonstration. "They need to deal with us as an economic force."

Rallies were also planned in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Milwaukee, Washington and Berkeley, California. Some businesses and institutions said they would either close or give female employees the day off. School in such places as Prince George's County, Maryland; Alexandria, Virginia; and Chapel Hill, North Carolina, canceled classes after hundreds of teachers and other employees let it be known they would be out. In Providence, Rhode Island, the municipal court closed for lack of staff members. The U.S. event — inspired in part by the Day Without an Immigrant protest held last month — was part of the U.N.-designated International Women's Day.

In Rome, hundreds of women set off on a march from the Colosseum to demand equal rights. Germany's Lufthansa airline had six all-female crews flying from several cities in the country to Berlin. Sweden's women's soccer team replaced the names on the backs of their jerseys with tweets from Swedish women. Finland announced a new \$160,000 International Gender Equality Prize. Women also held rallies in Tokyo and Madrid. In New York, a statue of a fearless-looking girl was placed in front of Wall Street's famous charging bull sculpture. The girl appeared to be staring down the animal. A plaque at her feet read: "Know the power of women in leadership. SHE makes a difference." As part of the Day Without a Woman protest, women were also urged to refrain from shopping.

Some criticized the strike, warning that many women cannot afford to miss work or find child care. Organizers asked those unable to skip work to wear red in solidarity. Monique LaFonta Leone, a 33-year-old health care consultant in Colorado Springs, Colorado, had to work but put on a red shirt and donated to charity, including Planned Parenthood. "I have bills to pay, but I wanted to make my voice heard, no matter how quiet," she said. "I also wanted to make a statement to say that women are doing it for themselves. We're out here in the workforce and making a difference every day."

Trump took to Twitter and asked others to join him in "honoring the critical role of women" in the U.S. and around the world. He tweeted that he has "tremendous respect for women and the many roles they serve that are vital to the fabric of our society and our economy."

Lovely Monkey Tattoo, a tattoo parlor owned by Sena Ergin in Whitmore Lake, Michigan, offered female-centric tattoos with messages like "Nevertheless, She Persisted" — a reference to the recent silencing of Senator Elizabeth Warren on the Senate floor — for \$50 to \$100, with proceeds going to Planned Parenthood.

Women make up more than 47 percent of the U.S. workforce and are dominant among registered nurses, dental assistants, cashiers, accountants and pharmacists, according to the census. They make up at least a third of physicians and surgeons, and the same with lawyers and judges. Women also

represent 55 percent of all college students. At the same time, American women earn 80 cents for every dollar a man makes. The median income for women was \$40,742 in 2015, compared with \$51,212 for men, according to census data.

39. What is the best title for this article?
 - a. Comparing Women's Rights Around the World
 - b. Women Around the World Go On Strike to Show Economic Power
 - c. Trump's Views On Women in the Workplace
 - d. Celebrating Women Around the World on Women's Day
40. Which word could best replace **heeded** in the second paragraph?
 - a. Listened to
 - b. Made
 - c. Ignored
 - d. Screamed
41. Which of the following influenced the creation of the event?
 - a. Some businesses
 - b. A municipal court
 - c. Day Without an Immigrant
 - d. International Women's Days in other countries
42. According to the article, which country used social media as a show of support for women?
 - a. Italy
 - b. Germany
 - c. Sweden
 - d. Finland
43. What did Monique Lafonta Leone do on the day of the event?
 - a. She volunteered at an organization called Planned Parenthood
 - b. She had to watch her children so she couldn't attend
 - c. She gave a speech at the protest to show women could stand alone
 - d. She wore red clothes in show of support for the women protesting
44. What can you infer about President Trump's response to the event?
 - a. He agrees with the people that are gathering to give their message
 - b. Although he disagrees, he supports their right to give their voice
 - c. The event has impacted him and will influence his future decisions
 - d. He is ignoring the message behind the event
45. What can people do if they go to Sena Ergin in Michigan?
 - a. Meet Senator Elizabeth Warren
 - b. Get a tattoo for charity
 - c. Get custom signs with powerful phrases for protesting
 - d. Support a woman-owned business
46. What percentage of pharmacists are women?
 - a. 33%
 - b. 47%
 - c. 50%
 - d. More than half

II. READING (part 3)

Five Reasons You Should Consider Making Volunteering a Part of Your Every Day Life

(A) _____
Volunteers are happier and healthier than non-volunteers. In fact, during later life, volunteering is even more beneficial for one's health than exercising and eating well. Older people who volunteer remain physically functional longer, have more **robust** psychological well-being, and live longer. However, older people who volunteer are almost always people who volunteered earlier in life. Health and longevity gains from volunteering come from establishing meaningful volunteer roles before you retire and continuing to volunteer once you arrive in your post-retirement years.

