

LOKESH RC 50 Part 1

This file comprises a wide range of quality Reading Comprehension passages (RCs) and equally worthy questions (those asked in exams like CAT/ XAT/ GMAT/ MHCET) from topics like Inference, Strengthening, Weakening, Main Idea, Conclusion, Next Idea, Application, Fact, Tone, Title etc. **After every RC, you will find the link to the practice session where I have thoroughly explained the RC** in a live class. Hence, be assured that you have the video solutions to all of these 50 RCs.

I suggest that you practice 3-4 RCs in one sitting and keep 3-4 such sittings per week, depending on your stamina and maturity as an aspirant. You may start with 2 sittings/week, each of 2 RCs, and gradually increase to 4 sittings of 4 RCs each every week. Remember, most of the questions in the VARC sections of CAT (70%), XAT, NMAT, GMAT and MHCET are asked in the form of an RC. There is no way you can excel in the VARC sections of these exams without mastering RCs. **NO WAY!**

I take such free practice sessions LIVE (RC, CR, Para jumbles etc.) **daily at 10 pm on Unacademy app**. Feel free to join me for the same. Also, **join my Telegram group** for free content, GK bites, exam updates, preparation strategies, general suggestions, my class schedule and regular motivation!!

Our Main Group: <https://t.me/joinchat/VY5odAPOuuSARns4>

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PS: The answer key to all RCs has been provided in a separate pdf file shared along with this one.

IMPORTANT: I explain Hindu Editorial articles using my SAP Technique on Youtube daily at 1 pm. Here is the link to all previous Sessions

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5hqjxUWNXjlLe_3FCUoB69fTCMhPKq8w

We had earlier shared LOKESH CR 99 which has some carefully-selected Critical Reasoning questions with video solutions. Here is the link to that file: https://t.me/Lokesh_varc/13900

Disclaimer: We do not claim to be the original creators of these RCs

Passage 1

Kazuko Nakane's history of the early Japanese immigrants to central California's Pajaro Valley focuses on the development of farming communities there from 1890 to 1940. The Issei (first-generation immigrants) were brought into the Pajaro Valley to raise sugar beets. Like Issei laborers in American cities, Japanese men in rural areas sought employment via the "boss" system. The system comprised three elements: immigrant wage laborers; Issei boarding houses where laborers stayed; and labor contractors, who gathered workers for a particular job and then negotiated a contract between workers and employer. This same system was originally utilized by the Chinese laborers who had preceded the Japanese. A related institution was the "labor club," which provided job information and negotiated employment contracts and other legal matters, such as the rental of land, for Issei who chose to belong and paid an annual fee to the cooperative for membership.

When the local sugar beet industry collapsed in 1902, the Issei began to lease land from the valley's strawberry farmers. The Japanese provided the labor and the crop was divided between laborers and landowners. The Issei thus moved quickly from wage-labor employment to share cropping agreements. A limited amount of economic progress was made as some Issei were able to rent or buy farmland directly, while others joined together to form farming corporations. As the Issei began to operate farms, they began to marry and start families, forming an established Japanese American community. Unfortunately, the Issei's efforts to attain agricultural independence were hampered by government restrictions, such as the Alien Land Law of 1913. But immigrants could circumvent such exclusionary laws by leasing or purchasing land in their American-born children's names.

Nakane's case study of one rural Japanese American community provides valuable information about the lives and experiences of the Issei. It is, however, too particularistic. This limitation derives from Nakane's methodology—that of oral history—which cannot substitute for a broader theoretical or comparative perspective. Future research might well consider two issues raised by her study: were the Issei of the Pajaro Valley similar to or different from Issei in urban settings, and what variations existed between rural Japanese American communities?

1. The primary purpose of the passage is to
 - (A) defend a controversial hypothesis presented in a history of early Japanese immigrants to California
 - (B) dismiss a history of an early Japanese settlement in California as narrow and ill constructed
 - (C) summarize and critique a history of an early Japanese settlement in California
 - (D) compare a history of one Japanese American community with studies of Japanese settlements throughout California
 - (E) examine the differences between Japanese and Chinese immigrants to central California in the 1890's
2. Which of the following best describes a "labor club," as defined in the passage?
 - (A) An organization to which Issei were compelled to belong if they sought employment in the Pajaro Valley
 - (B) An association whose members included labor contractors and landowning "bosses"
 - (C) A type of farming corporation set up by Issei who had resided in the Pajaro Valley for some time
 - (D) A cooperative association whose members were dues-paying Japanese laborers
 - (E) A social organization to which Japanese laborers and their families belonged
3. Based on information in the passage, which of the following statements concerning the Alien Land Law of 1913 is most accurate?
 - (A) It excluded American-born citizens of Japanese ancestry from landownership.
 - (B) It sought to restrict the number of foreign immigrants to California.
 - (C) It successfully prevented Issei from ever purchasing farmland.
 - (D) It was applicable to first-generation immigrants but not to their American-born children.
 - (E) It was passed under pressure from the Pajaro Valley's strawberry farmers.
4. Several Issei families join together to purchase a strawberry field and the necessary farming equipment. Such a situation best exemplifies which of the following, as it is described in the passage?
 - (A) A typical sharecropping agreement
 - (B) A farming corporation
 - (C) A "labor club"
 - (D) The "boss" system
 - (E) Circumvention of the Alien Land Law
5. The passage suggests that which of the following was an indirect consequence of the collapse of the sugar beet industry in the Pajaro Valley?
 - (A) The Issei formed a permanent, family-based community.
 - (B) Boardinghouses were built to accommodate the Issei.
 - (C) The Issei began to lease land in their children's names.
 - (D) The Issei adopted a labor contract system similar to that used by Chinese immigrants.
 - (E) The Issei suffered a massive dislocation caused by unemployment.

6. The author of the passage would most likely agree that which of the following, if it had been included in Nakane's study, would best remedy the particularistic nature of that study?

- (A) A statistical table comparing per capita income of Issei wage laborers and share croppers in the Pajaro Valley
- (B) A statistical table showing per capita income of Issei in the Pajaro Valley from 1890 to 1940
- (C) A statistical table showing rates of farm ownership by Japanese Americans in four central California counties from 1890 to 1940
- (D) A discussion of original company documents dealing with the Pajaro Valley sugar beet industry at the turn of the century
- (E) Transcripts of interviews conducted with members of the Pajaro Valley Japanese American community who were born in the 1920's and 1930's

7. It can be inferred from the passage that, when the Issei began to lease land from the Valley's strawberry farmers, the Issei most probably did which of the following?

- (A) They used profits made from selling the strawberry crop to hire other Issei.
- (B) They negotiated such agricultural contracts using the "boss" system.
- (C) They paid for the use of the land with a share of the strawberry crop.
- (D) They earned higher wages than when they raised sugar beets.
- (E) They violated the Alien Land Law.

Video solution : <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-1/IGBLWF2S>

Passage 2

It can be argued that much consumer dissatisfaction with marketing strategies arises from an inability to aim advertising at only the likely buyers of a given product.

There are three groups of consumers who are affected by the marketing process. First, there is the market segment—people who need the commodity in question. Second, there is the program target—people in the market segment with the “best fit” characteristics for a specific product. Lots of people may need trousers, but only a few qualify as likely buyers of very expensive designer trousers. Finally, there is the program audience—all people who are actually exposed to the marketing program without regard to whether they need or want the product.

These three groups are rarely identical. An exception occurs occasionally in cases where customers for a particular industrial product may be few and easily identifiable. Such customers, all sharing a particular need, are likely to form a meaningful target, for example, all companies with a particular application of the product in question, such as high-speed fillers of bottles at breweries. In such circumstances, direct selling (marketing that reaches only the program target) is likely to be economically justified, and highly specialized trade media exist to expose members of the program target—and only members of the program target—to the marketing program.

Most consumer-goods markets are significantly different. Typically, there are many rather than few potential customers. Each represents a relatively small percentage of potential sales. Rarely do members of a particular market segment group themselves neatly into a meaningful program target. There are substantial differences among consumers with similar demographic characteristics. Even with all the past decade’s advances in information technology, direct selling of consumer goods is rare, and mass marketing—a marketing approach that aims at a wide audience—remains the only economically feasible mode. Unfortunately, there are few media that allow the marketer to direct a marketing program exclusively to the program target. Inevitably, people get exposed to a great deal of marketing for products in which they have no interest and so they become annoyed.

1. The passage suggests which of the following about highly specialized trade media?
 - (A) They should be used only when direct selling is not economically feasible.
 - (B) They can be used to exclude from the program audience people who are not part of the program target.
 - (C) They are used only for very expensive products.
 - (D) They are rarely used in the implementation of marketing programs for industrial products.
 - (E) They are used only when direct selling has not reached the appropriate market segment.
2. According to the passage, most consumer-goods markets share which of the following characteristics?
 - I. Customers who differ significantly from each other
 - II. Large numbers of potential customers
 - III. Customers who each represent a small percentage of potential sales
 - (A) I only
 - (B) II only
 - (C) I and II only
 - (D) II and III only
 - (E) I, II, and III
3. The passage suggests which of the following about direct selling?
 - (A) It is used in the marketing of most industrial products.
 - (B) It is often used in cases where there is a large program target.
 - (C) It is not economically feasible for most marketing programs.
 - (D) It is used only for products for which there are many potential customers.
 - (E) It is less successful at directing a marketing program to the target audience than are other marketing approaches.
4. The author mentions "trousers" most likely in order to
 - (A) make a comparison between the program target and the program audience
 - (B) emphasize the similarities between the market segment and the program target
 - (C) provide an example of the way three groups of consumers are affected by a marketing program
 - (D) clarify the distinction between the market segment and the program target
 - (E) introduce the concept of the program audience
5. Which of the following best exemplifies the situation described in the last two sentences of the passage?
 - (A) A product suitable for women age 21-30 is marketed at meetings attended only by potential customers.
 - (B) A company develops a new product and must develop an advertising campaign to create a market for it.
 - (C) An idea for a specialized product remains unexplored because media exposure of the product to its few potential customers would be too expensive.
 - (D) A new product is developed and marketers collect demographic data on potential consumers before developing a specific advertising campaign.
 - (E) A product suitable for men age 60 and over is advertised in a magazine read by adults of all ages.

6. The passage suggests that which of the following is true about the marketing of industrial products ?

- (A) The market segment and program target are identical.
- (B) Mass marketing is the only feasible way of advertising such products.
- (C) The marketing program cannot be directed specifically to the program target.
- (D) More customers would be needed to justify the expense of direct selling.
- (E) The program audience would necessarily be made up of potential customers, regardless of the marketing approach that was used.

7. The passage supports which of the following statements about demographic characteristics and marketing?

- (A) Demographic research is of no use in determining how successful a product will be with a particular group of consumers.
- (B) A program audience is usually composed of people with similar demographic characteristics.
- (C) Psychological factors are more important than demographic factors in defining a market segments.
- (D) Consumers with similar demographic characteristics do not necessarily form a meaningful program target.
- (E) Collecting demographic data is the first step that marketers take in designing a marketing program.

8. It can be inferred from the passage that which of the following is true for most consumer-goods markets?

- (A) The program audience is smaller than the market segment.
- (B) The program audience and the market segment are usually identical.
- (C) The market segment and the program target are usually identical.
- (D) The program target is larger than the market segment
- (E) The program target and the program audience are not usually identical

Video solution : <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-2/FW89XUQD>

Passage 3

Protein synthesis begins when the gene encoding a protein is activated. The gene's sequence of nucleotides is transcribed into a molecule of messenger RNA (mRNA), which reproduces the information contained in that sequence. Transported outside the nucleus to the cytoplasm, the mRNA is translated into the protein it encodes by an organelle known as a ribosome, which strings together amino acids in the order specified by the sequence of elements in the mRNA molecule. Since the amount of mRNA in a cell determines the amount of the corresponding protein, factors affecting the abundance of mRNA's play a major part in the normal functioning of a cell by appropriately regulating protein synthesis. For example, an excess of certain proteins can cause cells to proliferate abnormally and become cancerous; alack of the protein insulin results in diabetes.

Biologists once assumed that the variable rates at which cells synthesize different mRNA's determine the quantities of mRNA's and their corresponding proteins in a cell. However, recent investigations have shown that the concentrations of most mRNA's correlate best, not with their synthesis rate, but rather with the equally variable rates at which cells degrade the different mRNA's in their cytoplasm. If a cell degrades both a rapidly and a slowly synthesized mRNA slowly, both mRNA's will accumulate to high levels.

An important example of this phenomenon is the development of red blood cells from their unspecialized parent cells in bone marrow. For red blood cells to accumulate sufficient concentrations of hemoglobin (which transports oxygen) to carry out their main function, the cells' parent cells must simultaneously produce more of the constituent proteins of hemoglobin and less of most other proteins. To do this, the parent cells halt synthesis of non-hemoglobin mRNA's in the nucleus and rapidly degrade copies of the non-hemoglobin mRNA's remaining in the cytoplasm. Halting synthesis of mRNA alone would not affect the quantities of proteins synthesized by the mRNA's still existing in the cytoplasm. Biologists now believe that most cell scan regulate protein production most efficiently by varying both mRNA synthesis and degradation, as developing red cells do, rather than by just varying one or the other.

1. The passage is primarily concerned with discussing the
 - (A) influence of mRNA concentrations on the development of red blood cells
 - (B) role of the synthesis and degradation of mRNA in cell functioning
 - (C) mechanism by which genes are transcribed into mRNA
 - (D) differences in mRNA concentrations in cell nuclei and in the cytoplasm
 - (E) way in which mRNA synthesis contributes to the onset of diabetes
2. The passage suggests that a biologist who held the view described in the first sentence of the second paragraph would most probably also have believed which of the following?
 - (A) The rate of degradation of specific mRNA's has little effect on protein concentrations.
 - (B) The rate of degradation of specific mRNA's should be studied intensively.
 - (C) The rates of synthesis and degradation for any given mRNA are normally equal.
 - (D) Different mRNA's undergo degradation at widely varying rates.
 - (E) Most mRNA's degrade very rapidly.
3. Which of the following best describes the relationship between the second and third paragraphs of the passage?
 - (A) The second paragraph presents arguments in support of a new theory and the third paragraph presents arguments against that same theory.
 - (B) The second paragraph describes a traditional view and the third paragraph describes the view that has replaced it on the basis of recent investigations.
 - (C) The third paragraph describes a specific case of a phenomenon that is described generally in the second paragraph.
 - (D) The third paragraph describes an investigation that was undertaken to resolve problems raised by phenomena described in the second paragraph.
 - (E) Both paragraphs describe in detail specific examples of the phenomenon that is introduced in the first paragraph.
4. The accumulation of concentrations of hemoglobin in red blood cells is mentioned in the passage as an example of which of the following?
 - (A) The effectiveness of simultaneous variation of the rates of synthesis and degradation of mRNA
 - (B) The role of the ribosome in enabling a parent cell to develop properly into a more specialized form
 - (C) The importance of activating the genes for particular proteins at the correct moment
 - (D) The abnormal proliferation of a protein that threatens to make the cell cancerous
 - (E) The kind of evidence that biologists relied on for support of a view of mRNA synthesis that is now considered obsolete
5. To begin to control a disease caused by a protein deficiency, the passage suggests that a promising experimental treatment would be to administer a drug that would reduce
 - (A) only the degradation rate for the mRNA of the protein involved
 - (B) only the synthesis rate for the mRNA of the protein involved
 - (C) both the synthesis and degradation rates for the mRNA of the protein involved
 - (D) the incidence of errors in the transcription of mRNA's from genetic nucleotide sequences
 - (E) the rate of activity of ribosome's in the cytoplasm of most cells

6. According to the passage, which of the following best describes the current view on the relationship between the synthesis and the degradation of mRNA in regulating protein synthesis?
- (A) Biologists have recently become convinced that the ribosome controls the rates of synthesis and degradation of mRNA.
 - (B) There is no consensus among biologists as to the significance of mRNA degradation in regulating protein synthesis.
 - (C) The concept of mRNA degradation is so new that most biologists still believe that the vital role in protein regulation belongs to mRNA synthesis.
 - (D) Degradation of mRNA is now considered to be the key process and mRNA synthesis is no longer believed to play a significant role.
 - (E) Degradation of mRNA is now considered to be as important as mRNA synthesis has been, and still is, believed to be.
7. According to the passage, which of the following can happen when protein synthesis is not appropriately regulated?
- (A) Diabetes can result from errors that occur when the ribosome translate mRNA into protein.
 - (B) Cancer can result from an excess of certain proteins and diabetes can result from an insulin deficiency.
 - (C) A deficiency of red blood cells can occur if bone marrow cells produce too much hemoglobin.
 - (D) Cancer can be caused by excessively rapid degradation of certain amino acids in the cytoplasm of cells.
 - (E) Excessive synthesis of one protein can trigger increased degradation of mRNA's for other proteins and create severe protein imbalances.
8. The passage suggests that a biologist who detected high levels of two proteins in a certain type of cell would be likely to consider which of the following as a possible explanation?
- (A) The rate of mRNA degradation for one of the proteins increases as this type of cell develops a more specialized function.
 - (B) The two proteins are most likely constituents of a complex substance supporting the cells' specialized function.
 - (C) The cells are likely to proliferate abnormally and possibly become cancerous due to the levels of these proteins.
 - (D) The mRNA's for both proteins are being degraded at a low rate in that type of cell.
 - (E) The mRNA's for the two proteins are being synthesized at identical rates in that type of cell.

Video solution: <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-3/4918QO82>

Passage 4

Japanese firms have achieved the highest levels of manufacturing efficiency in the world automobile industry. Some observers of Japan have assumed that Japanese firms use the same manufacturing equipment and techniques as United States firms but have benefited from the unique characteristics of Japanese employees and the Japanese culture.

However, if this were true, then one would expect Japanese auto plants in the United States to perform no better than factories run by United States companies. This is not the case; Japanese-run automobile plants located in the United States and staffed by local workers have demonstrated higher levels of productivity when compared with factories owned by United States companies.

Other observers link high Japanese productivity to higher levels of capital investment per worker. But a historical perspective leads to a different conclusion. When the two top Japanese automobile makers matched and then doubled United States productivity levels in the mid-sixties, capital investment per employee was comparable to that of United States firms. Furthermore, by the late seventies, the amount of fixed assets required to produce one vehicle was roughly equivalent in Japan and in the United States.

Since capital investment was not higher in Japan, it had to be other factors that led to higher productivity. A more fruitful explanation may lie with Japanese production techniques. Japanese automobile producers did not simply implement conventional processes more effectively: they made critical changes in United States procedures. For instance, the mass-production philosophy of United States automakers encouraged the production of huge lots of cars in order to utilize fully expensive, component-specific equipment and to occupy fully workers who have been trained to execute one operation efficiently. Japanese automakers chose to make small-lot production feasible by introducing several departures from United States practices, including the use of flexible equipment that could be altered easily to do several different production tasks and the training of workers in multiple jobs. Automakers could schedule the production of different components or models on single machines, thereby eliminating the need to store the buffer stocks of extra components that result when specialized equipment and workers are kept constantly active.

1. The primary purpose of the passage is to
 - (A) present the major steps of a process
 - (B) clarify an ambiguity
 - (C) chronicle a dispute
 - (D) correct misconceptions
 - (E) defend an accepted approach
2. The author suggests that if the observers of Japan were correct, which of the following would be the case?
 - (A) The equipment used in Japanese automobile plants would be different from the equipment used in United States plants.
 - (B) Japanese workers would be trained to do several different production jobs.
 - (C) Culture would not have an influence on the productivity levels of workers.
 - (D) The workers in Japanese-run plants would have higher productivity levels regardless of where they were located.
 - (E) The production levels of Japanese-run plants located in the United States would be equal to those of plants run by United States companies.
3. Which of the following statements concerning the productivity levels of automakers can be inferred from the passage?
 - (A) Prior to the 1960's, the productivity levels of the top Japanese automakers were exceeded by those of United States automakers.
 - (B) The culture of a country has a large effect on the productivity levels of its automakers.
 - (C) During the late 1970's and early 1980's, productivity levels were comparable in Japan and the United States.
 - (D) The greater the number of cars that are produced in a single lot, the higher a plant's productivity level.
 - (E) The amount of capital investment made by automobile manufacturers in their factories determines the level of productivity.
4. According to the passage, which of the following statements is true of Japanese automobile workers?
 - (A) Their productivity levels did not equal those of United States automobile workers until the late seventies.
 - (B) Their high efficiency levels are a direct result of cultural influences.
 - (C) They operate component-specific machinery.
 - (D) They are trained to do more than one job.
 - (E) They produce larger lots of cars than do workers in United States factories.
5. Which of the following best describes the organization of the first paragraph?
 - (A) A thesis is presented and supporting examples are provided.
 - (B) Opposing views are presented, classified, and then reconciled.
 - (C) A fact is stated, and an explanation is advanced and then refuted.
 - (D) A theory is proposed, considered, and then amended.
 - (E) An opinion is presented, qualified, and then reaffirmed.
6. It can be inferred from the passage that one problem associated with the production of huge lots of cars is which of the following?
 - (A) The need to manufacture flexible machinery and equipment
 - (B) The need to store extra components not required for immediate use
 - (C) The need for expensive training programs for workers, which emphasize the development of facility in several production jobs

- (D) The need to alter conventional mass-production processes
- (E) The need to increase the investment per vehicle in order to achieve high productivity levels

7. Which of the following statements is supported by information stated in the passage?
- (A) Japanese and United States automakers differ in their approach to production processes.
 - (B) Japanese automakers have perfected the use of single-function equipment.
 - (C) Japanese automakers invest more capital per employee than do United States automakers.
 - (D) United States-owned factories abroad have higher production levels than do Japanese owned plants in the United States.
 - (E) Japanese automakers have benefited from the cultural heritage of their workers.
8. With which of the following predictive statement regarding Japanese automakers would the author most likely agree?
- (A) The efficiency levels of the Japanese automakers will decline if they become less flexible in their approach to production.
 - (B) Japanese automakers productivity levels double during the late 1990's.
 - (C) United States automakers will originate new production processes before Japanese automakers do.
 - (D) Japanese automakers will hire fewer workers than will United States automakers because each worker is required to perform several jobs.
 - (E) Japanese automakers will spend less on equipment repairs than will United States automakers because Japanese equipment can be easily altered

Video solution : <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-4/AEMOV620>

Passage 5

The sensation of pain cannot accurately be described as “located” at the point of an injury, or, for that matter, in any one place in the nerves or brain. Rather, pain signals and pain relief—are delivered through a highly complex interacting circuitry. When a cell is injured, a rush of prostaglandins sensitizes nerve endings at the injury. Prostaglandins are chemicals produced in and released from virtually all mammalian cells when they are injured: these are the only pain signals that do not originate in the nervous system. Aspirin and other similar drugs (such as indomethacin and ibuprofen) keep prostaglandins from being made by interfering with an enzyme known as prostaglandin synthetase, or cyclooxygenase. The drugs’ effectiveness against pain is proportional to their success in blocking this enzyme at the site of injury.

From nerve endings at the injury, pain signals move to nerves feeding into the spinal cord. The long, tubular membranes of nerve cells carry electrical impulses. When electrical impulses get to the spinal cord, a pain-signaling chemical known as substance P is released there. Substance P then excites nearby neurons to send impulses to the brain. Local anesthetics such as novocaine and xylocaine work by blocking the electrical transmission along nerves in a particular area. They inhibit the flow of sodium ions through the membranes, making the nerves electrically quiescent; thus no pain signals are sent to the spinal cord or to the brain.

Recent discoveries in the study of pain have involved the brain itself—the supervising organ that notices pain signals and that sends messages down to the spinal cord to regulate incoming pain traffic. Endorphins—the brain’s own morphine—are a class of small peptides that help to block pain signals within the brain itself. The presence of endorphins may also help to explain differences in response to pain signals, since individuals seem to differ in their ability to produce endorphins. It now appears that a number of techniques for blocking chronic pain—such as acupuncture and electrical stimulation of the central brain stem—involve the release of endorphins in the brain and spinal cord.

1. The passage is primarily concerned with
 - (A) analyzing ways that enzymes and other chemicals influence how the body feels pain
 - (B) describing the presence of endorphins in the brain and discussing ways the body blocks pain within the brain itself
 - (C) describing how pain signals are conveyed in the body and discussing ways in which the pain signals can be blocked
 - (D) demonstrating that pain can be influenced by acupuncture and electrical stimulation of the central brain stem
 - (E) differentiating the kinds of pain that occur at different points in the body's nervous system
2. According to the passage, which of the following is one of the first things to occur when cells are injured?
 - (A) The flow of electrical impulses through nerve cells at the site of the injury is broken.
 - (B) The production of substance P traveling through nerve cells to the brain increases.
 - (C) Endorphins begin to speed up the response of nerve cells at the site of the injury.
 - (D) A flood of prostaglandins sensitizes nerve endings at the site of the injury.
 - (E) Nerve cells connected to the spinal cord become electrically quiescent.
3. Of the following, which is most likely attributable to the effect of endorphins as described in the passage?
 - (A) After an injection of novocaine, a patient has no feeling in the area where the injection was given.
 - (B) After taking ibuprofen, a person with a headache gets quick relief.
 - (C) After receiving a local anesthetic, an injured person reports relief in the anesthetized area.
 - (D) After being given aspirin, a child with a badly scraped elbow feels better.
 - (E) After acupuncture, a patient with chronic back pain reports that the pain is much less severe.
4. It can be inferred from the passage that if the prostaglandin synthetase is only partially blocked, which of the following is likely to be true?
 - (A) Some endorphins will be produced, and some pain signals will be intensified.
 - (B) Some substance P is likely to be produced, so some pain signals will reach the brain.
 - (C) Some sodium ions will be blocked, so some pain signals will not reach the brain.
 - (D) Some prostaglandins will be produced, but production of substance P will be prevented.
 - (E) Some peptides in the brain will receive pain signals and begin to regulate incoming pain traffic.

