

Part I

A) Comprehension questions on the text. Read the text and choose the correct answer. You must choose and answer only 2 out of the 3 questions below. (0,4 points each)

At many colleges and universities, from underfunded institutions to top-tier private colleges, many students have found themselves unable to meet basic needs during the coronavirus pandemic. Financial insecurity, previously accelerated by rising tuition costs and living expenses, has become even more acute because of the closure of campuses and loss of jobs. In response, across the country, students have created mutual aid networks: raising and redistributing tens of thousands of dollars to help their peers cover housing, medical costs, food and other essentials. Generally, students send in requests for small amounts of money, and network organizers will send them the funds using payment apps like Venmo.

"The pandemic has obviously exacerbated a lot of the inequalities that exist on college campuses," said Neha Tallapragada, 19, a sophomore who helped start an aid network at Rice University. "That's really been a painful experience for a lot of students. Students have been laid off from their jobs, or they've had to take on new responsibilities because of losses in family income, perhaps due to Covid-related layoffs." At some schools, students who depend on dorms for housing have struggled after their campuses closed. "We're trying to fulfill a lot of the needs that have been exacerbated or are there in a greater degree due to the pandemic," Ms. Tallapragada said.

At its core, mutual aid is a form of charity in which neighbors or peers work together to help each other out on a case-by-case basis. (The term is often attributed to "Mutual Aid: A Factor of Evolution," a 1902 essay collection by the Russian social theorist Peter Kropotkin, who argued that voluntary cooperation has been key to the flourishing of human civilization.)

Not all the aid networks operate in the same way. At Rice, aid recipients must provide a school ID number, while at Vanderbilt University, students and alumni have created a network for sharing temporary housing in addition to their cash distribution efforts. At Northeastern University, organizers aren't distributing money at all; instead, they use donations to stock a free food pantry and distribute personal protective equipment on campus.

Giving out money is "not something that we're opposed to, but it isn't something that we've been asked for by students," said Madeleine Allocco, 21, a junior at Northeastern who has helped with the organizing. The aid networks are entirely student-run, operating outside of any official college administration oversight.

At Georgetown University, students donate cash to a central Venmo account, according to one of the founders, Megan Huynh, 20. "Then we have a funding request form for students in need - both undergrads and graduate students - to request basically like a micro-grant of \$50 to \$100," she said. "And we just send them the money, no questions asked."

To date, the Georgetown mutual aid network has raised \$25,000 from current students and some alumni, and has distributed \$20,000. The money, which is meant to be used for "textbooks or weekly groceries, medication, things like that," has been raised from more than 900 donors, Ms. Huynh said, "so it's really shown the power of small grass-roots movements."

Sara Goldrick-Rab, a sociology professor at Temple University who studies college affordability, said: "These mutual aid networks are springing up because the new economics of college; which is what I tend to call it, puts students at a significant economic disadvantage."

1. According to the text,

- a) students in prestigious universities have not been affected by the pandemic.
- b) financial insecurity was never experienced before the pandemic.
- c) students decided to raise funds to help their peers.

2. According to the text,

- a) the pandemic has aggravated disparity in the student population.
- b) the closure of campuses had no effect on student housing.
- c) the pandemic allowed students to concentrate on academic issues.

3. According to the text,

- a) mutual aid is based on the desire to help peers who are in need.
- b) Georgetown university has distributed a quarter of the money raised.
- c) only students are supposed to contribute to mutual aid.

B) Use of English. Choose the correct answer. You must choose and answer only 8 out of the 11 questions below (0,4 points each).

4. Someone spilt red wine on the carpet and it's _____.

- a) worn
- b) stained
- c) cracked

5. Nobody answering the phone doesn't ____ mean there's no-one there.

- a) necessarily
- b) surely
- c) wholly

6. Never ___ so much snow in Madrid.

- a) saw I
- b) I have seen
- c) have I seen

7. No sooner had I left ____ I heard them laughing.

- a)--
- b) that
- c) than

8. A: 'I think their house is nice, but it's got too much stuff in'. B: 'I know _____'.

- a) what you think **b) what you mean** c) what you say

9. The famous dodo, which lived on the island of Madagascar, _____ extinct in the 17th century owing to overhunting by European settlers.

- a) turned **b) became** c) goes

10. He's had his car _____.

- a) when he passed his driving test **b) since he passed his driving test**
c) as he passed his driving test

11. I don't think Paris is _____

a) as dangerous like London.

b) so dangerous as London.

c) as dangerous as London.

12. He can't work out ___ he has to go to get the information he needs.

- a) where** b) whom c) who

13. Choose the right option:

a) The painting sold for three thousand euros.

b) The painting was sold for three thousand euros.

c) The painting was selling for three thousand euros.

14. Which word means the same or nearly the same as accurate?

- a) loose b) inexact **c) precise**

Part II

Write an essay of 150-180 words on ONE of the following subjects (6 points):

A- What would you do if you didn't have enough money to pay your bills? Provide as many details as possible.

Everything in my hand

Currently we are living times when it is not such a rare circumstance to find oneself in a sudden difficult economic situation. However, not being able to pay your bills is another thing altogether.

Most definitely, the first thing I would do is to analyse my economic situation thoroughly. Once I had a clear idea, I would figure out how to cut expenses prioritising the unavoidable over the ones that are not absolutely necessary, such as television or gym subscriptions.

On the other hand, I would have to look for ways to increase my income urgently. I would first try to find an extra job -in case I still had one- that allowed me to earn some part of my salary in advance. If I couldn't find a job fast enough, I would probably end up selling some of my properties or, even, asking for help to my relatives and friends.

In a nutshell, no one wants to picture themselves living such a harsh situation, but I think it is necessary to empathise with all the suffering experienced around us these days. Undoubtedly, I would do anything to feed my family and to take them out of poverty.

B- If you could go back to some time and place in the past, when and where would you go? Why? Use specific reasons and details to support your choice.

Magical Menorca

One of the most beautiful moments in my life are the holidays I spent with my now husband in Menorca. It was an unforgettable week in paradise.

Even though we have visited more exotic and expensive places afterwards, I treasured those days in my memory. We spent the day visiting almost inaccessible beaches. To reach them we had to kayak on the sea or to walk through the mountains and over the cliffs. Once there, one might think that it was the Caribbean Sea. I recall snorkelling with him and being surrounded by fish because you could see everything underneath the water.

Besides the sea, I remember the delicious food we were offered at the hotel. We had lunch and dinner at a lovely terrace where we could enjoy a glass of white wine while listening to soft live music. Everything there was magical.

In a nutshell, those were great times because we were so happy together and all we had to do was to enjoy that fascinating island. Not to mention, we were free to live without fear.