

## READING COMPREHENSION

### PASSAGE

This, at least, conservatives and liberals seem to agree on: American culture is in a perilous state. Assaulted by rap music and heavy metal, made soft-headed by the novels of Robert James Waller and Danielle Steele, stimulated by violent films, narcotized by mindless TV programs and obsessed with O.J. Simpson, we slide ever closer to a cultural abyss filled with trash and nothing but trash.

Long before O.J. Simpson, however, Americans craved trash. The scandalous penny press, which sprang into existence in the 1830s as a vehicle for the working class, subsisted on juicy tales of criminal conduct. The case of Helen Jewitt, a young prostitute allegedly murdered by a rich client named Richard Robinson, held New York City rapt for months as newspapers screamed the lurid details and ordinary citizens debated the evidence.

It didn't take long for other accoutrements of trash culture to surface. In short order, violence was joined by pornography, scandal, exploitation and the mindless celebration of fame for fame's sake. By the 1870s, the protagonists of real-life crime and moral transgression were appearing on the vaudeville stage as similar protagonists today appear on tabloid TV shows: human commodities of trash.

Many conservatives concluded that democracy itself was at fault. Give people what they want, and you will get trash. As a remedy, these cultural custodians promoted genteel literature-stories of domesticity or aristocracy or chaste romance illustrating good and decent values. They felt the masses would learn from these as we are supposed to learn from William Bennett's "Book of Virtues." We would uplift ourselves.

To read trash, to flaunt trash, to prefer trash to "better" literature was a not-so-subtle way of asserting one's independence against one's social superiors. It was a way of saying that we are masters of our own culture. It was a way of saying that we are Americans.

It still is. From crime pamphlets to dime novels to the "yellow press" to the movies to the tabloids to the trash of today, one theme keeps emerging. In a world culturally divided between the genteel and everything else, Americans opt for trash over art that is supposed to be good for them as much because they resent being told what they should like as because they like trash. Seen this way, trash is not an escape from life, as some would have it; it is an escape from seriousness, which is no doubt why trash in the form of our movies, TV shows, music and popular literature has become one of our chief exports. You don't have to be American to want to play hooky from high culture, though Americans may be prouder of it than anyone else.

To its defenders, trash has the virtue of honesty-of not purporting to be anything other than what it is, which is, well, trash.

Today's American culture, from exploitative programs to tabloid TV to Howard Stern, is perceived as more honest and democratic than the turgid, domesticated arts and amusements that cultural conservatives believe we should like- and would like-if we weren't being shovel-fed trash.

Trash is subversive that way. It exists to taunt. No doubt that is why cultural conservatives hate it so. It is not because they want to save us from perdition that they rail against junk. I suspect it is because they want to reassert their dominance over a culture that long ago slipped out of their control even as conservatives have come to dominate politics.

Damning trash and pretending that it is being foisted upon us by media conspirators is a clever technique-and a very old one.

Most Americans, however, know better: Trash is how we distinguish ourselves from all the things others want us to be. Trash may not be good for us, but this we know: It is ours.

1. Which of the following, if true, would best align with the contents of the passage ?

- A. 'Trash' is an escape from life.
- B. 'Trash' is an escape from seriousness.
- C. 'Trash' takes one to subliminal heights.
- D. 'Trash' is not something outdated.

2. Which of the following would best signify 'trash', as dealt in the passage ?

- A. 'Trash' is used to taunt.
- B. 'Trash' is a way of saying that one is a master of one's own culture
- C. 'Trash' distinguishes one from all others.
- D. All of the above.

3. The passage gives out the reason for 'trash' being hated by cultural conservatives as :

- A. their intention to save the Americans from perdition
- B. their way of showing importance.
- C. a reassertion of their dominance over a culture that long ago slipped out of their control.
- D. it polluted the sane thinking.

4. The passage has treated 'trash' as :

- A. one of the chief American exports in the form of movies, TV shows, music and popular literature.
- B. something to be despised and run away from.
- C. a way of asserting one's independence against one's social superiors.
- D. All except (B).

