

VIRGINIA STANDARDS OF LEARNING

RELEASED TEST

END OF COURSE READING

2010 English Standards of Learning

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General Information

1. The images of the reading passages and questions in this document reflect how they appear in the online version of the test.
2. Presentation of the passages and questions:

In the online version of the test-

- the reading passage is presented first on the left side of the screen. On subsequent screens, the passage remains on the left while questions associated with the passage are presented on the right.
- students may navigate through the passage while answering the questions associated with the passage.

In this document-

- the reading passage is presented on the left side of the page. On subsequent pages, the questions associated with the passage are presented on the right, but there is not a static image of any part of the passage on the left; there is text that reads: In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

In paragraph 1, the words “rumbled,” “buzzed,” and “exploded” evoke images of —

- ☐ **A** disorder
- ☐ **B** progress
- ☐ **C** activity
- ☐ **D** frustration

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

The details in paragraph 2 support the idea that Benjamin is —

- ☐ **A** patient and sincere
- ☐ **B** curious and observant
- ☐ **C** talented and studious
- ☐ **D** respectful and obedient

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

Read this sentence from paragraph 4.

He swung wide around an anonymous heap of metal being swallowed by a greedy mound of blackberry brambles and came to an abrupt halt.

This sentence contains an example of —

- ☐ **A** apostrophe
- ☐ **B** metaphor
- ☐ **C** symbolism
- ☐ **D** personification

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

Directions: Click on the correct shaded answers.

In this excerpt from paragraph 7, select the words that best reveal Benjamin's attempt to gain the artist's trust.

Craning his head to the side to get another **peek** at it, he **answered politely** enough, "My name's Benjamin, and I live up on Hendricks Avenue," **waving** his hand **vaguely** at the steep hill behind him. . . . Then Benjamin blushed and **apologized**.

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

Which situation in the selection is an example of irony?

- ☐ **A** Benjamin is able to discern an artist's noise over all of the other noises he hears.
- ☐ **B** The artist initially appears hostile to Benjamin but warms to his presence.
- ☐ **C** The artist is amused by Benjamin and invites him to return the next day to observe the progress on her work.
- ☐ **D** Benjamin thinks of his neighborhood as quiet only to learn that an artist is noisily constructing a piece of art nearby.

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

What establishes this selection as written in the limited omniscient point of view?

- ☐ **A** The dialogue between Benjamin and the artist
- ☐ **B** The emphatic response of Benjamin's mother
- ☐ **C** The details that reveal Benjamin's thoughts
- ☐ **D** The setting where Benjamin and the artist meet

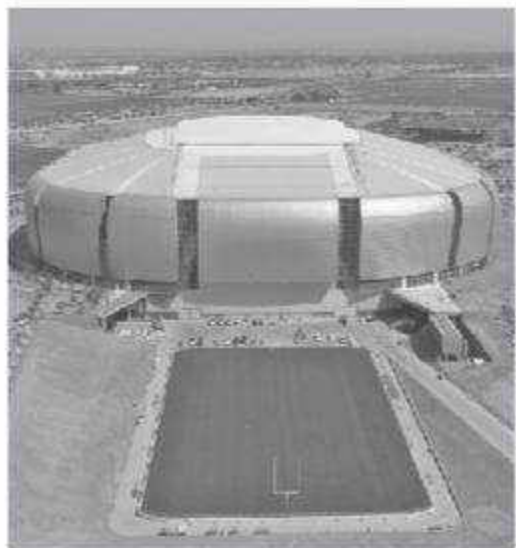
Super Stadiums

Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions that follow.

- 1 Building stadiums that sports teams can use year-round, rain or shine, in hot or cold weather, has always been a challenge. In places with harsh winters, late-season football games can become rather chilly for players and fans alike. In desert regions, where autumn sunshine can bring temperatures over 100°F, players face the danger of heat exhaustion. However, inventive architects have always welcomed the opportunity to face such challenges throughout history.
- 2 Now giant stadiums opened to the sky or closed to the elements have emerged as the latest attraction in spectator sports. The National Football League's Arizona Cardinals University of Phoenix Stadium stands out among a new generation of sports arenas dubbed Super Stadiums for their size and inventiveness. Super Stadiums are to regular sports arenas what computers are to typewriters: a technologically advanced version of an old model—but with a higher price tag.
- 3 Like most stadiums, these big, bulky structures typically hold 20,000 to 50,000 fans. Some, like the new \$1.5 billion New York Giants and Jets stadium in New Jersey, hold 82,500 fans. Most stadiums hold enough people to form the populace of a midsized city, but Super Stadiums offer additional accommodations, such as restaurants, luxury lounges—even land bridges to neighboring hotels. Architectural and engineering innovations complement the package, allowing some facilities to use solar power, recycle water, and retract their roofs.



4 The stadium in Phoenix where the Arizona Cardinals football team plays can be open to the elements on comfortable days or closed to the blazing Arizona sun when the need arises. The roof retracts, or pulls back, on conveyor belts. The grass playing field also moves on rollers so the grass can be moved outside into full, growth-enhancing sunlight and back inside for a wind-free football game. The field—grass, dirt, and a watering system—is embedded in a giant metal sheet that has been compared to a cookie sheet. Motorized rollers—546 of them—move the field outside at a rate of .8 mile per hour.



