

TUTORIAL

READING COMPREHENSION

QUESTION

1. Read the following paragraphs and carefully determine what the main idea is for each. The best way to approach these questions is to first read the paragraph and then, in your own words, restate what you think the author is trying to say. From the five choices, select the one statement that best supports the author's point.

Mathematics allows us to expand our consciousness. Mathematics tells us about economic trends, patterns of disease, and the growth of populations. Math is good at exposing the truth, but it can also perpetuate misunderstandings and untruths. Figures have the power to mislead people.

2. This paragraph best supports the statement that

- a. the study of mathematics is dangerous.
- b. words are more truthful than figures.
- c. the study of mathematics is more important than other disciplines.
- d. the power of numbers is that they cannot lie.
- e. figures are sometimes used to deceive people.

ANSWER

. e. This answer is clearly stated in the last sentence of the paragraph. Choice a can be ruled out because there is no support to show that studying math is dangerous. Words are not mentioned in the passage, which rules out choice b. There is no support for choice c. Choice d is a contradiction to the information in the passage.

QUESTION

2. If you're a fitness walker, there is no need for a commute to a health club. Your neighbourhood can be your health club. You don't need a lot of fancy equipment to get a good workout either. All you need is a well-designed pair of athletic shoes.

. This paragraph best supports the statement that

- a. fitness walking is a better form of exercise than weight lifting.
- b. a membership in a health club is a poor investment.
- c. walking outdoors provides a better workout than walking indoors.
- d. fitness walking is a convenient and valuable form of exercise.
- e. poorly designed athletic shoes can cause major foot injuries.

ANSWER

d. The author stresses the convenience of fitness walking, by stating that it does not require a commute to a health club. The paragraph also implies that fitness walking will result in a good workout. Choice a is incorrect because no comparison to weight lifting is made. Choice b may seem like a logical answer, but the paragraph only refers to people who are fitness walkers, so for others, a health club might be a good investment. Choice c is not in the passage. Although choice e seems logical, the paragraph does not indicate that the wrong shoes will produce major injuries.

QUESTION

3. Keeping busy at important tasks is much more motivating than having too little to do. Today's employees are not afraid of responsibility. Most people are willing to take on extra responsibility in order to have more variety in their positions. In addition, along with that responsibility should come more authority to independently carry out some important tasks.

6. The main idea of the paragraph is that

- a. variety and independence on the job increase employee motivation.
- b. to avoid boredom, many people do more work than their jobs require of them.
- c. today's employees are demanding more independence than ever before.
- d. office jobs in the past have carried less responsibility.

ANSWER

3. a. This is the main idea of the passage because all the sentences relate to it. The other choices may be true but are not reflected in the passage.

QUESTION

4. Whether you can accomplish a specific goal or meet a specific deadline depends first on how much time you need to get the job done. What should you do when the demands of the job exceed the time you have available? The best approach is to divide the project into smaller pieces. Different goals will have to be divided in different ways, but one seemingly unrealistic goal can often be accomplished by working on several smaller, more reasonable goals.

. The main idea of the passage is that

- a. jobs often remain only partially completed because of lack of time.
- b. the best way to complete projects is to make sure your goals are achievable.
- c. the best way to tackle a large project is to separate it into smaller parts.
- d. the best approach to a demanding job is to delegate responsibility

ANSWER

4. c. The third sentence is the main idea. It is a general idea that answers the only question posed in the passage. The other choices are not in the passage.

QUESTION

5. Health clubs have undergone a major transformation that can be described in three words: mind, body, and spirit. Loud, fast, heart-thumping aerobics has been replaced by the hushed tones of yoga and the controlled movements of Pilates. The clubs are responding to the needs of their customers who are increasingly looking for a retreat from their hectic lifestyles and a way to find a healthy balance in their lives by nurturing their whole selves.

The main idea of the paragraph is that

- a. exercise is less important now than it once was.
- b. health clubs are much less popular now than they were ten years ago.
- c. many health clubs will go out of business because of the decline in traditional exercise.
- d. people's desire to nurture all aspects of themselves has contributed to big changes for health clubs.

ANSWER

5. d. The passage states that health clubs have undergone a major transformation due to people's interest in taking care of their minds, bodies, and spirits. Choice a is incorrect because the paragraph doesn't say exercise is less important. It simply says the focus and type of exercise have changed. Choices b and c are not supported by the paragraph.