5. All of the following are true, in relation to the passage, except that :

- A. 'trash' has the virtue of honesty of not being anything other than what is.
- B. 'trash' is subversive and taunting in effect.
- C. 'trash' is not good but it cannot be dispensed away with'.
- D. None of the above.

6. For the Americans, as per the passage, 'trash' :

- A. is perceived to be more democratic and honest than the conventional arts and amusements of the conservatives.
- B. is something to be damned and condemned.
- C. denotes aristocracy, nobility and decent values.
- D. reflects modernity and is an index of adaptability to changing times.

7. The passage is dealt with in a style which is :

- A. fictional
- B. imaginative
- C. questionable
- D. reasonable

8. A suitable title for the passage could be :

- A. Trash-Something To Be Despised.

- B. Americans Value Trash
- C. Trash - An Effective Way To Be Non Serious
- D. Trash- A Source Of Cultural Destruction

9. The passage is at best an extract from ;

- A. an article describing the American way of life.
- B. a humorous write-up on the paradoxes of life - trash being preferred to a thing of value.
- C. the presentation in a debate on 'Trash vs. Value'.
- D. 'Flights Of Fancy'- an imaginative write up on the utility of trash in God's creation.

10. The rationale behind the preference for 'trash', as inferred from the passage, is :

- A. the dullness in life characterised by seriousness .
- B. the desire to be a cut above the rest.
- C. a prominent way of asserting one's independence against one's social superiors.
- D. the disillusionment acquired over treading the normal path of truth, honesty and tradition.

#### Answer Keys

1.(B) 2.(D) 3.(C) 4.(D) 5.(D) 6.(A) 7.(D) 8.(B) 9.(A) 10.(C)

#### FILL IN THE BLANK

11. I'm afraid I can't ..... for sure but I think it's safe.

(a) said (b) says (c) say (d) telling

ANSWER-C

12. Why didn't you ..... up for work yesterday?

(a) to (b) turn (c) keep (d) make

ANSWER-B

13. To be honest I was feeling a bit ..... down.

(a) pushed (b) pulled (c) switched (d) run

ANSWER-D

14. Well, I don't think that's a very good reason and you must ..... up with a better explanation.

(a) come (b) take (c) do (d) put

ANSWER-A

15. I'm sorry I'm not sure I can ..... it across any better.

(a) show (b) put (c) pick (d) get

ANSWER-B

16. Now, I must insist as your supervisor if you really want to ..... on in your career, you must tell me the truth.

(a) take (b) break (c) get (d) hold

ANSWER-C

17. All right I ..... up, I'll tell you the truth.

(a) try (b) bring (c) call (d) give

ANSWER-D

18. Now, you're being sensible . ..... on.

(a) catch (b) find (c) carry (d) join

ANSWER-C

#### SENTENCE IMPROVEMENT

19. Marc Murphy, the chef and an owner of the Landmarc restaurants in Manhattan, is roasting turkey breasts in one oven while he braises the legs in the other.

- A. the chef and an owner of the Landmarc restaurants in Manhattan, is roasting turkey breasts in one oven while he braises the legs in the other
- B. Landmarc restaurants' chef and owner in Manhattan, roasts turkey breasts in one oven while braising the legs in another
- C. the chef and an owner of the Landmarc restaurants in Manhattan, roast turkey breasts in one oven while braising the leg in another
- D. the chef and an owner of the Landmarc restaurants of Manhattan, roasted turkey breasts in one oven while braising the legs in another
- E. the chef and an owner of the Landmarc restaurants in Manhattan, roasts turkey breasts in one oven while braising the legs in another

**Answer – E**

20. The analysis of results on the national tests found that math scores for black boys were not much different than those for black girls, but black boys lagged behind Hispanics of both sexes and that they fell behind white boys by at least 30 points, which is sometimes interpreted as three academic grades.

