

Name _____ Date _____

Instructions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.

1. **School consolidation** refers to _____.
- Ⓐ a change in the school bus system whereby all students have access to transportation to school
 - Ⓑ the way taxes are used to support and finance the school bus system
 - Ⓒ a process in which several smaller schools combine into one larger school
 - Ⓓ people who work in the school district who help run the school bus system

2. Which of the following is an opinion?
- Ⓐ As populations expanded and technology advanced, horse-drawn wagons gave way.
 - Ⓑ American public schools began organizing mass transportation for their students long before the modern school bus existed.
 - Ⓒ If given the option, every student should ride a school bus to and from school.
 - Ⓓ The American school bus system is enormous for several reasons.

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3. What do the authors want to most emphasize about school bus safety?
 - Ⓐ We can expect to see additional safety upgrades in the school bus system as technology advances.
 - Ⓑ In most states, safety belts are not required on school buses, though a few have passed bus safety-belt laws.
 - Ⓒ School buses have a number of built-in safety features, such as emergency exits.
 - Ⓓ The American public school bus system is the safest transportation for students.
4. In the 1970s and 1980s, schools worked together to _____.
 - Ⓐ bus black students to white schools and vice versa
 - Ⓑ make sure there were enough buses to get all students to school
 - Ⓒ pass a law that that made it illegal for students of different races to go to different schools
 - Ⓓ find a way to fund the school bus system so it could continue to grow
5. **Integration** is _____.
 - Ⓐ a process that passes new laws about school bus safety
 - Ⓑ a process that allows all races to have come together and gain equal access
 - Ⓒ a process that keeps groups of people apart based on differences such as race
 - Ⓓ a process that moves large numbers of people from one place to another

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6. Why was the yellow color adopted for modern school buses?
 - Ⓐ School districts wanted them to look different from other kinds of buses.
 - Ⓑ Educators and parents wanted them to stand out for safety purposes.
 - Ⓒ Yellow was the cheapest color of paint, and the school districts wanted to save money.
 - Ⓓ Students were given the chance to vote on the color, and they chose yellow.
7. What is the purpose of the section "Yellow Buses Go Green"?
 - Ⓐ to persuade readers to stop using private cars to get to school and take only environmentally friendly school buses
 - Ⓑ to persuade readers to only ride school buses that are electric-powered
 - Ⓒ to inform readers about groups of people who want school buses to be painted green rather than yellow
 - Ⓓ to inform readers about the push to make school buses more environmentally friendly
8. What is the basic principle of the American public school system?
 - Ⓐ Everybody deserves the opportunity for an education.
 - Ⓑ Students who can't ride the bus must find their own way to school.
 - Ⓒ Everyone is required to go to a public school.
 - Ⓓ Students should be seen and not heard.

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9. When an area is **sparsely** populated, it _____.
- Ⓐ has schools that join to form a consolidated district
 - Ⓑ has a law to ensure that every student is able to get to school
 - Ⓒ does not have many people living there
 - Ⓓ has too many students for the school bus system to handle

10. Which of the following statements by the authors shows that they want to persuade the reader that learning about the school bus system is worthwhile?

- Ⓐ Few people ever stop to think about how the school bus system works. Yet the school bus system is one of the most important and complex transportation systems in the country.
- Ⓑ Individual states sometimes give school transportation funds that are used for busing.
- Ⓒ School buses travel on all kinds of roadways, from interstate highways to unpaved rural lanes.
- Ⓓ Many districts offer bus service to any student who lives more than two miles from school.

11. **Extended Response:** Why is it important for school buses to be environmentally friendly?

12. **Extended Response:** In what ways are school buses safer than private vehicles?

Quick Check Answer Sheet

The Super School Bus System

Main Comprehension Skill: Author's Purpose

1. Ⓒ Main Idea and Details
2. Ⓒ Fact or Opinion
3. Ⓓ Author's Purpose
4. Ⓐ Main Idea and Details
5. Ⓑ Vocabulary
6. Ⓑ Cause and Effect
7. Ⓓ Author's Purpose
8. Ⓐ Main Idea and Details
9. Ⓒ Vocabulary
10. Ⓐ Author's Purpose
11. Answers will vary, but students should note the following: *The school bus system in the United States uses more vehicles than all forms of mass transit combined, and therefore, the effect on the environment is great. It is important for school buses to be environmentally friendly in order to minimize their impact due to the size of the school bus system.*
12. Answers will vary, but students should note that school buses are considered safer than private cars for several reasons including the following: *school districts require bus drivers to undergo strict safety training; the school buses have a number of built-in safety features, such as emergency exits and reinforced rood structure; and so on.*