

Name : _____

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EXERCISE 1: MAIN IDEA QUESTIONS**6 Questions**

Directions: Read each passage carefully. Then decide which of the possible responses is the best answer to each question. Circle the appropriate answer.

At a distance of approximately 250,000 miles from Earth, the moon is our nearest celestial neighbor. A rugged terrain of mountains, cliffs, plains, and craters (5) covers this globe of 2,000 miles in diameter, but this landscape contains no water. There is no precipitation of any kind on the moon because it lacks an atmosphere. For the same reason, a constant (10) barrage of meteorites and other space debris reaches its surface without hindrance. The beautiful, silvery moon is, in actuality, a barren desert, suffering from great extremes of temperature (15) and devoid of any life as we know it.

1. The title that best expresses the main idea of this selection is
 - (A) "Landscapes in Space."
 - (B) "Life on the Moon."
 - (C) "The Moon's Atmosphere."
 - (D) "Conditions on the Moon."

The more complicated our thoughts and emotions, the less effective is language as a tool of expression. This is not a simple matter of style or eloquence, for (5) even the finest speakers and writers, using the most sensitive language, would be incapable of putting certain thoughts into words. For this reason, many people use poetry and music instead of prose. (10) These two forms of communication convey subtle yet powerful meanings that cannot be expressed with ordinary words.

2. The title that best expresses the theme of this selection is
 - (A) "Words, Poetry, and Music."
 - (B) "The Hidden Meanings of Words."
 - (C) "The Eloquence of Fine Speakers."
 - (D) "Limitations of Language."

exercises

America what the Mediterranean is to the European continent—a central sea. The American body of water is not land-locked. Double strings of islands—the Cuba group and the Bahamas—form an arc at the Atlantic entrance, and this arc is now firmly fortified. Since the Mediterranean of the West is the passage between the Americas, it must be controlled by these countries in order to carry on trade.

This sea is as necessary to the Caribbean countries as the Mediterranean is to Italy. The countries of this area produce large quantities of oil, tropical fruits, and vegetables. They are also rich in minerals. This region is capable of supplying the United States with many goods formerly imported from Africa and Asia. In exchange, the countries of this region need the manufactured goods that can be provided only by an industrial nation.

3. The Caribbean Sea and the Mediterranean are alike with respect to their
- (A) variety of exports.
 - (B) epidemics of serious diseases.
 - (C) geographical importance.
 - (D) living standards.

are subjected during their journeys are but little less than those that would befall them if they remained in unsuitable zones. During long oversea passages, fatigue and hunger weed out the weaklings. Sudden storms and adverse winds strike migrating birds where no land is near, and they are often carried far from their intended destinations. Predatory birds accompany them, taking a toll en route, and predatory man waits for the tired wanderers with gun and net.

4. The title that best expresses the main idea of this passage is
- (A) “Dangers of Storms.”
 - (B) “Perils of Migration.”
 - (C) “Unsuitable Environment.”
 - (D) “How Birds Reach Goals.”

In his library at Monticello, Jefferson made hundreds of architectural drawings, all of which have been preserved. He must have had a great gift of concentration and a real love for his subject to be able to work in a room with such an outlook. And what energy he had to find time and will for this precise and exquisite work was also devoted to riding over his estate, working in his garden, and carrying out correspondence with everyone from the Marquis de Lafayette to his youngest grandchild. "Something pursued with ardor" was Jefferson's pre-
 (15) scription for life, and he got the last ounce of excitement and interest out of everything that came to his notice.

5. The main idea of this selection is expressed in the title
 - (A) "The Library at Monticello."
 - (B) "The Care of the Estate."
 - (C) "A Full Life."
 - (D) "Jefferson, the Architect."

Specific types of lighting are required at first-class airports by the Department of Commerce. To identify an airport, there must be a beacon light of not less than
 (5) 100,000 candle power, with a beam that properly distributes light up in the air so that it can be seen all around the horizon from an altitude of 500 to 2,000 feet. All flashing beacons must have a definite
 (10) Morse code characteristic to aid in identification. Colored lights are required to indicate where safe area for landing ends, red lights being used where landing is particularly dangerous.

6. The best title for this selection is
 - (A) "Landing Areas."
 - (B) "Colored Lights at Airports."
 - (C) "Identification of Airports."
 - (D) "Airport Lighting Requirements."