5 The building materials of Super Stadiums can also be highly specialized. Besides the substantial amount of concrete needed to produce a building so large, some of these monuments also use energy-saving materials. The roof of the Cardinals stadium, for example, is made of a thick fabric of fiberglass and Teflon. While the roof is only as thick as denim jeans, it is strong, holding up to 17,000 pounds per square foot. Jumping on it would feel like bouncing on the world's largest trampoline. On the outside "skin" of the building is an energy-saving metal designed to reflect the changing colors of the sky from sunrise to sunset and keep the inside cool but bright.

Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions that follow.

- 6 Such innovations, however, are not cheap. The cost of Super Stadium projects is commonly astronomical. The emphasis on increased luxury and advanced technology may lead to even higher prices, according to Tom Van Riper, a staff writer for *Forbes*, a leading business journal.
- 7 "The formula," Riper writes, is to "build new facilities with fewer seats and more luxury boxes, charge higher prices, earn more revenue, hire better players, and reap more wins. Then turn around and raise ticket prices."
- 8 Smaller cities around the world hope that investment in these monuments of the modern age will pay off by bringing in new business revenue and acclaim to their sports teams. Futuristic Super Stadiums dedicated to soccer and rugby are opening in Lyon, France, and Dublin, Ireland. The Chinese National Stadium, which resembles a bird's nest, opened for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. Recently Kansas City built a multifaceted ice hockey stadium in the hopes of luring a high-profile professional team.
- 9 Cities and developers alike hope these giant buildings will draw new fans to both their sports and their cities at a price tag everyone can afford.

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Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions that follow.



In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

According to paragraph 3, the main difference between Super Stadiums and regular stadiums is that Super Stadiums —

- ☐ **A** offer extra services
- ☐ **B** are always larger
- ☐ **C** exist in midsize cities
- ☐ **D** have hotel rooms available

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

In paragraph 6, which word best describes the author's attitude about Super Stadium projects?

- ☐ **A** Cynical
- ☐ **B** Aggressive
- ☐ **C** Resentful
- ☐ **D** Cautionary

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

According to paragraph 7, in the future, sports fans will —

- ☐ **A** expect their team to win
- ☐ **B** help to plan stadiums
- ☐ **C** demand greater luxury
- ☐ **D** pay higher ticket prices

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

Which sentence from this selection would be most difficult to verify as a fact?

- ☐ **A** In places with harsh winters, late-season football games can become rather chilly for players and fans alike.
- ☐ **B** However, inventive architects have always welcomed the opportunity to face such challenges throughout history.
- ☐ **C** The stadium in Phoenix where the Arizona Cardinals football team plays can be open to the elements on comfortable days or closed to the blazing Arizona sun when the need arises.
- ☐ **D** Futuristic Super Stadiums dedicated to soccer and rugby are opening in Lyon, France, and Dublin, Ireland.

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

Based on the selection, the reader may best infer that new building materials —

- ☐ **A** reflect a desire to conserve energy
- ☐ **B** require considerable patience to install
- ☐ **C** are sturdy enough to use on any building project
- ☐ **D** are responsible for yielding more attractive buildings

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

Which information about the selection would be best to include in a report about the popularity of spectator sports?

- ☐ **A** The Arizona Cardinals, which are part of the National Football League, play in a new state-of-the-art stadium.
- ☐ **B** Most stadiums can accommodate 20,000 to 50,000 fans, and some Super Stadiums can hold even more than that.
- ☐ **C** The new stadium for the New York Giants and Jets cost \$1.5 billion.
- ☐ **D** Sports team owners hope Super Stadiums will bring in more revenue, which can be used to improve team performance.

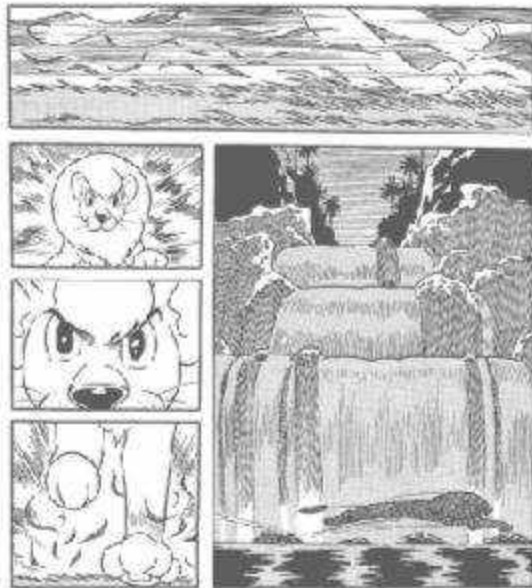
In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

The purpose of this selection is to —

- ☐ **A** explain how to improve a traditional stadium
- ☐ **B** entertain the reader with facts about sporting events
- ☐ **C** persuade the reader to watch live sporting events
- ☐ **D** describe a popular trend in stadium construction

Osamu Tezuka, Father of Modern Japanese Manga

- 1 Imagine a camera thousands of feet in the air, looking down on a broad river that passes through a rough landscape. Giant cliffs tower over the rushing water. A lone canoe moves like a shadow downstream. Moving in for a close-up, the camera captures the scene as the canoe hits a submerged rock and flips high in the air. The canoe and its occupants, a girl and boy, are sent spinning and tumbling down a roaring waterfall. Pushed past rocks and assaulted with sound, they eventually wash up on a tropical shoreline, bruised and battered, but safe at last.
- 2 It could be a scene from an action movie. The point of view shifts as fast as a well-edited film. However, this is no movie. It is a page from a manga (mahn-ga), a Japanese graphic novel. Manga are often compared to comic books but differ dramatically from traditional American comic books. While manga and comic books are similar art forms, there are some important features that distinguish manga from comic books, like subject matter and artistic style. One of the great masters of manga is Osamu Tezuka.