Video solution ; <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-5/W1KRCX0B>

Passage 6

Historians sometimes forget that history is continually being made and experienced before it is studied, interpreted, and read. These latter activities have their own history, of course, which may impinge in unexpected ways on public events. It is difficult to predict when “new pasts” will overturn established historical interpretations and change the course of history.

In the fall of 1954, for example, C. Vann Woodward delivered a lecture series at the University of Virginia which challenged the prevailing dogma concerning the history, continuity, and uniformity of racial segregation in the South. He argued that the Jim Crow laws of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries not only codified traditional practice but also were a determined effort to erase the considerable progress made by Black people during and after Reconstruction in the 1870's. This revisionist view of Jim Crow legislation grew in part from the research that Woodward had done for the NAACP legal campaign during its preparation for *Brown v. Board of Education*. The Supreme Court had issued its ruling in this epochal de segregation case a few months before Woodward's lectures.

The lectures were soon published as a book, *The Strange Career of Jim Crow*. Ten years later, in a preface to the second revised edition, Woodward confessed with ironic modesty that the first edition “had begun to suffer under some of the handicaps that might be expected in a history of the American Revolution published in 1776.” That was a bit like hearing Thomas Paine apologize for the timing of his pamphlet *Common Sense*, which had a comparable impact. Although *Common Sense* also had a mass readership, Paine had intended to reach and inspire: he was not a historian, and thus not concerned with accuracy or the dangers of historical anachronism. Yet, like Paine, Woodward had an unerring sense of the revolutionary moment, and of how historical evidence could undermine the mythological tradition that was crushing the dreams of new social possibilities. Martin Luther King, Jr., testified to the profound effect of *The Strange Career of Jim Crow* on the civil rights movement by praising the book and quoting it frequently.

1. The “new pasts” can best be described as the
 - (A) occurrence of events extremely similar to past events
 - (B) history of the activities of studying, interpreting, and reading new historical writing
 - (C) change in people’s understanding of the past due to more recent historical writing
 - (D) overturning of established historical interpretations by politically motivated politicians
 - (E) difficulty of predicting when a given historical interpretation will be overturned
2. It can be inferred from the passage that the “prevailing dogma” held that
 - (A) Jim Crow laws were passed to give legal status to well-established discriminatory practices in the South
 - (B) Jim Crow laws were passed to establish order and uniformity in the discriminatory practices of different southern states
 - (C) Jim Crow laws were passed to erase the social gains that Black people had achieved since Reconstruction
 - (D) the continuity of racial segregation in the South was disrupted by passage of Jim Crow laws
 - (E) the Jim Crow laws of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were passed to reverse the effect of earlier Jim Crow laws
3. Which of the following is the best example of writing that is likely to be subject to the kinds of “handicaps”?
 - (A) A history of an auto manufacturing plant written by an employee during an auto-buying boom
 - (B) A critique of a statewide school-desegregation plan written by an elementary school teacher in that state
 - (C) A newspaper article assessing the historical importance of a United States President written shortly after the President has taken office
 - (D) A scientific paper describing the benefits of a certain surgical technique written by the surgeon who developed the technique
 - (E) Diary entries narrating the events of a battle written by a soldier who participated in the battle
4. The passage suggests that C. Vann Woodward and Thomas Paine were similar in all of the following ways EXCEPT:
 - (A) Both had works published in the midst of important historical events.
 - (B) Both wrote works that enjoyed widespread popularity.
 - (C) Both exhibited an understanding of the relevance of historical evidence to contemporary issues.
 - (D) The works of both had a significant effect on events following their publication.
 - (E) Both were able to set aside worries about historical anachronism in order to reach and inspire.
5. The attitude of the author of the passage toward the work of C. Vann Woodward is best described as one of
 - (A) respectful regard
 - (B) qualified approbation
 - (C) implied skepticism
 - (D) pointed criticism
 - (E) fervent advocacy

6. Which of the following best describes the new idea expressed by C. Vann Woodward in his University of Virginia lectures in 1954?
- (A) Southern racial segregation was continuous and uniform.
 - (B) Black people made considerable progress only after Reconstruction.
 - (C) Jim Crow legislation was conventional in nature.
 - (D) Jim Crow laws did not go as far in codifying traditional practice as they might have.
 - (E) Jim Crow laws did much more than merely reinforce a tradition of segregation.

Video solution : <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-6/OQASBBG0>

Passage 7

Joseph Glatthaar's *Forged in Battle* is not the first excellent study of Black soldiers and their White officers in the Civil War, but it uses more soldiers' letters and diaries—including rare material from Black soldiers—and concentrates more intensely on Black-White relations in Black regiments than do any of its predecessors. Glatthaar's title expresses his thesis: loyalty, friendship, and respect among White officers and Black soldiers were fostered by the mutual dangers they faced in combat.

Glatthaar accurately describes the government's discriminatory treatment of Black soldiers in pay, promotion, medical care, and job assignments, appropriately emphasizing the campaign by Black soldiers and their officers to get the opportunity to fight. That chance remained limited throughout the war by army policies that kept most Black units serving in rear-echelon assignments and working in labor battalions. Thus, while their combat death rate was only one-third that of White units, their mortality rate from disease, a major killer in his war, was twice as great. Despite these obstacles, the courage and effectiveness of several Black units in combat won increasing respect from initially skeptical or hostile White soldiers. As one White officer put it, "they have fought their way into the respect of all the army."

In trying to demonstrate the magnitude of this attitudinal change, however, Glatthaar seems to exaggerate the prewar racism of the White men who became officers in Black regiments. "Prior to the war," he writes of these men, "virtually all of them held powerful racial prejudices." While perhaps true of those officers who joined Black units for promotion or other self-serving motives, this statement misrepresents the attitudes of the many abolitionists who became officers in Black regiments. Having spent years fighting against the race prejudice endemic in American society, they participated eagerly in this military experiment, which they hoped would help African Americans achieve freedom and postwar civil equality. By current standards of racial egalitarianism, these men's paternalism toward African Americans was racist. But to call their feelings "powerful racial prejudices" is to indulge in generational chauvinism—to judge past eras by present standards.

1. The passage as a whole can best be characterized as which of the following?
 - (A) An evaluation of a scholarly study
 - (B) A description of an attitudinal change
 - (C) A discussion of an analytical defect
 - (D) An analysis of the causes of a phenomenon
 - (E) An argument in favor of revising a view
2. According to the author, which of the following is true of Glatthaar's *Forged in Battle* compared with previous studies on the same topic?
 - (A) It is more reliable and presents a more complete picture of the historical events on which it concentrates than do previous studies.
 - (B) It uses more of a particular kind of source material and focuses more closely on a particular aspect of the topic than do previous studies.
 - (C) It contains some unsupported generalizations, but it rightly emphasizes a theme ignored by most previous studies.
 - (D) It surpasses previous studies on the same topic in that it accurately describes conditions often neglected by those studies.
 - (E) It makes skillful use of supporting evidence to illustrate a subtle trend that previous studies have failed to detect.
3. The author implies that the title of Glatthaar's book refers specifically to which of the following?
 - (A) The sense of pride and accomplishment that Black soldiers increasingly felt as a result of their Civil War experiences
 - (B) The civil equality that African Americans achieved after the Civil War, partly as a result of their use of organizational skills honed by combat
 - (C) The changes in discriminatory army policies that were made as a direct result of the performance of Black combat units during the Civil War
 - (D) The improved interracial relations that were formed by the races' facing of common dangers and their waging of a common fight during the Civil War
 - (E) The standards of racial egalitarianism that came to be adopted as a result of White Civil War veterans' repudiation of the previous racism
4. The passage mentions which of the following as an important theme that receives special emphasis in Glatthaar's book?
 - (A) The attitudes of abolitionist officers in Black units
 - (B) The struggle of Black units to get combat assignments
 - (C) The consequences of the poor medical care received by Black soldiers
 - (D) The motives of officers serving in Black units
 - (E) The discrimination that Black soldiers faced when trying for promotions
5. The passage suggests that which of the following was true of Black units' disease mortality rates in the Civil War?
 - (A) They were almost as high as the combat mortality rates of White units.
 - (B) They resulted in part from the relative inexperience of these units when in combat.
 - (C) They were especially high because of the nature of these units' usual duty assignments.
 - (D) They resulted in extremely high overall casualty rates in Black combat units.
 - (E) They exacerbated the morale problems that were caused by the army's discriminatory policies.

6. The author of the passage quotes the White officer primarily in order to provide evidence to support the contention that
- (A) virtually all White officers initially had hostile attitudes toward Black soldiers
 - (B) Black soldiers were often forced to defend themselves from physical attacks initiated by soldiers from White units
 - (C) the combat performance of Black units changed the attitudes of White soldiers toward Black soldiers
 - (D) White units paid especially careful attention to the performance of Black units in battle
 - (E) respect in the army as a whole was accorded only to those units, whether Black or White, that performed well in battle
7. Which of the following best describes the kind of error attributed to Glatthaar?
- (A) Insisting on an unwarranted distinction between two groups of individuals in order to render an argument concerning them internally consistent
 - (B) Supporting an argument in favor of a given interpretation of a situation with evidence that is not particularly relevant to the situation
 - (C) Presenting a distorted view of the motives of certain individuals in order to provide grounds for a negative evaluation of their actions
 - (D) Describing the conditions prevailing before a given event in such a way that the contrast with those prevailing after the event appears more striking than it actually is
 - (E) Asserting that a given event is caused by another event merely because the other event occurred before the given event occurred
8. Which of the following actions can best be described as indulging in “generational chauvinism” as that practice is defined in the passage?
- (A) Condemning a present-day monarch merely because many monarchs have been tyrannical in the past.
 - (B) Clinging to the formal standards of politeness common in one’s youth to such a degree that any relaxation of those standards is intolerable.
 - (C) Questioning the accuracy of a report written by an employee merely because of the employee’s gender.
 - (D) Deriding the superstitions accepted as “science” in past eras without acknowledging the prevalence of irrational beliefs today.
 - (E) Labeling a nineteenth-century politician as “corrupt” for engaging in once-acceptable practices considered intolerable today.

Video solution : <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-7/YXRK1JPF>

Passage 8

It was once believed that the brain was independent of metabolic processes occurring elsewhere in the body. In recent studies, however, we have discovered that the production and release in brain neurons of the neurotransmitter serotonin (neurotransmitters are compounds that neurons use to transmit signals to other cells) depend directly on the food that the body processes.

First studies sought to determine whether the increase in serotonin observed in rats given a large injection of the amino acid tryptophan might also occur after rats ate meals that change tryptophan levels in the blood. We found that, immediately after the rats began to eat, parallel elevations occurred in blood tryptophan, brain tryptophan, and brain serotonin levels. These findings suggested that the production and release of serotonin in brain neurons were normally coupled with blood-tryptophan increases. In later studies we found that injecting insulin into a rat's bloodstream also caused parallel elevations in blood and brain tryptophan levels and in serotonin levels. We then decided to see whether the secretion of the animal's own insulin similarly affected serotonin production. We gave the rats a carbohydrate-containing meal that we knew would elicit insulin secretion. As we had hypothesized, the blood tryptophan level and the concentrations of tryptophan serotonin in the brain increased after the meal.

Surprisingly, however, when we added a large amount of protein to the meal, brain tryptophan and serotonin levels fell. Since protein contains tryptophan, why should it depress brain tryptophan levels? The answer lies in the mechanism that provides blood tryptophan to the brain cells. This same mechanism also provides the brain cells with other amino acids found in protein, such as tyrosine and Leucine. The consumption of protein increases blood concentration of the other amino acids much more, proportionately, than it does that of tryptophan. The more protein in the meal, the lower is the ratio of the resulting blood-tryptophan concentration to the concentration of competing amino acids, and the more slowly is tryptophan provided to the brain. Thus the more protein in a meal, the less serotonin subsequently produced and released.

1. Which of the following titles best summarizes the contents of the passage?
 - (A) Neurotransmitters: Their Crucial Function in Cellular Communication
 - (B) Diet and Survival: An Old Relationship Reexamined
 - (C) The Blood Supply and the Brain: A Reciprocal Dependence
 - (D) Amino Acids and Neurotransmitters: The Connection Between Serotonin Levels and Tyrosine
 - (E) The Effects of Food Intake on the Production and Release of Serotonin: Some Recent Findings
2. According to the passage, the speed with which tryptophan is provided to the brain cells of a rat varies with the
 - (A) amount of protein present in a meal
 - (B) concentration of serotonin in the brain before a meal
 - (C) concentration of leucine in the blood rather than on the concentration of tyrosine in the blood after a meal
 - (D) concentration of tryptophan in the brain before a meal
 - (E) number of serotonin-containing neurons present in the brain before a meal
3. According to the passage, when the authors began their first studies, they were aware that
 - (A) they would eventually need to design experiments that involved feeding rats high concentrations of protein
 - (B) tryptophan levels in the blood were difficult to monitor with accuracy
 - (C) serotonin levels increased after rats were fed meals rich in tryptophan
 - (D) there were many neurotransmitters whose production was dependent on metabolic processes elsewhere in the body
 - (E) serotonin levels increased after rats were injected with a large amount of tryptophan
4. According to the passage, one reason that the authors gave rats carbohydrates was to
 - (A) depress the rats' tryptophan levels
 - (B) prevent the rats from contracting diseases
 - (C) cause the rats to produce insulin
 - (D) demonstrate that insulin is the most important substance secreted by the body
 - (E) compare the effect of carbohydrates with the effect of proteins
5. According to the passage, the more protein a rat consumes, the lower will be the
 - (A) ratio of the rat's blood-tryptophan concentration to the amount of serotonin produced and released in the rat's brain
 - (B) ratio of the rat's blood-tryptophan concentration to the concentration in its blood of the other amino acids contained in the protein
 - (C) ratio of the rat's blood-tyrosine concentration to its blood-leucine concentration
 - (D) number of neurotransmitters of any kind that the rat will produce and release
 - (E) number of amino acids the rat's blood will contain
6. The authors' discussion of the "mechanism that provides blood tryptophan to the brain cells" is meant to
 - (A) stimulate further research studies
 - (B) summarize an area of scientific investigation
 - (C) help explain why a particular research finding was obtained
 - (D) provide supporting evidence for a controversial scientific theory
 - (E) refute the conclusions of a previously mentioned research study

7. According to the passage, an injection of insulin was most similar in its effect on rats to an injection of
- (A) tyrosine
 - (B) leucine
 - (C) blood
 - (D) tryptophan
 - (E) protein
8. It can be inferred from the passage that which of the following would be LEAST likely to be a potential source of aid to a patient who was not adequately producing and releasing serotonin?
- (A) Meals consisting almost exclusively of protein
 - (B) Meals consisting almost exclusively of carbohydrates
 - (C) Meals that would elicit insulin secretion
 - (D) Meals that had very low concentrations of tyrosine
 - (E) Meals that had very low concentrations of leucine
9. It can be inferred from the passage that the authors initially held which of the following hypotheses about what would happen when they fed large amounts of protein to rats?
- (A) The rats' brain serotonin levels would not decrease.
 - (B) The rats' brain tryptophan levels would decrease.
 - (C) The rats' tyrosine levels would increase less quickly than would their leucine levels.
 - (D) The rats would produce more insulin.
 - (E) The rats would produce neurotransmitters other than serotonin.

Video solution : <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-8/T81ZPLI2>

Passage 9

Excess inventory, a massive problem for many businesses, has several causes, some of which are unavoidable. Overstocks may accumulate through production over runs or errors. Certain styles and colors prove unpopular. With some products—computers and software, toys, and books—last year's models are difficult to move even at huge discounts. Occasionally the competition introduces a better product. But in many cases the public's buying tastes simply change, leaving a manufacturer or distributor with thousands (or millions) of items that the fickle public no longer wants.

One common way to dispose of this merchandise is to sell it to a liquidator, who buys as cheaply as possible and then resells the merchandise through catalogs, discount stores, and other outlets. However, liquidators may pay less for the merchandise than it cost to make it. Another way to dispose of excess inventory is to dump it. The corporation takes a straight cost write-off on its taxes and hauls the merchandise to a landfill. Although it is hard to believe, there is a sort of convoluted logic to this approach. It is perfectly legal, requires little time or preparation on the company's part, and solves the problem quickly. The drawback is the remote possibility of getting caught by the news media. Dumping perfectly useful products can turn into a public relations nightmare. Children living in poverty are freezing and XYZ Company has just sent 500 new snowsuits to the local dump. Parents of young children are barely getting by and QRS Company dumps 1,000 cases of disposable diapers because they have slight imperfections.

The managers of these companies are not deliberately wasteful; they are simply unaware of all their alternatives. In 1976 the Internal Revenue Service provided a tangible incentive for businesses to contribute their products to charity. The new tax law allowed corporations to deduct the cost of the product donated plus half the difference between cost and fair market selling price, with the proviso that deductions cannot exceed twice cost. Thus, the federal government sanctions—indeed, encourages—an above-cost federal tax deduction for companies that donate inventory to charity.

1. The author mentions each of the following as a cause of excess inventory EXCEPT
 - (A) production of too much merchandise
 - (B) inaccurate forecasting of buyers' preferences
 - (C) unrealistic pricing policies
 - (D) products' rapid obsolescence
 - (E) availability of a better product
2. The passage suggests that which of the following is a kind of product that a liquidator who sells to discount stores would be unlikely to wish to acquire?
 - (A) Furniture
 - (B) Computers
 - (C) Kitchen equipment
 - (D) Baby-care products
 - (E) Children's clothing
3. The passage provides information that supports which of the following statements?
 - (A) Excess inventory results most often from insufficient market analysis by the manufacturer.
 - (B) Products with slight manufacturing defects may contribute to excess inventory.
 - (C) Few manufacturers have taken advantage of the changes in the federal tax laws.
 - (D) Manufacturers who dump their excess inventory are often caught and exposed by the news media.
 - (E) Most products available in discount stores have come from manufacturers' excess-inventory stock.
4. The author cites the examples most probably in order to illustrate
 - (A) the fiscal irresponsibility of dumping as a policy for dealing with excess inventory
 - (B) the waste-management problems that dumping new products creates
 - (C) the advantages to the manufacturer of dumping as a policy
 - (D) alternatives to dumping explored by different companies
 - (E) how the news media could portray dumping to the detriment of the manufacturer's reputation
5. By asserting that manufacturers "are simply unaware" , the author suggests which of the following?
 - (A) Manufacturers might donate excess inventory to charity rather than dump it if they knew about the provision in the federal tax code.
 - (B) The federal government has failed to provide sufficient encouragement to manufacturers to make use of advantageous tax policies.
 - (C) Manufacturers who choose to dump excess inventory are not aware of the possible effects on their reputation of media coverage of such dumping.
 - (D) The manufacturers of products disposed of by dumping are unaware of the needs of those people who would find the products useful.
 - (E) The manufacturers who dump their excess inventory are not familiar with the employment of liquidators to dispose of overstock.
6. The information in the passage suggests that which of the following, if true, would make donating excess inventory to charity less attractive to manufacturers than dumping?
 - (A) The costs of getting the inventory to the charitable destination are greater than the above-cost tax deduction.
 - (B) The news media give manufacturers' charitable contributions the same amount of coverage that they give dumping.
 - (C) No straight-cost tax benefit can be claimed for items that are dumped.

- (D) The fair-market value of an item in excess inventory is 5 times its cost.
- (E) Items end up as excess inventory because of a change in the public's preferences.

7. Information in the passage suggests that one reason manufacturers might take advantage of the tax provision mentioned in the last paragraph is that

- (A) there are many kinds of products that cannot be legally dumped in a landfill
- (B) liquidators often refuse to handle products with slight imperfections
- (C) the law allows a deduction in excess of the cost of manufacturing the product
- (D) media coverage of contributions of excess-inventory products to charity is widespread and favorable
- (E) no tax deduction is available for products dumped or sold to a liquidator

Video solution : <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-9/OBCIPH3T>

Passage 10

Traditionally, the first firm to commercialize a new technology has benefited from the unique opportunity to shape product definitions, forcing followers to adapt to a standard or invest in an unproven alternative. Today, however, the largest payoffs may go to companies that lead in developing integrated approaches for successful mass production and distribution.

Producers of the Beta format for video cassette recorders (VCR's), for example, were first to develop the VCR commercially in 1975, but producers of the rival VHS (Video Home System) format proved to be more successful at forming strategic alliances with other producers and distributors to manufacture and market their VCR format. Seeking to maintain exclusive control over VCR distribution, Beta producers were reluctant to form such alliances and eventually lost ground to VHS in the competition for the global VCR market.

Despite Beta's substantial technological head start and the fact that VHS was neither technically better nor cheaper than Beta, developers of VHS quickly turned a slight early lead in sales into a dominant position. Strategic alignments with producers of pre recorded tapes reinforced the VHS advantage. The perception among consumers that pre recorded tapes were more available in VHS format further expanded VHS's share of the market. By the end of the 1980's, Beta was no longer in production.

1. The passage is primarily concerned with which of the following?
 - (A) Evaluating two competing technologies
 - (B) Tracing the impact of a new technology by narrating a sequence of events
 - (C) Reinterpreting an event from contemporary business history
 - (D) Illustrating a business strategy by means of a case history
 - (E) Proposing an innovative approach to business planning
2. According to the passage, today's successful firms, unlike successful firms in the past, may earn the greatest profits by
 - (A) investing in research to produce cheaper versions of existing technology
 - (B) being the first to market a competing technology
 - (C) adapting rapidly to a technological standard previously set by a competing firm
 - (D) establishing technological leadership in order to shape product definitions in advance of competing firms
 - (E) emphasizing the development of methods for the mass production and distribution of a new technology
3. According to the passage, consumers began to develop a preference for VCR's in the VHS format because they believed which of the following?
 - (A) VCR's in the VHS format were technically better than competing-format VCR's.
 - (B) VCR's in the VHS format were less expensive than competing-format VCR's.
 - (C) VHS was the first standard format for VCR's.
 - (D) VHS prerecorded videotapes were more available than Beta-format tapes.
 - (E) VCR's in the Beta format would soon cease to be produced.
4. The author implies that one way that VHS producers won control over the VCR market was by
 - (A) carefully restricting access to VCR technology
 - (B) giving up a slight early lead in VCR sales in order to improve long-term prospects
 - (C) retaining a strict monopoly on the production of prerecorded videotapes
 - (D) sharing control of the marketing of VHS-format VCR's
 - (E) sacrificing technological superiority over Beta-format VCR's in order to remain competitive in price
5. The alignment of producers of VHS-format VCR's with producers of prerecorded video tapes is most similar to which of the following?
 - (A) The alignment of an automobile manufacturer with another automobile manufacturer to adopt a standard design for automobile engines.
 - (B) The alignment of an automobile manufacturer with an automotive glass company whereby the manufacturer agrees to purchase automobile windshields only from that one glass company.
 - (C) The alignment of an automobile manufacturer with a petroleum company to ensure the widespread availability of the fuel required by a new type of engine developed by the manufacturer.
 - (D) The alignment of an automobile manufacturer with its dealers to adopt a plan to improve automobile design.
 - (E) The alignment of an automobile dealer with an automobile rental chain to adopt a strategy for an advertising campaign to promote a new type of automobile.

6. Which of the following best describes the relation of the first paragraph to the passage as a whole?

- (A) It makes a general observation to be exemplified.
- (B) It outlines a process to be analyzed.
- (C) It poses a question to be answered.
- (D) It advances an argument to be disputed.
- (E) It introduces conflicting arguments to be reconciled.

Video solution : <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-10/U0IAROSX>

Passage 11

When A. Philip Randolph assumed the leadership of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, he began a ten-year battle to win recognition from the Pullman Company, the largest private employer of Black people in the United States and the company that controlled the railroad industry's sleeping car and parlor service. In 1935 the Brotherhood became the first Black union recognized by a major corporation. Randolph's efforts in the battle helped transform the attitude of Black workers toward unions and toward themselves as an identifiable group; eventually, Randolph helped to weaken organized labor's antagonism toward Black workers.

In the Pullman contest Randolph faced formidable obstacles. The first was Black workers' understandable skepticism toward unions, which had historically barred Black workers from membership. An additional obstacle was the union that Pullman itself had formed, which weakened support among Black workers for an independent entity.

The Brotherhood possessed a number of advantages, however, including Randolph's own tactical abilities. In 1928 he took the bold step of threatening a strike against Pullman. Such a threat, on a national scale, under Black leadership, helped replace the stereotype of the Black worker as servant with the image of the Black worker as wage earner. In addition, the porters' very isolation aided the Brotherhood. Porters were scattered throughout the country, sleeping in dormitories in Black communities; their segregated life protected the union's internal communications from interception. That the porters were a homogeneous group working for a single employer with single labor policy, thus sharing the same grievances from city to city, also strengthened the Brotherhood and encouraged racial identity and solidarity as well. But it was only in the early 1930's that federal legislation prohibiting a company from maintaining its own unions with company money eventually allowed the Brotherhood to become recognized as the porters' representative.

Not content with this triumph, Randolph brought the Brotherhood into the American Federation of Labor, where it became the equal of the Federation's 105 other unions. He reasoned that as a member union, the Brotherhood would be in a better position to exert pressure on member unions that practiced race restrictions. Such restrictions were eventually found unconstitutional in 1944.