- A. found that math scores for black boys were not much different than those for black girls, but black boys lagged behind Hispanics of both sexes and that they fell behind white boys by at least 30 points, which is sometimes interpreted as three academic grades.
- B. has found that math scores for black boys were not much different from those for black girls, and that black boys lagged behind Hispanics of both sexes and that they fell behind white boys by at least 30 points, sometimes interpreted as three academic grades.
- C. found that math scores for black boys are not much different than black girls, but that black boys lagged behind Hispanics of both sexes and that they fell behind white boys by at least 30 points, a gap sometimes interpreted as three academic grades.
- D. found that math scores for black boys were not much different from those for black girls, but that black boys lagged behind Hispanics of both sexes and that they fell behind white boys by at least 30 points, a gap sometimes interpreted as three academic grades.
- E. found that math scores for black boys were not much different as compared to black girls, but that black boys lagged behind Hispanics of both sexes and that they fell behind white boys by at least 30 points, a gap sometimes interpreted as three academic grades.

**Answer – D**

21. The report urges convening a White House conference, encouraging Congress to appropriate more money for schools and establishing networks of black mentors

- A. convening a White House conference, encouraging Congress to appropriate more money for schools and establishing networks of black mentors
- B. convening a White House conference, to encourage Congress to appropriate more money for schools and for establishing networks of black mentors
- C. convening a White House conference, encouraging Congress to appropriate more money for schools and to establish networks of black mentors
- D. the convening a White House conference, encouraging Congress to appropriate more money for schools and establishing networks of black mentors
- E. for convening a White House conference, for encouraging Congress to appropriate more money for schools and establishing networks of black mentors

**Answer – A**

22. For smaller retailers and Web sites, which pay regular mail rates and may be shipping from only one location, free shipping is not nearly as affordable and often must be added into prices

- A. which pay regular mail rates and may be shipping from only one location, free shipping is not nearly as affordable and often must
- B. that pay regular mail rates and may ship from only one location, free shipping is not nearly as affordable and often must
- C. who pay regular mail rates and may ship from only one location, free shipping is not nearly so affordable and it often must
- D. which pays regular mail rates and may ship from only one location, free shipping is not as nearly affordable and often must
- E. which pay regular mail rates and may ship from only one location, free shipping is not nearly as affordable and often must

**Answer – E**

23. With health care costs climbing even higher during this enrolment season, more employers are adopting a tiered system for passing on the bulk of these costs to their employees by assigning bigger contributions to workers in top salary brackets and to offer some relief to workers who make less money.

- A. for passing on the bulk of these costs to their employees by assigning bigger contributions to workers in top salary brackets and to offer some relief to workers
- B. to pass on the bulk of these costs to its employees by assigning bigger contributions to workers in top salary brackets and by offering some relief to workers
- C. for passing on the bulk of these costs to their employees through assigning bigger contributions for workers in top salary brackets but offering some relief to workers
- D. to pass on the bulk of these costs to their employees by assigning bigger contributions to workers in top salary brackets and offering some relief to workers
- E. to pass on the bulk of this costs to their employees by assigning bigger contributions to workers in top salary brackets and by offering some relief to workers

**Answer – D**

24. Zeno's paradoxes are a set of problems generally thought to have been devised by Zeno of Elea to support Parmenide's doctrine that "all is one" and that, contrary to the evidence of our senses, the belief in plurality and change is mistaken, and in particular that motion is nothing but an illusion.

- A. by Zeno of Elea to support Parmenide's doctrine that "all is one" and that, contrary to the evidence of our senses, the belief in plurality and change is mistaken, and in particular that motion

- B. from Zeno of Elea to support Parmenide's doctrine that "all is one" and contrary to the evidence of our senses, the belief in plurality and change is mistaken, and in particular that motion
- C. by Zeno of Elea supporting Parmenide's doctrine that "all is one" and that, contrary to the evidence of our senses, the belief in plurality and change was mistaken, and in particular motion
- D. of Zeno of Elea in an attempt to support Parmenide's doctrine that "all is one" and that, despite our senses giving evidence to the contrary, the belief in plurality and change is mistaken, and in particular that motion
- E. by Zeno of Elea for supporting Parmenide's doctrine that "all is one" and contrary to the evidence of our senses, the belief in plurality and change was mistaken, and in particular that motion

**Answer – A**

25. The Civil Partnership Act 2004, introduced by the Labour government and supported by the Conservative and Liberal Democrat opposition, grants civil partnerships in the United Kingdom with rights and responsibilities identical to a civil marriage.

