**Wilderness Survival Scenario**

Here are twelve questions concerning personal survival in a wilderness situation. Your first task is individually to select the best of the three alternatives given under each item. Try to imagine yourself in the situation depicted. Assume that you are alone and have a minimum of equipment, except where specified. The season is autumn. The days are warm and dry, but the nights are cold. After you have completed this task individually, you will again consider

each question as a member of a group. Your group will have the task of deciding the best alternative for each question. Do not change your individual answers, even if you change your mind in the group discussion. Both the individual and group solutions will later be compared with the “correct” answers provided by a group of naturalists who conduct classes in survival.

1. You have strayed from your party along and are now lost. You have no special signalling equipment. The best way to attempt to contact your friends is to:

a. call “help” loudly but in a low voice.

b. yell or scream as loud as you can.

c. whistle loudly and shrilly.

Your answer: \_\_\_\_\_ Your group’s answer: \_\_\_\_\_

2. You are in “snake country.” Your best action to avoid snakes is to:

a. make a lot of noise with your feet.

b. walk softly and quietly.

c. travel at night.

Your answer: \_\_\_\_\_ Your group’s answer: \_\_\_\_\_

3. You are hungry and lost in wild country. The best rule for determining which

plants are safe to eat (those you do not recognise) is to:

a. try anything you see the birds eat.

b. eat anything except plants with bright red berries.

c. put a bit of the plant on your lower lip for five minutes; if it seems all

right, try a little.

Your answer: \_\_\_\_\_ Your group’s answer: \_\_\_\_\_

4. The day becomes dry and hot. You have a full bottle of water (about one litre) with

you. You should:

a. ration it - about a cupful a day.

b. not drink until you stop for the night, then drink what you think you need.

c. drink as much as you think you need when you need it.

Your answer: \_\_\_\_\_ Your group’s answer: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Your water is gone and you have become very thirsty. You finally come to a dried-up

stream. Your best chance of finding water is to:

a. dig anywhere in the stream bed.

b. dig up plant and tree roots near the bank.

c. dig in the stream bed at the outside of a bend.

Your answer: \_\_\_\_\_ Your group’s answer: \_\_\_\_\_

6. You decide to walk out of the wild country by following a series of ravines

where a water supply could be available. Night is coming on. The best place to

make camp is:

a. next to where you think there could be a water supply in the ravine, down the

bottom of a cliff.

b. high on a ridge, up the top of the cliff.

c. midway up the slope.

Your answer: \_\_\_\_\_ Your group’s answer: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Your flashlight glows dimly as you are about to make your way back to your

campsite after a brief trip. Darkness comes quickly in the woods and the surroundings

seem unfamiliar. You should:

a. head back at once, keeping the light on, hoping the light will glow enough for

you to find the way.

b. put the batteries under your armpits to warm them, and then replace them in the

torch.

c. shine your torch for a few seconds, try to get the scene in mind, move out in the

darkness, and repeat the process.

Your answer: \_\_\_\_\_ Your group’s answer: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Snow confines you to your small tent. You doze with your small stove going. There is

danger if the flame is:

a. yellow.

b. blue.

c. red.

Your answer: \_\_\_\_\_ Your group’s answer: \_\_\_\_\_

9. You must cross a river that has a strong current, large rocks, and some white water.

After carefully selecting your crossing spot, you should:

a. leave your boots and pack on.

b. take your boots and pack off.

c. take off your pack, but leave your boots on.

Your answer: \_\_\_\_\_ Your group’s answer: \_\_\_\_\_

10. In waist-deep water with a strong current, when crossing the stream, you should face:

a. upstream.

b. across the stream.

c. downstream.

Your answer: \_\_\_\_\_ Your group’s answer: \_\_\_\_\_

11. You find yourself stuck on the edge of a cliff. Your only way is up some slippery,

mossy and wet rock. You should try it:

a. barefoot.

b. with boots on.

c. with just your socks on.

Your answer: \_\_\_\_\_ Your group’s answer: \_\_\_\_\_

12. Unarmed and unsuspecting, you surprise a large bear prowling around your campsite.

As the bear rears up about ten metres from you, you should:

a. run.

b. climb the nearest tree.

c. freeze, but be ready to back away slowly.