© 1980 by Tezuka Productions Co., Ltd. Used by permission of Many House Film Productions, Inc. as agent for Tezuka Productions Co., Ltd.

Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions that follow.

- 3 Tezuka was born in 1928, the oldest of three children. Tezuka's father collected manga and animated films before marrying and becoming an engineer. Manga had not yet achieved widespread popularity in Japan and was still an undeveloped art form at this time. Most manga consisted of groups of sketches arranged to form a simple narrative, with generally a dozen sketches to each story. Tezuka's father instilled in young Osamu a love of the art form. He also shared with his son a large library of manga, a movie projector, an interest in animators such as Walt Disney, and an abundant supply of sketchpads.
- 4 At nine years old Osamu Tezuka drew his first manga. Following his recovery from a childhood illness, Tezuka also became interested in the field of healthcare and later studied medicine at Osaka University. At eighteen, while still a medical student, Tezuka submitted his first newspaper comic strip, a four-panel piece called "Ma-chan's Diary," to a children's newspaper. Torn between manga and medicine, Tezuka consulted his mother about whether he should pursue manga full-time or become a doctor. She told him, "You should work doing the thing you like most of all," and Tezuka decided to devote himself full-time to drawing manga. Within a few years, he was publishing collections of manga based on Western classic novels such as *Treasure Island*. Tezuka was one of Japan's first artists to serialize manga, publishing his works in installments and turning them into books. His early books were enormously popular, selling more than 400,000 copies each, and Tezuka became a household name in Japan.

Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions that follow.

- 5 Tezuka is considered the father of modern manga. Manga artists have copied his style of big-eyed characters for decades. His approach to manga was influenced by Japanese history and culture. His complicated line drawings, spare design, and depictions of the natural world bring to mind ancient Japanese landscapes of ink and watercolor. The complex plots and choice of subject matter for some of his books—retellings of famous Russian novels, for example—allow Tezuka’s works to lay claim to the title “classics.” Page after page of each massive volume, many more than 400 pages long, is filled with intricate, detailed drawings. While Tezuka’s manga may stand on the same library shelves as American superhero comic books, Tezuka’s manga are to most traditional American comic books what Shakespeare’s plays are to soap operas on American television: a similar art form, but with much richer content.
- 6 According to the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, which staged an exhibit of Tezuka’s work in 2007 entitled The Marvel of Manga, Tezuka changed the world of comics dramatically. Before Tezuka, Japanese cartoons were confined to small strips in the corners of newspapers. Tezuka evolved the art form, and the world of manga expanded and matured, eventually earning its own section in many Japanese newspapers.

Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions that follow.

- 7 One element that makes Osamu Tezuka's work different from the work of earlier manga artists in Japan is the film-like quality of his work. The website for San Francisco's Asian Art Museum explains that manga is "dynamic storytelling by way of cinematic, engaging pictures." This method is evident in Tezuka's drawings, which make use of a filmmaker's trick of editing scenes to show a variety of points of view. From extreme close-ups of characters' faces to panoramic views of vast landscapes, Osamu Tezuka's work brings a filmmaker's eye to manga storytelling. The effect on the reader is intense and gripping, and one of Tezuka's books of manga can be difficult to put down.
- 8 Tezuka's work may be full of action and suspense, but it is also subtle and sensitive. Characters share real emotion—joy, grief, and anger—and face real challenges. However, unlike conventional Hollywood movies, Tezuka does not reveal every detail, plot element, and character detail in his stories. Critical action often takes place out of view of the reader, making Tezuka's fans work a little to understand a character's perspective. A single tear dripping down a cheek, for example, might reveal that a dreaded event has taken place. Or a battle might end with a close-up of a surprised look on the face of a falling hero.
- 9 Tezuka passed away on February 10, 1989, still at work on new publications. During his lifetime, Tezuka drew more than 150,000 pages of images. He evolved Japanese manga, and in so doing, he evolved the art of animation in general. The power of his works can be measured by the reach of his influence, which today extends well beyond the borders of Japan.

Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions that follow.

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

The purpose of the first paragraph is to —

- ☐ **A** describe one of Osamu Tezuka's drawings
- ☐ **B** give a preview of Osamu Tezuka's newest manga book
- ☐ **C** provide a description of Osamu Tezuka's movie scenes
- ☐ **D** show how Osamu Tezuka's manga differs from older manga

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

Which question is answered in paragraph 3?

- ☐ **A** How often would Osamu Tezuka sketch pictures?
- ☐ **B** When did manga become widely popular?
- ☐ **C** Who invented the manga art form?
- ☐ **D** How many siblings did Osamu Tezuka have?

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

Paragraph 4 suggests that Osamu Tezuka —

- ☐ **A** spent most of his career writing comic strips for a children's newspaper
- ☐ **B** nearly decided upon a career in medicine rather than as a manga artist
- ☐ **C** decided to publish his works in installments instead of publishing books
- ☐ **D** deeply regretted taking his mother's advice about becoming a doctor

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

Read this sentence from paragraph 5.

While Tezuka's manga may stand on the same library shelves as American superhero comic books, Tezuka's manga are to most traditional American comic books what Shakespeare's plays are to soap operas on American television: a similar art form, but with much richer content.