1. According to the passage, by 1935 the skepticism of Black workers toward unions was
 - (A) unchanged except among Black employees of railroad-related industries
 - (B) reinforced by the actions of the Pullman Company's union
 - (C) mitigated by the efforts of Randolph
 - (D) weakened by the opening up of many unions to Black workers
 - (E) largely alleviated because of the policies of the American Federation of Labor
2. In using the word "understandable" the author most clearly conveys
 - (A) sympathy with attempts by the Brotherhood between 1925 and 1935 to establish an independent union
 - (B) concern that the obstacles faced by Randolph between 1925 and 1935 were indeed formidable
 - (C) ambivalence about the significance of unions to most Black workers in the 1920's
 - (D) appreciation of the attitude of many Black workers in the 1920's toward unions
 - (E) regret at the historical attitude of unions toward Black workers
3. The passage suggests which of the following about the response of porters to the Pullman Company's own union?
 - (A) Few porters ever joined this union.
 - (B) Some porters supported this union before 1935.
 - (C) Porters, more than other Pullman employees, enthusiastically supported this union.
 - (D) The porters' response was most positive after 1935.
 - (E) The porters' response was unaffected by the general skepticism of Black workers concerning unions.
4. The passage suggests that if the grievances of porters in one part of the United States had been different from those of porters in another part of the country, which of the following would have been the case?
 - (A) It would have been more difficult for the Pullman Company to have had a single labor policy.
 - (B) It would have been more difficult for the Brotherhood to control its channels of communication.
 - (C) It would have been more difficult for the Brotherhood to build its membership.
 - (D) It would have been easier for the Pullman Company's union to attract membership.
 - (E) It would have been easier for the Brotherhood to threaten strikes.
5. The passage suggests that in the 1920's a company in the United States was able to
 - (A) use its own funds to set up a union
 - (B) require its employees to join the company's own union
 - (C) develop a single labor policy for all its employees with little employee dissent
 - (D) pressure its employees to contribute money to maintain the company's own union
 - (E) use its resources to prevent the passage of federal legislation that would have facilitated the formation of independent unions

6. The passage supplies information concerning which of the following matters related to Randolph?

- (A) The steps he took to initiate the founding of the Brotherhood
- (B) His motivation for bringing the Brotherhood into the American Federation of Labor
- (C) The influence he had on the passage of legislation overturning race restrictions in 1944
- (D) The influence he had on the passage of legislation to bar companies from financing their own unions
- (E) The success he and the Brotherhood had in influencing the policies of the other unions in the American Federation of Labor

video solution : <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-11/XWN17GX4>

Passage 12

According to a recent theory, Archeanage age gold-quartz vein systems were formed over two billion years ago from magnetic fluids that originated from molten granite-like bodies deep beneath the surface of the Earth. This theory is contrary to the widely held view that the systems were deposited from metamorphic fluids, that is, from fluids that formed during the dehydration of wet sedimentary rocks.

The recently developed theory has considerable practical importance. Most of the gold deposits discovered during the original gold rushes were exposed at the Earth's surface and were found because they had shed trails of alluvial gold that were easily traced by simple prospecting methods. Although these same methods still lead to an occasional discovery, most deposits not yet discovered have gone undetected because they are buried and have no surface expression.

The challenge in exploration is therefore to unravel the subsurface geology of an area and pinpoint the position of buried minerals. Methods widely used today include analysis of aerial images that yield a broad geological overview; geophysical techniques that provide data on the magnetic, electrical, and mineralogical properties of the rocks being investigated; and sensitive chemical tests that are able to detect the subtle chemical halos that often envelop mineralization. However, none of these high-technology methods are of any value if the sites to which they are applied have never mineralized, and to maximize the chances of discovery the explorer must therefore pay particular attention to selecting the ground formations most likely to be mineralized. Such ground selection relies to varying degrees on conceptual models, which take into account theoretical studies of relevant factors.

These models are constructed primarily from empirical observations of known mineral deposits and from theories of ore-forming processes. The explorer uses the models to identify those geological features that are critical to the formation of the mineralization being modeled, and then tries to select areas for exploration that exhibit as many of the critical features as possible.

1. The author is primarily concerned with
 - (A) advocating a return to an older methodology
 - (B) explaining the importance of a recent theory
 - (C) enumerating differences between two widely used methods
 - (D) describing events leading to a discovery
 - (E) challenging the assumptions on which a theory is based
2. According to the passage, the widely held view of Archeanage gold-quartz vein systems is that such systems
 - (A) were formed from metamorphic fluids
 - (B) originated in molten granite-like bodies
 - (C) were formed from alluvial deposits
 - (D) generally have surface expression
 - (E) are not discoverable through chemical tests
3. The passage implies that which of the following steps would be the first performed by explorers who wish to maximize their chances of discovering gold?
 - (A) Surveying several sites known to have been formed more than two billion years ago
 - (B) Limiting exploration to sites known to have been formed from metamorphic fluid
 - (C) Using an appropriate conceptual model to select a site for further exploration
 - (D) Using geophysical methods to analyze rocks over a broad area
 - (E) Limiting exploration to sites where alluvial gold has previously been found
4. Which of the following statements about discoveries of gold deposits is supported by information in the passage?
 - (A) The number of gold discoveries made annually has increased between the time of the original gold rushes and the present.
 - (B) New discoveries of gold deposits are likely to be the result of exploration techniques designed to locate buried mineralization.
 - (C) It is unlikely that newly discovered gold deposits will ever yield as much as did those deposits discovered during the original gold rushes.
 - (D) Modern explorers are divided on the question of the utility of simple prospecting methods as a source of new discoveries of gold deposits.
 - (E) Models based on the theory that gold originated from magnetic fluids have already led to new discoveries of gold deposits.
5. It can be inferred from the passage that which of the following is easiest to detect?
 - (A) A gold-quartz vein system originating in magnetic fluids
 - (B) A gold-quartz vein system originating in metamorphic fluids
 - (C) A gold deposit that is mixed with granite
 - (D) A gold deposit that has shed alluvial gold
 - (E) A gold deposit that exhibits chemical halos
6. The theory mentioned in line 1 relates to the conceptual models discussed in the passage in which of the following ways?
 - (A) It may furnish a valid account of ore-forming processes, and, hence, can support conceptual models that have great practical significance.
 - (B) It suggests that certain geological formations, long believed to be mineralized, are in fact mineralized, thus confirming current conceptual models.
 - (C) It suggests that there may not be enough similarity across Archeanage gold-quartz vein systems to warrant the formulation of conceptual models.

- (D) It corrects existing theories about the chemical halos of gold deposits, and thus provides a basis for correcting current conceptual models.
- (E) It suggests that simple prospecting methods still have a higher success rate in the discovery of gold deposits than do more modern methods.

7. According to the passage, methods of exploring for gold that are widely used today are based on which of the following facts?

- (A) Most of the Earth's remaining gold deposits are still molten.
- (B) Most of the Earth's remaining gold deposits are exposed at the surface.
- (C) Most of the Earth's remaining gold deposits are buried and have no surface expression.
- (D) Only one type of gold deposit warrants exploration, since the other types of gold deposits are found in regions difficult to reach.
- (E) Only one type of gold deposit warrants exploration, since the other types of gold deposits are unlikely to yield concentrated quantities of gold.

8. It can be inferred from the passage that the efficiency of model-based gold exploration depends on which of the following?

- I. The closeness of the match between the geological features identified by the model as critical and the actual geological features of a given area
- II. The degree to which the model chosen relies on empirical observation of known mineral deposits rather than on theories of ore-forming processes
- III. The degree to which the model chosen is based on an accurate description of the events leading to mineralization

- (A) I only
- (B) II only
- (C) I and II only
- (D) I and III only
- (E) I, II and III

Video solution : <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-12/RJN6KVHC>

Passage 14

While there is no blueprint for transforming a largely government-controlled economy into a free one, the experience of the United Kingdom since 1979 clearly shows one approach that works: privatization, in which state-owned industries are sold to private companies. By 1979, the total borrowings and losses of state-owned industries were running at about £3 billion a year. By selling many of these industries, the government has decreased these borrowings and losses, gained over £34 billion from the sales, and now receives tax revenues from the newly privatized companies. Along with a dramatically improved overall economy, the government has been able to repay 12.5 percent of the net national debt over a two-year period.

In fact, privatization has not only rescued individual industries and a whole economy headed for disaster, but has also raised the level of performance in every area. At British Airways and British Gas, for example, productivity per employee has risen by 20 percent. At Associated British Ports, labor disruptions common in the 1970's and early 1980's have now virtually disappeared. At British Telecom, there is no longer a waiting list—as there always was before privatization—to have a telephone installed.

Part of this improved productivity has come about because the employees of privatized industries were given the opportunity to buy shares in their own companies. They responded enthusiastically to the offer of shares; at British Aerospace, 89 percent of the eligible work force bought shares; at Associated British Ports, 90 percent; and at British Telecom, 92 percent. When people have a personal stake in something, they think about it, care about it, work to make it prosper. At the National Freight Consortium, the new employee-owners grew so concerned about their company's profits that during wage negotiations they actually pressed their union to lower its wage demands.

Some economists have suggested that giving away free shares would provide a needed acceleration of the privatization process. Yet they miss Thomas Paine's point that "what we obtain too cheap we esteem too lightly." In order for the far-ranging benefits of individual ownership to be achieved by owners, companies, and countries, employees and other individuals must make their own decisions to buy, and they must commit some of their own resources to the choice.

1. According to the passage, all of the following were benefits of privatizing state-owned industries in the United Kingdom EXCEPT:
 - (A) Privatized industries paid taxes to the government.
 - (B) The government gained revenue from selling state-owned industries.
 - (C) The government repaid some of its national debt.
 - (D) Profits from industries that were still state-owned increased.
 - (E) Total borrowings and losses of state-owned industries decreased.
2. According to the passage, which of the following resulted in increased productivity in companies that have been privatized?
 - (A) A large number of employees chose to purchase shares in their companies.
 - (B) Free shares were widely distributed to individual shareholders.
 - (C) The government ceased to regulate major industries.
 - (D) Unions conducted wage negotiations for employees.
 - (E) Employee-owners agreed to have their wages lowered.
3. It can be inferred from the passage that the author considers labor disruptions to be
 - (A) an inevitable problem in a weak national economy
 - (B) a positive sign of employee concern about a company
 - (C) a predictor of employee reactions to a company's offer to sell shares to them
 - (D) a phenomenon found more often in state-owned industries than in private companies
 - (E) a deterrence to high performance levels in an industry
4. The passage supports which of the following statements about employees buying shares in their own companies?
 - (A) At three different companies, approximately nine out of ten of the workers were eligible to buy shares in their companies.
 - (B) Approximately 90% of the eligible workers at three different companies chose to buy shares in their companies.
 - (C) The opportunity to buy shares was discouraged by at least some labor unions.
 - (D) Companies that demonstrated the highest productivity were the first to allow their employees the opportunity to buy shares.
 - (E) Eligibility to buy shares was contingent on employees' agreeing to increased workloads.
5. Which of the following statements is most consistent with the principle described?
 - (A) A democratic government that decides it is inappropriate to own a particular industry has in no way abdicated its responsibilities as guardian of the public interest.
 - (B) The ideal way for a government to protect employee interests is to force companies to maintain their share of a competitive market without government subsidies.
 - (C) The failure to harness the power of self-interest is an important reason that state-owned industries perform poorly.
 - (D) Governments that want to implement privatization programs must try to eliminate all resistance to the free-market system.
 - (E) The individual shareholder will reap only a minute share of the gains from whatever sacrifices he or she makes to achieve these gains.

6. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage about the privatization process in the United Kingdom?

- (A) It depends to a potentially dangerous degree on individual ownership of shares.
- (B) It conforms in its most general outlines to Thomas Paine's prescription for business ownership.
- (C) It was originally conceived to include some giving away of free shares.
- (D) It has been successful, even though privatization has failed in other countries.
- (E) It is taking place more slowly than some economists suggest is necessary.

7. The quotation "what we obtain too cheap we esteem too lightly" is most probably used to

- (A) counter a position that the author of the passage believes is incorrect
- (B) state a solution to a problem described in the previous sentence
- (C) show how opponents of the viewpoint of the author of the passage have supported their arguments
- (D) point out a paradox contained in a controversial viewpoint
- (E) present a historical maxim to challenge the principle introduced in the third Paragraph

Video solution : <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-14/WLJR1M45>

Passage 15

Two modes of argumentation have been used on behalf of women's emancipation in Western societies. Arguments in what could be called the "relational" feminist tradition maintain the doctrine of "equality in difference," or equity as distinct for equality. They posit that biological distinctions between the sexes result in a necessary sexual division of labor in the family and throughout society and that women's procreative labor is currently undervalued by society, to the disadvantage of women. By contrast, the individualist feminist tradition emphasizes individual human rights and celebrates women's quest for personal autonomy, while downplaying the importance of gender roles and minimizing discussion of child bearing and its attendant responsibilities.

Before the late nineteenth century, these views coexisted within the feminist movement, often within the writings of the same individual. Between 1890 and 1920, however, relational feminism, which had been the dominant strain in feminist thought, and which still predominates among European and non-Western feminists, lost ground in England and the United States. Because the concept of individual rights was already well established in the Anglo-Saxon legal and political tradition, individualist feminism came to predominate in English-speaking countries. At the same time, the goals of the two approaches began to seem increasingly irreconcilable. Individualist feminists began to advocate a totally gender-blind system with equal rights for all. Relational feminists, while agreeing that equal educational and economic opportunities outside the home should be available for all women, continued to emphasize women's special contributions to society as homemakers and mothers; they demanded special treatment including protective legislation for women workers, state-sponsored maternity benefits, and paid compensation for housework.

Relational arguments have a major pitfall: because they underline women's physiological and psychological distinctiveness, they are often appropriated by political adversaries and used to endorse male privilege. But the individualist approach, by attacking gender roles, denying the significance of physiological difference, and condemning existing familial institutions as hopelessly patriarchal, has often simply treated as irrelevant the family roles important to many women. If the individualist framework, with its claim for women's autonomy, could be harmonized with the family-oriented concerns of relational feminists, a more fruitful model for contemporary feminist politics could emerge.

1. The author of the passage alludes to the well-established nature of the concept of individual rights in the Anglo-Saxon legal and political tradition in order to
- (A) illustrate the influence of individualist feminist thought on more general intellectual trends in English history
 - (B) argue that feminism was already a part of the larger Anglo-Saxon intellectual tradition, even though this has often gone unnoticed by critics of women's emancipation
 - (C) explain the decline in individualist thinking among feminists in non-English-speaking countries
 - (D) help account for an increasing shift toward individualist feminism among feminists in English-speaking countries
 - (E) account for the philosophical differences between individualist and relational feminists in English-speaking countries
2. The passage suggests that the author of the passage believes which of the following?
- (A) The predominance of individualist feminism in English-speaking countries is a historical phenomenon, the causes of which have not yet been investigated.
 - (B) The individualist and relational feminist views are irreconcilable, given their theoretical differences concerning the foundations of society.
 - (C) A consensus concerning the direction of future feminist politics will probably soon emerge, given the awareness among feminists of the need for cooperation among women.
 - (D) Political adversaries of feminism often misuse arguments predicated on differences between the sexes to argue that the existing social system should be maintained.
 - (E) Relational feminism provides the best theoretical framework for contemporary feminist politics, but individualist feminism could contribute much toward refining and strengthening modern feminist thought.
3. It can be inferred from the passage that the individualist feminist tradition denies the validity of which of the following causal statements?
- (A) A division of labor in a social group can result in increased efficiency with regard to the performance of group tasks.
 - (B) A division of labor in a social group causes inequities in the distribution of opportunities and benefits among group members.
 - (C) A division of labor on the basis of gender in a social group is necessitated by the existence of sex-linked biological differences between male and female members of the group.
 - (D) Culturally determined distinctions based on gender in a social group foster the existence of differing attitudes and opinions among group members.
 - (E) Educational programs aimed at reducing inequalities based on gender among members of a social group can result in a sense of greater well-being for all members of the group.
4. According to the passage, relational feminists and individualist feminists agree that
- (A) individual human rights take precedence over most other social claims
 - (B) the gender-based division of labor in society should be eliminated
 - (C) laws guaranteeing equal treatment for all citizens regardless of gender should be passed
 - (D) a greater degree of social awareness concerning the importance of motherhood would be beneficial to society
 - (E) the same educational and economic opportunities should be available to both sexes

5. According to the author, which of the following was true of feminist thought in Western societies before 1890?
- (A) Individualist feminist arguments were not found in the thought or writing of non-English-speaking feminists.
 - (B) Individualist feminism was a strain in feminist thought, but another strain, relational feminism, predominated.
 - (C) Relational and individualist approaches were equally prevalent in feminist thought and writing.
 - (D) The predominant view among feminists held that the welfare of women was ultimately less important than the welfare of children.
 - (E) The predominant view among feminists held that the sexes should receive equal treatment under the law.
6. The author implies that which of the following was true of most feminist thinkers in England and the United States after 1920?
- (A) They were less concerned with politics than with intellectual issues.
 - (B) They began to reach a broader audience and their programs began to be adopted by mainstream political parties.
 - (C) They called repeatedly for international cooperation among women's groups to achieve their goals.
 - (D) They moderated their initial criticism of the economic systems that characterized their societies.
 - (E) They did not attempt to unite the two different feminist approaches in their thought.

Video solution : <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-15/A6G277R9>

Passage 16

Although numbers of animals in a given region may fluctuate from year to year, the fluctuations are often temporary and, over long periods, trivial. Scientists have advanced three theories of population control to account for this relative constancy.

The first theory attributes a relatively constant population to periodic climatic catastrophes that decimate populations with such frequency as to prevent them from exceeding some particular limit. In the case of small organisms with short life cycles, climatic changes need not be catastrophic: normal seasonal changes in photoperiod (daily amount of sunlight), for example, can govern population growth. This theory—the density-independent view—asserts that climatic factors exert the same regulatory effect on population regardless of the number of individuals in a region.

A second theory argues that population growth is primarily density-dependent—that is, the rate of growth of a population in a region decreases as the number of animals increases. The mechanisms that manage regulation may vary. For example, as numbers increase, the food supply would probably diminish, which would increase mortality. In addition, as Lotka and Volterra have shown, predators can find prey more easily in high-density populations. Other regulators include physiological control mechanisms: for example, Christian and Davis have demonstrated how the crowding that results from a rise in numbers may bring about hormonal changes in the pituitary and adrenal glands that in turn may regulate population by lowering sexual activity and inhibiting sexual maturation. There is evidence that these effects may persist for three generations in the absence of the original provocation. One challenge for density-dependent theorists is to develop models that would allow the precise prediction of the effects of crowding.

A third theory, proposed by Wynne-Edwards and termed “epideictic,” argues that organisms have evolved a “code” in the form of social or epideictic behavior displays, such as winter-roosting aggregations or group vocalizing; such codes provide organisms with information on population size in a region so that they can, if necessary, exercise reproductive restraint. However, Wynne-Edwards’ theory, linking animal social behavior and population control, has been challenged, with some justification, by several studies.

1. The primary purpose of the passage is to
 - (A) argue against those scientists who maintain that animal populations tend to fluctuate
 - (B) compare and contrast the density-dependent and epideictic theories of population control
 - (C) provide example of some of the ways in which animals exercise reproductive restraint to control their own numbers
 - (D) suggests that theories of population control that concentrate on the social behavior of animals are more open to debate than are theories that do not
 - (E) summarize a number of scientific theories that attempt to explain why animal populations do not exceed certain limits
2. It can be inferred from the passage that proponents of the density-dependent theory of population control have not yet been able to
 - (A) use their theory to explain the population growth of organisms with short lifecycles
 - (B) reproduce the results of the study of Christian and Davis
 - (C) explain adequately why the numbers of a population can increase as the population's rate of growth decreases
 - (D) make sufficiently accurate predictions about the effects of crowding
 - (E) demonstrate how predator populations are themselves regulated
3. Which of the following, if true, would best support the density-dependent theory of population control as it is described in the passage?
 - (A) As the number of foxes in Minnesota decrease, the growth rate of this population of foxes begins to increase.
 - (B) As the number of woodpeckers in Vermont decreases, the growth rate of this population of woodpeckers also begins to decrease.
 - (C) As the number of prairie dogs in Oklahoma increases, the growth rate of this population of prairie dogs also begins to increase.
 - (D) After the number of beavers in Tennessee decreases, the number of predators of these beavers begins to increase.
 - (E) After the number of eagles in Montana decreases, the food supply of this population of eagles also begins to decrease.
4. According to the Wynne-Edwards theory as it is described in the passage, epideictic behavior displays serve the function of
 - (A) determining roosting aggregations
 - (B) locating food
 - (C) attracting predators
 - (D) regulating sexual activity
 - (E) triggering hormonal changes
5. The challenge posed to the Wynne-Edwards-theory by several studies is regarded by the author with
 - (A) complete indifference
 - (B) qualified acceptance
 - (C) skeptical amusement
 - (D) perplexed astonishment
 - (E) agitated dismay

6. Which of the following statements would provide the most of logical continuation of the final paragraph of the passage?
- (A) Thus Wynne-Edwards' theory raises serious questions about the constancy of animal population in a region.
 - (B) Because Wynne-Edwards' theory is able to explain more kinds of animal behavior than is the density-dependent theory, epideictic explanations of population regulation are now widely accepted.
 - (C) The results of one study, for instance, have suggested that group vocalizing is more often used to defend territory than to provide information about population density.
 - (D) Some of these studies have, in fact, worked out a systematic and complex code of social behavior that can regulate population size.
 - (E) One study, for example, has demonstrated that birds are more likely to use winter-roosting aggregations than group vocalizing in order to provide information on population size.

Video solution : <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-16/R1DVBQDS>

Passage 17

In an attempt to improve the overall performance of clerical workers, many companies have introduced computerized performance monitoring and control systems (CPMCS) that record and report a worker's computer-driven activities. However, at least one study has shown that such monitoring may not be having the desired effect. In the study, researchers asked monitored clerical workers and their supervisors how assessments of productivity affected supervisors' ratings of workers' performance.

In contrast to unmonitored workers doing the same work, who without exception identified the most important element in their jobs as customer service, the monitored workers and their supervisors all responded that productivity was the critical factor in assigning ratings. This finding suggested that there should have been a strong correlation between a monitored worker's productivity and the overall rating the worker received. However, measures of the relationship between overall rating and individual elements of performance clearly supported the conclusion that supervisors gave considerable weight to criteria such as attendance, accuracy, and indications of customer satisfaction.

It is possible that productivity may be a "hygiene factor," that is, if it is too low, it will hurt the overall rating. But the evidence suggests that beyond the point at which productivity becomes "good enough," higher productivity per se is unlikely to improve a rating.

1. According to the passage, before the final results of the study were known, which of the following seemed likely?
- (A) That workers with the highest productivity would also be the most accurate
 - (B) That workers who initially achieved high productivity ratings would continue to do so consistently
 - (C) That the highest performance ratings would be achieved by workers with the highest productivity
 - (D) That the most productive workers would be those whose supervisors claimed to value productivity
 - (E) That supervisors who claimed to value productivity would place equal value on customer satisfaction
2. It can be inferred that the author of the passage discusses “unmonitored workers” primarily in order to
- (A) compare the ratings of these workers with the ratings of monitored workers
 - (B) provide an example of a case in which monitoring might be effective
 - (C) provide evidence of an inappropriate use of CPMCS
 - (D) emphasize the effect that CPMCS may have on workers’ perceptions of their jobs
 - (E) illustrate the effect that CPMCS may have on workers’ ratings
3. Which of the following, if true, would most clearly have supported the conclusion?
- (A) Ratings of productivity correlated highly with ratings of both accuracy and attendance.
 - (B) Electronic monitoring greatly increased productivity.
 - (C) Most supervisors based overall ratings of performance on measures of productivity alone.
 - (D) Overall ratings of performance correlated more highly with measures of productivity than the researchers expected.
 - (E) Overall ratings of performance correlated more highly with measures of accuracy than with measures of productivity.
4. According to the passage, a “hygiene factor” is an aspect of a worker’s performance that
- (A) has no effect on the rating of a worker’s performance
 - (B) is so basic to performance that it is assumed to be adequate for all workers
 - (C) is given less importance than it deserves in rating a worker’s performance
 - (D) is not likely to affect a worker’s rating unless it is judged to be inadequate
 - (E) is important primarily because of the effect it has on a worker’s rating
5. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- (A) explain the need for the introduction of an innovative strategy
 - (B) discuss a study of the use of a particular method
 - (C) recommend a course of action
 - (D) resolved a difference of opinion
 - (E) suggest an alternative approach

Video solution: <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-17/DLPJWI8K>

Passage 18

Historians of women's labor in the United States at first largely disregarded the story of female service workers—women earning wages in occupations such as sales clerk, domestic servant, and office secretary. These historians focused instead on factory work, primarily because it seemed so different from traditional, unpaid "women's work" in the home, and because the underlying economic forces of industrialism were presumed to be gender-blind and hence emancipatory in effect. Unfortunately, emancipation has been less profound than expected, for not even industrial wage labor has escaped continued sex segregation in the workplace.

To explain this unfinished revolution in the status of women, historians have recently begun to emphasize the way a prevailing definition of femininity often determines the kinds of work allocated to women, even when such allocation is inappropriate to new conditions. For instance, early textile-mill entrepreneurs, in justifying women's employment in wage labor, made much of the assumption that women were by nature skillful at detailed tasks and patient in carrying out repetitive chores; the mill owners thus imported into the new industrial order hoary stereotypes associated with the homemaking activities they presumed to have been the purview of women. Because women accepted the more unattractive new industrial tasks more readily than did men, such jobs came to be regarded as female jobs. And employers, who assumed that women's "real" aspirations were for marriage and family life, declined to pay women wages commensurate with those of men. Thus many lower-skilled, lower-paid, less secure jobs came to be perceived as "female."

More remarkable than the origin has been the persistence of such sex segregation in twentieth-century industry. Once an occupation came to be perceived as "female." Employers showed surprisingly little interest in changing that perception, even when higher profits beckoned. And despite the urgent need of the United States during the Second World War to mobilize its human resources fully, job segregation by sex characterized even the most important war industries. Moreover, once the war ended, employers quickly returned to men most of the "male" jobs that women had been permitted to master.

