

Name _____ Date _____

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

1. What traits did Thomas Edison have as a child that influenced him as an adult?
 - (A) He was curious and loved to read.
 - (B) He was good in school.
 - (C) He was respectful of his teachers.
 - (D) He got along with his classmates.
2. Which of the following best summarizes the event that led to Edison traveling the country as a telegraph operator?
 - (A) Edison saved a boy from being hit by a train, and the boy's father offered to teach Edison his job.
 - (B) Edison learned how to be a businessman when he was selling food to telegraph operators on the train.
 - (C) Edison recorded a nursery rhyme and everyone was amazed a machine played back the words.
 - (D) Edison learned Morse code to propose to his future wife.
3. "Negative results are just as valuable to me as positive results." What did Edison mean when he said this?
 - (A) Negative results show you when to give up.
 - (B) Negative results give you an excuse to stop trying.
 - (C) Negative results give you information you need to help solve a problem.
 - (D) Negative results are only found after you get positive results.
4. Read this sentence from the book: *Edison applied for a **patent** to protect each of his inventions.* What is a **patent**?
 - (A) a kind of guard that would stand watch outside the lab
 - (B) a license that grants the rights to invent something
 - (C) a document granting the right to make money from an invention
 - (D) a kind of case that would keep each invention from getting dirty

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5. Why would the president have people turn out their lights to honor Edison when he died?
 - Ⓐ Turning the lights off would make it dark outside.
 - Ⓑ Edison did not like the better light bulbs he invented that people were using.
 - Ⓒ Edison improved the light bulb, so turning off the lights honored his inventiveness.
 - Ⓓ Edison invented movie projectors that only worked in the dark.
6. Which of the following did Edison invent first?
 - Ⓐ light bulb
 - Ⓑ phonograph
 - Ⓒ movie projector
 - Ⓓ electric vote recorder
7. Which are two things Edison accomplished in his life?
 - Ⓐ He created the first for-profit research lab and improved the telegraph system.
 - Ⓑ He invented the telephone and was friends with Alexander Graham Bell.
 - Ⓒ He invented talking movies and designed the modern science lab.
 - Ⓓ He made it possible for people to play CDs and use electricity.
8. Which of the following gave Edison the idea for the phonograph?
 - Ⓐ his work on the telegraph and telephone
 - Ⓑ his work on the light bulb
 - Ⓒ his work on the electric vote counter
 - Ⓓ his work on new uses for cement

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9. Which of the following is a detail from the section "A New Lab"?

- Ⓐ *He was allowed to set up a science lab in a baggage car until an accidental fire ended his experiments.*
- Ⓑ *There, Edison worked tirelessly for many hours each day, and many of his employees worked just as hard.*
- Ⓒ *After a few years, Thomas Edison decided that he wanted to become a full-time inventor.*
- Ⓓ *Sitting in the dark for a few moments, people could think about the great changes Thomas Edison had made in their lives.*

10. Read this sentence: *Thomas Edison **invented** or improved over a thousand things, some of which we use every day.* What does invented mean?

- Ⓐ using scientific knowledge or tools to make or do something
- Ⓑ created, designed or built something that did not exist before
- Ⓒ set up or done to make money
- Ⓓ made a rough drawing or outline of something

11. **Extended Response:** Which of Edison's inventions do you think is the most important?

12. **Extended Response:** How does the photograph of Edison's first light bulb better help you understand the information in the text?

Quick Check Answer Sheet

Thomas Edison

Main Comprehension Skill: Elements of a Biography

1. Ⓐ *Elements of a Biography*
2. Ⓐ *Sequence Events*
3. Ⓒ *Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions*
4. Ⓒ *Vocabulary*
5. Ⓒ *Cause and Effect*
6. Ⓓ *Sequence Events*
7. Ⓐ *Elements of a Biography*
8. Ⓐ *Cause and Effect*
9. Ⓑ *Main Idea and Details*
10. Ⓑ *Vocabulary*
11. Answers will vary but should include one of Edison's inventions and support for why it is the most important.
12. Answers should include that the photograph helps readers visualize what it looks like since it is different from modern light bulbs. Also, it is visual support for the vocabulary associated with the light bulb.