READING COMPREHENSION

Read the following text and answer the questions.

An Honorable Tradition

The word "clown" is sometimes used to label a person as foolish. But being called a clown is not always an insult. The art of clowning is an old, honorable tradition. It includes not just modern-day circus clowns but court jesters, who performed for kings or emperors, and theatrical clowns, who were onstage as early as 500 years ago.

Throughout history, most cultures have had clowns. These clowns do more than just make people laugh. They are often shown as powerless fools, but sometimes clowns actually enjoy great freedom of speech. Using humor, clowns are able to question their leaders in a way ordinary people might not.

For example, in ancient China, the Emperor Shih Huang-Ti ordered the Great Wall of China to be built. During its construction, thousands of workers died due to poor working conditions. The Emperor planned to have the Great Wall painted, which would have resulted in even more lives lost. The Emperor's jester, Yu Sze, was the only person who dared to criticize this plan. He did so jokingly, but his jokes persuaded the Emperor not to paint the Great Wall. For this Yu Sze is now celebrated as a national hero in China.

Clowns remind us that humor can be one of the most effective ways to influence people. The clowns of our culture— those who make us laugh and look at life in new ways— may not represent foolishness at all, but wisdom in disguise.

a) Based on its use in paragraph 1, it can be understood that honorable belongs to which of the following word groups?

1. smart, wise, intelligent
2. helpful, beneficial, useful
3. ancient, old-fashioned, traditional
4. respected, admirable, praised

b) The author of this passage is most interested in

1. presenting the history of clowns
2. Bexplaining why Yu Sze is a hero
3. discussing the role clowns play in a culture
4. making people feel better about being called a clown

c) In paragraph 2, the author suggests that sometimes clowns have "great freedom of speech" compared to ordinary people because clowns are

　① not afraid of their leaders

　② able to use humor to make a point

　③ scrutinized more than ordinary people

　④ viewed as national heroes

d) In paragraph 3, the author writes, "The Emperor's jester, Yu Sze, was the only person who dared to criticize this plan." Like Yu Sze, which of these people also criticizes something?

　① Alice, who paints a picture and enters it into a contest

　② Jeffrey, who wears a silly clown costume to a Halloween party

　③ Ed, who points out the problems with the book he just read

　④ Rolfe, who studies very hard but still gets bad grades

e) According to the author, Yu Sze persuaded the Chinese Emperor not to

　① build the Great Wall

　② paint the Great Wall

　③ mistreat the workers

　④ starve the workers

f) In the final paragraph, the author suggests that clowns may represent "wisdom in disguise." By this the author means that clowns

　① are smarter than they appear

　② should always be respected

　③ show up in unexpected places

　④ dress up in costumes

g) According to the author, humor can be one of the most effective ways to

　① entertain people

　② change people

　③ influence people

　④ understand people

Vocabulary

label : etiqueta
foolish : Tonto
being : En
called : Llamado
Insult : Insulto
Clowning = Payasadas
Clowns : Payasos
Court : Tribunal
Jesters : Bufones
emperors : Emperadores
Onstage : en el escenario
early : oído
Jokingly : en broma
Remind : Recoerde
Ways : Caminos

Throughout : en todo
laugh : Riete
Powerless : Impotente
actually : actualidad
fredom : libertad
able : Capaz
leaders : líderes
might : Prodría
Ancient : Antiguo
workers : Trabajadores
planned : Planificado
dared : Se atreve
Persuaded : Parsuadir
Great : Genial
most : la mayoría
wisdom : Sabidaria
disguise : distrazarse