- A. introduced by the Labour government and supported by the Conservative and Liberal Democrat opposition, grants civil partnerships in the United Kingdom with rights and responsibilities identical to
- B. introduced by the Labour government and supporting by the Conservative and Liberal Democrat opposition, granted civil partnerships in the United Kingdom with rights and responsibilities identical to that of
- C. being introduced by the Labour government and supported by the Conservative and Liberal Democrat opposition, grants civil partnerships on the United Kingdom that has rights and responsibilities identical to those of
- D. introduced by the Labour government and supported by the Conservative and Liberal Democrat opposition, grants civil partnerships in the United Kingdom with rights and responsibilities identical to those of
- E. introduced by the Labour government and supported by the Conservative and Liberal Democrat opposition, have granted civil partnerships in the United Kingdom with rights and responsibilities identical to those of

**Answer – D**

26. Robots as well as other machines equipped with artificial intelligence shoots military targets, distributes cash, drive cars and deliver medication to patients.

- A. Robots as well as other machines equipped with artificial intelligence shoots military targets, distributes cash, drive cars and deliver medication to patients.
- B. Robots and other machines equipped with artificial intelligence shoot military targets, distribute cash, drives cars and delivers medication to patients.
- C. Robots and other machines equipped with artificial intelligence shoot military targets, cash distribution, drive cars and deliver medication to patients.
- D. Robots together with other machines equipped with artificial intelligence shoot military targets, distributes cash, in addition to driving cars and delivering medication to patients.
- E. Robots and other machines equipped with artificial intelligence shoot military targets, distribute cash, drive cars and deliver medication to patients.

**Answer – E**

#### **CRITICAL REASONING**

27. In Eastland, from 2000 to 2005, the total consumption of fish increased by 4.5 percent, and the total consumption of poultry products increased by 9.0 percent. During this time, the population of Eastland increased by 6 percent, in part due to new arrivals from surrounding areas. Which of the following can one infer based on the statements above?

- a) For new arrivals to Eastland between 2000 and 2005, fish was less likely to be a major part of families' diet than was poultry.
- b) In 2005, the residents of Eastland consumed twice as much poultry as fish.
- c) The per capita consumption of poultry in Eastland was higher in 2005 than it was in 2000.
- d) Between 2000 and 2005, both fish and poultry products were a regular part of the diet of a significant proportion of Eastland residents.
- e) Between 2000 and 2005, the profits of wholesale distributors of poultry products increased at a greater rate than did the profits of wholesale distributors of fish.

(C) CORRECT.

28. Everyone who has graduated from TopNotch High School has an intelligence quotient (IQ) of over 120. Most students with an IQ of over 120 and all students with an IQ of over 150 who apply to one or more Ivy League universities are accepted to at least one of them. The statements above, if true, best support which of the following conclusions?

- a) Every graduate of TopNotch High School with an IQ of 150 has been accepted to at least one Ivy-League school.
- b) If a person is a high-school graduate and has an IQ of less than 100, he or she could not have been a student at TopNotch High School.
- c) If a person has an IQ of 130 and is attending an Ivy-League school, it is possible for him or her to have graduated from TopNotch High School.
- d) At least one graduate from TopNotch high school who has applied to at least one Ivy-League university has been accepted to one of them.
- e) If a high-school graduate has an IQ of 150 and is not attending an Ivy-League school, then he or she did not apply to one of them.

(C) CORRECT.