1. According to the passage, job segregation by sex in the United States was
 - (A) greatly diminished by labor mobilization during the Second World War
 - (B) perpetuated by those textile-mill owners who argued in favor of women's employment in wage labor
 - (C) one means by which women achieved greater job security
 - (D) reluctantly challenged by employers except when the economic advantages were obvious
 - (E) a constant source of labor unrest in the young textile industry
2. According to the passage, historians of women's labor focused on factory work as a more promising area of research than service-sector work because factory work
 - (A) involved the payment of higher wages
 - (B) required skill in detailed tasks
 - (C) was assumed to be less characterized by sex segregation
 - (D) was more readily accepted by women than by men
 - (E) fitted the economic dynamic of industrialism better
3. It can be inferred from the passage that early historians of women's labor in the United States paid little attention to women's employment in the service sector of the economy because
 - (A) the extreme variety of these occupations made it very difficult to assemble meaningful statistics about them
 - (B) fewer women found employment in the service sector than in factory work
 - (C) the wages paid to workers in the service sector were much lower than those paid in the industrial sector
 - (D) women's employment in the service sector tended to be much more short-term than in factory work
 - (E) employment in the service sector seemed to have much in common with the unpaid work associated with homemaking
4. The passage supports which of the following statements about the early mill owners mentioned in the second paragraph?
 - (A) They hoped that by creating relatively unattractive "female" jobs they would discourage women from losing interest in marriage and family life.
 - (B) They sought to increase the size of the available labor force as a means to keep men's wages low.
 - (C) They argued that women were inherently suited to do well in particular kinds of factory work.
 - (D) They thought that factory work bettered the condition of women by emancipating them from dependence on income earned by men.
 - (E) They felt guilty about disturbing the traditional division of labor in family.
5. It can be inferred from the passage that the "unfinished revolution" the author mentions refers to the
 - (A) entry of women into the industrial labor market
 - (B) recognition that work done by women as homemakers should be compensated at rates comparable to those prevailing in the service sector of the economy
 - (C) development of a new definition of femininity unrelated to the economic forces of industrialism
 - (D) introduction of equal pay for equal work in all professions
 - (E) emancipation of women wage earners from gender-determined job allocation

6. The passage supports which of the following statements about hiring policies in the United States?
- (A) After a crisis many formerly "male" jobs are reclassified as "female" jobs.
 - (B) Industrial employers generally prefer to hire women with previous experience as homemakers.
 - (C) Post-Second World War hiring policies caused women to lose many of their wartime gains in employment opportunity.
 - (D) Even war industries during the Second World War were reluctant to hire women for factory work.
 - (E) The service sector of the economy has proved more nearly gender-blind in its hiring policies than has the manufacturing sector.
7. Which of the following words best expresses the opinion of the author of the passage concerning the notion that women are more skillful than men in carrying out detailed tasks?
- (A) "patient"
 - (B) "repetitive"
 - (C) "hoary"
 - (D) "homemaking"
 - (E) "purview"
8. Which of the following best describes the relationship of the final paragraph to the passage as a whole?
- (A) The central idea is reinforced by the citation of evidence drawn from twentieth-century history.
 - (B) The central idea is restated in such a way as to form a transition to a new topic for discussion.
 - (C) The central idea is restated and juxtaposed with evidence that might appear to contradict it.
 - (D) A partial exception to the generalizations of the central idea is dismissed as unimportant.
 - (E) Recent history is cited to suggest that the central idea's validity is gradually diminishing

Video solution ; <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-18/Z0D2H180>

Passage 19

Until recently, scientists did not know of a close vertebrate analogue to the extreme form of altruism observed in eusocial insects like ants and bees, whereby individuals cooperate, sometimes even sacrificing their own opportunities to survive and reproduce, for the good of others. However, such a vertebrate society may exist among underground colonies of the highly social rodent *Heterocephalus glaber*, the naked mole rat.

A naked mole rat colony, like a bee hive, wasp's nest, or termite mound, is ruled by its queen, or reproducing female. Other adult female mole rats neither ovulate nor breed. The queen is the largest member of the colony, and she maintains her breeding status through a mixture of behavioral and, presumably, chemical control. Queens have been long-lived in captivity, and when they die or are removed from a colony one sees violent fighting for breeding status among the larger remaining females, leading to a takeover by a new queen.

Eusocial insect societies have rigid caste systems, each insect's role being defined by its behavior, body shape, and physiology. In naked mole rat societies, on the other hand, differences in behavior are related primarily to reproductive status (reproduction being limited to the queen and a few males), body size, and perhaps age. Smaller non-breeding members, both male and female, seem to participate primarily in gathering food, transporting nest material, and tunneling. Larger non breeders are active in defending the colony and perhaps in removing dirt from the tunnels. Jarvis' work has suggested that differences in growth rates may influence the length of time that an individual performs a task, regardless of its age.

Cooperative breeding has evolved many times in vertebrates, but unlike naked mole rats, most cooperatively breeding vertebrates (except the wild dog, *Lycaon pictus*) are dominated by a pair of breeders rather than by a single breeding female. The division of labor within social groups is less pronounced among other vertebrates than among naked mole rats, colony size is much smaller, and mating by subordinate females may not be totally suppressed, where as in naked mole rat colonies subordinate females are not sexually active, and many never breed.

1. Which of the following most accurately states the main idea of the passage?
- (A) Naked mole rat colonies are the only known examples of cooperatively breeding vertebrate societies.
 - (B) Naked mole rat colonies exhibit social organization based on a rigid caste system.
 - (C) Behavior in naked mole rat colonies may well be a close vertebrate analogue to behavior in eusocial insect societies.
 - (D) The mating habits of naked mole rats differ from those of any other vertebrate species.
 - (E) The basis for the division of labor among naked mole rats is the same as that among eusocial insects.
2. The passage suggests that Jarvis' work has called into question which of the following explanatory variables for naked mole rat behavior?
- (A) Size
 - (B) Age
 - (C) Reproductive status
 - (D) Rate of growth
 - (E) Previously exhibited behavior
3. It can be inferred from the passage that the performance of tasks in naked mole rat colonies differs from task performance in eusocial insect societies in which of the following ways?
- (A) In naked mole rat colonies, all tasks are performed cooperatively.
 - (B) In naked mole rat colonies, the performance of tasks is less rigidly determined by body shape.
 - (C) In naked mole rat colonies, breeding is limited to the largest animals.
 - (D) In eusocial insect societies, reproduction is limited to a single female.
 - (E) In eusocial insect societies, the distribution of tasks is based on body size.
4. According to the passage, which of the following is a supposition rather than a fact concerning the queen in a naked mole rat colony?
- (A) She is the largest member of the colony.
 - (B) She exerts chemical control over the colony.
 - (C) She mates with more than one male.
 - (D) She attains her status through aggression.
 - (E) She is the only breeding female.
5. The passage supports which of the following inferences about breeding among *Lycaon pictus*?
- (A) The largest female in the social group does not maintain reproductive status by means of behavioral control.
 - (B) An individual's ability to breed is related primarily to its rate of growth.
 - (C) Breeding is the only task performed by the breeding female.
 - (D) Breeding in the social group is not cooperative.
 - (E) Breeding is not dominated by a single pair of dogs.
6. According to the passage, naked mole rat colonies may differ from all other known vertebrate groups in which of the following ways?
- (A) Naked mole rats exhibit an extreme form of altruism.
 - (B) Naked mole rats are cooperative breeders.
 - (C) Among naked mole rats, many males are permitted to breed with a single dominant female.

(D) Among naked mole rats, different tasks are performed at different times in an individual's life.

(E) Among naked mole rats, fighting results in the selection of a breeding female.

7. One function of the third paragraph of the passage is to

(A) state a conclusion about facts presented in an earlier paragraph

(B) introduce information that is contradicted by information in the fourth paragraph

(C) qualify the extent to which two previously mentioned groups might be similar

(D) show the chain of reasoning that led to the conclusions of a specific study

(E) demonstrate that of three explanatory factors offered, two may be of equal Significance

Video solution : <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-19/9S8VOFTC>

Passage 20

Two divergent definitions have dominated sociologists' discussions of the nature of ethnicity. The first emphasizes the primordial and unchanging character of ethnicity. In this view, people have an essential need for belonging that is satisfied by membership in groups based on shared ancestry and culture. A different conception of ethnicity de-emphasizes the cultural component and defines ethnic groups as interest groups. In this view, ethnicity serves as a way of mobilizing a certain population behind issues relating to its economic position. While both of these definitions are useful, neither fully captures the dynamic and changing aspects of ethnicity in the United States. Rather, ethnicity is more satisfactorily conceived of as a process in which pre existing communal bonds and common cultural attributes are adapted for instrumental purposes according to changing real-life situations.

One example of this process is the rise of participation by Native American people in the broader United States political system since the Civil Rights movement of the 1960's. Besides leading Native Americans to participate more actively in politics (the number of Native American legislative office holders more than doubled), this movement also evoked increased interest in tribal history and traditional culture. Cultural and instrumental components of ethnicity are not mutually exclusive, but rather reinforce one another.

The Civil Rights movement also brought changes in the uses to which ethnicity was put by Mexican American people. In the 1960's, Mexican Americans formed community-based political groups that emphasized ancestral heritage as a way of mobilizing constituents. Such emerging issues as immigration and voting rights gave Mexican American advocacy groups the means by which to promote ethnic solidarity. Like European ethnic groups in the nineteenth-century United States, late-twentieth-century Mexican American leaders combined ethnic with contemporary civic symbols. In 1968 Henry Cisneros, then mayor of San Antonio, Texas, cited Mexican leader Benito Juarez as a model for Mexican Americans in their fight for contemporary civil rights. And every year, Mexican Americans celebrate Cinco de Mayo as fervently as many Irish American people embrace St. Patrick's Day (both are major holidays in the countries of origin), with both holidays having been reinvented in the context of the United States and linked to ideals, symbols, and heroes of the United States.

1. Which of the following best states the main idea of the passage?
 - (A) In their definitions of the nature of ethnicity, sociologists have underestimated the power of the primordial human need to belong.
 - (B) Ethnicity is best defined as a dynamic process that combines cultural components with shared political and economic interests.
 - (C) In the United States in the twentieth century, ethnic groups have begun to organize in order to further their political and economic interests.
 - (D) Ethnicity in the United States has been significantly changed by the Civil Rights movement.
 - (E) The two definitions of ethnicity that have dominated sociologists discussions are incompatible and should be replaced by an entirely new approach.
2. Which of the following statements about the first two definitions of ethnicity discussed in the first paragraph is supported by the passage?
 - (A) One is supported primarily by sociologists, and the other is favored by members of ethnic groups.
 - (B) One emphasizes the political aspects of ethnicity, and the other focuses on the economic aspects.
 - (C) One is the result of analysis of United States populations, and the other is the result of analysis of European populations.
 - (D) One focuses more on the ancestral components of ethnicity than does the other.
 - (E) One focuses more on immigrant groups than does the other.
3. The author of the passage refers to Native American people in the second paragraph in order to provide an example of
 - (A) the ability of membership in groups based on shared ancestry and culture to satisfy an essential human need
 - (B) how ethnic feelings have both motivated and been strengthened by political activity
 - (C) how the Civil Rights movement can help promote solidarity among United States ethnic groups
 - (D) how participation in the political system has helped to improve a group's economic situation
 - (E) the benefits gained from renewed study of ethnic history and culture
4. The passage supports which of the following statements about the Mexican American community?
 - (A) In the 1960's the Mexican American community began to incorporate the customs of another ethnic group in the United States into the observation of its own ethnic holidays.
 - (B) In the 1960's Mexican American community groups promoted ethnic solidarity primarily in order to effect economic change.
 - (C) In the 1960's leader of the Mexican American community concentrated their efforts on promoting a renaissance of ethnic history and culture.
 - (D) In the 1960's members of the Mexican American community were becoming increasingly concerned about the issue of voting rights.
 - (E) In the 1960's the Mexican American community had greater success in mobilizing constituents than did other ethnic groups in the United States.
5. Which of the following types of ethnic cultural expression is discussed in the passage?
 - (A) The retelling of traditional narratives
 - (B) The wearing of traditional clothing
 - (C) The playing of traditional music

- (D) The celebration of traditional holidays
- (E) The preparation of traditional cuisine

6. Information in the passage supports which of the following statements about many European ethnic groups in the nineteenth-century United States?

- (A) They emphasized economic interests as a way of mobilizing constituents behind certain issues.
- (B) They conceived of their own ethnicity as being primordial in nature.
- (C) They created cultural traditions that fused United States symbols with those of their countries of origin.
- (D) They de-emphasized the cultural components of their communities in favor of political interests.
- (E) They organized formal community groups designed to promote a renaissance of ethnic history and culture.

7. The passage suggests that in 1968 Henry Cisneros most likely believed that

- (A) many Mexican American would respond positively to the example of Benito Juarez
- (B) many Mexican American were insufficiently educated in Mexican history
- (C) the fight for civil rights in the United States had many strong parallels in both Mexican and Irish history
- (D) the quickest way of organizing community-based groups was to emulate the tactics of Benito Juarez
- (E) Mexican Americans should emulate the strategies of Native American political leaders

Video solution : <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-20/5U10AG86>

Passage 21

The founders of the Republic viewed their revolution primarily in political rather than economic or social terms. And they talked about education as essential to the public good—a goal that took precedence over knowledge as occupational training or as a means to self-fulfillment or self-improvement. Over and over again the Revolutionary generation, both liberal and conservative in outlook, asserted its conviction that the welfare of the Republic rested upon an educated citizenry and that schools, especially free public schools, would be the best means of educating the citizenry in civic values and the obligations required of everyone in a democratic republican society. All agreed that the principal ingredients of a civic education were literacy and the inculcation of patriotic and moral virtues, some others adding the study of history and the study of principles of the republican government itself.

The founders, as was the case of almost all their successors, were long on exhortation and rhetoric regarding the value of civic education, but they left it to the textbook writers to distill the essence of those values for school children. Texts in American history and government appeared as early as the 1790s. The textbook writers turned out to be very largely of conservative persuasion, more likely Federalist in outlook than Jeffersonian, and almost universally agreed that political virtue must rest upon moral and religious precepts. Since most textbook writers were New Englander, this meant that the texts were infused with Protestant and, above all, Puritan outlooks.

In the first half of the Republic, civic education in the schools emphasized the inculcation of civic values and made little attempt to develop participatory political skills. That was a task left to incipient political parties, town meetings, churches and the coffee or ale houses where men gathered for conversation. Additionally as a reading of certain Federalist papers of the period would demonstrate, the press probably did more to disseminate realistic as well as partisan knowledge of government than the schools. The goal of education, however, was to achieve a higher form of union for the new Republic. In the middle half of the nineteenth century, the political values taught in the public and private schools did not change substantially from those celebrated in the first fifty years of the Republic. In the textbooks of the day their rosy hues if anything became golden. To the resplendent values of liberty, equality, and a benevolent Christian morality were now added the middle-class virtues—especially of New England—of hard work, honesty and integrity, the rewards of individual effort, and obedience to parents and legitimate authority. But of all the political values taught in school, patriotism was preeminent; and whenever teachers explained to school children why they should love their country above all else, the idea of liberty assumed pride of place.

1. The passage deals primarily with the
 - (A) content of early textbooks on American history and government
 - (B) role of education in late eighteenth-and early to mid-nineteenth-century America
 - (C) influence of New England Puritanism on early American values
 - (D) origin and development of the Protestant work ethic in modern America
 - (E) establishment of universal free public education in America
2. According to the passage, the founders of the Republic regarded education primarily as
 - (A) a religious obligation
 - (B) a private matter
 - (C) an unnecessary luxury
 - (D) a matter of individual choice
 - (E) a political necessity
3. The author states that textbooks written in the middle part of the nineteenth century
 - (A) departed radically in tone and style from earlier textbooks
 - (B) mentioned for the first time the value of liberty
 - (C) treated traditional civic virtues with even greater reverence
 - (D) were commissioned by government agencies
 - (E) contained no reference to conservative ideas
4. Which of the following would LEAST likely have been the subject of an early American textbook?
 - (A) basic rules of English grammar
 - (B) the American Revolution
 - (C) patriotism and other civic virtues
 - (D) vocational education
 - (E) principles of American government
5. The author's attitude toward the educational system she discusses can best be described as
 - (A) cynical and unpatriotic
 - (B) realistic and analytical
 - (C) pragmatic and frustrated
 - (D) disenchanted and bitter
 - (E) idealistic and naive
6. The passage provides information that would be helpful in answering which of the following questions?
 - (A) Why were a disproportionate share of early American textbooks written by New England authors?
 - (B) Was the Federalist party primarily a liberal or conservative force in early American politics?
 - (C) How many years of education did the founders believe were sufficient to instruct young citizens in civic virtue?
 - (D) What were the names of some of the Puritan authors who wrote early American textbooks?
 - (E) Did most citizens of the early Republic agree with the founders that public education was essential to the welfare of the Republic?

7. The author implies that an early American Puritan would likely insist that
- (A) moral and religious values are the foundation of civic virtue
 - (B) textbooks should instruct students in political issues of vital concern to the community
 - (C) textbooks should give greater emphasis to the value of individual liberty than to the duties of patriotism
 - (D) private schools with a particular religious focus are preferable to public schools with no religious instruction
 - (E) government and religion are separate institutions and the church should not interfere in political affairs
8. According to the passage citizens of the early Republic learned about practical political matters in all of the following ways EXCEPT
- (A) reading newspapers
 - (B) attending town meetings
 - (C) conversing about political matters
 - (D) reading textbooks
 - (E) attending church

Video solution : <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-21/JXUGTPB5>

Passage 22

The health-care economy is replete with unusual and even unique economic relationships. One of the least understood involves the peculiar roles of producer or “provider” and purchaser or “consumer” in the typical doctor-patient relationship. In most sectors of the economy, it is the seller who attempts to attract a potential buyer with various inducements of price, quality, and utility, and it is the buyer who makes the decision. Where circumstances permit the buyer no choice because there is effectively only one seller and the product is relatively essential, government usually asserts monopoly and places the industry under price and other regulations. Neither of these conditions prevails in most of the health-care industry.

In the health-care industry, the doctor-patient relationship is the mirror image of the ordinary relationship between producer and consumer. Once an individual has chosen to see a physician—and even then there may be no real choice—it is the physician who usually makes all significant purchasing decisions: whether the patient should return “next Wednesday,” whether X-rays are needed, whether drugs should be prescribed, etc. It is a rare and sophisticated patient who will challenge such professional decisions or raise in advance questions about price, especially when the ailment is regarded as serious.

This is particularly significant in relation to hospital care. The physician must certify the need for hospitalization, determine what procedures will be performed, and announce when the patient may be discharged. The patient may be consulted about some of these decisions, but in the main it is the doctor’s judgments that are final. Little wonder then that in the eyes of the hospital it is the physician who is the real “consumer.” As a consequence, the medical staff represents the “power center” in hospital policy and decision-making, not the administration.

Although usually there are in this situation four identifiable participants—the physician, the hospital, the patient, and the payer (generally an insurance carrier or government)—the physician makes the essential decisions for all of them. The hospital becomes an extension of the physician; the payer generally meets most of the bona fide bills generated by the physician/hospital; and for the most part the patient plays a passive role. In routine or minor illnesses, or just plain worries, the patient’s options are, of course, much greater with respect to use and price. In illnesses that are of some significance, however, such choices tend to evaporate, and it is for these illnesses that the bulk of the health-care dollar is spent. We estimate that about 75-80 percent of health-care expenditures are determined by physicians, not patients. For this reason, economy measures directed at patients or the general public are relatively ineffective.

1. The author's primary purpose is to
 - (A) speculate about the relationship between a patient's ability to pay and the treatment received
 - (B) criticize doctors for exercising too much control over patients
 - (C) analyze some important economic factors in health care
 - (D) urge hospitals to reclaim their decision-making authority
 - (E) inform potential patients of their health-care rights
2. It can be inferred that doctors are able to determine hospital policies because
 - (A) it is doctors who generate income for the hospital
 - (B) most of a patient's bills are paid by his health insurance
 - (C) hospital administrators lack the expertise to question medical decisions
 - (D) a doctor is ultimately responsible for a patient's health
 - (E) some patients might refuse to accept their physician's advice
3. According to the author, when a doctor tells a patient to "return next Wednesday," the doctor is in effect
 - (A) taking advantage of the patient's concern for his health
 - (B) instructing the patient to buy more medical services
 - (C) warning the patient that a hospital stay might be necessary
 - (D) advising the patient to seek a second opinion
 - (E) admitting that the initial visit was ineffective
4. The author is most probably leading up to
 - (A) a proposal to control medical costs
 - (B) a discussion of a new medical treatment
 - (C) an analysis of the causes of inflation in the United States
 - (D) a study of lawsuits against doctors for malpractice
 - (E) a comparison of hospitals and factories
5. The tone of the passage can best be described as
 - (A) whimsical
 - (B) cautious
 - (C) analytical
 - (D) inquisitive
 - (E) defiant
6. With which of the following statements would the author be likely to agree?
 - I. Most patients are reluctant to object to the course of treatment prescribed by a doctor or to question the cost of the services.
 - II. The more serious the illness of a patient, the less likely it is that the patient will object to the course of treatment prescribed or to question the cost of services.
 - III. The payer, whether insurance carrier or the government, is less likely to acquiesce to demands for payment when the illness of the patient is regarded as serious.
 - (A) I only
 - (B) II only
 - (C) I and II only
 - (D) II and III only
 - (E) I, II, and III

7. The author's primary concern is to

- (A) define a term
- (B) clarify a misunderstanding
- (C) refute a theory
- (D) discuss a problem
- (E) announce a new discovery

8. The most important feature of a "consumer" of the passage is that the "consumer" is the party that

- (A) pays for goods or services
- (B) delivers goods or services
- (C) orders goods or services
- (D) reimburses a third party for goods or services
- (E) supplies goods and services to a third party

Video solution : <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-22/F1E6LU7P>

Passage 23

About twice every century, one of the massive stars in our galaxy blows itself apart in a supernova explosion that sends massive quantities of radiation and matter into space and generates shock waves that sweep through the arms of the galaxy. The shock waves heat the interstellar gas, evaporate small clouds, and compress larger ones to the point at which they collapse under their own gravity to form new stars. The general picture that has been developed for the supernova explosion and its aftermath goes something like this. Throughout its evolution, a star is much like a leaky balloon. It keeps its equilibrium figure through a balance of internal pressure against the tendency to collapse under its own weight. The pressure is generated by nuclear reactions in the core of the star which must continually supply energy to balance the energy that leaks out in the form of radiation. Eventually the nuclear fuel is exhausted, and the pressure drops in the core. With nothing to hold it up, the matter in the center of the star collapses inward, creating higher and higher densities and temperatures, until the nuclei and electrons are fused into a super-dense lump of matter known as a neutron star.

As the overlying layers rain down on the surface of the neutron star, the temperature rises, until with a blinding flash of radiation, the collapse is reversed. A thermonuclear shock wave runs through the now expanding stellar envelope, fusing lighter elements into heavier ones and producing a brilliant visual outburst that can be as intense as the light of 10 billion suns. The shell of matter thrown off by the explosion plows through the surrounding gas, producing an expanding bubble of hot gas, with gas temperatures in the millions of degrees. This gas will emit most of its energy at X-ray wavelengths, so it is not surprising that X-ray observatories have provided some of the most useful insights into the nature of the supernova phenomenon. More than twenty supernova remnants have now been detected in X-ray studies.

Recent discoveries of meteorites with anomalous concentrations of certain isotopes indicate that a supernova might have precipitated the birth of our solar system more than four and a half billion years ago. Although the cloud that collapsed to form the Sun and the planets was composed primarily of hydrogen and helium, it also contained carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen, elements essential for life as we know it. Elements heavier than helium are manufactured deep in the interior of stars and would, for the most part, remain there if it were not for the cataclysmic supernova explosions that blow giant stars apart. Additionally, supernovas produce clouds of high-energy particles called cosmic rays. These high-energy particles continually bombard the Earth and are responsible for many of the genetic mutations that are the driving force of the evolution of species.

1. Which of the following titles best describes the content of the passage?
 - (A) The Origins and Effects of Supernovas
 - (B) The Life and Death of Stars
 - (C) The Origins and Evolution of Life on Earth
 - (D) The Aftermath of a Supernova
 - (E) Violent Change in the Universe
2. According to the passage, we can expect a supernova to occur in our galaxy
 - (A) about twice each year
 - (B) hundreds of times each century
 - (C) about once every fifty years
 - (D) about once every other century
 - (E) about once every four to five billion years
3. According to the passage all of the following are true of supernovas EXCEPT that they
 - (A) are extremely bright
 - (B) are an explosion of some sort
 - (C) emit large quantities of X-rays
 - (D) result in the destruction of a neutron star
 - (E) are caused by the collision of large galaxies
4. The author employs which of the following to develop the first paragraph?
 - (A) Analogy
 - (B) Deduction
 - (C) Generalization
 - (D) Example
 - (E) Refutation
5. It can be inferred from the passage that the meteorites mentioned by the author
 - (A) contain dangerous concentrations of radioactive materials
 - (B) give off large quantities of X-rays
 - (C) include material not created in the normal development of our solar system
 - (D) are larger than the meteors normally found in a solar system like ours
 - (E) contain pieces of a supernova that occurred several billion years ago
6. The author implies that
 - (A) it is sometimes easier to detect supernovas by observation of the X-ray spectrum than by observation of visible wavelengths of light
 - (B) life on Earth is endangered by its constant exposure to radiation forces that are released by a supernova
 - (C) recently discovered meteorites indicate that the Earth and other planets of our solar system survived the explosion of a supernova several billion years ago
 - (D) lighter elements are formed from heavier elements during a supernova as the heavier elements are torn apart
 - (E) the core of a neutron star is composed largely of heavier elements such as carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen
7. According to the passage what is the first event in the sequence that leads to the occurrence of a supernova?
 - (A) An ordinary star begins to emit tremendous quantities of X-rays.
 - (B) A neutron star is enveloped by a superheated cloud of gas.
 - (C) An imbalance between light and heavy elements causes an ordinary star to collapse.