QUESTION

6. Ratatouille is a dish that has grown in popularity over the last few years. It features eggplant, zucchini, tomatoes, peppers, and garlic; chopped, mixed, sautéed, and finally, cooked slowly over low heat. As the vegetables cook slowly, they make their own broth, which may be extended with a little tomato paste. The name ratatouille comes from the French word *touiller*, meaning to stir or mix together.

Which of the following is the correct order of steps for making ratatouille?

- a. chop vegetables, add tomato paste, stir or mix together
- b. mix the vegetables together, sauté them, and add tomato paste
- c. cook the vegetables slowly, mix them together, add tomato paste
- d. add tomato paste to extend the broth and cook slowly over low heat

ANSWER

6. b. See the second and third sentences for the steps in making ratatouille. Only choice b reflects the correct order

QUESTION

7. Ratatouille is a dish that has grown in popularity over the last few years. It features eggplant, zucchini, tomatoes, peppers, and garlic; chopped, mixed, sautéed, and finally, cooked slowly over low heat. As the vegetables cook slowly, they make their own broth, which may be extended with a little tomato paste. The name ratatouille comes from the French word *touiller*, meaning to stir or mix together.

Ratatouille can best be described as a

- a. French pastry.
- b. sauce to put over vegetables.
- c. pasta dish extended with tomato paste.
- d. vegetable stew.

ANSWER

7. d. The main part of the passage describes how to cook vegetables. Only choice d indicates that vegetables are included in the dish. The other choices are not reflected in the passage.

QUESTION

8. Daffodil bulbs require well-drained soil and a sunny planting location. They should be planted in holes that are 3–6 inches deep and there should be 2–4 inches between bulbs. The bulb should be placed in the hole, pointed side up, root side down. Once the bulb is planted, water the area thoroughly.

According to the above directions, when planting daffodil bulbs, which of the following conditions is not necessary?

- a. a sunny location
- b. well-drained soil
- c. proper placement of bulbs in soil
- d. proper fertilization

ANSWER

8. d. The directions mention nothing about fertilization.

QUESTION

For the following questions, choose the topic sentence that best fits the paragraph.

9. Gary is a distinguished looking man with a touch of gray at the temples. Even in his early 50s, he still turns heads. He enjoys spending most of his time admiring his profile in the mirror. In fact, he considers his good looks to be his second-most important asset. The first, however, is money. He is lucky in this area, too, having been born into a wealthy family. _____. He loves the power his wealth has given him. He could buy whatever he desires, whether that be people, places, or things. Gary checks that mirror often and feels great delight with what he sees.

- a. Gary's gray hair is his worst characteristic.
- b. Conceit is the beginning and the end of Gary's character; conceit of person and situation.
- c. Gary feels blessed to be wealthy and the joy consumes his every thought.
- d. The only objects of Gary's respect are others who hold positions in society above him.

ANSWER

9. b. Choice b addresses both of Gary's vanities: his person and his situation. Choice a deals only with one of Gary's physical characteristics. Choice c deals only with his vanity of position. Choice d is not supported in the passage.

QUESTION

For the following questions, choose the topic sentence that best fits the paragraph.

10. The term spices is a pleasant one, whether it connotes fine French cuisine or a down-home, cinnamon-flavored apple pie. _____. In the past, individuals traveled the world seeking exotic spices for profit and, in searching, have changed the course of history. Indeed, to gain control of lands harboring new spices, nations have actually gone to war.

- a. The taste and aroma of spices are the main elements that make food such a source of fascination and pleasure.
- b. The term might equally bring to mind Indian curry made thousands of miles away and those delicious barbecued ribs sold on the corner.
- c. It is exciting to find a good cookbook and experiment with spices from other lands—indeed, it is one way to travel around the globe!
- d. The history of spices, however, is another matter altogether, and at times, it can be filled with danger and intrigue.

ANSWER

10. d. The mention that searching for spices has changed the course of history, and that for spices, nations have . . . gone to war, implies that the subject of the paragraph is history. These phrases also connote danger and intrigue.

QUESTION

11. The Falklands are a group of small islands in the South Atlantic close to Argentina, with a population of 1,200 British citizens. They have been British territory ever since 1892. Disputes about who owns the islands go back to the eighteenth century. Argentina has long alleged that these islands, which they call the Malvinas, belong to them. They invaded the islands in April 1982 and the Falkland War lasted until July 1982 when British forces won them back. The Falkland War had an massive impact on Britain and is still controversial. Some people see it as a restoration of Britain's old imperial power.