EXERCISE 2: DETAILS QUESTIONS

12 Questions

Directions: Read each passage carefully. Then decide which of the possible responses is the best answer to each question. Circle the appropriate answer.

Ants are very interesting insects. There are about 8,000 different kinds with various ways of finding food. There are hunter ants that capture other insects, shepherd (5) ants that care for aphids from which they get sweet honeydew, thief ants that live by stealing, slave-making ants that kidnap the children of other ant nations, and mighty military ants that live by plundering and destroying, driving even men (10) and elephants before them.

A city of ants includes the queen, the workers, the baby ants, and their nurses. Ant babies change their form three times. (15) First, they are small, white eggs. When they hatch, they are little, fat, white worms called larvae. The larvae change into pupae, and the pupae change into adults. The queen is the mother of all the (20) ants in the community. The workers bring food to her and protect her from invaders.

1. Hunter ants

- (A) care for aphids.
- (B) kidnap young ants from other colonies.
- (C) capture other insects.
- (D) plunder and destroy.

2. A colony of ants

- (A) includes a queen, workers, babies, and their nurses.
- (B) may have as many as 8,000 members.
- (C) is built in a hill.
- (D) protects its members.

3. Immediately prior to entering the adult stage, ants

- (A) hatch from eggs.
- (B) come from larvae.
- (C) are all workers.
- (D) come from pupae.

Commercial interests were quick to recognize the great possibilities of presenting by means of radio what is in effect a person-to-person appeal. At first the (5) novelty made people listen to almost anything, but as the audiences became more accustomed to broadcasts, varied methods of capturing and holding the attention have developed. These vary (10) from the frank interjection of advertising matter in a program of entertainment to the mere sponsoring of the program. Entertainment at first appeared to have the greatest appeal, and low (15) comedy and jazz music filled the air. There has come, however, the realization that the radio audience is now as complex as the public and that programs must be set up to attract the (20) attention of as many different types of hearers as possible.

4. When radio was new,
(A) people would listen to almost anything.
(B) advertising was poor.
(C) advertising was interjected into the programming.
(D) entertainment was limited.

The part of the ear we see is only a cartilage and skin trumpet that catches sound waves. Buried in bone at the base of the skull is the delicate apparatus (5) that makes hearing possible.

A passage leads from the outer ear to a membrane called the eardrum. Sound waves striking the eardrum make it vibrate. On the other side of the ear- (10) drum lies a space called the middle ear. Across this a chain of three tiny bones carries sound vibrations to another space called the inner ear. Sound messages are conducted along the auditory nerve, (15) located in the inner ear, to the brain for interpretation. The middle ear is connected to the throat by the Eustachian tube. This tube ends near the throat opening of the nose, close to the tonsils. (20) The middle ear also communicates with the mastoid, or air cells in the bone behind the ear.

5. The outer ear is made of
(A) a delicate apparatus.
(B) a membrane.
(C) cartilage and skin.
(D) three tiny bones.
6. The eardrum is a(n)
(A) membrane.
(B) piece of thin cartilage.
(C) air cell.
(D) short tube.
7. Sound vibrations are carried
(A) along the auditory nerve.
(B) through the eardrum.
(C) to the inner ear across a chain of three tiny bones.
(D) to the base of the skull.

Track-and-field events are the only modern sports that would be recognizable in their original form. They can be traced back more than 2,500 years to the ancient civilization of Greece. The Greeks held their athletes in high esteem, and champions were looked upon as national heroes.

The Greeks began the original Olympic games for the purpose of assembling the greatest athletes of their country. The games were religious pageants as well as peerless athletic events and were held every four years for more than eight centuries.

8. In ancient Greece, athletes were
 - (A) trained as professionals.
 - (B) forced to participate in the games.
 - (C) usually defeated by the Romans.
 - (D) regarded very highly by the public.
9. The present-day Olympics
 - (A) have a 2,500-year-old history.
 - (B) are religious pageants.
 - (C) have been held every four years for eight centuries.
 - (D) are completely different from the Greek games.

Observe the people who make an abiding impression of strength and goodness and you will see that their personal attractiveness and force are rooted in fundamentals of character. They have the physical vitality, endurance, and courage that come from good living. They have the mental stamina and penetration that come from facing up to one's problems, however difficult, and from keeping one's mind on things that really matter. They have the moral power that comes from an active sense of what is right, from doing their part to make truth, justice, and beauty prevail in the world. They have the inner peace and grace that are the basics of a truly charismatic personality. People trust them, like to be with them, and depend on them in emergencies. They are the salt of the earth.