(D) A cloud of interstellar gas rich in carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen, collapses to form a neutron star.

(E) An ordinary star exhausts its supply of nuclear fuel and begins to collapse.

8. According to the passage a neutron star is

(A) a gaseous cloud containing heavy elements

(B) an intermediate stage between an ordinary star and a supernova

(C) the residue that is left by a supernova

(D) the core of an ordinary star that houses the thermonuclear reactions

(E) one of billions of meteors that are scattered across the galaxy by a supernova

9. The author is primarily concerned with

(A) speculating about the origins of our solar system

(B) presenting evidence proving the existence of supernovas

(C) discussing the nuclear reaction that occurs in the core of a star

(D) describing the sequence of scientific events

(E) disproving a theory about the causes of supernovas

Video solution : <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-23/AOFMS528>

Passage 24

The uniqueness of the Japanese character is the result of two seemingly contradictory forces: the strength of traditions and selective receptivity to foreign achievements and inventions. As early as the 1860s, there were counter movements to the traditional orientation. Yukichi Fukuzawa, the most eloquent spokesman of Japan's "Enlightenment," claimed: "The Confucian civilization of the East seems to me to lack two things possessed by Western civilization: science in the material sphere and a sense of independence in the spiritual sphere." Fukuzawa's great influence is found in the free and individualistic philosophy of the Education Code of 1872, but he was not able to prevent the government from turning back to the canons of Confucian thought in the Imperial Rescript of 1890. Another interlude of relative liberalism followed World War I, when the democratic idealism of President Woodrow Wilson had an important impact on Japanese intellectuals and, especially students: but more important was the Leninist ideology of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution. Again in the early 1930s, nationalism and militarism became dominant, largely as a result of failing economic conditions.

Following the end of World War II, substantial changes were undertaken in Japan to liberate the individual from authoritarian restraints. The new democratic value system was accepted by many teachers, students, intellectuals, and old liberals, but it was not immediately embraced by the society as a whole. Japanese traditions were dominated by group values, and notions of personal freedom and individual rights were unfamiliar.

Today, democratic processes are clearly evident in the widespread participation of the Japanese people in social and political life: yet, there is no universally accepted and stable value system. Values are constantly modified by strong infusions of Western ideas, both democratic and Marxist. School textbooks expound democratic principles, emphasizing equality over hierarchy and rationalism over tradition; but in practice these values are often misinterpreted and distorted, particularly by the youth who translate the individualistic and humanistic goals of democracy into egoistic and materialistic ones.

Most Japanese people have consciously rejected Confucianism, but vestiges of the old order remain. An important feature of relationships in many institutions such as political parties, large corporations, and university faculties is the oyabun-kobun or parent-child relation. A party leader, supervisor, or professor, in return for loyalty, protects those subordinate to him and takes general responsibility for their interests throughout their entire lives, an obligation that sometimes even extends to arranging marriages. The corresponding loyalty of the individual to his patron reinforces his allegiance to the group to which they both belong. A willingness to cooperate with other members of the group and to support without qualification the interests of the group in all its external relations is still a widely respected virtue. The oyabun-kobun creates ladders of mobility which an individual can ascend, rising as far as abilities permit, so long as he maintains successful personal ties with a superior in the vertical channel, the latter requirement usually taking precedence over a need for exceptional competence. As a consequence, there is little horizontal relationship between people even within the same profession.

1. The author is mainly concerned with
 - (A) explaining the influence of Confucianism on modern Japan
 - (B) analyzing the reasons for Japan's postwar economic success
 - (C) discussing some important determinants of Japanese values
 - (D) describing managerial practices in Japanese industry
 - (E) contrasting modern with prewar Japanese society
2. Which of the following is most like the relationship of the *oyabun-kobun* described in the passage?
 - (A) A political candidate and the voting public
 - (B) A gifted scientist and his protégé
 - (C) Two brothers who are partners in a business
 - (D) A judge presiding at the trial of a criminal defendant
 - (E) A leader of a musical ensemble who is also a musician in the group
3. According to the passage, Japanese attitudes are influenced by which of the following?
 - I. Democratic ideals
 - II. Elements of modern Western culture
 - III. Remnants of an earlier social structure
 - (A) I only
 - (B) II only
 - (C) I and II only
 - (D) II and III only
 - (E) I, II, and III
4. The author implies that
 - (A) decisions about promotions are often based on personal feelings
 - (B) students and intellectuals do not understand the basic tenets of Western democracy
 - (C) Western values have completely overwhelmed traditional Japanese attitudes
 - (D) respect for authority was introduced into Japan following World War II
 - (E) most Japanese workers are members of a single political party
5. In developing the passage, the author does which of the following?
 - (A) Introduce an analogy
 - (B) Define a term
 - (C) Present statistics
 - (D) Cite an authority
 - (E) Issue a challenge
6. It can be inferred that the Imperial Rescript of 1890
 - (A) was a protest by liberals against the lack of individual liberty in Japan
 - (B) marked a return in government policies to conservative values
 - (C) implemented the ideals set forth in the *Education Code* of 1872
 - (D) was influenced by the Leninist ideology of the Bolshevik Revolution
 - (E) prohibited the teaching of Western ideas in Japanese schools

7. Which of the following is the most accurate description of the organization of the passage?

- (A) A sequence of inferences in which the conclusion of each successive step becomes a premise in the next argument
- (B) A list of generalizations, most of which are supported by only a single example
- (C) A chronological analysis of historical events leading up to a description of the current situation
- (D) A statement of a commonly accepted theory that is then subjected to a critical analysis
- (E) An introduction of a key term that is then defined by giving examples

8. Which of the following best states the central thesis of the passage?

- (A) The value system of Japan is based upon traditional and conservative values that have, in modern times, been modified by Western and other liberal values.
- (B) Students and radicals in Japan have Leninist ideology to distort the meaning of democratic, Western values.
- (C) The notions of personal freedom and individual liberty did not find immediate acceptance in Japan because of the predominance of traditional group values.
- (D) Modern Japanese society is characterized by hierarchical relationships in which a personal tie to a superior is often more important than merit.
- (E) The influence on Japanese values of the American ideals of personal freedom and individual rights is less important than the influence of Leninist ideology.

9. The tone of the passage can best be described as

- (A) neutral and objective
- (B) disparaging and flippant
- (C) critical and demanding
- (D) enthusiastic and supportive
- (E) skeptical and questioning

Video solution : <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-24/BXT3NMIO>

Passage 25

Public general hospitals originated in the almshouse infirmaries established as early as colonial times by local governments to care for the poor. Later, in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the infirmary separated from the almshouse and became an independent institution supported by local tax money. At the same time, private charity hospitals began to develop. Both private and public hospitals provided mainly food and shelter for the impoverished sick, since there was little that medicine could actually do to cure illness, and the middle class was treated at home by private physicians.

Late in the nineteenth century, the private charity hospital began trying to attract middle-class patients. Although the depression of 1890 stimulated the growth of charitable institutions and an expanding urban population became dependent on assistance, there was a decline in private contributions to these organizations which forced them to look to local government for financial support. Since private institutions had also lost benefactors; they began to charge patients. In order to attract middle-class patients, private institutions provided services and amenities that distinguished between paying and non-paying patients and made the hospital a desirable place for private physicians to treat their own patients. As paying patients became more necessary to the survival of the private hospital, the public hospitals slowly became the only place for the poor to get treatment. By the end of the nineteenth century, cities were reimbursing private hospitals for their care of indigent patients and the public hospitals remained dependent on the tax dollars.

The advent of private hospital health insurance, which provided middle-class patients with the purchasing power to pay for private hospital services, guaranteed the private hospital a regular source of income. Private hospitals restricted themselves to revenue-generating patients, leaving the public hospitals to care for the poor. Although public hospitals continued to provide services for patients with communicable diseases and outpatient and emergency services, the Blue Cross plans developed around the needs of the private hospitals and the inpatients they served. Thus, reimbursement for ambulatory care has been minimal under most Blue Cross plans, and provision of outpatient care has not been a major function of the private hospital, in part because private patients can afford to pay for the services of private physicians. Additionally, since World War II, there has been a tremendous influx of federal money into private medical schools and the hospitals associated with them. Further, large private medical centers with expensive research equipment and programs have attracted the best administrators, physicians, and researchers. As a result of the greater resources available to the private medical centers, public hospitals have increasing problems attracting highly qualified research and medical personnel. With the mainstream of health care firmly established in the private medical sector, the public hospital has become a "dumping ground."

1. According to the passage, the very first private hospitals
 - (A) developed from almshouse infirmaries
 - (B) provided better care than public infirmaries
 - (C) were established mainly to service the poor
 - (D) were supported by government revenues
 - (E) catered primarily to the middle-class patients

2. It can be inferred that the author believes the differences that currently exist between public and private hospitals are primarily the result of
 - (A) political considerations
 - (B) economic factors
 - (C) ethical concerns
 - (D) legislative requirements
 - (E) technological developments

3. It can be inferred that the growth of private health insurance
 - (A) relieved local governments of the need to fund public hospitals
 - (B) guaranteed that the poor would have access to medical care
 - (C) forced middle-class patients to use public hospitals
 - (D) prompted the closing of many charitable institutions
 - (E) reinforced the distinction between public and private hospitals

4. Which of the following would be the most logical topic for the author to introduce in the next paragraph?
 - (A) A plan to improve the quality of public hospitals
 - (B) An analysis of the profit structure of health insurance companies
 - (C) A proposal to raise taxes on the middle class
 - (D) A discussion of recent developments in medical technology
 - (E) A list of the subjects studied by students in medical school

5. The author's primary concern is to
 - (A) describe the financial structure of the healthcare industry
 - (B) demonstrate the importance of government support for health-care institutions
 - (C) criticize wealthy institutions for refusing to provide services to the poor
 - (D) identify the historical causes of the division between private and public hospitals
 - (E) praise public hospitals for their willingness to provide health care for the poor

6. The author cites all of the following as factors contributing to the decline of public hospitals EXCEPT.
 - (A) Government money was used to subsidize private medical schools and hospitals to the detriment of public hospitals.
 - (B) Public hospitals are not able to compete with private institutions for top flight managers and doctors.
 - (C) Large private medical centers have better research facilities and more extensive research programs than public hospitals.
 - (D) Public hospitals accepted the responsibility for treating patients with certain diseases.
 - (E) Blue Cross insurance coverage does not reimburse subscribers for medical expenses incurred in a public hospital.

7. The author's attitude toward public hospitals can best be described as
- (A) contemptuous and prejudiced
 - (B) apprehensive and distrustful
 - (C) concerned and understanding
 - (D) enthusiastic and supportive
 - (E) unsympathetic and annoyed
8. The author implies that any outpatient care provided by a hospital is
- (A) paid for by private insurance
 - (B) provided in lieu of treatment by a private physician
 - (C) supplied primarily by private hospitals
 - (D) a source of revenue for public hospitals
 - (E) no longer provided by hospitals, public or private
9. Which of the following titles best describes the content of the passage?
- (A) Public versus Private Hospitals: A Competitive Mismatch
 - (B) Historical and Economic Factors in the Decline of the Public Hospital
 - (C) A Comparison of the Quality of Care Provided in Public and Private Hospitals
 - (D) A Proposal for Revamping the Health Delivery Services Sector of the Economy
 - (E) Economic Factors That Contribute to the Inability of the Poor to Get adequate Care

Video solution : <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-25/U98WVSIS>

Passage 26

The National Security Act of 1947 created a national military establishment headed by a single Secretary of Defense. The legislation had been a year-and-a-half in the making—beginning when President Truman first recommended that the armed services be reorganized into a single department. During that period the President's concept of a unified armed service was torn apart and put back together several times, the final measure to emerge from Congress being a compromise. Most of the opposition to the bill came from the Navy and its numerous civilian spokesmen, including Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal. In support of unification (and a separate air force that was part of the unification package) were the Army air forces, the Army, and, most importantly, the President of the United States.

Passage of the bill did not bring an end to the bitter inter service disputes. Rather than unify, the act served only to federate the military services. It neither halted the rapid demobilization of the armed forces that followed World War II nor brought to the new national military establishment the loyalties of officers steeped in the traditions of the separate services. At a time when the balance of power in Europe and Asia was rapidly shifting, the services lacked any precise statement of United States foreign policy from the National Security Council on which to base future programs. The services bickered unceasingly over their respective roles and missions, already complicated by the Soviet nuclear capability that for the first time made the United States subject to devastating attack. Not even the appointment of Forrestal as First Secretary of Defense allayed the suspicions of naval officers and their supporters that the role of the U.S. Navy was threatened with permanent eclipse. Before the war of words died down, Forrestal himself was driven to resignation and then suicide.

By 1948, the United States military establishment was forced to make do with a budget approximately 10 percent of what it had been at its wartime peak. Meanwhile, the cost of weapons procurement was rising geometrically as the nation came to put more and more reliance on the atomic bomb and its delivery systems. These two factors inevitably made adversaries of the Navy and the Air Force as the battle between advocates of the B-36 and the super carrier so amply demonstrates. Given severe fiscal restraints on the one hand, and on the other the nation's increasing reliance on strategic nuclear deterrence, the conflict between these two services over roles and missions was essentially a contest over slices of an ever-diminishing pie. Yet if in the end neither service was the obvious victor, the principle of civilian dominance over the military clearly was. If there had ever been any danger that the United States military establishment might exploit, to the detriment of civilian control, the goodwill it enjoyed as a result of its victories in World War II, that danger disappeared in the interservice animosities engendered by the battle over unification.

1. The author makes all of the following points about the National Security Act of 1947 EXCEPT

- (A) It provided for a single Secretary of Defense.
- (B) The legislation that came out of Congress was a compromise measure.
- (C) The legislation was initially proposed by President Truman.
- (D) The Navy opposed the bill that eventually became law.
- (E) The bill was passed to help the nation's demobilization effort.

2. Which of the following best describes the tone of the selection?

- (A) Analytical and confident
- (B) Resentful and defensive
- (C) Objective and speculative
- (D) Tentative and skeptical
- (E) Persuasive and cynical

3. According to the passage, the inter service strife that followed unification occurred primarily between the

- (A) Army and Army air forces
- (B) Army and Navy
- (C) Army air forces and Navy
- (D) Navy and Army
- (E) Air Force and Navy

4. It can be inferred from the passage that Forrestal's appointment as Secretary of Defense was expected to

- (A) placate members of the Navy
- (B) result in decreased levels of defense spending
- (C) outrage advocates of the Army air forces
- (D) win Congressional approval of the unification plan
- (E) make Forrestal a Presidential candidate against Truman

5. According to the passage, President Truman supported which of the following??

- I. Elimination of the Navy
- II. A unified military service
- III. Establishment of a separate air force

- (A) I only
- (B) II only
- (C) I and II only
- (D) II and III only
- (E) I, II, and III

6. With which of the following statements about defense unification would the author most likely agree?

- (A) Unification ultimately undermined United States military capability by inciting inter service rivalry.
- (B) The unification legislation was necessitated by the drastic decline in appropriations for the military services.
- (C) Although the unification was not entirely successful, it had the unexpected result of ensuring civilian control of the military.
- (D) In spite of the attempted unification, each service was still able to pursue its own objectives without interference from the other branches.
- (E) Unification was in the first place unwarranted and in the second place ineffective.

7. According to the selection, the political situation following the passage of the National Security Act of 1947 was characterized by all of the following EXCEPT
- (A) a shifting balance of power in Europe and in Asia
 - (B) fierce inter service rivalries
 - (C) lack of strong leadership by the National Security Council
 - (D) shrinking postwar military budgets
 - (E) a lame-duck President who was unable to unify the legislature
8. The author cites the resignation and suicide of Forrestal in order to
- (A) underscore the bitterness of the inter-service rivalry surrounding the passage of the *National Security Act* of 1947
 - (B) demonstrate that the Navy eventually emerged as the dominant branch of service after the passage of the *National Security Act* of 1947
 - (C) suggest that the nation would be better served by a unified armed service under a single command
 - (D) provide an example of a military leader who preferred to serve his country in war rather than in peace
 - (E) persuade the reader that Forrestal was a victim of political opportunists and an unscrupulous press
9. The author is primarily concerned with
- (A) discussing the influence of personalities on political events
 - (B) describing the administration of a powerful leader
 - (C) criticizing a piece of legislation
 - (D) analyzing a political development
 - (E) suggesting methods for controlling the military

Video solution : <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-26/AKC4GPPD>

Passage 27

Behavior is one of two general responses available to endothermic (warm-blooded) species for the regulation of body temperature, the other being innate (reflexive) mechanisms of heat production and heat loss. Human beings rely primarily on the first to provide a hospitable thermal microclimate for themselves, in which the transfer of heat between the body and the environment is accomplished with minimal involvement of innate mechanisms of heat production and loss. Thermoregulatory behavior anticipates hyperthermia, and the organism adjusts its behavior to avoid becoming hyperthermic: it removes layers of clothing, it goes for a cool swim, etc. The organism can also respond to changes in the temperature of the body core, as is the case during exercise; but such responses result from the direct stimulation of thermo receptors distributed widely within the central nervous system, and the ability of these mechanisms to help the organism adjust to gross changes in its environment is limited.

Until recently it was assumed that organisms respond to microwave radiation in the same way that they respond to temperature changes caused by other forms of radiation. After all, the argument runs, microwaves are radiation and heat body tissues. This theory ignores the fact that the stimulus to a behavioral response is normally a temperature change that occurs at the surface of the organism. The thermo receptors that prompt behavioral changes are located within the first millimeter of the skin's surface, but the energy of a microwave field may be selectively deposited in deep tissues, effectively bypassing these thermo receptors, particularly if the field is at near-resonant frequencies. The resulting temperature profile may well be a kind of reverse thermal gradient in which the deep tissues are warmed more than those of the surface. Since the heat is not conducted outward to the surface to stimulate the appropriate receptors, the organism does not "appreciate" this stimulation in the same way that it "appreciates" heating and cooling of the skin. In theory, the internal organs of a human being or an animal could be quite literally cooked well-done before the animal even realizes that the balance of its thermo microclimate has been disturbed.

Until a few years ago, microwave irradiations at equivalent plane-wave power densities of about 100 mW/cm² were considered unequivocally to produce "thermal" effects; irradiations within the range of 10 to 100 mW/cm² might or might not produce "thermal" effects; while effects observed at power densities below 10 mW/cm² were assumed to be "nonthermal" in nature. Experiments have shown this to be an oversimplification, and a recent report suggests that fields as weak as 1 mW/cm² can be thermogenic. When the heat generated in the tissues by an imposed radio frequency (plus the heat generated by metabolism) exceeds the heat-loss capabilities of the organism, the thermoregulatory system has been compromised. Yet surprisingly, not long ago, an increase in the internal body temperature was regarded merely as "evidence" of a thermal effect.

1. The author is primarily concerned with
- (A) showing that behavior is a more effective way of controlling bodily temperature than innate mechanisms
 - (B) criticizing researchers who will not discard their theories about the effects of microwave radiation on organisms
 - (C) demonstrating that effects of microwave radiation are different from those of other forms of radiation
 - (D) analyzing the mechanism by which an organism maintains its bodily temperature in a changing thermal environment
 - (E) discussing the importance of thermo receptors in the control of the internal temperature of an organism
2. The author makes which of the following points about innate mechanisms for heat production?
- I. They are governed by thermo receptors inside the body of the organism rather than at the surface.
 - II. They are a less effective means of compensating for gross changes in temperature than behavioral strategies.
 - III. They are not affected by microwave radiation.
- (A) I only
 - (B) I and II only
 - (C) I and III only
 - (D) II and III only
 - (E) I, II, and III
3. Which of the following would be the most logical topic for the author to take up in the paragraph following the final paragraph of the selection?
- (A) A suggestion for new research to be done on the effects of microwaves on animals and human beings
 - (B) An analysis of the differences between microwave radiation
 - (C) A proposal that the use of microwave radiation be prohibited because it is dangerous
 - (D) A survey of the literature on the effects of microwave radiation on human beings
 - (E) A discussion of the strategies used by various species to control hyperthermia
4. The author's strategy in the last sentence of the 2nd paragraph
- (A) introduce a hypothetical example to dramatize a point
 - (B) propose an experiment to test a scientific hypothesis
 - (C) cite a case study to illustrate a general contention
 - (D) produce a counterexample to disprove an opponent's theory
 - (E) speculate about the probable consequences of a scientific phenomenon
5. The author implies that the proponents of the theory that microwave radiation acts on organisms in the same way as other forms of radiation based their conclusions primarily on
- (A) laboratory research
 - (B) unfounded assumption
 - (C) control group surveys
 - (D) deductive reasoning
 - (E) causal investigation

6. The tone of the passage can best be described as
- (A) genial and conversational
 - (B) alarmed and disparaging
 - (C) facetious and cynical
 - (D) scholarly and noncommittal
 - (E) scholarly and concerned
7. The author is primarily concerned with
- (A) pointing out weaknesses in a popular scientific theory
 - (B) developing a hypothesis to explain a scientific phenomenon
 - (C) reporting on new research on the effects of microwave radiation
 - (D) criticizing the research methods of earlier investigators
 - (E) clarifying ambiguities in the terminology used to describe a phenomenon

Video solution : <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-27/T1BT2M4Y>

Passage 28

Since World War II considerable advances have been made in the area of health-care services. These include better access to health care (particularly for the poor and minorities), improvements in physical plants, and increased numbers of physicians and other health personnel. All have played a part in the recent improvement in life expectancy. But there is mounting criticism of the large remaining gaps in access, unbridled cost inflation, the further fragmentation of service, excessive indulgence in wasteful high-technology "gadgeteering," and a breakdown in doctor-patient relationships. In recent years proposed panaceas and new programs, small and large, have proliferated at a feverish pace and disappointments multiply at almost the same rate. This has led to an increased pessimism—"everything has been tried and nothing works"—which sometimes borders on cynicism or even nihilism.

It is true that the automatic "pass through" of rapidly spiraling costs to government and insurance carriers, which was set in a publicized environment of "the richest nation in the world," produced for a time a sense of unlimited resources and allowed to develop a mood whereby every practitioner and institution could "do his own thing" without undue concern for the "Medical Commons." The practice of full-cost reimbursement encouraged capital investment and now the industry is overcapitalized. Many cities have hundreds of excess hospital beds; hospitals have proliferated a superabundance of high-technology equipment; and structural ostentation and luxury were the order of the day. In any given day, one-fourth of all community beds are vacant; expensive equipment is underused or, worse, used unnecessarily. Capital investment brings rapidly rising operating costs.

Yet, in part, this pessimism derives from expecting too much of health care. It must be realized that care is, for most people, a painful experience, often accompanied by fear and unwelcome results. Although there is vast room for improvement, health care will always retain some unpleasantness and frustration. Moreover, the capacities of medical science are limited. Humpty Dumpty cannot always be put back together again. Too many physicians are reluctant to admit their limitations to patients; too many patients and families are unwilling to accept such realities. Nor is it true that everything has been tried and nothing works, as shown by the prepaid group practice plans of the Kaiser Foundation and at Puget Sound. In the main, however, such undertakings have been drowned by a veritable flood of public and private moneys which have supported and encouraged the continuation of conventional practices and subsidized their shortcomings on a massive, almost unrestricted scale. Except for the most idealistic and dedicated, there were no incentives to seek change or to practice self-restraint or frugality. In this atmosphere, it is not fair to condemn as failures all attempted experiments; it may be more accurate to say many never had a fair trial.

1. The author implies that the Kaiser Foundation and Puget Sound plans differed from other plans by
 - (A) encouraging capital investment
 - (B) requiring physicians to treat the poor
 - (C) providing incentives for cost control
 - (D) employing only dedicated and idealistic doctors
 - (E) relying primarily on public funding
2. The author mentions all of the following as consequences of full-cost reimbursement EXCEPT
 - (A) rising operating costs
 - (B) underused hospital facilities
 - (C) overcapitalization
 - (D) overreliance on expensive equipment
 - (E) lack of services for minorities
3. The tone of the passage can best be described as
 - (A) light-hearted and amused
 - (B) objective but concerned
 - (C) detached and unconcerned
 - (D) cautious but sincere
 - (E) enthusiastic and enlightened
4. According to the author, the "pessimism" is partly attributable to the fact that
 - (A) there has been little real improvement in health-care services
 - (B) expectations about health-care services are sometimes unrealistic
 - (C) large segments of the population find it impossible to get access to health-care services
 - (D) advances in technology have made health care service unaffordable
 - (E) doctors are now less concerned with patient care
5. The author cites the prepaid plans as
 - (A) counterexamples to the claim that nothing has worked
 - (B) examples of health-care plans that were over-funded
 - (C) evidence that health-care services are fragmented
 - (D) proof of the theory that no plan has been successful
 - (E) experiments that yielded disappointing results
6. It can be inferred that the sentence "Humpty Dumpty cannot always be put back together again" means that
 - (A) the cost of health-care services will not decline
 - (B) some people should not become doctors
 - (C) medical care is not really essential to good health
 - (D) illness is often unpleasant and even painful
 - (E) medical science cannot cure every ill
7. With which of the following descriptions of the system for the delivery of health-care services would the author most likely agree?
 - (A) It is biased in favor of doctors and against patients.
 - (B) It is highly fragmented and completely ineffective
 - (C) It has not embraced new technology rapidly enough
 - (D) It is generally effective but can be improved
 - (E) It discourages people from seeking medical care

8. Which of the following best describes the logical structure of the selection?
- (A) The third paragraph is intended as a refutation of the first and second paragraphs.
 - (B) The second and third paragraphs explain and put into perspective the points made in the first paragraph.
 - (C) The second and third paragraphs explain and put into perspective the points made in the first paragraph.
 - (D) The first paragraph describes a problem, and the second and third paragraphs present two horns of a dilemma.
 - (E) The first paragraph describes a problem, the second its causes, and the third a possible solution.
9. The author's primary concern is to
- (A) criticize physicians and health-care administrators for investing in technologically advanced equipment
 - (B) examine some problems affecting delivery of health-care services and assess their severity
 - (C) defend the medical community from charges that health-care has not improved since World War II
 - (D) analyze the reasons for the health-care industry's inability to provide quality care to all segments of the population
 - (E) describe the peculiar economic features of the health-care industry that are the causes of spiraling medical costs

VideoSolution : <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-28/XYPECQ77Z>

Passage 29

In Roman times, defeated enemies were generally put to death as criminals for having offended the emperor of Rome. In the Middle Ages, however, the practice of ransoming, or returning prisoners in exchange for money, became common. Though some saw this custom as a step towards a more humane society, the primary reasons behind it were economic rather than humanitarian.