(B) _____
Despite all of the online connections that are available at our fingertips, people are lonelier now than ever before. Indeed, a 2010 AARP study reported that loneliness is at an all-time high, with about one in three adults age 45 or older categorized as lonely. Online connections, while useful for maintaining existing relationships, are not very helpful in establishing lasting, new ones. Working alongside people who feel as strongly as you do about supporting a particular cause creates a path to developing strong relationships with others. **It** isn't just beneficial for making new friendships either. Volunteering alongside other members of your family strengthens family bonds based in "doing" your values. And these benefits have a ripple effect. Children who volunteer with their parents are more likely to become adults who volunteer.

(C) _____
People who volunteer make more money, partially because the relationships people create while volunteering can be used for financial benefit. In 1973, a John's Hopkins Sociologist named Mark Granovetter described the important role of "weak ties." Weak ties are those relationships that are outside of one's close-knit social network. These relationships are important because they provide access to new information and opportunities. People in your close network provide redundant information—they are already participating in the same kinds of activities and know the same people. Volunteering has long been viewed as a way to create new "weak tie" connections that lead to career opportunities. Volunteering in your current career industry—or an area you'd like to transition into—is an especially effective way to leverage social connections for career gain.

(D) _____
Many businesses are successful only if they maintain a strong volunteer workforce. In fact, places like museums, social service organizations, and faith-based organizations often rely on more volunteers than paid workers to meet their goals and fulfill their mission. These businesses are committed to doing good things for society. **They** pick up the pieces where government programs leave off. By volunteering for these organizations, you participate in helping our society meet the needs of people from all walks of life. For example, The Borgen Project, a campaign committed to addressing the problem of global poverty, relies on volunteers who commit several hours a week for a period of six months or longer. These volunteers help with raising awareness, fundraising and mobilization of human and fiscal resources (<http://borgenproject.org/>). With the help of volunteers, the Borgen Project has been very successful in raising awareness and influencing legislation to actively make positive changes that directly affect the lives of the world's poorest citizens.

(E) _____
Although it is not well-understood why volunteering provides such a profound health benefit, a key factor is assumed to be that volunteering serves to express and facilitate opportunities to carry out one's sense of purpose. The very nature of volunteering means choosing to work without being paid for it. As a result, people choose to spend their time on issues they feel strongly about. If you are greatly concerned about the treatment and well-being of animals, for example, volunteering at an animal shelter will help you address a social problem that is meaningful to you.

If you aren't currently volunteering, and three in four of us aren't, there are many resources online that can help you find an opportunity. Committing even as little as one hour a week can have a profound benefit on your own life, and the organizations that rely on such help will be able to thrive.

Match the appropriate title with each paragraph:

47. Volunteering establishes strong relationships. _____
48. Volunteering gives you a sense of purpose. _____
49. Volunteering is good for your career. _____
50. Volunteers live longer and are healthier. _____
51. Volunteering is good for society. _____
52. According to the article, what is the best thing an elderly person can do for their health?
- Eat healthy
 - Exercise
 - Volunteer
 - Retire
53. Which of the following is the best synonym for **robust** in paragraph A?
- Long
 - Healthy
 - Flavorful
 - Mechanical
54. What percentage of adults aged over 45 are lonely?
- 13%
 - 30%
 - 33%
 - 45%
55. What does **it** refer to in paragraph B?
- The strong feeling of wanting to help others
 - The path to building relationships
 - The support one feels from the people around him/her
 - Working with other like-minded people
56. According to the article, what are "weak ties"?
- Relationships that are made using social networking sites
 - Tools on the internet for researching and gathering information
 - People that you can meet while doing things such as volunteering
 - Relationships that are not beneficial to someone's career development
57. What does **They** refer to in paragraph D?
- Museums and other organizations
 - Businessmen and women
 - Government organizations
 - People in need of help
58. What has the Borgen Project achieved with the help of volunteers?
- It has influenced laws to benefit poor people
 - It has brought water and food to poor people
 - It has built websites to help young people in poor countries
 - It has introduced medical facilities to poor countries
59. What percentage of people are volunteering nowadays?
- 10%
 - 25%
 - 50%
 - 75%

60. Which of the following best paraphrases the last sentence?
- a. Volunteering for one hour a week will greatly benefit both the volunteer and the organization they volunteer at.
 - b. Organizations cannot survive without the help of volunteers, which should volunteer at least one hour a week.
 - c. Organizations should look for volunteers that are willing to volunteer one hour a week if they wish to stay in business.
 - d. Volunteers should limit their time volunteering to only one hour a week, or they risk hurting the organizations that they aim to help.