10. A quality NOT mentioned by the author is
 - (A) courage.
 - (B) dependability.
 - (C) tolerance.
 - (D) inner grace.

Although you may still enjoy fairy tales, they probably do not engross you to the degree that they might have a few years ago. Fairy tales belong primarily to a (5) stage in our lives when we are most interested by the world of fantasy. Goblins, wizards, and dwarfs appeal to the young child's wandering imagination and contribute greatly to the development of cre- (10) ativity, but it is a temporary infatuation.

As we grow older, real challenges begin to interest us more. The imaginary victories brought about by fairy god- mothers lose their power of enchant- (15) ment, and we become absorbed in the stories of real people, real success, and real accomplishment. The fascination of "Jack the Giant Killer" gives way to a keen interest in Commander Byrd's Ant- (20) arctic exploration, Helen Keller's biography, or the harrowing adventures of spelunkers, deep-sea divers, and mountain climbers. This step marks one of the first great advances in the process of (25) intellectual maturation.

11. Young children are primarily inter-
ested in
(A) fantasy stories.
(B) horror stories.
(C) goblins and witches.
(D) adventure stories.
12. People become interested in real-life
stories when they
(A) are young.
(B) are adults.
(C) begin to mature.
(D) are bored.

EXERCISE 3: VOCABULARY QUESTIONS

7 Questions

Directions: Read each passage carefully. Then decide which of the possible responses is the best answer to each question. Circle the appropriate answer.

In May of each year, the ghost of Mark Twain must hover over Angel's Camp, California, while all eyes in this colorful old mining town turn to the tailless, (5)leaping *amphibians* of the genus *Rana*. It was just this sort of event that Twain made famous in his early humorous story, "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County."

- (10) Thousands of spectators gather each year to watch the county's champions hop their way to fame and compete for a \$500 first prize. Each frog must undergo a rigid inspection to insure against foul (15)play, such as the loading of the competitor with buckshot, as happened in Twain's tall tale.

Back in 1944, Alfred Jermy was the proud owner of Flash, a frog that held (20)the world's championship with a fifteen-foot, ten-inch leap. In 1950, a seven-year-old boy's pet, X-100, stole top honors with three jumps averaging fourteen feet, nine inches. As amazing as these (25)might seem to the *novice*, these are mere puddle jumps.

Half the fun in visiting this Calaveras County contest is to be found in listening to the tales of 600-foot leaps in a favor- (30)able wind—well, why not?

1. The *amphibians* mentioned in the first paragraph are the
(A) storytellers.
(B) frogs.
(C) citizens of Calaveras County.
(D) human contestants.
2. The word *novice* in the third paragraph means
(A) the judges.
(B) the spectators.
(C) the owners of the frogs.
(D) inexperienced readers.

- In the year 1799, an officer of the French Army was stationed in a small fortress on the Rosetta River, a mouth of the Nile, near Alexandria, Egypt. He was
- (5) interested in the ruins of the ancient Egyptian civilization and had seen the Sphinx and the pyramids, those mysterious structures that were erected by men of another era.
- (10) One day, as a trench was being dug, he found a piece of black slate on which letters had been carved. He had studied Greek in school and knew this was an *inscription* written in that language.
- (15) There were two more lines carved into the stone: one in the Egyptian characters he had seen on other ruins, the other in completely unfamiliar characters.
- (20) The officer realized the importance of such a find and *relinquished* it to scholars who had been puzzling over Egyptian inscriptions.
- In 1802, a French professor by the
- (25) name of Champollion began studying the stone in an attempt to *decipher* the two unknown sets of characters using the Greek letters as a key. He worked with the stone for over 20 years and, in
- (30) 1823, announced that he had discovered the meaning of the fourteen signs and in doing so had unlocked the secret of ancient Egyptian writing. Some 5,000 years after an unknown person had made those
- (35) three inscriptions, the Rosetta Stone became a key, unlocking the written records of Egypt and sharing the history of that civilization with the rest of the world.
3. The word *decipher* is synonymous with
- (A) translate.
(B) encode.
(C) transcribe.
(D) transmit.
4. The word *inscription* means
- (A) a picture carved in stone.
(B) a relief sculpture.
(C) letters carved into a hard substance.
(D) a written message.
5. The word *relinquish* means to
- (A) give up possession of something.
(B) lend to someone.
(C) sell an object.
(D) study an object.