In those times, rulers had only a limited ability to raise taxes. They could neither force their subjects to fight nor pay them to do so. The promise of material compensation in the form of goods and ransom was therefore the only way of inducing combatants to participate in a war. In the Middle Ages, the predominant incentive for the individual soldier to participate in a war was the expectation of spoils. Although collecting ransom clearly brought financial gain, keeping a prisoner and arranging for his exchange had its costs.

Consequently, several procedures were devised to reduce transaction costs. One such device was a rule asserting that the prisoner had to assess his own value. This compelled the prisoner to establish a value without much distortion; indicating too low a value would increase the captive's chances of being killed, while indicating too high a value would either ruin him financially or create a prohibitively expensive ransom that would also result in death.

A second means of reducing costs was the practice of releasing a prisoner on his word of honor. This procedure was advantageous to both parties since the captor was relieved of the expense of keeping the prisoner while the captive had freedom of movement. The captor also benefited financially by having his captive raise the ransom himself. This "parole" was a viable practice since the released prisoner risked recapture or retaliation against his family. Moreover, in medieval society, breaking one's word had serious consequences. When, for example, King Francois I broke his word to the Emperor Charles V in 1525, his reputation suffered immensely.

A third method of reducing costs was the use of specialized institutions to establish contact between the two parties. Two types of institutions emerged: professional dealers who acted as brokers, and members of religious orders who acted as neutral intermediaries. Dealers advanced money for the ransom and charged interest on the loan. Two of the religious orders that became intermediaries were the Mercedarians and the Trinitarians, who between them arranged the ransom of nearly one million prisoners.

1. The primary purpose of the passage is to
 - (A) discuss the economic basis of the medieval practice of exchanging prisoners for ransom
 - (B) examine the history of the treatment of prisoners of war
 - (C) emphasize the importance of a warrior's "word of honor" during the Middle Ages
 - (D) explore three ways of reducing the costs of ransom
 - (E) demonstrate why warriors of the Middle Ages looked forward to battles
2. It can be inferred from the passage that a medieval soldier
 - (A) was less likely to kill captured members of opposing armies than was a soldier of the Roman Empire
 - (B) was similar to a 20th-century terrorist in that he operated on a basically independent level and was motivated solely by economic incentives
 - (C) had few economic options and chose to fight because it was the only way to earn an adequate living
 - (D) was motivated to spare prisoners' lives by humanitarian rather than economic ideals
 - (E) had no respect for his captured enemies since captives were typically regarded as weak
3. Which of the following best describes the change in policy from executing prisoners in Roman times to ransoming prisoners in the Middle Ages?
 - (A) The emperors of Rome demanded more respect than did medieval rulers and thus Roman subjects went to greater lengths to defend their nation.
 - (B) It was a reflection of the lesser degree of direct control medieval rulers had over their subjects.
 - (C) It became a show of strength and honor for warriors of the Middle Ages to be able to capture and return their enemies.
 - (D) Medieval soldiers were not as humanitarian as their ransoming practices might have indicated.
 - (E) Medieval soldiers demonstrated more concern about economic policy than did their Roman counterparts.
4. The author uses the phrase "without much distortion" in order
 - (A) to indicate that prisoners would fairly assess their worth
 - (B) to emphasize the important role medieval prisoners played in determining whether they should be ransomed
 - (C) to explain how prisoners often paid more than an appropriate ransom in order to increase their chances for survival
 - (D) suggest that captors and captives often had understanding relationships
 - (E) to show that when in prison a soldier's view could become distorted
5. All of the following are mentioned in the passage as actions that were taken to ensure that ransoming prisoners was a profitable operation EXCEPT
 - (A) each prisoner was made to designate the amount of ransom to be paid for his return
 - (B) prisoners were released on the condition that they guaranteed that their ransoms would be paid
 - (C) professional intermediaries were employed to facilitate the smooth exchange of prisoner and ransom at a price to the prisoner
 - (D) religious orders acted as impartial mediators by arranging the trade-off of ransom and prisoner

(E) medieval rulers promised to aid soldiers in their efforts to collect ransom

6. In the author's opinion, a soldier's decision to spare an adversary's life be linked historically to

- (A) the economic relationship of the warring states
- (B) the case with which a soldier could capture and subsequently imprison his enemy
- (C) the economic gain from taking an enemy prisoner rather than killing him in combat
- (D) technological advances in weaponry
- (E) the desire for soldiers to uphold their word of honor

7. It can be inferred from the passage that the process of arranging ransoms during medieval times was

- (A) more lucrative for medieval soldiers and kings than the winning of spoils
- (B) a procedure so costly that it was not economically worthwhile for the captors
- (C) futile for the captive since he risked recapture even after his ransom was paid
- (D) a potential source of income for others aside from the captors of the prisoners
- (E) handled only through Mercedarian or Trinitarian intermediaries

8. Which of the following best describes the organization of the passage?

- (A) An assertion is made, briefly explained, and then several examples that refute the assertion are given.
- (B) A hypothesis is offered, carefully qualified, and then supporting data is analyzed.
- (C) A generally accepted historical viewpoint is presented in order to introduce discussion of its strengths and limitations.
- (D) A historical analysis is made of a phenomenon and supporting details are offered.
- (E) A historical dispute is introduced, and the case for one side is examined in detail.

Video solution: <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-29/G60D289K>

Passage 30

During the Victorian period, women writers were measured against a social rather than a literary ideal. Hence, it was widely thought that novels by women should be modest, religious, sensitive, guileless, and chaste, like their authors. Many Victorian women writers took exception to this belief, however, resisting the imposition of nonliterary restrictions on their work. Publishers soon discovered that the gentlest and most idyllic like female novelists were tough-minded and relentless when their professional integrity was at stake. Keenly aware of their artistic responsibilities, these women writers would not make concessions to secure commercial success.

The Brontes, George Eliot, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, and their lesser-known contemporaries repudiated, in their professional lives, the courtesy that Victorian ladies might exact from Victorian gentlemen. Desiring rigorous and impartial criticism, most women writers did not wish reviewers to be kind to them if kindness meant overlooking their literary weaknesses or flattering them on their accomplishments simply because of their sex. They had expected derisive reviews; instead, they found themselves confronted with generous criticism, which they considered condescending. Elizabeth Barrett Browning labeled it "the comparative respect which means... absolute scorn."

For their part, Victorian critics were virtually obsessed with finding the place of the woman writer so as to judge her appropriately. Many bluntly admitted that they thought *Jane Eyre* a masterpiece if written by a man, shocking or disgusting if written by a woman. Moreover, reactionary reviewers were quick to associate an independent heroine with carefully concealed revolutionary doctrine; several considered *Jane Eyre* a radical feminist document, as indeed it was. To Charlotte Bronte, who had demanded dignity and independence without any revolutionary intent and who considered herself politically conservative, their criticism was an affront. Such criticism bunched all women writers together rather than treating them as individual artists.

Charlotte Bronte's experience served as a warning to other women writers about the prejudices that immediately associated them with feminists and others thought to be political radicals. Irritated, and anxious to detach themselves from a group stereotype, many expressed relatively conservative views on the emancipation of women (except on the subject of women's education) and stressed their own domestic accomplishments. However, in identifying themselves with women who had chosen the traditional career path of marriage and motherhood, these writers encountered still another threat to their creativity. Victorian prudery rendered virtually all experience that was uniquely feminine unprintable. No nineteenth-century woman dared to describe childbirth, much less her sexual passion. Men could not write about their sexual experiences either, but they could write about sport, business, crime, and war—all activities from which women were barred. Small wonder no woman produced a novel like *War and Peace*. What is amazing is the sheer volume of first-rate prose and poetry that Victorian women did write.

1. The primary purpose of the passage is to
 - (A) refute the contention that no Victorian woman writer produced a novel like *War and Peace*
 - (B) trace the historical relationship between radical feminist politics and the Victorian novels written by women
 - (C) show how three Victorian women writers responded to criticism of their novels
 - (D) resolve the apparent contradiction between Victorian women writers' literary innovativeness and their rather conservative social views
 - (E) describe the discrepancy between Victorian society's expectations of women writers and the expectations of the women writers themselves
2. According to the passage, Victorian women writers "would not make concessions" to publishers primarily because they felt that such concessions would
 - (A) require them to limit descriptions of uniquely feminine experiences
 - (B) compromise their artistic integrity
 - (C) make them vulnerable to stereotyping by critics
 - (D) provide no guarantee that their works would enjoy commercial success
 - (E) go against the traditions of English letters
3. The passage suggests that Victorian criticism of works by women writers was
 - (A) indulgent
 - (B) perfunctory
 - (C) resourceful
 - (D) timely
 - (E) apolitical
4. The author of the passage quotes Elizabeth Barrett Browning in order to demonstrate that Victorian women writers
 - (A) possessed both talent and literary creativity
 - (B) felt that their works were misunderstood
 - (C) refused to make artistic concessions
 - (D) feared derisive criticism
 - (E) resented condescending criticism
5. It can be inferred from the passage that Charlotte Bronte considered the criticisms leveled at *Jane Eyre* by reactionary reviewers "an affront" primarily because such criticism
 - (A) exposed her carefully concealed revolutionary doctrine to public scrutiny
 - (B) assessed the literary merit of the novel on the basis of its author's sex
 - (C) assumed that her portrayal of an independent woman represented revolutionary ideas
 - (D) labeled the novel shocking and disgusting without just cause
 - (E) denied that the novel was a literary masterpiece
6. Which of the following statements best describes the "threat" mentioned in the passage?
 - (A) Critics demanded to know the sex of the author before passing judgment on the literary quality of a novel.
 - (B) Women writers were prevented from describing in print experiences about which they had special knowledge.
 - (C) The reading public tended to prefer historical novels to novels describing contemporary London society.
 - (D) Publishers were urging Victorian women writers to publish under their own names rather than under pseudonyms.

(E) Women writers' domestic responsibilities tended to take time away from their writing.

7. The passage suggests that the attitude of Victorian women writers toward being grouped together by critics was most probably one of

- (A) relief
- (B) indifference
- (C) amusement
- (D) annoyance
- (E) ambivalence

8. It can be inferred from the passage that a Victorian woman writer who did not consider herself a feminist would most probably have approved of women's

- (A) entering the noncombat military
- (B) entering the publishing business
- (C) entering a university
- (D) joining the stock exchange
- (E) joining a tennis club

9. The passage suggests that the literary creativity of Victorian women writers could have been enhanced if

- (A) women had been allowed to write about a broader range of subjects
- (B) novels of the period had been characterized by greater stylistic and structural ingenuity
- (C) a reserved and decorous style had been a more highly valued literary ideal
- (D) publishers had sponsored more new women novelists
- (E) critics had been kinder in reviewing the works of women novelists

Video solution : <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-30/GCUJX551>

Passage 31

Agricultural progress provided the stimulus necessary to set off economic expansion in medieval France. As long as those who worked the land were barely able to ensure their own subsistence and that of their landlords, all other activities had to be minimal, but when food surpluses increased, it became possible to release more people for governmental, commercial, religious and cultural pursuits.

However, not all the funds from the agricultural surplus were actually available for commercial investment. Much of the surplus, in the form of food increases, probably went to raise the subsistence level; an additional amount, in the form of currency gained from the sale of food, went into the royal treasury to be used in waging war. Although Louis VII of France levied a less crushing tax burden on his subjects than did England's Henry II, Louis VII did spend great sums on an unsuccessful crusade, and his vassals—both lay and ecclesiastic—took over spending where their sovereign stopped. Surplus funds were claimed both by the Church and by feudal landholders, whereupon cathedrals and castles mushroomed throughout France.

The simultaneous progress of cathedral building and, for instance, vineyard expansion in Bordeaux illustrates the very real competition for available capital between the Church and commercial interests; the former produced inestimable moral and artistic riches, but the latter had a stronger immediate impact upon gross national product. Moreover, though all wars by definition are defensive, the frequent crossings of armies that lived off the land and impartially burned all the huts and barns on their path consumed considerable resources.

Since demands on the agricultural surplus would have varied from year to year, we cannot precisely calculate their impact on the commercial growth of medieval France. But we must bear that impact in mind when estimating the assets that were likely to have been available for investment. No doubt castle and cathedral building was not totally barren of profit (for the builders, that is), and it produced intangible dividends of material and moral satisfaction for the community. Even wars handed back a fragment of what they took, at least to a few. Still, we cannot place on the same plane a primarily destructive activity and a constructive one, nor expect the same results from a new bell tower as from a new water mill. Above all, medieval France had little room for investment over and above the preservation of life. Granted that war cost much less than it does today, that the Church rendered all sorts of educational and recreational services that were unobtainable elsewhere, and that government was far less demanding than is the modern state nevertheless, for medieval men and women, supporting commercial development required considerable economic sacrifice.

1. According to the passage, agricultural revenues in excess of the amount needed for subsistence were used by medieval kings to
- (A) patronize the arts
 - (B) sponsor public recreation
 - (C) wage war
 - (D) build cathedrals
 - (E) fund public education
2. According to the passage, which of the following was an important source of revenue in medieval France?
- (A) Cheese
 - (B) Wine
 - (C) Wool
 - (D) Olive oil
 - (E) Veal
3. The passage suggests that which of the following would have reduced the assets immediately available for commercial investment in medieval France?
- I. Renovation of a large cathedral
 - II. A sharp increase in the birth rate
 - III. An invasion of France by Henry II
- (A) III only
 - (B) I and II only
 - (C) I and III only
 - (D) II and III only
 - (E) I, II, and III
4. It can be inferred from the passage that more people could enter government and the Church in medieval France because
- (A) the number of individual landholdings in heavily agricultural areas was beginning to increase
 - (B) an increase in the volume of international trade had brought an increase in the population of cities
 - (C) a decrease in warfare had allowed the king to decrease the size of the army
 - (D) food producers could grow more food than they and their families needed to survive
 - (E) landlords were prospering and thus were demanding a smaller percentage of tenants' annual yields
5. The author implies that the reason we cannot expect the same results from a new bell tower as from a new water mill is that
- (A) bell towers yield an intangible dividend
 - (B) bell towers provide material satisfaction
 - (C) water mills cost more to build than bell towers
 - (D) water mills divert funds from commerce
 - (E) water mills might well be destroyed by war

6. The author of the passage most probably bases his central argument on which of the following theoretical assumptions often made by economists?
- (A) Different people should be taxed in proportion to the benefit they can expect to receive from public activity.
 - (B) Perfect competition exists only in the case where no farmer, merchant, or laborer controls a large enough share of the total market to influence market price.
 - (C) A population wealthy enough to cut back its rate of consumption can funnel the resulting savings into the creation of capital.
 - (D) A full-employment economy must always, to produce one good, give up producing another good.
 - (E) There is a universal tendency for population, unless checked by food supply, to increase in a geometric progression.
7. The author suggests that commercial expansion in medieval France "required considerable economic sacrifice" primarily for which of the following reasons?
- (A) Cathedrals cost more to build and rebuild than did castles.
 - (B) The numerous wars fought during the period left the royal treasury bankrupt.
 - (C) Louis VII levied a more crushing tax burden on his subjects than did Henry II.
 - (D) Although much of the available surplus had been diverted into vineyard expansion, the vineyards had not yet begun to produce.
 - (E) Although more food was being produced, the subsistence level was not very far above the minimum required to sustain life.
8. The passage implies that which of the following yielded the lowest dividend to medieval men and women relative to its cost?
- (A) Warfare
 - (B) Vineyard expansion
 - (C) Water mill construction
 - (D) Castle building
 - (E) Cathedral building
9. Which of the following statements best expresses the central idea of the passage?
- (A) Commercial growth in medieval France may be accurately computed by calculating the number of castles and cathedrals built during the period.
 - (B) Competition between the Church and the feudal aristocracy for funds created by agricultural surplus demonstrably slowed the economic growth of medieval France.
 - (C) Despite such burdens as war and capital expansion by landholders, commerce in medieval France expanded steadily as the agricultural surplus increased.
 - (D) Funds actually available for commerce in medieval France varied with the demands placed on the agricultural surplus.
 - (E) The simultaneous progress of vineyard expansion and building in medieval France gives evidence of a rapidly expanding economy.

Video solution : <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-31/YSDE9RS9>

Passage 32

For years scholars have contrasted slavery in the United States and in Brazil, stimulated by the fact that racial patterns assumed such different aspects in the two countries after emancipation. Brazil never developed a system of rigid segregation of the sort that replaced slavery in the United States, and its racial system was fluid because its definition of race was based as much on characteristics such as economic status as on skin color. Until recently, the most persuasive explanation for these differences was that Portuguese institutions especially the Roman Catholic church and Roman civil law, promoted recognition of the slave's humanity. The English colonists, on the other hand, constructed their system of slavery out of whole cloth. There were simply no precedents in English common law, and separation of church and state barred Protestant clergy from the role that priests assumed in Brazil.

But the assumption that institutions alone could so powerfully affect the history of two raw and malleable frontier countries seems, on reexamination, untenable. Recent studies focus instead on a particular set of contrasting economic circumstances and demographic profiles at significant periods in the histories of the two countries. Persons of mixed race quickly appeared in both countries. In the United States they were considered to be Black, a social definition that was feasible because they were in the minority. In Brazil, it was not feasible. Though intermarriage was illegal in both countries, the laws were unenforceable in Brazil since Whites formed a small minority in an overwhelmingly Black population. Manumission for persons of mixed race was also easier in Brazil, particularly in the nineteenth century when in the United States it was hedged about with difficulties. Furthermore, a shortage of skilled workers in Brazil provided persons of mixed race with the opportunity to learn crafts and trades, even before general emancipation, whereas in the United States entry into these occupations was blocked by Whites sufficiently numerous to fill the posts. The consequence was the development in Brazil of a large class of persons of mixed race, proficient in skilled trades and crafts, who stood waiting as a community for freed slaves to join.

There should be no illusion that Brazilian society after emancipation was color-blind. Rather, the large population of persons of mixed race produced a racial system that included a third status, a bridge between the Black caste and the White, which could be traversed by means of economic or intellectual achievement, marriage, or racial heritage. The strict and sharp line between the races so characteristic of the United States in the years immediately after emancipation was simply absent. With the possible exception of New Orleans, no special "place" developed in the United States for persons of mixed race. Sad to say, every pressure of society worked to prevent their attaining anything approximating the economic and social position available to their counterparts in Brazil.

1. In the passage, the author is primarily concerned with
 - (A) contrasting the systems of slavery that were established in Brazil and in the United States
 - (B) criticizing the arguments of those scholars who considered religion and law to be the determinants of the systems of slavery in Brazil and in the United States
 - (C) describing the factors currently thought to be responsible for the differences in the racial patterns that evolved in Brazil and in the United States
 - (D) advocating further study of the differences between the racial systems that developed in Brazil and in the United States
 - (E) pointing out the factors that made the status of Blacks in the United States lower than that of Blacks in Brazil
2. According to the passage, early scholars explained the differences between the racial systems that developed in the United States and in Brazil as the result of which of the following factors?
 - (A) Institutional
 - (B) Demographic
 - (C) Economic
 - (D) Geographical
 - (E) Historical
3. In the context in which it is found, the phrase “constructed their system of slavery out of whole cloth” implies that the system of slavery established by the English settlers was
 - (A) based on fabrications and lies
 - (B) tailored to the settlers’ particular circumstances
 - (C) intended to serve the needs of a frontier economy
 - (D) developed without direct influence from the settlers’ religion or legal system
 - (E) evolved without giving recognition to the slave’s humanity
4. The author implies that the explanation proposed by early scholars for the differences between the systems of slavery in the United States and in Brazil is
 - (A) stimulating to historians and legal scholars
 - (B) more powerful than more recent explanations
 - (C) persuasive in spite of minor deficiencies
 - (D) excessively legalistic in its approach
 - (E) questionable in light of current scholarly work
5. The author mentions intermarriage, manumission, and the shortage of skilled workers in Brazil primarily in order to establish which of the following?
 - (A) The environment in which Brazil’s racial system developed
 - (B) The influence of different legal and economic conditions in Brazil and the United States on the life-style of persons of mixed race
 - (C) The origins of Brazil’s large class of free skilled persons of mixed race
 - (D) The differences between treatment of slaves in Brazil and in the United States
 - (E) The difficulties faced by persons of mixed race in the United States, as compared to those in Brazil
6. According to the passage, Brazilian laws prohibiting intermarriage were ineffective because Brazil had a
 - (A) Portuguese Catholic heritage
 - (B) Small minority of whites
 - (C) Liberal set of laws concerning manumission
 - (D) Large number of freed slaves
 - (E) Shortage of people in the skilled crafts and trades

7. The use of quotation marks around the word “place” suggests that the author intended to convey which of the following?

- (A) An ambivalent attitude toward the city of New Orleans
- (B) A negative attitude toward the role of race in determining status in the United States
- (C) A critical comment about the maltreatment of persons of mixed race in the United States
- (D) A double meaning, indicating both a social status and a physical location
- (E) An ambiguity, referring to either the role persons of mixed race actually played, or the role they were assigned by the society

8. With which of the following statements regarding human behavior would the author of the passage be most likely to agree?

- (A) Only a fool or a political candidate would sing very loudly the glories of the institutions of Western culture.
- (B) Contact sports—displacements of our abiding impulses to kill—speak of essential human behavior more truthfully than all the theories of psychologists and historians.
- (C) Family, church, political party: these are the strong foundations of history and human behavior.
- (D) Money and its pursuit: an exploration of that theme will chart accurately the development of civilizations and the determinants of human behavior.
- (E) The circumstances in which humans find themselves—more than treasured beliefs or legal prescriptions—mold human behavior.

Video solution: <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-32/HCFR6EPM>

Passage 33

Desertification, the creation of desert-like conditions where none had existed before, is the result of the vagaries of weather and climate or the mismanagement of the land or, in most cases, some combination of both. Such ecological deterioration in the Sahel has been linked in several ways to the increased size of livestock herds. During the fifteen years preceding 1968, a period of extremely favorable rainfall, the pastoralists moved into the marginal regions in the north with relatively large herds. However, with the onset of a series of dry years beginning at the end of the rainy season in 1967, the pastoral populations found themselves overtaxing very marginal rangelands, with the result that the nomads viewed themselves as victims of a natural disaster. The mistaken idea that drought is an unexpected event has often been used to excuse the fact that long-range planning has failed to take rainfall variability into account. People blame the climate for agricultural failures in semiarid regions and make it a scapegoat for faulty population and agricultural policies.

Deterioration and ultimately desertification in the Sahel and in other ecosystems can be combated only if an ecologically realistic carrying capacity for the rangelands is determined. Although there appears to be widespread agreement that such a determination would be significant, there has been little agreement on how to make operational the concept of carrying capacity, defined as the amount of grazing stock that the pasture can support without deterioration of either the pasture or the stock. Should the carrying capacity be geared to the best, the average, or the poorest years? Which combination of statistical measures would be most meaningful for the planning of long-term development of rangelands? On which variables should such an assessment be based, vegetation, rainfall, soil, ground and surface water, or managerial capabilities? Such inconclusiveness within the scientific community, while understandable, creates confusion for the land managers, who often decide to take no action or who decide that all scientific suggestions are of equal weight and, therefore, indiscriminately choose any one of those suggested. Given the downward spiral of land deterioration, it becomes essential that an ecologically acceptable carrying capacity be established and enforced.

It will also be crucial that land managers know what statistical and quasi-statistical measures actually mean: no single number can adequately describe the climate regime of an arid or semiarid region. Land managers must supplement such terms as the "mean" with more informative statistical measures to characterize adequately the variability of the climate. The understanding of this high degree of variability will serve to remove one of the major obstacles to resolving the perennial problems of the Sahel and of other arid or semiarid regions.

1. The author is primarily concerned with
 - (A) criticizing a social attitude
 - (B) suggesting an approach to solving a problem
 - (C) explaining the mechanics of a process
 - (D) defending the theories of ecological scientists
 - (E) establishing criteria for an experiment
2. According to the passage, which of the following contributed to the desertification of the Sahel?
 - I. The size of the livestock herds grazing on the land
 - II. The quality of the land in the Sahel
 - III. The amount of rainfall after 1967
 - (A) I only
 - (B) II only
 - (C) III only
 - (D) I and III only
 - (E) I, II, and III
3. It can be inferred from the passage that the nomadic tribes who moved into the marginal regions of the Sahel did NOT
 - (A) enlarge the size of their livestock herds
 - (B) conserve water after the drought began
 - (C) live in the Sahel after 1968
 - (D) expect a drastic change in weather conditions
 - (E) seek governmental aid in overcoming drought conditions
4. It can be inferred from the passage that the concept of the carrying capacity of land is
 - (A) still hypothetical rather than practical
 - (B) basically political rather than ecological
 - (C) independent of climatic conditions
 - (D) relatively unknown among ecologists
 - (E) generally misrepresented by ecologists
5. Which of the following best states the author's view concerning the relationship between the ecological scientist and the land manager?
 - (A) The scientist has not provided the manager with clear guidelines that can be used in regulating the productivity of land.
 - (B) The scientist has provided theories that are too detailed for the manager to use successfully.
 - (C) The scientist and the manager, in attempting to regulate the use of semi arid land, have ignored the traditional behavior patterns of pastoral communities.
 - (D) The manager has misunderstood and hence misapplied the suggestions of the scientist.
 - (E) The manager has chosen from among the scientist's suggestions those that are economically rather than ecologically safe.
6. With which of the following statements concerning desertification would the author be most likely to agree?
 - (A) It is the result of factors beyond the control of science.
 - (B) It is a problem largely affecting arid regions.
 - (C) It could be prevented if land managers understood statistics.
 - (D) It is not always the result of drastic climate changes alone.

