

## 1. Feladatsor

### Task 1 – Is it Easier for Taller People to Have the Upper Hand?



Your height is a simple biological fact that you can do little to change, yet it may be influencing your destiny in ways you didn't realise. It has an impact on everything from your bank account and your lifespan. At 6 ft 4 in (193 cm), Abraham Lincoln would tower above Barack Obama – but even he is around 3 in (8 cm) taller than the average American. Confirming the correlation, a recent study found that taller candidates do indeed tend to receive more votes. Beyond the race to the White House, taller men and women are considered to be more dominant, healthy, and intelligent, and are more likely to be chosen for more competitive jobs; they also earn more money. However, not all high achievers are giants among men, of course. Winston Churchill and Martin Luther King exuded charisma despite being on the short side. But on the basis of first impressions alone, taller people may have the edge.

It could be that we naturally associate height with greatness and dominance – two traits that are important for leadership. But height also reflects nutrition as a child – so perhaps it simply acts as a more general indicator of your upbringing, which may in turn influence your education and success later in life. Since healthier children tend to grow taller, you might expect height to be a good indicator of overall fitness. When other factors such as diet and healthcare have been taken into account, however, taller people seem to suffer as they get older. For instance, the bigger you are, the more cells you have in your body, increasing the risk of mutations developing that could cause cancer. A larger body may also have to burn more energy, increasing the build-up of toxic by-products that could contribute to general wear and tear. The results could knock years off your life. Among the long-lived citizens of Sardinia, the tallest people lived for about two years less than their shorter neighbours. Another study of 1.3 million Spaniards found that every additional centimetre in height shaved 0.7 years from the total expected lifespan.

### Task 2 – Behind Henry VIII's Bad Behaviour: Brain Injury?



Henry VIII may be best known for having had six wives, killing two of them, and establishing the Church of England in the process. Now a behavioral neurologist at Yale University is posing an explanation for the English monarch's famously erratic behavior: traumatic brain injury. Today largely associated with those who play football, head injuries may have had a similar chance of being brought about 500 years ago by activities such as jousting and horseback riding – and Henry did both. Traumatic brain injury explains the memory problems, explosive anger, inability to control impulses, headaches, insomnia – and maybe even impotence – that afflicted Henry during the decade before his death in 1547. According to Arash Salardini, who will publish his team's findings in the June issue of the *Journal of Clinical Neuroscience*, it is intriguing to think that modern European history may have changed forever because of a blow to the head.

Researchers analyzed volumes of Henry's letters and other historical sources to document his known medical history and events that may have contributed to his ailments. Their findings confirm that jousting injuries caused later health and behavioral problems. In fact, Henry suffered at least three documented blows to the head, twice in his 30s and then again in his 40s, when a horse fell on him during a jousting match. He apparently lost consciousness for two hours in the latter case, and historians agree his behavior changed after the horse fell on him in 1536. Henry was often portrayed as smart and even-tempered in his youth. It wasn't until his 40s that he became cruel, petty, and tyrannical. An example of his erratic behavior: In 1546 he verbally berated the soldiers who came to arrest his sixth wife, Catherine Parr; he had forgotten he ordered them to do so the previous day.

Other ailments attributed to Henry – such as syphilis or diabetes – seem less likely in light of the available evidence, said the study's authors, noting that traumatic brain injury best explains most of his behavioral abnormalities.

### Task 3 – Steve Feltham



**Presenter:** Do not believe the news reports that pinged around the world last month faster than the flick of a dragon's tail, saying Steve Feltham, full-time professional seeker of the Loch Ness Monster has determined that Nessie is a giant catfish and has ended his search. You are not walking away from your dream, Steve, are you?

**Steve Feltham:** No, I'm not leaving Loch Ness, never have intended to. Never will, until I solve this mystery.

**Presenter:** How did it all begin?

**Steve Feltham:** In 1991 I sold my house, quit my job and left my girlfriend to search for the Loch Ness Monster. I bought a 1970 Commer van and drove it north from Dorset, England, to the Scottish Highlands. On July 18, 1991, I looked out on the lake for the first time as a full-time monster hunter, and now I am holder of the Guinness World Record for longest continuous search for Nessie.

**Presenter:** You are definitely not the first one to search for the monster.

**Steve Feltham:** Since the peak of Nessie mania in the 1930s, there have been thousands of eyewitness sightings, many from sober, sincere people who describe remarkably similar things: a smooth back, a dark shape, a heavy-seeming object moving through the water. There have been several serious searches for the animal – boat expeditions, sonar soundings. None have turned up anything conclusive. But nothing dissuades the believers, like me, who look out on the lake's placid waters and see a mystery to be solved.

**Presenter:** When was the first account of the monster written?

**Steve Feltham:** The monster first surfaced in a seventh-century account of the life of St. Columba, an Irish monk who impressed his followers by repelling a violent water beast. In 1933, the Spicers, a London couple driving around the lake, claimed to see a long-necked prehistoric animal slithering across the highway into the lake. Dozens of similar sightings followed. In 1934, a London doctor named Kenneth Wilson snapped a photograph of a mysterious shape rising from the lake's still surface. The Daily Mail published the monster's most famous portrait, a grainy image of what

looks like a hump and a dinosaur-like neck. Within days, a line of cars was snaking to Loch Ness. A legend was born.

**Presenter:** And what about you? Have you seen it?

**Steve Feltham:** I saw an unexplained object in the loch exactly once, sometime around 1992. It was a torpedo-like shape pushing through the water. I missed the chance to take a photo but hoped to do so the next time I saw it. I have never done.

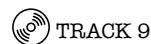
**Presenter:** Adrian Shine, pre-eminent expert and leader of the Loch Ness Project, debunks one Nessie theory after another. Welcome, Mr. Shine.

**Adrian Shine:** If you want to be a total buzzkill about it, the mystery is already solved. There is no Loch Ness monster. The loch's icy waters are unusually devoid of nutrients. There isn't enough food to support the amount of fish a dinosaur-sized creature would need to feed. Sonar and video surveillance have found no monsters, either. A lot of people have indeed seen things they genuinely could not explain. They're not lying. They just probably didn't see what they think they did. Even the Spicers were probably misinterpreting the shimmering heat off the freshly laid asphalt. A 1984 analysis of the famous Surgeon's Photograph in the British Journal of Photography concluded that it was likely a fake. Ten years later, an elderly man confessed to having helped his stepfather fake the photograph, using a toy submarine and a model of the monster's head. It has been clear for decades that there is no Loch Ness Monster.

**Steve Feltham:** I'm well aware of the body of evidence in the no-Nessie camp. Still, to me, the mystery feels unsolved. I'm living proof that it doesn't matter how specialist or whimsy-esque your dream is. Do the thing you want to do. Just follow your dreams. If it works for you, if it fills your heart with joy, do it.

## 2. Feladatsor

### Task 1 – Telework



**Presenter:** Working from home might seem to be the ideal remedy for tensions between your career and personal life. Our guest today is Timothy Golden, who is an associate professor at the Lally School of Management & Technology. Well, Timothy, who wouldn't love flexible hours, no commute, fewer office distractions and more time with family?

**Timothy:** Well, not quite everyone. Recent studies have found that telecommuters tend to be online more and work longer hours than their colleagues at the office.

**Presenter:** Is it true that for some people, telework may actually do little to reduce exhaustion and stress and could even prove to be more taxing?

**Timothy:** Yes, some experts think that telework can exacerbate feelings of mental and physical fatigue among employees who are already struggling with balancing job and personal responsibilities. When you have a lot of demands from both work and family and you put the workplace in the home, family demands become very salient and it is hard to forget about them.