The impressions that an individual gets from his environment are greatly influenced by his emotional state. When he is happy, objects and people present themselves to him in a favorable aspect; when he is depressed, he views the same things in an entirely different light. It has been said that a person's moods are the lenses that color life with many different hues.

(5) Not only does mood affect impression; impression also affects mood. The beauty of a spring morning may *dissipate* the gloom of a great sorrow; the good-natured chuckle of a child may turn

(15) anger into a smile; or a telegram may *transform* a house of mirth into a house of mourning.

6. The word *dissipate* means
- (A) condense.
 - (B) draw out.
 - (C) melt away.
 - (D) inflate.
7. The word *transform* is synonymous with
- (A) convert.
 - (B) conclude.
 - (C) interpret.
 - (D) convey.

EXERCISE 4: INFERENCE QUESTIONS

+ Questions

Directions: Read each passage carefully. Then decide which of the possible responses is the best answer to each question. Circle the appropriate answer.

Intuition is not a quality everyone can understand. As the unimaginative are miserable about a work of fiction until they discover what flesh-and-blood individual served as a model for the hero or heroine, so, too, many scientists scoff at the unscientific notion that intuition as a force exists. They cannot believe that a blind man can see something they cannot see. They rely utterly on the celebrated inductive method of reasoning: expose the facts and conclude from them only what can be proven. Generally speaking, this is a very sound rule, but can we be certain that the really great accomplishments are initiated in this plodding fashion? Dreams are made of quite different stuff, and if any are left in the world who does not know that dreams have remade the world, then perhaps there is little we can teach them.

1. The author implies that intuition
(A) is the product of imagination.
(B) relies on factual information.
(C) is an inductive reasoning process.
(D) is valueless.

It is exceedingly difficult to draw on a canvas the man whose nature is large and central, without cranks or oddities. The very simplicity of such souls defies an easy summary, for they are as spacious in their effect as daylight or summer. Often we remember friends by a gesture or a trick of expression, or by a favorite phrase. But with Nelson I do not find myself thinking of such idiosyncrasies. His presence warmed and lit up so big a region of life that in thinking of him one is overwhelmed by the multitude of things that he made better by simply existing among them. If you remove a fire from the hearth, you will remember the look, not so much of the blaze itself, as of the whole room in its pleasant glow.

2. The phrase "to draw on a canvas" is used in this context to mean to
(A) paint a portrait.
(B) summarize.
(C) make a collage.
(D) describe.
3. The last sentence is a metaphor comparing Nelson to
(A) the blaze in a fireplace.
(B) a hearth.
(C) fire.
(D) a pleasant glow.

4. From the tone of this selection, you might draw the conclusion that the author

- (A) thinks of Nelson as a strange man.
- (B) is describing a man who has died.
- (C) is overwhelmed by Nelson.
- (D) remembers Nelson only by his gestures.

A glass case in the British Museum houses the mummified remains of two Egyptian kings who lived beside the Nile. The exhibit includes a broken plow, (5) a rusted sickle, and two sticks tied together with a leather strap. These were the “bread tools” of Egyptians who lived 4,000 years ago during the reigns of the two kings. They are not unlike the tools (10) used by eighteenth-century American farmers, and, in fact, similar sickles may be viewed at Mount Vernon, George Washington’s Virginia home.

5. We may conclude from this selection that the ancient Egyptians

- (A) had only two important kings.
- (B) taught farming techniques to eighteenth-century Americans.
- (C) were relatively advanced in the use of agricultural tools.
- (D) neglected their equipment.

The horn of an automobile is a valuable aid to good driving if properly used. When about to pass another car, it is advisable to notify the driver of the car (5) ahead. Children or animals on the street should be given a warning note. Of course, a courteous driver would not blow his horn unnecessarily in the vicinity of a hospital or a place of worship. (10) He should also be considerate of schools, where quiet is important. The way in which a driver uses his horn is a fairly accurate index to his character, for through the sound he expresses his im- (15) patience and his good manners, or the lack of them.

6. The place that a good driver would be least likely to use his horn is

- (A) St. James Theater.
- (B) Riverdale Apartments.
- (C) Memorial Convalescent Home.
- (D) Yankee Stadium.

7. The character of a driver who fails to sound his horn when a dog is crossing the street is

- (A) noble.
- (B) impatient.
- (C) uncaring
- (D) bold.