(E) It is not attributable to faulty agricultural policies.

7. According to the passage, a statistical description of the climate regime of an arid or semiarid region would probably be

- (A) misleading
- (B) impossible
- (C) complex
- (D) meaningless
- (E) abstract

8. The tone of the passage can best be described as

- (A) flippant
- (B) objective
- (C) aggressive
- (D) apologetic
- (E) unconcerned

Video solution: <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-33/CPD8VFTT>

Passage 34

The promise of finding long-term technological solutions to the problem of world food shortages seems difficult to fulfill. Many innovations that were once heavily supported and publicized, such as fish-protein concentrate and protein from algae grown on petroleum substrates, have since fallen by the wayside. The proposals themselves were technically feasible, but they proved to be economically unviable and to yield food products culturally unacceptable to their consumers. Recent innovations such as opaque-2 maize, Antarctic krill, and the wheat-rye hybrid triticale seem more promising, but it is too early to predict their ultimate fate.

One characteristic common to unsuccessful food innovations has been that, even with extensive government support, they often have not been technologically adapted or culturally acceptable to the people for whom they had been developed. A successful new technology, therefore, must fit the entire socio cultural system in which it is to find a place. Security of crop yield, practicality of storage, palatability, and costs are much more significant than had previously been realized by the advocates of new technologies. For example, the better protein quality in tortillas made from opaque-2 maize will be of only limited benefit to a family on the margin of subsistence if the new maize is not culturally acceptable or is more vulnerable to insects.

The adoption of new food technologies depends on more than these technical and cultural considerations; economic factors and governmental policies also strongly influence the ultimate success of any innovation. Economists in the Anglo-American tradition have taken the lead in investigating the economics of technological innovation. Although they exaggerate in claiming that profitability is the key factor guiding technical change—they completely disregard the substantial effects of culture—they are correct in stressing the importance of profits. Most technological innovations in agriculture can be fully used only by large landowners and are only adopted if these profit-oriented business people believe that the innovation will increase their incomes. Thus, innovations that carry high rewards for big agribusiness groups will be adopted even if they harm segments of the population and reduce the availability of food in a country. Further, should a new technology promise to alter substantially the profits and losses associated with any production system, those with economic power will strive to maintain and improve their own positions. Since large segments of the populations of many developing countries are close to the subsistence margin and essentially powerless, they tend to be the losers in this system unless they are aided by a government policy that takes into account the needs of all sectors of the economy. Therefore, although technical advances in food production and processing will perhaps be needed to ensure food availability, meeting food needs will depend much more on equalizing economic power among the various segments of the populations within the developing countries themselves.

1. Which of the following best describes the organization of the first paragraph?
 - (A) A suggestion is made and arguments in its favor are provided.
 - (B) A criticism is levied and an alternative proposal is suggested.
 - (C) A generalization is advanced and supporting evidence is provided.
 - (D) An example is analyzed and general conclusions are derived from it.
 - (E) A position is stated and evidence qualifying it is provided.
2. It can be inferred from the passage that the author was unable to assess the truth of which of the following statements about opaque-2 maize?
 - (A) It is a more recent innovation than the use of fish-protein concentrate.
 - (B) It can be stored as easily as other varieties of maize.
 - (C) It is more popular than the wheat-rye hybrid triticale.
 - (D) It produces tortillas of greater protein content than do other varieties of maize.
 - (E) It is more susceptible to insects than are other varieties of maize.
3. The passage mentions all of the following as factors important to the success of a new food crop EXCEPT the
 - (A) practicality of storage of the crop
 - (B) security of the crop yield
 - (C) quality of the crop's protein
 - (D) cultural acceptability of the crop
 - (E) costs of production of the crop
4. According to the passage, the use of Antarctic krill as a food is an innovation whose future is
 - (A) basically gloomy but still uncertain
 - (B) somewhat promising but very tentative
 - (C) generally bright and virtually assured
 - (D) tied to the success of opaque-2 maize
 - (E) endangered by certain technical problems
5. The author suggests that, in most developing countries, extensive government intervention accompanying the introduction of a food innovation will
 - (A) usually be sufficient to guarantee the financial success of the innovation
 - (B) be necessary to ensure that the benefits of the innovation will be spread throughout the society
 - (C) provide the incentive necessary to convince landowners to try the innovation
 - (D) generally cost the country more than will be earned by the innovation
 - (E) normally occur only when the innovation favors large landowners
6. It can be inferred from the passage that the author would be most likely to agree with which of the following statements concerning the solution to food shortages in developing countries?
 - (A) The introduction of technological innovations to reap profits might alleviate food shortages to some degree, but any permanent solution can come only from effective governmental intervention in the socioeconomic system.
 - (B) Innovations in agricultural technology will be of little help, and perhaps even harmful, in combating food shortages, no matter how well designed they are to suit local circumstances.
 - (C) Long-lasting solutions will not be found until large landowners adopt improvements that will make production more efficient and thus more profitable.

(D) In order to achieve a meaningful solution to the problem of food shortages, the tastes of the general population must be educated to accept the new food products of modern agricultural technology.

(E) Although a short-term solution to food shortages can be achieved by importing food from other countries, a long-term solution requires a restructuring of the countries' socioeconomic system.

7. The first paragraph of the passage best supports which of the following statements?
- (A) Too much publicity can harm the chances for the success of a new food innovation.
 - (B) Innovations that produce culturally acceptable crops will generally be successful.
 - (C) A food-product innovation can be technically feasible and still not be economically viable.
 - (D) It is difficult to decide whether a food-product innovation has actually been a success.
 - (E) Triticale will not be a success as a food source for most developing countries.
8. The author provides a sustained argument to support which of the following assertions?
- (A) Profitability is neither necessary nor sufficient for a new technology to be adopted.
 - (B) Profitability is the key factor guiding technological change.
 - (C) Economic factors and governmental policies strongly influence the ultimate success of any innovation.
 - (D) Opaque-2 maize is of limited benefit to poor families in developing countries.
 - (E) Innovations carrying high rewards for big agribusiness groups harm the poor.
9. The primary purpose of the passage is to discuss the
- (A) means of assessing the extent of the world food shortage
 - (B) difficulties of applying technological solutions to the problem of food shortages
 - (C) costs of introducing a new food technology into a developing country
 - (D) Anglo-American bias of those trying to alleviate world food problems
 - (E) nature of the new technological innovations in the area of food production

Video solution: <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-34/6KXD270A>

Passage 35

Most large corporations in the United States were once run by individual capitalists who owned enough stock to dominate the board of directors and dictate company policy. Because putting such large amounts of stock on the market would only depress its value, they could not sell out for a quick profit and instead had to concentrate on improving the long-term productivity of their companies.

Today, with few exceptions, the stock of large United States corporations is held by large institutions—pension funds, for example—and because these institutions are prohibited by antitrust laws from owning a majority of a company's stock and from actively influencing a company's decision-making, they can enhance their wealth only by buying and selling stock in anticipation of fluctuations in its value. A minority shareholder is necessarily a short term trader. As a result, United States productivity is unlikely to improve unless shareholders and the managers of the companies in which they invest are encouraged to enhance long-term productivity (and hence long-term profitability), rather than simply to maximize short-term profits.

Since the return of the old-style capitalist is unlikely, today's short-term traders must be remade into tomorrow's long-term capitalistic investors. The legal limits that now prevent financial institutions from acquiring a dominant shareholding position in a corporation should be removed, and such institutions encouraged to take a more active role in the operations of the companies in which they invest. In addition, any institution that holds twenty percent or more of a company's stock should be forced to give the public one day's notice of the intent to sell those shares. Unless the announced sale could be explained to the public on grounds other than anticipated future losses, the value of the stock would plummet and, like the old-time capitalists, major investors could cut their losses only by helping to restore their companies' productivity. Such measures would force financial institutions to become capitalists whose success depends not on trading shares at the propitious moment, but on increasing the productivity of the companies in which they invest.

1. In the passage, the author is primarily concerned with doing which of the following?
 - (A) Comparing two different approaches to a problem
 - (B) Describing a problem and proposing a solution
 - (C) Defending an established method
 - (D) Presenting data and drawing conclusions from the data
 - (E) Comparing two different analyses of a current situation

2. It can be inferred from the passage that which of the following is true of majority shareholders in a corporation?
 - (A) They make the corporation's operational management decisions.
 - (B) They are not allowed to own more than fifty percent of the corporation's stock.
 - (C) They cannot make quick profits by selling their stock in the corporation.
 - (D) They are more interested in profits than in productivity.
 - (E) They cannot sell any of their stock in the corporation without giving the public advance notice.

3. According to the passage, the purpose of the requirement suggested would be which of the following?
 - (A) To encourage institutional stockholders to sell stock that they believe will decrease in value
 - (B) To discourage institutional stockholders from intervening in the operation of a company whose stock they own
 - (C) To discourage short-term profit-taking by institutional stockholders
 - (D) To encourage a company's employees to take an active role in the ownership of stock in the company
 - (E) To encourage investors to diversify their stock holdings

4. Which of the following best explains the author's statement that "A minority shareholder is necessarily a short-term trader" ?
 - (A) The only way a minority shareholder can make money from stocks is to buy and sell stocks as prices fluctuate over short periods of time.
 - (B) Only a shareholder who owns a majority of a company's stock can influence the trading price of the stock over a long period of time.
 - (C) A minority shareholder is prohibited by law from buying stock and holding it for long-term profits.
 - (D) Large institutions like pension funds cannot legally own a majority of any corporation's stock.
 - (E) A minority shareholder rarely takes an interest in the decisions of a corporation's board of directors.

5. The author suggests that which of the following is a true statement about people who typify the "old style capitalist"?
 - (A) They now rely on outdated management techniques.
 - (B) They seldom engaged in short-term trading of the stock they owned.
 - (C) They did not influence the investment policies of the corporations in which they invested.
 - (D) They now play a much smaller role in the stock market as a result of antitrust legislation.
 - (E) They were primarily concerned with maximizing the short-term profitability of the corporations in which they owned stock.

Video solution: <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-35/SXFKRGK7>

Passage 36

For over 300 years, one of the most enduring beliefs among historians of England has been that the character of English society has been shaped by the unique openness of its ruling elite to entry by self-made entrepreneurs (especially newly wealthy merchants) able to buy their way into the ranks of elite society. This upward mobility, historians have argued, allowed England to escape the clash between those with social/political power and those with economic power, a conflict that beset the rest of Europe during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Upward mobility was also used to explain England's exceptional stability since the late seventeenth century (no revolutions, for example), as well as such major events as the development of the most efficient agricultural system in Europe, the making of the first industrial revolution, and the onset of severe economic decline.

But is the thesis true? Recent work on the supposed consequences of an open elite has already produced some doubts. Little credence, for example, is now accorded the idea that England's late nineteenth-century economic decline resulted from absentee business owners too distracted by the demands of elite life to manage their firms properly. But, although the importance of an open elite to other major events has been severely questioned, it is only with a new work by Lawrence and Jeanne Stone that the openness itself has been confronted. Eschewing the tack of tracing the careers of successful entrepreneurs to gauge the openness of the elite, the Stones chose the alternative approach of analyzing the elite itself, and proceeded via the ingenious route of investigating country-house ownership.

Arguing that ownership of a country house was seen as essential for membership in the ruling elite, the Stones analyze the nature of country-house ownership in three counties for the period 1540-1880. Their critical findings are provocative: there was strikingly little change in the ownership of such houses throughout the period. Instead, even in the face of a demographic crisis (fewer marriages, declining fertility, rising infant mortality), the old elite was able to maintain itself, and its estates, intact for centuries through recourse to various marriage and inheritance strategies. The popular picture of venerable elite families overcome by debt and selling out to merchants is simply not borne out by the Stones' findings. Rather, the opportunities for entrepreneurs to buy their way into the elite, the Stones show, were extremely limited. If further studies of country-house ownership attest to the representativeness and accuracy of their data, then the Stones' conclusion that the open elite thesis cannot be maintained may, indeed, prove true.

1. According to the passage, one of the traditional explanations of England's late nineteenth-century economic decline has been that it resulted from the
 - (A) tendency of the ruling elite to pursue conservative rather than innovative economic policies
 - (B) failure of business entrepreneurs to reduce the power of the ruling elite in English society
 - (C) investment of large amounts of capital in the purchase and maintenance of country houses
 - (D) tendency of business owners to attempt to retain control of their firms within their families
 - (E) failure of leading business entrepreneurs to pay close attention to their firms
2. The author suggests that which of the following was true of most European elites during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries?
 - (A) The ranks of these elites were generally closed to most business entrepreneurs.
 - (B) The elites generally dominated industrial development.
 - (C) Status within these elites was generally determined by the amount of land owned.
 - (D) These elites generally were able to maintain their power unchallenged.
 - (E) The power of these elites generally forestalled the development of a large class of self-made entrepreneurs.
3. Traditional historians of England, as they are described in the passage, would be most likely to agree with which of the following statements regarding open elites?
 - (A) They develop more easily in agricultural rather than industrial societies.
 - (B) They develop in response to particular sets of economic conditions.
 - (C) They tend to unite some of the powerful groups in a society.
 - (D) They tend to reduce class distinctions based on income in a society.
 - (E) They tend to insure adequate distribution of material goods in a society.
4. The tone of the passage suggests that the author regards the Stones' methodological approach as
 - (A) problematic
 - (B) difficult
 - (C) controversial
 - (D) rigorous
 - (E) clever
5. Which of the following best states the main idea of the passage?
 - (A) Assumptions about the nature of England's ruling elite can no longer be used with certitude to explain many major economic developments.
 - (B) The concept of the open elite is of paramount importance in explaining major English political, social, and economic events.
 - (C) The long-standing belief that England possessed a remarkably open ruling elite has recently been subjected to important and potentially lethal criticism.
 - (D) Although many possibilities are available, the most reliable means of testing the truth of the 'open elite' hypothesis is to analyze changes in the composition of the elite.
 - (E) An analysis of English country-house ownership in England indicates that there were few opportunities for merchants to buy the estates of old members of the landed elite.

6. Which of the following can be inferred from the Stones' findings about English country-house ownership in the three counties during the period 1540-1880?
- (A) Little change in the number or size of English country houses occurred during this period.
 - (B) Wealthy business owners constituted a growing percentage of English country-house owners during this period.
 - (C) Most of the families that owned country houses at the beginning of this period continued to own them at the end.
 - (D) The most significant changes in English country-house ownership occurred during the second half of this period.
 - (E) Self-made entrepreneurs were able to enter the ranks of the English country-house owners during this period only through marriage.
7. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- (A) resolve a debate between two schools of thought.
 - (B) Present research that questions an established view.
 - (C) Describe and criticize a new approach.
 - (D) Defend a traditional interpretation against recent criticisms.
 - (E) Analyze possible approaches to resolving a long-standing controversy.
8. The Stones suggest that major problems facing the English elite during the period 1540-1880 included which of the following?
- I. A reduction in the number of their offspring
 - II. An increase in the amount of their indebtedness
 - III. A decline in their political and social power
- (A) I only
 - (B) III only
 - (C) I and II only
 - (D) II and III only
 - (E) I, II, and III
9. The author suggests that the Stones' conclusions about the openness of the English elite would be strengthened by future studies that
- (A) pay more attention to other recent historical works
 - (B) include more data on factors other than country-house ownership
 - (C) concentrate more on the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries
 - (D) expand the area of research to include more counties
 - (E) focus more on successful business entrepreneurs

Video solution: <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-36/LAA4032A>

Passage 37

Comparable worth is a concept that rejects the premise of a separate and lower wage hierarchy for jobs that are done primarily by women, arguing instead that earnings should reflect only the worth of the work performed. This worth should be determined by an evaluation system that rates jobs according to their social importance and skill requirements. Because comparable worth does not attack all forms of inequality, it can have only a modest direct effect on the overall degree of inequality in society, but in attacking gender inequality in the job classification system it attacks a major component of gender inequality in the United States. The likelihood that other forms of inequality will become more manifest with the lessening of gender inequality is not a valid argument against comparable worth. Indeed, struggles for comparable worth may help launch campaigns against similar forms of inequity. Still, while conservatives have battled hard against comparable worth, radicals have been reluctant to fight for it because they see the narrow presentations in comparable worth litigation as the limits of the concept. But in addition to helping redress particular inequities, comparable worth could open a discussion of the entire wage system. Its theoretical and political impact will reach far beyond the framework in which it was conceived and force a rethinking of assumptions underlying current employment practices and the market itself.

How comparable worth will affect the hierarchy of wages is more difficult to foresee. It does not directly challenge the concept of a hierarchy; in fact, its insistence that jobs must be evaluated implies a hierarchy. However, its rejection of the market as an adequate basis for determining wages initiates a discussion of how value should be assigned to jobs. Advocates of comparable worth have challenged prevailing standards of evaluation, which stem from formal job evaluations first developed in industrial settings. These evaluations, based on points awarded for different job tasks, gave considerable emphasis to such activities as strenuous lifting and the operation of expensive equipment. Consequently, the skills and knowledge more typical of work done by women are less heavily emphasized. The 'Dictionary of Occupational Titles' reveals numerous current instances of such imbalance in job ratings.

While comparable-worth advocates accept the principle of a hierarchy of wages, arguing only that they seek more objective measures of job worth, the issues they raise provoke a broader debate. This debate does not, as the opponents have claimed, concern the feasibility of setting up and applying evaluative standards. Employers have done that for centuries. Rather, the debate is about the social values and priorities underlying the wage hierarchy and, ultimately, the market where age-old conventions and political, as opposed to purely economic, forces enter the process of setting wages.

1. Which of the following summarizes a main point of the passage?
 - (A) The history of comparable worth closely parallels the history of changes in the structure of the economic system.
 - (B) The ultimate success of comparable worth depends on a public discussion of the historical conditions that led to its formulation.
 - (C) Comparable worth has social implications that extend beyond specific adjustments to the wage hierarchies for men and women.
 - (D) Comparable worth is gaining adherents even though it has traditionally met with organized opposition.
 - (E) Comparable worth has been instrumental in affording women access to jobs that had been held largely by men.
2. It can be inferred that the phrase a separate and lower wage hierarchy for jobs that are done primarily by women, most nearly means which of the following?
 - (A) That there is a greater range of salaries for men than for women
 - (B) That women typically receive less money than men do for doing jobs of approximately the same value
 - (C) That there are fewer wage-earning women than men in the work force
 - (D) That men have traditionally been more likely than women to receive advancement on the basis of seniority
 - (E) That men and women typically do not compete for the same jobs
3. In the first paragraph of the passage, the author describes the potential role and function of comparable worth in language that most often suggests
 - (A) artistic endeavors
 - (B) business transactions
 - (C) criminal investigations
 - (D) military operations
 - (E) scientific experiments
4. It can be inferred from the passage that advocates of comparable worth believe which of the following?
 - (A) A given kind of work has a particular inherent value to the employer or to society.
 - (B) The market is more influenced by political and social forces now than it was in the past.
 - (C) Gender inequality in the United States is primarily a product of the current economic system.
 - (D) Conservatives and radicals have the same reasons for not supporting comparable worth.
 - (E) Those who devised job-evaluation standards were more interested in economic than political issues.
5. As used by the author in last paragraph, "more objective" most nearly means
 - (A) more quantifiable
 - (B) more seminal
 - (C) less categorical
 - (D) less job-specific
 - (E) less sex-biased

6. Which of the following best represents the sort of question at issue in the "broader debate"?
- (A) What political factors have affected the relationship between wages and job-evaluation ratings?
 - (B) What gains have been achieved in the struggle for comparable-worth legislation?
 - (C) Will a new standard for job evaluation be any more workable than the current one?
 - (D) How will the balance of supply and demand be affected by comparable worth?
 - (E) How soon is it reasonable to expect the passage of stronger comparable-worth legislation?
7. According to the passage, which of the following is the most likely application of the notion of comparable worth?
- (A) The detailed explanation of the various forces that guide the market
 - (B) The formulation of attitudes about the role of supply and demand in setting wages
 - (C) The establishment of a political coalition in the struggle against inequity
 - (D) The integration of the industrial work force into the job market for a service and technology economy
 - (E) The reassessment of job characteristics as a means for determining just compensation
8. It can be inferred from the passage that radicals have not supported comparable worth because they view it as being
- (A) unrelated to historic developments that have molded the current economic system
 - (B) an integral part of the same system that has institutionalized various forms of inequity
 - (C) likely to undermine the unity of a reform move-men by polarizing the different interest groups
 - (D) too limited and restricted in its uses to promote fundamental changes in the System
 - (E) inherently flawed in that it has given rise to the concept of a wage hierarchy
9. The author's primary purpose in the passage is to
- (A) criticize inconsistent experiments
 - (B) suggest a new direction for research
 - (C) describe an intriguing geophysical phenomenon
 - (D) present evidence supporting a theory
 - (E) evaluate data relating to lunar geology

Video solution: <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-37/2WHEC4LB>

Passage 38

Historians have long thought that America was, from the beginning, profoundly influenced by the Locke an notion of liberty, with its strong emphasis on individual rights and self-interest. Yet in his recent book, historian J. G. A. Pocock argues that early American culture was actually rooted in the writings of Machiavelli, not Locke. The implications of this substitution are important: if Pocock's argument is right, then Americans may not be as deeply individualistic and capitalistic as many believe.

Pocock argues that out of the writings of antiquity Machiavelli created a body of political thinking called "classical republicanism." This body of thought revived the ancient belief that a human being was by nature a citizen who achieved moral fulfillment by participating in a self-governing republic. Liberty was interpreted as a condition that is realized when people are virtuous and are willing to sacrifice their individual interests for the sake of the community. To be completely virtuous, people had to be independent and free of the petty interests of the marketplace. The greatest enemy of virtue was commerce. This classical republican tradition is said by Pocock to have shaped the ideology of America during the eighteenth century.

Many events in early American history can be reinterpreted in light of Pocock's analysis. Jefferson is no longer seen as a progressive reader of Locke leading America into its individualistic future; instead Jefferson is understood as a figure obsessed with virtue and corruption and fearful of new commercial developments. Influenced by Pocock, some historians have even argued that a communitarian and precapitalist mentality was pervasive among the eighteenth-century farmers of America.

Yet Pocock's thesis and the reinterpretation of the history of eighteenth-century America engendered by it are of dubious validity. If Americans did believe in the ideals of classical virtue that stressed civic duty and made the whole community greater than its discrete parts, then why did the colonists lack a sense of obligation to support the greater good of the British Empire? If indeed America has not always been the society of individual rights and self-interest that it is today, how and when did it become so? Classical republicanism is elitist, and it certainly had little to offer the important new social groups of artisans and shopkeepers that emerged in America during the eighteenth century. These middle-class radicals, for whom John Wilkes and Thomas Paine were spokesmen, had none of the independence from the market that the landed gentry had. They were less concerned with virtue and community than they were with equality and private rights. They hated political privilege and wanted freedom from an elite-dominated state. In short, the United States was created not in a mood of classical anxiety over virtue and corruption, but in a mood of liberal optimism over individual profits and prosperity.

1. Which of the following best states the author's main point?
 - (A) Classical republicanism could not have been the ideological basis of eighteenth-century America.
 - (B) Classical republicanism is an elitist theory that was rejected by eighteenth-century artisans and shopkeepers.
 - (C) Pocock understates the importance of the contributions Machiavelli made to the formation of early American culture.
 - (D) Pocock fails to capture the great extent to which eighteenth-century Americans were committed to a sense of civic duty.
 - (E) Pocock's account of Jefferson is incompatible with Jefferson's commitment to a Locke an notion of liberty.
2. The conception of liberty that, according to Pocock, formed the basis of America's eighteenth-century ideology is most clearly exhibited by which of the following individuals?
 - (A) The merchant who rebuilds the damaged sidewalk in front of his store in order to avoid potential lawsuits by customers who might fall there
 - (B) The professor who allows her students to help her design the content and the format of the courses she teaches
 - (C) The doctor who bows to government pressure and agrees to treat a small number of low-income patients at no cost
 - (D) The lawyer who argues that a state law prohibiting smoking in public places unfairly encroaches on the rights of smokers
 - (E) The engineer whose business suffers as a result of the personal time and energy he devotes to a program to clean up city streets
3. According to the author, eighteenth-century American artisans and shopkeepers had little reason to
 - (A) support the political efforts of Thomas Jefferson
 - (B) reject the ideals of classical virtue
 - (C) embrace the principles of classical republicanism
 - (D) renounce the political objectives of the British Empire
 - (E) worry about increasing profits and maintaining general prosperity
4. The author mentions which of the following as a fact that weakens Pocock's argument about the ideology of eighteenth-century America?
 - (A) Jefferson's obsession with virtue and corruption and his fear of commercial development
 - (B) The precapitalist mentality that was pervasive among farmers in early America
 - (C) The political decline of artisans and shopkeepers in eighteenth-century America
 - (D) The colonists' lack of commitment to support the general welfare of the British Empire
 - (E) The existence of political privilege in early American society
5. The passage suggests that, if classical republicanism had been the ideology of eighteenth-century America, which of the following would have resulted?
 - (A) People would have been motivated to open small businesses and expand commercial activity.
 - (B) Citizens and politicians would not have been encouraged to agitate for increased individual rights.
 - (C) People would have been convinced that by pursuing their own interests they were contributing to the good of the group.
 - (D) The political and social privileges enjoyed by the landed gentry would have been destroyed.

