

## PASSAGE TWO (Questions 5–8)

Paragraphs

### Lions

- 1► Something unusual about lions is that they hunt in groups. **5A** This may be in part because lions in particular are more social than other species; they travel and live together in a group called a pride, which is usually composed of related individuals. Prides range anywhere from 5 to 30 members, though they are more likely to fall on the smaller end of this range than the larger. **5B** Group hunting is beneficial to lions because it means that much larger prey can be captured by the lions. **5C** It also means that individual lions expend much less energy during a hunt. **5D**
- 2► There is a standard pattern to the process of hunting in groups. The process is initiated by a single female, who positions herself at a raised elevation to serve as a lookout to spot potential prey. **6A** When prey is spotted, a group of young lionesses advances on the herd and pushes the herd in the direction of a different lioness that has hidden herself downwind. **6B** It is up to this concealed female to choose the weakest member of the herd for the kill. **6C** Once the kill is made, the hunters decide whether to consume it on the spot or take it back to share with the other members of the pride. **6D** This decision is based on the size of the kill: smaller prey is devoured by the hunters immediately after the attack, while larger prey can be dragged back to be shared by the rest of the group.
- 3► The younger and stronger females are the ones that go on the attack for food. **7A** Although these females are at the peak of their health, speed, and strength, when compared to other creatures of the wild, their stamina is not as enduring. **7B** Therefore, it is imperative that the females are in close proximity to their prey before they charge in the final attack. **7C** Coordinating their movements to lead the victim downwind toward the main attacker lets the lionesses conserve their energy and strength for the final rush before the kill. **7D** It is also the reason that lionesses plan the hunts strategically, typically hunting under the cover of darkness or in areas where they are not easily spotted.

Sentences that you insert into the passage do not change the meaning of the paragraph they are placed in. However, they can help you understand the ideas in that paragraph in more detail.



- 4► As can be seen from this description of the process, it is the females rather than the male or males in the pride that take part in the kill. There are several reasons why the females take the lead in the hunt for food. First, the typical pride consists of only 1 to 2 males, with the rest being females and cubs. As male cubs mature, they are pushed out of the pride, becoming solitary nomads, or joining other prides lacking male lions. On occasion, a male lion will make a solitary kill, one in which the single male takes down and consumes the prey. On these occasions, the male will not share his kill with other lions, though he does tend to insure that any larger kills brought back to the group by females are shared with the young cubs.
- 5► Another important factor that hinders males from hunting is their anatomy, specifically the large mane that flows from the top of their head down across their shoulders. The voluminous amount of fur is thick and heavy, not only weighing down the lion more than the mane-free females, but also increasing their body heat. This increase in body temperature can be hazardous during hunts, especially in the warm climates that most lions inhabit. Higher body temperatures can lead to exhaustion, depleting the energy of the male lion and providing a means of escape for its prey while at the same time leaving him vulnerable to attack from other animals.
- 6► **8A** The male lions, along with the older and weaker females that are no longer eligible to hunt, stay behind and protect the pride from intruders as the hunt is carried out. **8B** This is especially important when there are young cubs present that have not learned the skills to evade attack or appropriately protect themselves from outsiders. **8C** The male lions present an intimidating presence to other animals watching the pride, and the males will rise to the occasion and attack when necessary in order to protect the group for which they are responsible. **8D**

5. Look at the four squares [■] that indicate where the following sentence could be added to the first paragraph of the passage.

**Other cats do not.**

Where would the sentence best fit? Click on a square [■] to add the sentence to the passage.

6. Look at the four squares [■] that indicate where the following sentence could be added to the second paragraph of the passage.

**This is usually accomplished by knocking the prey to the ground and breaking its neck.**

Where would the sentence best fit? Click on a square [■] to add the sentence to the passage.

7. Look at the four squares [■] that indicate where the following sentence could be added to the third paragraph of the passage.

**It is primarily for this reason that the females hunt in groups and spend a long time stalking their prey before the attack.**

Where would the sentence best fit? Click on a square [■] to add the sentence to the passage.

8. Look at the four squares [■] that indicate where the following sentence could be added to the sixth paragraph of the passage.

**Thus, the males have a defensive rather than an offensive role.**

Where would the sentence best fit? Click on a square [■] to add the sentence to the passage.