29. According to a recent study on financial roles, one-third of high school seniors say that they have "significant financial responsibilities." These responsibilities include, but are not limited to, contributing to food, shelter, or clothing for themselves or their families. At the same time, a second study demonstrates that a crisis in money management exists for high school students. According to this study, 80% of high school seniors have never taken a personal finance class even though the same percentage of seniors has opened bank accounts and one-third of these account holders have bounced a check. Which of the following conclusions can be properly drawn from the statements above?

- a) High schools would be wise to incorporate personal finance classes into their core curricula.
- b) At least one-third of high school seniors work part-time jobs after school.
- c) The number of high school seniors with significant financial responsibilities is greater than the number of seniors who have bounced a check.

d) Any high school seniors who contribute to food, shelter, or clothing for themselves or their families have significant financial responsibilities.

e) The majority of high school students have no financial responsibilities to their families.

(C) CORRECT.

30. Analyst: Creative professionals, such as clothing designers, graphic designers, and decorators, often have very poor managerial skills and do not succeed when they try to run their own businesses. In fact, most of these creative types are less skilled in business than is the average white-collar professional who does not work in a creative field. Generally, creative talent and business acumen rarely go hand in hand. If the analyst's argument is taken as true, which of the following statements can properly be concluded?

a) No successful businesspeople are creative.

b) Some creative types are not less skilled at business than is the average white-collar worker who is not creative.

c) Creativity precludes success in business.

d) Any white-collar worker who is not creative is more successful in business than any creative professional.

e) Business is not a creative endeavor.

(B) CORRECT.

31. Advocates insist that health savings accounts are an efficient method to reduce medical expenses. However, widespread adoption of these accounts will soon undermine the public's health. One reason for this is that most people will be reluctant to deplete their accounts to pay for regular preventive examinations, so that in many cases a serious illness will go undetected until it is far advanced. Another reason is that poor people, who will not be able to afford health savings accounts, will no longer receive vaccinations against infectious diseases. The statements above, if true, most support which of the following?

a) Wealthy individuals will not be affected negatively by health savings accounts.

b) Private health insurance will no longer be available.

c) Most diseases are detected during regular preventive examinations.

d) Some people without health savings accounts are likely to contract infectious diseases.

e) The causal relationship between an individual's health and that person's medical care has been adequately documented.

(D) CORRECT.

32. Albinism is a rare genetic condition that inhibits the production of melanin, or pigmentation, in the skin and hair. People born with albinism are unusually susceptible to sunburn, melanoma, and a range of other health issues that are generally connected to excessive exposure to the sun. The statements above, if true, provide the most support for which of the following conclusions?

a) People born with albinism develop other biological protections against melanoma and other sun-related health issues.

b) Humans with a high production of melanin can easily ignore health issues related to exposure to the sun.

c) When a non-albino person gets sunburn, the amount of melanin produced by that person decreases.

d) In humans, melanin plays a role in protecting the skin from developing sunburn and other sun-related ailments.

e) It is not possible for a person born with albinism to adopt other artificial protective measures against excessive exposure to the sun.

(D) CORRECT.

#### SPOT THE ERROR

33. Most people would have (a) / attended the union meeting (b) / if they had (c) / had longer notice of it. (d) / No error (e)

Correct Option : d.

34. My father is (a) / in bad mood (b) / today. (c) / No error (d)

Correct Option : B.

35. If a man diligently seeks to come into the contact (a) / with the best that has been thought and said in this world (b) / he will become simple and selfish. (c) / No error (d)

Correct Option : A.

36. With little patience (a) / you will be able to (b) / cross this hurdle. (c) / No error (d)

Correct Option : A.

37. On my request (a) / Mohit introduced me (b) / to his friend (c) / who is a guitarist and singer. (d) / No error (e)

Correct Option : E.

38. This town isn't very well known (a) / and there isn't much to see, (b) / so a few tourists come here. (c) / No error (d)

Correct Option : C.

39. He took to (a) / reading Times (b) / for better knowledge (c) / of the facts. (d) / No error (e).

Correct Option : B.

40. The accelerating pace of life in our metropolitan city (a) / has had the tremendous effect (b) / on the culture and life-style of the people. (c) / No error (d).

Correct Option : B.