The purpose of the analogy in this sentence is to —

- ☐ **A** illustrate the popular themes of American comic books
- ☐ **B** point out that the manga story lines are similar to American soap operas
- ☐ **C** emphasize the literary merit of Osamu Tezuka's manga
- ☐ **D** argue that comic book superheroes are based on Shakespeare's plays

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

The author mainly develops the topic of this selection by —

- ☐ **A** summarizing an artist's career and his contribution to modern manga
- ☐ **B** providing detailed information for creating and publishing original manga
- ☐ **C** comparing and contrasting an artist's manga with traditional comic books
- ☐ **D** stating an opinion of manga and supporting it with examples and quotations

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

Which information from the selection supports the thesis that manga has become increasingly popular over time?

- ☐ **A** Japanese manga originally contained a dozen sketches that formed one complete story.
- ☐ **B** Osamu Tezuka's father possessed a substantial collection of his favorite manga.
- ☐ **C** Osamu Tezuka's work contains borrowed plots from many literary classics.
- ☐ **D** Manga currently has its own section in many Japanese newspapers.

from **Midnight at the Dragon Café**

Judy Fong Bates

This excerpt is from a novel about Su-Jen, a girl who travels with her mother from China to Ontario, a small province of Canada. She is meeting her father for the first time. He left his family to emigrate alone to the small Ontario town of Irvine to be the proprietor of a Chinese restaurant. In this scene, Su-Jen and her mother say goodbye to relatives in Toronto, Canada, and travel to Irvine.

Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions that follow.

- 1 Before leaving Toronto on the train to Irvine, my mother changed back into her dark green suit. She gave Uncle Jong and Aunt Hai-Lan a package of ginseng and a set of ivory mah-jong¹ tiles. "Lai-Jing," Aunt Hai-Lan said to her in a pleading voice, "you must not think so much about China. We couldn't have stayed; China is no longer the country we knew. Life here really is better. You must concentrate on Su-Jen. Give yourself some time, and soon things will improve. Now come and visit, don't spend all your time hiding in the small town."
- 2 Smiling with her lips together and a sad look in her eyes, my mother nodded and said, "I have to visit. You have the mah-jong set." They both laughed and Aunt Hai-Lan hugged her goodbye.

¹mah-jong – a Chinese game played with rectangular tiles bearing various designs



3 During the trip, mother remained pensive; she was absorbed in her own world and barely spoke to me. I watched her play with the top button of her coat and thought about the man I was about to meet, my father, whose face I knew only from a small black-and-white photograph. At last my mother pulled me close to her and I nestled into her softness and warmth. I started to fall asleep, feeling her finger lightly circle the whorl of my ear.

4 My mother had shown the conductor a white envelope on which Uncle Jong had written the name of our town. When we left Toronto, the sun was low on the horizon and the city's buildings had towered into the sky, but when we arrived in Irvine, it seemed the empty darkness would swallow us. My mother remarked to herself how quickly the day had become night. The conductor gestured to us in a brusque manner, eager to get us moving, and pointed at the door; my mother and I followed behind, hesitating at the steps. He took our suitcases off the train and placed them on the long platform that ran in front of a low-roofed, wooden building. Then, in an apparent change of manner, he scooped me up and carried me down from the train. I started to laugh but stopped when I saw the anxious look on my mother's face.

5 In the dim light of the overhang, I saw an old man running toward us, his woollen peak cap pulled over his forehead, his brown, loose-fitting coat flopping up and down with each step. He stopped as he drew near, huffing out of breath. I noticed how the sleeves of the coat covered his hands. He touched my mother lightly on the arm and spoke in our dialect, "Lai-Jing, you are here, at last."

Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions that follow.

6 "Yes, Hing-Wun, we are here," she said, nodding and holding his gaze for a moment. "This is Su-Jen." Gently easing me from her side, she looked down at me, "Su-Jen, this is your ba ba."

7 My father knelt down and lifted me into his arms. I peeked over his shoulder and saw my mother staring at us, her face without expression, her eyes wet with tears. I looked up and saw stars against a dark, deep sky. Small puffs of mist escaped from my mouth. With his hand against my head, my father gently pressed my face against his shoulder. I felt the rough texture of wool chafing my cheek and breathed in the faint scent of cooking oil. This memory has remained as crisp as the air that night. Over time, my life in Hong Kong and in our village in China became distant, almost forgotten, with only flashes of clarity, rare memories of sleeping on a straw mat in the humid summer, or watching my mother close the wrought-iron accordion gates in front of our home.

8 My father carried our suitcases, and we followed him onto the empty street to a taxi parked in front of the station. The light from the street lamps reflected off the snow. Everything around us was still and quiet.

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Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions that follow.



In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

In paragraph 2, the author uses dialogue to —

- ☐ **A** communicate critical aspects of the setting
- ☐ **B** introduce the fears of the main character
- ☐ **C** introduce a conflict between characters
- ☐ **D** add some humor to a serious situation

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

Read this sentence from paragraph 3.

I watched her play with the top button of her coat and thought about the man I was about to meet, my father, whose face I knew only from a small black-and-white photograph.

This sentence conveys Su-Jen's feelings of —

- ☐ **A** uncertainty
- ☐ **B** despair
- ☐ **C** irritation
- ☐ **D** disapproval

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

In paragraph 3, pensive means —

- ☐ **A** polite
- ☐ **B** attentive
- ☐ **C** reassured
- ☐ **D** contemplative

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

Read this sentence from paragraph 5.

He stopped as he drew near, huffing out of breath.

