

KABUL'S SINGING SENSATION

Selection Test B/C**Comprehension**

Read each of the following questions. Then choose the letter of the best answer.
(6 points each)

1. This article is a feature article because it focuses on
 - A. important wedding traditions
 - B. religious control of Afghanistan
 - C. an Afghan boy who sings very well
 - D. wars in the country of Afghanistan
2. McGirk says that Mirwais can “capture the anguish” of many Afghans because
 - A. Afghan music is easy for children to sing
 - B. he is young enough to have a good voice
 - C. Afghans are open about their pain
 - D. he has had a difficult early life
3. What did Mirwais’s mother do to encourage his singing ability?
 - A. apprentice him to a music teacher to learn
 - B. move two of her sons to other countries
 - C. bury musical instruments in the garden
 - D. send him up a tree to sing for her
4. Which main idea does the author support with the detail that Mirwais often works late into the night?
 - A. “Remaining a singer until adulthood may be a challenge.”
 - B. “The soulful melancholy in Mirwais’s voice is the product of hard times.”
 - C. “Young artists like Mirwais have several advantages over their older rivals.”
 - D. “His performance blew the other contestants off the stage.”
5. McGirk’s description of Mirwais as “Sinatra,” a famous American singer, indicates that McGirk
 - A. hopes that Mirwais gets a job in Hollywood
 - B. wants Mirwais to move to the United States
 - C. believes that Mirwais is better than Sinatra
 - D. enjoys listening to and watching Mirwais

SELECTION TEST B/C, CONTINUED

Vocabulary

Choose the answer that best explains the meaning of each underlined word. (6 points each)

6. Transcendent means
- A. unknown to other people
 - B. above the material world
 - C. under another's influence
 - D. happy with others' opinions
7. What is exile?
- A. the training and preparing of soldiers
 - B. a war between neighboring countries
 - C. a decision to leave a person behind
 - D. an enforced removal from one's native country
8. A puritanical person is
- A. strictly observant of religious practices
 - B. completely obedient to a government
 - C. deeply concerned with music and art
 - D. totally unaware of current events
9. What does a virtuoso mean?
- A. the sounds of beautiful music in the air
 - B. the ability to write complex musical pieces
 - C. a person who judges the music that others play
 - D. a musician with excellent abilities or techniques
10. Immaculate means
- A. original
 - B. spotless
 - C. unused
 - D. white

Written Response

Short Response On a separate sheet of paper, answer the following questions based on your knowledge of the article. (10 points each)

11. Name two details that show how musicians suffered under the rule of the Taliban.
12. What is one detail that McGirk uses to support the main idea that young male singers have an advantage over older male singers?

Extended Response Answer one of the following questions based on your knowledge of the article. Write one or two paragraphs on a separate sheet of paper. (20 points)

13. How did some people in Afghanistan show bravery while living under the Taliban government? Support your response with details from the article.
14. **Challenge** Evaluate how balanced a view McGirk presents about the quality of Mirwais's singing. Support your response with details from the article.