24. One may infer from the passage that, even today, Britain's hold over the Falkland Islands

- A)** is considered as politically and economically unnecessary by everyone in Britain
- B)** could, in all likelihood, lead to another war between Britain and other powers
- C)** causes more problems than benefits to the British public
- D)** is felt by some people to be a continuation of the British imperial rule
- E)** has not been accepted anywhere but in Argentina

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QUESTION

12. It is to be expected that, by the year 2050, people's eating habits will have changed beyond recognition. With a world-wide growth in population very many new mechanical and scientific methods will come into being to step up food production. There may well be an end to food as we know it today. In fact, meals as we know them, may become a thing of the past. Food constituents and vitamins may be taken in the form of capsules, tablets and pills. The thought of these highly artificial food constituents replacing present day foods may not be very relishing, but they may be the answer to food shortage and world famine. 12.

The main point emphasized in the passage is that

.....

- A) present-day eating habits must be preserved**
- B) in the twenty-first century the wide-spread use of artificial food will be inevitable**
- C) famine and food shortage in the world can only be overcome by reducing the population growth rate**
- D) artificial goods need not conflict with traditional eating habits**
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QUESTION

13. There is nothing that man fears more than the touch of the unknown. He wants to know what is reaching towards him, and to be able to recognize or at least classify it. Man always tends to avoid physical contact with anything strange. In the dark, the fear of an unexpected touch can lead to panic. Even clothes give insufficient security: it is easy to tear them and pierce through to the naked, smooth, defenceless flesh of the victim. All the distances which men create round themselves are dictated by this fear. They shut themselves in houses which no one may enter, and only there they feel some measure of security. The fear of burglars is not only the fear of being robbed, but also the fear of something touching you in the darkness.

13. According to the passage, what frightens people most is

- A) the thought of being robbed at night**
- B) the unexpected contact with something unknown**
- C) a sense of insecurity**
- D) being alone in the dark**
- E) the knowledge that they won't be protected**

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14. Because people are frightened of the unknown,

- A) they feel it necessary to put a barrier between themselves and the unknown**
- B) it is natural that they should always be in a state of panic**
- C) they feel safer in a crowd**
- D) they try to avoid physical contact of all kinds**
- E) burglars find it much easier to break into houses**

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15. This passage is concerned with

- A) how people can regain a sense of security
- B) the measures people are advised to take against burglars
- C) the three main types of fear
- D) people's fear of the unknown and how they try to cope with it
- E) how to bring one's fears into the open

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QUESTION

16. England is famous for its gardens, and most people like gardening. This is possibly one reason why so many people prefer to live in houses rather than in flats. Particularly in suburban areas it is possible to pass row after row of ordinary small houses, each one with its neatly kept patch of grass surrounded by a great variety of flowers and shrubs. Enthusiasts of gardening get a great amount of helpful advice from the television and magazines.

16. The passage stresses that, as many English people are fond of gardening,

- A) they don't want to live in suburban areas**
- B) houses are more popular than flats**
- C) they can spare little time for the television**
- D) the price of land is constantly going up**
- E) they grow flowers but not grass and fruit trees**

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- A) find it essential to move out to distant rural areas**
- B) need large gardens in order to get satisfaction**
- C) are in a minority in England**
- D) get very little encouragement from the media**
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- A) the increasing demand for new varieties of flowers and shrubs**
- B) the problems of gardening in suburban areas**
- C) the new techniques in gardening**
- D) the enthusiasm of people in England for gardens and gardening**
- E) how to look after the grass in gardens**

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QUESTION

19. Public libraries, maintained by the local authorities, are well developed and progressive, and everywhere permit people to borrow books without charge. The books in the

lending section are always kept on open shelves, and library staffs are very helpful in getting books on request from other libraries through the exchange system. Most libraries report an increase in borrowing over the last few years, so television does not seem to be stopping people from reading, as it was feared that it would.

19. It is explained in the passage that any book that is not available in one library

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- A) won't be available at any library**
- B) can be brought from another**
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20. As stressed in the passage, people nowadays ----.

- A) prefer entertaining television programs to reading**
- B) are using public libraries more than they used to in the past**
- C) read a lot but don't use the libraries much**
- D) complain a great deal about the poor services the libraries are offering**
- E) are using the exchange system less and less often**

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