This sentence contains an example of —

- ☐ **A** a simile
- ☐ **B** a metaphor
- ☐ **C** onomatopoeia
- ☐ **D** irony

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

The character of Su-Jen is mainly revealed through her —

- ☐ **A** actions
- ☐ **B** dialogue
- ☐ **C** appearance
- ☐ **D** thoughts

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

Based on the selection, Su-Jen's father may best be described as —

- ☐ **A** carefree
- ☐ **B** determined
- ☐ **C** confident
- ☐ **D** affectionate

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

Later chapters of this selection would most likely describe —

- ☐ **A** Su-Jen's adjustment to her new home
- ☐ **B** the reunions of other Chinese immigrants
- ☐ **C** Su-Jen's life in a small Chinese village
- ☐ **D** the construction of a new restaurant

Directions: You do not need to read a passage to answer the question. Read and answer the question. Click on the correct shaded answer.

Which word carries a negative connotation in this sentence?

Patrick's mother is assuming that when her son refrains from fraternizing so much, he will become more accomplished.

Directions: You do not need to read a passage to answer the question. Read and answer the question.

Read this sentence.

Ryan was meticulous with his writing assignments, so the papers he turned in for English class received the highest grades for grammar because they never contained mistakes.

As used in this sentence, the word meticulous means —

- ☐ **A** notably interested and insightful
- ☐ **B** especially careful about details
- ☐ **C** overly cautious of possible consequences
- ☐ **D** exceptionally rational and reasonable

Directions: You do not need to read a passage to answer the question. Read and answer the question.

Which fact from a magazine article would be best to include in a report about the literary career of William Faulkner?

- ☐ **A** By the time Faulkner entered eighth grade in 1911, he had begun to show signs of increasing truancy.
- ☐ **B** Faulkner worked briefly as a clerk at First National Bank, which was owned by his grandfather.
- ☐ **C** Shortly after entering the University of Mississippi, Faulkner won a \$10 poetry prize offered by Professor Calvin S. Brown.
- ☐ **D** In 1921 Faulkner accepted a job as postmaster at the University of Mississippi post office.

Directions: You do not need to read a passage to answer the question. Read and answer the question.

Read these sentences.

The days following tryouts for the wrestling team were a roller coaster ride for Ian. He had done his best at the tryouts and hoped the coaches would want him to wrestle on the varsity team. He worried over it for hours.

The purpose of the figurative language in these sentences is to suggest that Ian —

- ☐ **A** regretted how he had performed
- ☐ **B** alternately felt optimistic and pessimistic
- ☐ **C** desperately wanted to be on the varsity team
- ☐ **D** waited a long time to learn the results of the tryouts

No Frozen Fish Here!

- 1 Some of the coldest water in the world surrounds the continent of Antarctica. In fact, the water temperature is actually below freezing, around 28.5 degrees Fahrenheit. Ordinarily, water would freeze at 32 degrees, but the salt in seawater lowers the freezing point. Indeed, the temperature is so low that ice crystals float in the water.
- 2 Given the water temperature, one must wonder how fish thrive in the water around Antarctica. After all, the tissues and fluids in a fish freeze at 30.2 degrees, which should make the water surrounding Antarctica uninhabitable. Moreover, any fish in the area would ingest ice crystals with each mouthful. Despite these facts, many fish do live in the water of Antarctica. For nearly 50 years scientists have studied these fish, noting their exceptional capabilities.

Notothenioids

- 3 Scientists call the fish that can survive such conditions notothenioids [nō-tō-thīnē'-oidz]. Antarctica boasts more than 120 species of such fish that can flourish in freezing water. These species include many types of fish unique to Antarctica. The threadfin pithead, for instance, lives at depths of around 2,000 feet in the cold dark of the Antarctic seas. It is difficult to imagine a more adverse environment. One of the most resilient species is the bald notothen, a fish that possesses unique physical features to ensure its survival in this environment. The mottled black and white appearance of the bald notothen, popularly called a "bork," provides excellent camouflage while it swims under the layer of ice floating on the ocean. The slender fish spends its days swimming through the honeycombed channels of the icepack hunting krill—small crustaceans—for its sustenance.

Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions that follow.



The Question

4 With the establishment of McMurdo Station in 1956, scientists enjoyed an outpost that allowed them to study Antarctica up close. One of the first questions addressed had to do with the presence of fish in the region's below-freezing water. The central question was really a very basic one: how do fish, whose tissues and fluids should freeze at temperatures below 30.2 degrees, survive in the Antarctic water? Even swallowing the ice crystals in the water would be sufficient for freezing and killing most fish species.

5 Scientists at McMurdo Station analyzed the notothenioids in the 1960s. They were astonished to discover that the different species of fish had one thing in common: a protein present in their blood that was missing in other species of fish common to warmer regions. This protein, researchers theorized, must serve as a kind of antifreeze.

AFGP

6 Scientists named the mysterious protein antifreeze glycoprotein, or AFGP; it exists in the bloodstream of all the fish that inhabit the Antarctic waters, such as the "borks," that dart in and out of the ice channels. Interestingly, the protein does not warm the blood; rather, it attaches to ice crystals and prevents them from connecting to one another. Only recently have scientists discovered that the fish's pancreas produces the protein and secretes it into its intestines. Scientists believe this process occurs because the ice crystals, which enter into the stomach and intestine, pose one of the first dangers to fish in very cold water. This salutary protein targets those ice crystals and also enters the bloodstream, thereby preventing freezing from taking place in the circulatory system.

Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions that follow.

Human Applications

- 7 The same protein that fish use to keep their fluids and tissues from freezing has a wide range of potential applications for people. AFGP can aid in preserving organs for transplant. Researchers believe it might even be valuable as a deicer because it is 300 times more powerful than chemical antifreeze. In the area of food production, the protein could be used to ensure that frozen foods taste fresher.
- 8 The adaptive capabilities of these extraordinary fish still attract scientists to probe even further, even to this day. Studying the creatures of the Antarctic area could eventually enhance or improve many aspects of our lives. Perhaps more useful secrets lurk in the deep water of Antarctica.

Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions that follow.



In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

Directions: Click on the correct answer.

The information in paragraph 2 supports the idea that Antarctic fish —

adapt to cold water

struggle to find food

produce fatty layers of tissue

migrate to avoid ice

receive nutrition from crystals

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

Read these sentences from paragraph 3.

The threadfin pithead, for instance, lives at depths of around 2,000 feet in the cold dark of the Antarctic seas. It is difficult to imagine a more adverse environment.

These sentences suggest that the author —

- ☐ **A** admires the unspoiled beauty of Antarctica
- ☐ **B** appreciates the kinds of life Antarctica supports
- ☐ **C** is disappointed that so little is known about Antarctica
- ☐ **D** is dissatisfied that people wrongly see Antarctica as a lifeless place

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

Read this sentence from paragraph 3.

The slender fish spends its days swimming through the honeycombed channels of the icepack hunting krill—small crustaceans—for its sustenance.

The word sustenance means —

- ☐ A nourishment
- ☐ B camouflage
- ☐ C navigation
- ☐ D protection

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

Which statement best expresses the main idea of paragraph 3?

- ☐ **A** Fish that live in Antarctic water are called notothenioids.
- ☐ **B** Fish in the Antarctic Ocean have specialized coloring to hide from predators.
- ☐ **C** The features of the bald notothen fish help it dominate Antarctic waters.
- ☐ **D** Many types of fish thrive in the water around Antarctica.

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

In paragraph 6, the word salutary means —

- ☐ **A** individual
- ☐ **B** energetic
- ☐ **C** beneficial
- ☐ **D** invisible

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

The organizational structure of paragraph 6 is best described as —

- ☐ **A** definition
- ☐ **B** generalization
- ☐ **C** comparison/contrast
- ☐ **D** chronological order

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

Which section would most likely describe future uses of the protein found in fish that live in below-freezing water?

- ☐ **A** Notothenioids
- ☐ **B** The Question
- ☐ **C** AFGP
- ☐ **D** Human Applications

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

How can the reader best tell that this is an expository selection?

- ☐ **A** It offers a vivid description of ocean fish.
- ☐ **B** It presents a series of closely related facts.
- ☐ **C** It reveals the author's stance on an issue.
- ☐ **D** It focuses on fish rather than humans.

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

What is the author's most likely purpose for writing this selection?

- ☐ **A** To explain how some fish can survive in challenging conditions
- ☐ **B** To prove that studying fish can be an economic boon for humans
- ☐ **C** To establish that McMurdo Station performs an important function
- ☐ **D** To highlight a certain fish that lives in the waters around Antarctica

A Classical Carnival

Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions that follow.

- 1 My journalism teacher taught me the two basic requirements for effective news writing: start with an engaging lead and support it with essential facts. What his class did not prepare me for was my internship position as Life Events Correspondent for the "Lifestyles" section of the local newspaper, an impressive title for a person who reports births, engagements, weddings, and anniversaries. My dreams of winning a Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting by age 25 vanished under elaborate descriptions of wedding gowns and birth statistics. Whenever I felt discouraged, I remembered my grandfather's sage advice: "Michelangelo's¹ first job was not the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel." That advice helped keep my situation in perspective; I was polishing my craft, getting experience, and establishing myself as a talented writer.
- 2 Arriving at my desk promptly at 8 o'clock Thursday morning, I started the day in the usual fashion: going through the list of engagement announcements. I needed to write and review the wedding and anniversary passages destined for Sunday's publication. When the Lifestyles editor stopped by and slapped a ticket on my desk, I was stunned. I didn't think she even knew my name.

¹Michelangelo – a famous Italian artist and architect (1475–1564), whose painting of the chapel in the Vatican earned him the title "greatest living artist"



- 3 "Wylie is out sick, Jake, and you're going to cover for him tomorrow," she said. Wylie was our resident music/theater critic whose enviable job got him complimentary tickets for every play, concert, jazz club, and symphony opening that enriched our midsize city with culture.
- 4 I tried not to appear too eager, knowing that my good fortune came solely due to another writer's illness, but it was difficult to control my excitement. This ticket provided me with the opportunity to write an article far more significant than last month's feature on Mr. and Mrs. Judge Brown's 25th anniversary jubilee.
- 5 "Five hundred words by noon Saturday," she added before disappearing through the maze of desks into her corner office. I looked down at the tickets, hoping for a Shakespearean tragedy, a jazz concert, or a touring company presenting a version of a Broadway play. I gulped. The ticket was inscribed with the logo for KidsPop, the symphony orchestra's overt attempt to entice children away from video games and into the world of classical music. My heart plummeted to my knees. I was doomed; my knowledge of classical music was limited to melodies used as soundtracks for chase scenes in 50-year-old cartoons.

Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions that follow.

Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions that follow.

6 I searched the symphony's website and found that headlining the concert was Camille Saint-Saëns's *Carnival of the Animals*. A quick scan of Saint-Saëns's biography provided little assistance—the information was nearly incomprehensible to a beginner such as myself. Elaborate descriptions of the composer's "virtuosity" and "thematic transformations" provided no useful information. What I did discover was that Saint-Saëns considered *Carnival of the Animals* a mistake and an embarrassment, and he forbade performances of the work during his lifetime. My golden opportunity required me to review music that even the composer disliked. My earlier excitement over this assignment was turning to ambivalence. I was beginning to miss the familiar world of lace gowns and baby birth weights.

