

Directions: *There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.*

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

People who systematically underestimate themselves and their own performance suffer from the so-called Impostor Phenomenon. They think that any success is due to external circumstances or just luck and chance. Those people live in constant fear that their "deception" will be exposed.

It is common for people to question their abilities now and again. A healthy amount of reflection and self-doubt can protect a person from acting impulsively. However, there are people who are permanently plagued by a massive amount of self-doubt despite delivering a good performance. They think that all of their successes are not a product of their skill or hard work, instead they attribute their own successes to external circumstances, for example, to luck and chance, or believe that their performance is massively overestimated by others. Failures, on the other hand, are always internalised as the result of their own shortcomings.

Psychologists from Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg examined the topic for the first time under real-life conditions. Seventy-six participants completed a range of intelligence tests and received positive feedback on them, regardless of their actual performance. They were then asked why they think they did so well.

The study showed two things: First, the self-reported degree of Impostor Phenomenon is not related to actual measured intelligence or performance. Secondly, the test supported the assumption that people with a tendency to exhibit the Impostor Phenomenon devalue their objectively measured performance and attribute positive results to external causes such as luck and chance, but not to their own abilities. These results are also completely unrelated to age and gender.

A permanent underestimation of one's own abilities is often accompanied by the fear that this supposed intellectual deception will be exposed sooner or later and that they will pay the price for this. The Impostor Phenomenon was first described in 1978 by US psychologists Pauline Clance and Suzanne Imes. They observed that there is a particularly high number of successful women who do not think they are very intelligent. The Impostor Phenomenon is not defined as a mental illness. However, people who suffer from it show a higher vulnerability to depression.

46. What do we learn from the passage about people who suffer from the so-called Impostor Phenomenon?

- A) They systematically underestimate their chances of success.
- B) They tend to attribute their achievements to good fortune.
- C) They seem to live in constant fear of being deceived.
- D) They generally rely on luck and chance for success.

47. What do people with a healthy amount of reflection and self-doubt tend to do?
- A) Credit all their successes to hard work.
 - B) Strive hard to perfect their skills.
 - C) Refrain from acting on impulse.
 - D) Deliver a better performance.
48. What do Impostor Phenomenon sufferers often do according to psychologists from Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg?
- A) Attribute their accomplishments to others.
 - B) Deny their actual measured intelligence.
 - C) Claim to have confidence in their own abilities.
 - D) Mark down their objectively rated performance.
49. What happens when a person permanently underestimates their own abilities?
- A) They will focus their attention on external factors.
 - B) They will be fearful of potential consequences.
 - C) They will count on good fortune for success.
 - D) They will keep improving their own skills.
50. What did US psychologists Pauline Clance and Suzanne Imes say about Impostor Phenomenon sufferers?
- A) They are more liable to have depression.
 - B) They seldom realise their potential fully.
 - C) They will develop mental illnesses.
 - D) They will pay higher prices one day.