7 Friday afternoon I settled into my 12th-row center seat with a notepad and pen ready. Since this was a concert for children, I decided to take a simple approach to the experience. I would write my review from the viewpoint of my fellow attendees—two 10-year-old girls on my left and a boy of 12 who pointed out that I, a 22-year-old, was too old to be attending a kid's concert, even if it was classical music.

8 The conductor entered, bowed, and addressed the orchestra. Two quick taps of the baton on her music stand, and we entered the *Carnival of the Animals* as fellow travelers on an enchanting safari of 14 distinctly clever movements.²

²movement – a section of a musical composition with its own unique theme

9. Pompous lions, full of boastfulness and bravado, paraded through our thoughts—grand, regal, and majestic. The lions gave way to a barnyard full of pecking, cackling hens and scratching, crowing roosters, mimicked by the violins. Then, the brisk fingerwork of two talented pianists recreated a frantic, stampeding herd of wild donkeys in the third movement.
10. Now came a contrast in tempo—the lumbering sluggishness of giant tortoises, painfully trudging along, step by laborious step. Keeping pace with the tortoises, a herd of elephants followed, dancing a clumsy waltz.
11. In the sixth movement, we made an abrupt departure from Africa and headed eastward to the scrub and brush of the Australian outback. There two pianos produced the clipped hippity-hop of a mob of startled kangaroos, springing away in a burst of erratic leaps.
12. From the barren outback, we plunged to the depths of an aquarium filled with tropical fish darting past in a display of brilliant silvers, blues, and yellows. The delicate tones of the glass harmonica appeared and disappeared like bubbles in tropical waters.
13. Movements slipped from one to another, and I was so entranced by the music that I neglected my note-taking. My seatmates were transfixed by the scintillating melodies that so perfectly and brilliantly represented each animal. When the 13th movement, “The Swan,” began, we all closed our eyes and pictured the elegant swan gliding across a pond. The fanfare and flourishes of the finale announced a farewell to our carnival. Around me children rose from their seats and burst into applause.

Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions that follow.

- 14 Two hours later, back at my desk, my fingers flexed over the computer keyboard. Closing my eyes, I once again heard the loud thundering of elephants, saw the swift quiver of angelfish, and enjoyed the serene gracefulness of the swan. I smiled, glad for the chance to describe the delightful, appreciative reactions of the audience to the piece that so chagrined Saint-Saëns.

Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions that follow.



In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

Directions: Click on the correct answer.

That advice helped keep my situation in perspective; I was polishing my craft, getting experience, and establishing myself as a talented writer.

In this sentence from paragraph 1, the word polishing suggests —

earnings

overhauling

cleanliness

improvement

reputation

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

Which set of statements provides the best summary of paragraphs 2–5?

- ☐ **A** Jake envies his coworker Wylie, who reviews music and theater performances for the newspaper. He is pleased to learn that he will be given the chance to do Wylie's job for a day.
- ☐ **B** Jake does not think that the Lifestyles editor of the newspaper where he works even knows his name. To his surprise, she stops by and tells him he will be reviewing a classical concert.
- ☐ **C** Jake is asked to fill in for a coworker who normally reviews cultural performances for the newspaper. He feels excited until he sees that he will be reviewing classical music aimed at children.
- ☐ **D** Jake is busy reviewing his day's work when he learns he will also have to review a KidsPop concert that will take place the following afternoon. He feels that he does not know much about classical music.

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

Read this sentence from paragraph 5.

The ticket was inscribed with the logo for KidsPop, the symphony orchestra's overt attempt to entice children away from video games and into the world of classical music.

What does the word overt mean?

- ☐ A meant to be adequate
- ☐ B easy to recognize
- ☐ C for a limited time
- ☐ D priced to be affordable

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

Directions: Click on the correct answer.

A quick scan of Saint-Saëns's biography provided little assistance—the information was nearly incomprehensible to a beginner such as myself.

The word incomprehensible from paragraph 6 contains a root word that means to —

enjoy

listen

construct

understand

invent

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

Read this sentence from paragraph 10.

Now came a contrast in tempo—the lumbering sluggishness of giant tortoises, painfully trudging along, step by laborious step.

The author uses sensory language in this sentence in order to —

- ☐ **A** illustrate the boredom felt by some of the audience
- ☐ **B** indicate the musicians are playing much too slowly
- ☐ **C** show that the music engages the imagination
- ☐ **D** suggest that the concert will soon be ending

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

Directions: Click on the correct answer.

The fanfare and flourishes of the finale announced a farewell to our carnival.

Which literary device does Jake use in this sentence from paragraph 13?

Simile

Alliteration

Hyperbole

Analogy

Flashback

Onomatopoeia

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

Jake's dismay over having to review a KidsPop concert affects the selection by —

- ☐ **A** revealing the conclusion
- ☐ **B** establishing the setting
- ☐ **C** reflecting the theme
- ☐ **D** creating the conflict

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

Jake uses extensive animal imagery in the selection to suggest the music's —

- ☐ **A** grit
- ☐ **B** origin
- ☐ **C** difficulty
- ☐ **D** playfulness

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

Which detail from the selection supports the concept that Jake is eager to do a good job reviewing the concert?

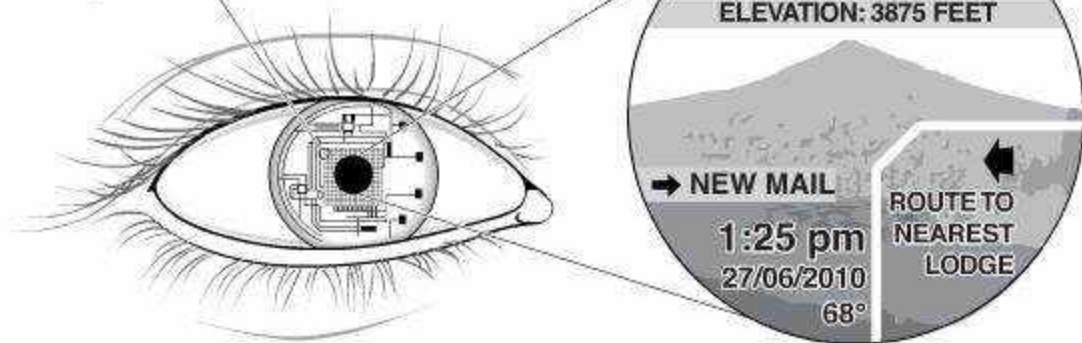
- ☐ **A** He attends although he is older than the kids.
- ☐ **B** He is comfortable with the extra workload.
- ☐ **C** He is ready to take notes about the performance.
- ☐ **D** He imagines the animals as the music portrays them.

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

The selection is told from Jake's point of view in order to emphasize his —

- ☐ **A** fondness for music
- ☐ **B** connection with kids
- ☐ **C** wish to be a reporter
- ☐ **D** reaction to the concert

system of microcircuitry
and lights



Computers in Contact Lenses

Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions that follow.

- 1 Imagine peering at a view of mountaintops and wondering about the name of each peak. Suddenly, above each pinnacle, a name appears superimposed on the sky. The words are not written in smoke by skywriting planes. The words are actually not in the sky at all. They come from tiny computers embedded in contact lenses.
- 2 Computers have become smaller and smaller over the decades. The first computers filled warehouses. Transistors and then silicon chips allowed computers to shrink small enough to fit on a desktop, then a laptop, and finally a phone. When experimenting with further reductions in size, developers often contend with the limits of human eyesight, which control how small the computers can be and still present visible information.

Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions that follow.

3 One new solution employs microprojectors to create a readable display for tiny computers. These machines project computer information onto any surface. Though an impressive breakthrough, such public displays can lead to privacy issues; most people do not want their information displayed on a wall for everyone to see. Moreover, current models are prohibitively expensive, and their blurry screens give users headaches.

4 Babak Parviz, a researcher at the University of Washington, created another solution: inventing a screen visible only to a person wearing a contact lens. Parviz created a computer in a contact lens that uses the wearer's field of vision as the display.

5 "Looking through a completed lens," Parviz said in an interview with *Gizmag.com*, "you would see what the display is generating superimposed on the world outside."

6 To create the display, Parviz took ordinary soft contact lenses and imprinted them with a wirelessly controlled system of microcircuitry and lights. At some point, Parviz says, it will be possible to connect the lens to a remote personal computing device such as a cell phone or a laptop.

7 While the person wearing the computer lenses looks quite ordinary, these discreet contact lenses actually enhance his or her experience. By looking in a certain direction, the wearer sends the computer visual cues about what he or she sees. The device then uses this information to point out the names of peaks, for example, or to label landmarks.



- 8 These contact lenses are inserted and removed in much the same way as ordinary contact lenses. Once in place, the electronic components are outside the line of vision, leaving the wearer's sight unimpeded. While the computers are not currently imprinted on corrective or prescribed lenses, Parviz hopes that someday the technology will progress to that level.
- 9 Engineers developing this project see many applications for the lenses. The automobile industry would like to insert them in cars to help drivers find directions or tune the radio. Future models of cameras with zoom features may take bionic vision, made famous by science fiction movies, from fantasy to reality. The level of "computer-human interface," the point at which computers and humans interact, will be radically altered as humans adapt and learn to use this innovative technology.

Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions that follow.



In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

The author includes the illustration at the top of the selection to —

- ☐ **A** provide important facts about computers
- ☐ **B** add extra information about related technology
- ☐ **C** offer a representation of a complicated idea
- ☐ **D** entertain the reader with a cartoon

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

The purpose of paragraph 2 is to —

- ☐ **A** introduce an obstacle in the improvement of technology
- ☐ **B** show the similarities between old and new technology
- ☐ **C** relate current popular beliefs about technology
- ☐ **D** question the value of new technology

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

The author uses the source in paragraph 5 to —

- ☐ **A** compare the device to other technological advancements
- ☐ **B** relate a personal story about the creation of the device
- ☐ **C** respond to widespread criticism of the device
- ☐ **D** summarize how the device functions

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

The reader may conclude that computerized contact lenses will be most useful to people who —

- ☐ **A** like to browse new webpages
- ☐ **B** are traveling in a group
- ☐ **C** are in an unfamiliar region
- ☐ **D** prefer to prepare for weather changes

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

Paragraph 8 suggests that in the future, computers will be embedded into contact lenses that —

- ☐ **A** correct vision problems
- ☐ **B** work only during the daytime
- ☐ **C** need special equipment for removal
- ☐ **D** can only be worn for short periods of time

In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

The purpose of this selection is to —

- ☐ **A** persuade the reader to try computerized contact lenses
- ☐ **B** explain the development of computerized contact lenses
- ☐ **C** evaluate the benefits of wearing computerized contact lenses
- ☐ **D** describe the process of manufacturing computerized contact lenses