(E) A mood of optimism among people over individual profits and prosperity would have been created.

6. The author implies that Pocock's argument about the ideology of eighteenth-century America would be more plausible if the argument explained which of the following?

- (A) How a society that was once committed to the ideals of classical virtue could be transformed into a society of individual rights and self-interest
- (B) How Thomas Jefferson could have become obsessed with individual rights and with prosperity and profits
- (C) Why classical republicanism had such wide appeal among those who were free from the demands of the marketplace
- (D) Why many colonists who embraced classical republicanism were reluctant to place their individual interests above those of Great Britain
- (E) Why the landed gentry in eighteenth-century America should have believed that moral fulfillment is achieved by participating in a self-governing republic

7. According to the passage, Pocock's theory suggests that many eighteenth-century Americans believed that increasing commercial activity would

- (A) force the landed gentry to relinquish their vast holdings
- (B) enrich the nation and increase individual rights
- (C) cause some people to forfeit their liberty and virtue
- (D) create a mood of optimism about national prosperity
- (E) strengthen the political appeal of middle-class radicals

8. The author is primarily concerned with

- (A) refuting a proposed thesis about eighteenth-century America
- (B) analyzing a long-established interpretation of American history
- (C) criticizing a set of deeply held beliefs about early American ideology
- (D) reconciling opposing interpretations of eighteenth-century American ideology
- (E) defending a novel reading of the ideology of eighteenth-century America

Video solution: <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-38/DEQRRW0S>

Passage 39

It is an unfortunate fact that most North Americans know little about American Indian culture and history. Scholars have studied such matters, but they have not succeeded in broadcasting their conclusions widely. Thus, it is still not widely known that American Indians have epics, that they performed plays long before Europeans arrived, and that they practiced politics and carried on trade.

One way to gain a fuller appreciation of this rich culture is to examine American Indian poetry, for poetry is in all cultures the most central and articulate of the arts. It is especially important that we study American Indian poetry as this poetry can create a context that gives cohesive expression to the crafts, the artifacts, and the isolated facts that many Americans have managed to notice willy-nilly. Even a survey of American Indian poetry reveals a range of poetic thought and technique that defies easy generalization. Jarold Ramsey hazards a summary, however, which serves at least to give the uninitiated reader some sense of what American Indian poetry is like. Overall, he writes, it represents "an oral, formulaic, traditional, and anonymous art form," whose approach is to emphasize the "mythic and sacred" components of reality. It "flourished through public performances... by skilled recitalists whose audiences already knew the individual stories" and valued the performers for their "ability to exploit their material dramatically and to combine them [their stories] in longer cycles" rather than for their "plot invention." Because this poetry belongs to highly ethnocentric tribal peoples, whose cultures "we still do not know much about," it "is likely to seem all the more terse, even cryptic."

American Indian poetry has another feature that Ramsey ignores: it is always functional. Whether sung, chanted, or recited; whether performed ceremonially, as entertainment, or as part of a task such as curing a patient or grinding corn; or whether recited individually or by a group, it is always fully woven into the fabric of ordinary life.

For complicated reasons, American Indian poetry has basically been ignored by non-Indian cultures. Kenneth Lincoln writes that failure to hear American Indian voices results "partly...from the tragedies of tribal dislocation, partly from mistranslation, partly from misconceptions about literature, partly from cultural indifference." Brian Swann suggests an additional explanation: tribal poetry is oral, whereas Europeans arrived in the New World with a deeply ingrained belief in the primacy of the written word. As a result, European settlers found it hard to imagine that poetry could exist without written texts and thus that the American Indians had achieved something parallel to what Europeans called literature long before Europeans arrived. As a consequence, Europeans did not fully respond to the rich vitality of American Indian poetry.

1. According to the passage, American Indian cultures have produced all of the following forms of artistic expression EXCEPT
 - (A) crafts
 - (B) dramas
 - (C) songs
 - (D) written poems
 - (E) oral epics
2. According to Jarold Ramsey, American Indian poetry is an art form characterized by its
 - (A) unusual depictions of landscapes
 - (B) integration with everyday affairs
 - (C) universal accessibility
 - (D) highly original plots
 - (E) adaptability to public performance
3. According to Kenneth Lincoln, one of the reasons that non-Indians have had little knowledge of American Indian poetry is that American Indian poems
 - (A) have been poorly translated
 - (B) have not yet attracted the scholarly attention they deserve
 - (C) can be appreciated only when presented orally
 - (D) are difficult to understand without a background in comparative mythology
 - (E) are too stylistically complex
4. According to the passage, it would be unusual for American Indian poetry to be
 - (A) attributed to specific authors
 - (B) sung by a group of performers
 - (C) chanted while working
 - (D) sung during a sacred ceremony
 - (E) performed in a dramatic manner
5. It can be inferred from the passage that Brian Swann believes which of the following about the European settlers of America?
 - (A) They probably were more literate, on the average, than the general European population they left behind.
 - (B) They probably thought it necessary to understand American Indian politics before studying American Indian literature.
 - (C) They probably did not recognize evidence of an oral poetic tradition in the American Indian cultures they encountered.
 - (D) They probably could not appreciate American Indian poetry because it was composed in long narrative cycles.
 - (E) They probably did not study American Indian poetry because its subject matter was too practically oriented.
6. The tone suggests that the author believes that most Americans' knowledge of American Indian culture can best be characterized as
 - (A) spotty and contradictory
 - (B) stereotyped and limited
 - (C) confused and inaccurate
 - (D) unsystematic and superficial
 - (E) vague and biased

7. Which of the following best describes the organization of the last paragraph of the passage?

- (A) An observation is made and qualifications of it are provided.
- (B) A phenomenon is noted and explanations for it are presented.
- (C) A hypothesis is presented and arguments against it are cited.
- (D) A prognosis is made and evidence supporting it is discussed.
- (E) A criticism is presented and information expanding it is provided.

Video solution: <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-39/D8IUXBUE>

Passage 40

A majority taken collectively may be regarded as a being whose opinions and, most frequently, whose interests are opposed to those of another being, which is styled a minority. If it is admitted that a man possessing absolute power may misuse that power by wronging his adversaries, why should a majority not be liable to the same reproach? Men are not apt to change their characters by agglomeration; nor does their patience in the presence of obstacles increase with the consciousness of their strength. For these reasons we should not willingly invest any group of our fellows with that unlimited authority which we should refuse to any individual.

One social power must always predominate over others, but liberty is endangered when this power is checked by no obstacles which may retard its course and force it to moderate its own vehemence. Unlimited power is in itself a bad and dangerous thing, and no power on earth is so worthy of honor for itself or of reverential obedience to the rights which it represents that we should admit its uncontrolled and all-predominant authority. When the right and means of absolute command are conferred on a people or a king, on an aristocracy or a democracy, a monarchy or a republic, there has been implanted the germ of tyranny.

The main evil of the present democratic institutions of the United States does not arise, as is often asserted in Europe, from their weakness, but from their overpowering strength; the excessive liberty which reigns in that country is not so alarming as is the very inadequate security which exists against tyranny.

When an individual or a party is wronged in the United States, to whom can he apply for redress? If to the public opinion, public opinion constitutes the majority; if to the legislature, it represents the majority and implicitly obeys its injunctions; if to the executive power, it is appointed by the majority and remains a passive tool in its hands; the public troops consist of the majority under arms; the jury is the majority invested with the right of hearing judicial cases, and in certain states even the judges are elected by the majority. However iniquitous or absurd the evil complained about, no sure barrier is established to defend against it.

1. Which of the following would be the most appropriate title for the passage?
- (A) The Tyranny of the Majority
 - (B) Democracy: Triumph of the People
 - (C) Abuses of Power
 - (D) The Failure of Democracy in the United States
 - (E) Minority Rights
2. Which of the following best paraphrases the author's statement in the third sentence of paragraph 1 ?
- (A) Individuals do not change their behavior when they act in concert with others who are likeminded, and, knowing they are acting as part of the group, they are not likely to show greater restraint when opposed than they would if they were acting individually.
 - (B) Groups are not different from one another, they all show strong impatience when thwarted.
 - (C) The character of men is formed by the accumulation of their traits, and patience is not a common trait among men of strength.
 - (D) The leopard does not change its spots no matter how long it lives, and it is, and remains, patient in the presence of obstacles.
 - (E) Men change their behavior when they act in groups; they are more patient when they are in the company of their fellows than they are when they are alone.
3. With which of the following statements would the author of the passage be most likely to agree?
- (A) Democracy is no greater defense against tyranny than is monarchy or aristocracy.
 - (B) Minority rule would probably be more responsive to the needs of all people than majority rule.
 - (C) No government should be trusted since all governments are equally tyrannical.
 - (D) Since one social power must always predominate over others, it is futile to provide checks and balances in government.
 - (E) To render itself immune to the germ of tyranny, the United States should strengthen its political institutions.
4. Which of the following, assuming that each is true, would most weaken the point that the author is making in the last two paragraphs of the passage?
- (A) The framers of the U.S. Constitution deliberately separated the three branches of the government to prevent tyranny.
 - (B) There is not a single majority in the United States; there are many majorities, each composed of a different collection of individuals and each acting as a restraint on the others.
 - (C) The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution specifically guarantees the right of each citizen to petition the government for redress of grievances.
 - (D) Even though the United States is not a direct democracy, all U.S. citizens have an equal opportunity to participate in political life and to hold public office.
 - (E) The framers of the U.S. Constitution had two primary concerns: to prevent the government from exercising tyranny over the people and to prevent the majority from exercising tyranny over the minority.

5. The author's treatment of the topic of the passage can best be described as
- (A) ironic
 - (B) neutral
 - (C) logical
 - (D) irreverent
 - (E) diffident
6. In the passage, the author is primarily concerned with
- (A) challenging a commonly held belief
 - (B) contrasting two opposing views
 - (C) advocating a course of action
 - (D) reconciling an apparent conflict
 - (E) proposing a solution to an unrecognized problem

Video solution: <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-40/KQWAI1BY>

Passage 41

Astrophysicists wrestling with the study of a new kind of star, the flat, "two-dimensional" configurations known as accretion disks have recently gained new insights into the behavior of these stars. Accretion disks exist in a variety of situations where matters swirl around a compact star such as a white dwarf star or a neutron star. Accretion disks are also suspected of playing apart in more exotic situations, in which the central object is imagined to be a super massive black hole, the ultimate form of collapsed matter, rather than a compact star. The modeling of accretion disks is still in its infancy, a situation analogous to the days when ordinary stars were modeled by using elementary scaling laws without benefit of knowledge of the nuclear processes that power the stars. Similarly, the basic physics of the power by which accretion disks radiate, thought to originate in a form of turbulent friction, is known only at the crudest level.

Accretion disks were first defined in the context of Cataclysmic variables. In these systems, matter from the outer layers of an ordinary star is attracted by the gravitational influence of a nearby orbiting white dwarf star, the matter lost from the ordinary star cannot strike the surface of the tiny white dwarf directly but settles into an orbit around the star. The viscosity in the disk thus formed causes heating, radiation, and a slow spiraling of disk matter onto the surface of the white dwarf.

The rapid advances made in x-ray astronomy in the past decade have identified a second type of system in which accretion disks occur. In such a system, an accretion disk whirls about a neutron star rather than a white dwarf. The inner reaches of the accretion disk extend deeply into the gravitational potential of the neutron star where very rapid motion is the rule. The energy released by friction and the actual raining of the material from the disk onto the surface of the neutron star is so great that radiation is given off in a powerful flood of x-rays. And in atleast one case, x-ray astronomers believe that the object in the center of an accretion disk is a black hole, suggesting that a third system may exist.

It had been assumed that portions of accretion disks would be unstable and that, as a result, clumping of their matter into rings would occur. There is no evidence from observation, however, that accretion disks do, in fact, suffer from these instabilities. In recent work, Abramowicz has shown that added gravitational effects due to general relativity may alter the expected Newtonian gravitational relationships in such a way that the disk remains stable, indicating that it is possible that these predicted instabilities do not occur.

Further progress toward understanding accretion disks will involve defining and proposing solutions to restricted problems just as was done in this case and was done and continues to be done for ordinary stars. Abramowicz' work is a valuable example of the care that must be taken before reaching conclusions regarding accretion disks.

1. The author of the passage is primarily concerned with
 - (A) comparing Abramowicz' work to the work of earlier astrophysicists
 - (B) providing information about accretion disks and discussing significant new work
 - (C) defining the conditions under which accretion disks can be observed
 - (D) exploring the question of whether a black hole can ever be the central object of an accretion disk
 - (E) describing the phenomenon of accretion disks and reviewing several conflicting theories of their origins
2. It can be inferred from the passage that predictions of the instability of accretion disks were based on which of the following?
 - (A) A calculation of the probable effects of standard Newtonian gravitational relationships
 - (B) A calculation of the probable relationship between general relativity and standard Newtonian gravitational relationships
 - (C) A calculation of the energy released by friction within a compact star
 - (D) Observation of the x-rays radiated by compact stars
 - (E) Observation of the clumping of accretion disk matter into rings around compact stars
3. The author's attitude toward Abramowicz' work can best be described as one of
 - (A) uncertain approval
 - (B) unqualified respect
 - (C) mild interest
 - (D) careful dismissal
 - (E) hostile skepticism
4. The passage suggests which of the following about current scientific knowledge of the nuclear processes of ordinary stars?
 - (A) Its pattern of development has been analogous to that of developments in x-ray astronomy.
 - (B) Its role in the explanation of turbulent friction has been significant.
 - (C) It has contributed to a more accurate modeling of ordinary stars.
 - (D) It lags behind knowledge of scaling laws.
 - (E) It explains the behavior of accretion disks as well as that of ordinary stars.
5. The passage suggests that Abramowicz' work was motivated by which of the following assumptions?
 - (A) The quantity of energy released by accretion disks can be as large as it is only if the disks are stable.
 - (B) Improved techniques in x-ray astronomy would reveal any instabilities occurring in accretion disks.
 - (C) The lack of observational evidence of instabilities in accretion disks suggests that predictions of their occurrence might be wrong.
 - (D) Known methods of observing accretion disk surrounding compact stars and black holes do not permit the observation of the matter in accretion disks.
 - (E) The gravitational potential of compact stars does not vary from star to star.

6. The passage implies which of the following about the progress of knowledge in astrophysics?
- (A) Adherence to outdated theories has, in the past, limited the activities of astrophysicists and restricted progress.
 - (B) Progress has, in the past, occurred only as a result of significant breakthroughs in basic physics and chemistry.
 - (C) Progress has, in the past, occurred as a result of a process of defining and solving restricted problems.
 - (D) Given the recent acquisition of knowledge about the nuclear processes of stars, further progress is likely to be limited to the refinement of what is already known.
 - (E) Conclusions in astrophysics have, in the past, been seriously flawed, thus limiting progress, although there have recently been signs of change.
7. The passage suggests that, compared to the study of ordinary stars, the study of accretion disks is
- (A) derivative
 - (B) more sophisticated
 - (C) less clearly focused
 - (D) at an earlier stage of development
 - (E) more dependent on technological advances
8. According to the passage, some accretion disks originated in
- (A) an increase in heat and radiation around an ordinary star
 - (B) a powerful flood of x-rays emitted by a neutron star
 - (C) a collision between two stars
 - (D) the turbulent friction on the surface of a compact star
 - (E) the accumulation of matter removed from an ordinary star
9. It can be inferred from the passage that the significance of Abramowicz' work is that it
- (A) provides a means of measuring the gravitational potential of neutron stars
 - (B) opens a new area for exploration in the field of x-ray astronomy
 - (C) proves that scaling laws cannot be applied to accretion disks
 - (D) proposes a new system of classification of stars
 - (E) suggests a resolution of a discrepancy between a theoretical prediction and actual observation

Video solution: <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-41/9FRBGD21>

Passage 42

The impressionist painters expressly disavowed any interest in philosophy, yet their new approach to art had far-reaching philosophical implications. For the view of matter that the Impressionists assumed differed profoundly from the view that had previously prevailed among artists. This view helped to unify the artistic works created in the new style.

The ancient Greeks had conceived of the world in concrete terms, even endowing abstract qualities with bodies. This Greek view of matter persisted, so far as painting was concerned, into the nineteenth century. The Impressionists, on the other hand, viewed light, not matter, as the ultimate visual reality. The philosopher Taine expressed the Impressionist view of things when he said, "The chief 'person' in a picture is the light in which everything is bathed." In Impressionist painting, solid bodies became mere reflectors of light, and distinctions between one object and another became arbitrary conventions; for by light all things were welded together. The treatment of both color and outline was transformed as well. Color, formerly considered a property inherent in an object, was seen to be merely the result of vibrations of light on the object's colorless surface. And outline, whose function had formerly been to indicate the limits of objects, now marked instead merely the boundary between units of pattern, which often merged into one another.

The Impressionist world was composed not of separate objects but of many surfaces on which light struck and was reflected with varying intensity to the eye through the atmosphere, which modified it. It was this process that produced the mosaic of colors that formed an Impressionist canvas. "Light becomes the sole subject of the picture," writes Mauclair. "The interest of the object upon which it plays is secondary. Painting thus conceived becomes a purely optic art."

From this profoundly revolutionary form of art, then, all ideas—religious, moral, psychological—were excluded, and so were all emotions except certain aesthetic ones. The people, places, and things depicted in an Impressionist picture do not tell story or convey any special meaning; they are, instead, merely parts of pattern of light drawn from nature and captured on canvas by the artist.

1. The author of the passage is primarily concerned with
 - (A) explaining how the Impressionists were influenced by scientific studies of light and color
 - (B) discussing the philosophical implications of the Impressionist style of painting
 - (C) identifying the revolutionary artistic techniques developed by the Impressionist painters
 - (D) analyzing the influence of thinkers like Taine and Mauclair on Impressionist painting
 - (E) defending the importance of the Impressionist painters in the history of modern art
2. According to the passage, the Impressionists differed from the ancient Greeks in that the Impressionists
 - (A) considered color to be property inherent in objects
 - (B) placed a higher value on the narrative element in painting
 - (C) depicted the objects in a painting as isolated, rather than united in a single pattern
 - (D) treated light, rather than matter, as the ultimate reality
 - (E) regarded art primarily as a medium for expressing moral and aesthetic ideas
3. The author's quotation of a statement by Taine serves which of the following functions in the passage?
 - (A) It furnishes a specific example of an Impressionist painting that features light as its chief subject.
 - (B) It resolves an apparent contradiction in the philosophy of the Impressionists.
 - (C) It qualifies the statement that the ancient Greeks viewed the world in concrete terms.
 - (D) It summarizes the unique perspective that the Impressionists brought to painting.
 - (E) It provides a concrete illustration of the far-reaching philosophical implications of Impressionism.
4. According to the passage, the Impressionists believed that the atmosphere
 - (A) reflects light with varying intensity
 - (B) creates the illusion of color in colorless surfaces
 - (C) modifies the shapes of objects
 - (D) is the result of vibrations of light
 - (E) affects the way we perceived color
5. The author's use of the term "mosaic of colors" suggests that Impressionist paintings were characterized by
 - (A) discontinuous dabs of unmixed pigment
 - (B) broad, sweeping brush strokes
 - (C) clearly defined forms and objects
 - (D) subjects devoid of emotive or literary qualities
 - (E) the glowing reds, greens, and midnight blues of stained glass
6. The passage contains information that answers which of the following questions?
 - I. How did the Impressionists perceive matter?
 - II. What is the unifying element in a typical Impressionist painting?
 - II. How did the Impressionists' view of color differ from that of eighteenth-century artists?

- (A) I only
- (B) III only
- (C) I and II only
- (D) II and III only
- (E) I, II, and III

7. The ideas attributed to the Impressionists in the passage suggest that an Impressionist painter would be most likely to agree with which of the following statement?

- (A) A picture is significant primarily as a manifestation of the artist's mental state.
- (B) The highest purpose of art is to teach religious truths.
- (C) The quality of a picture has nothing to do with the nature of the objects it depicts.
- (D) An artist should strive to recreate on canvas the inner nature of objects from real life.
- (E) It is futile to attempt to paint pictures that aim to copy the optical appearance of the world.

Video solution: <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-42/CVTC5DIZ>

Passage 43

There is widespread belief that the emergence of giant industries has been accompanied by an equivalent surge in industrial research. A recent study of important inventions made since the turn of the century reveals that more than half were the product of individual inventors working alone, independent of organized industrial research. While industrial laboratories contributed such important products as nylon and transistors, independent inventors developed air conditioning, the automatic transmission, the jet engine, the helicopter, insulin, and streptomycin. Still other inventions, such as stainless steel, television, silicones, and Plexiglas were developed through the combined efforts of individuals and laboratory teams.

Despite these finding, we are urged to support monopolistic power on the grounds that such power creates an environment supportive of innovation. We are told that the independent inventor, along with the small firm, cannot afford to undertake the important research needed to improve our standard of living while protecting our diminishing resources; that only the giant corporation or conglomerate, with its prodigious assets, can afford the kind of expenditures that produce the technological advances vital to economic progress. But when we examine expenditures for research, we find that of the more than \$35 billion spent each year in this country, almost two-thirds is spent by the federal government. More than half of this government expenditure is funneled into military research and product development, accounting for the enormous increase in spending in such industries as nuclear energy, aircraft, missiles, and electronics. There are those who consider it questionable that these defense-linked research projects will either improve our standard of living or do much to protect our diminishing resources.

Recent history has demonstrated that we may have to alter our longstanding conception of the process actuated by competition. The price variable, once perceived as the dominant aspect of the process, is now subordinate to the competition of the new product, the new business structure, and the new technology. While it can be assumed that in a highly competitive industry not dominated by single corporation, investment in innovation—a risky and expensive budget item—might meet resistance from management and stockholders concerned about cost-cutting, efficient organization, and large advertising budgets, it would be an egregious error to equate the monopolistic producer with bountiful expenditures on research. Large-scale enterprises tend to operate more comfortably in stable and secure circumstances, and their managerial bureaucracies tend to promote the status quo and resist the threat implicit in change. Moreover, in some cases, industrial giants faced with little or no competition seek to avoid the capital loss resulting from obsolescence by deliberately obstructing technological progress. By contrast, small firms undeterred by large investments in plant and capital equipment often aggressively pursue new techniques and new products, investing in innovation in order to expand their market shares.

The conglomerates are not, however, completely except from strong competitive pressures. There are instances in which they too must compete with another industrial Goliath, and then their weapons may include large expenditures for innovation.

1. The primary purpose of the passage is to
 - (A) advocate an increase in government support of organized industrial research
 - (B) point out a common misconception about the relationship between the extent of industrial research and the growth of monopolistic power in industry
 - (C) describe the inadequacies of small firms in dealing with the important matter of research and innovation
 - (D) show that America's strength depends upon individual ingenuity and resourcefulness
 - (E) encourage free-market competition among industrial giants
2. According to the passage, important inventions of the twentieth century
 - (A) were produced largely as a result of governmental support for military weapons research and development
 - (B) came primarily from the huge laboratories of monopolistic industries
 - (C) were produced at least as frequently by independent inventors as by research teams
 - (D) have greater impact on smaller firms than on conglomerates
 - (E) sometimes adversely affect our standard of living and diminish our natural resources
3. Which of the following best describes the organization of the second paragraph of the passage?
 - (A) Expenditures for various aspects of research are listed.
 - (B) Reasons for supporting monopolistic power are given and then questioned.
 - (C) Arguments are presented for minimizing competitive bidding for research.
 - (D) Resources necessary for research are defined.
 - (E) Costs for varied aspects of military research are questioned.
4. It can be inferred from the passage that the author
 - (A) has little confidence in the ability of monopolistic industry to produce the important inventions of the future
 - (B) would rather see the federal government spend money on social services than on the defense establishment
 - (C) favors a conservative approach to innovation and places trust in conglomerates to provide efficient production
 - (D) feels that price should still be the dominant variable in the competitive process
 - (E) believes that excessive competition is a deterrent to innovation
5. The passage contains information that answers which of the following questions?
 - I. What portion of the research dollar in this country is spent each year by the federal government?
 - II. Under what circumstances is an industrial giant likely to invest heavily in innovation?
 - III. Why might a monopolistic producer want to suppress an innovation?
 - (A) I only
 - (B) II only
 - (C) I and II only
 - (D) II and III only
 - (E) I, II, and III

6. With which of the following statements would the author of the passage be most likely to agree?
- (A) Monopolistic power creates an environment supportive of innovation.
 - (B) Governmental expenditure for military research will do much to protect our dwindling resources.
 - (C) Industrial giants, with their managerial bureaucracies, respond more quickly to technological change than smaller firms do.
 - (D) Firms with a small share of the market aggressively pursue innovations because they are not locked into old capital equipment.
 - (E) The independent inventor cannot afford to undertake the research needed to improve our standard of living.
7. Which of the following proposals best responds to the issues raised by the author?
- (A) Governmental restraints on monopolies should be lifted, and government funding should be made available to large corporations wishing to engage in research.
 - (B) Governmental restraints on monopolies should be tightened, and government funding should be made available to small corporations and independent individuals wishing to engage in research.
 - (C) Governmental restraints on monopolies should be tightened, and no government funding should be provided to any corporations or individuals wishing to engage in research.
 - (D) The amount the government spends on military research should be decreased, and the amount it spends to improve the standard of living should be increased.
 - (E) Governmental restraints on monopolies should be lifted, and no government funding should be provided to any corporations or individuals wishing to engage in research.
8. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's main point?
- (A) In the last decade, conglomerates have significantly increased their research budgets for defense technology.
 - (B) Tax restructuring permits smaller firms to write off a larger percentage of profits against research.
 - (C) A ten-year study of the extent of resources devoted to research by smaller enterprises reveals a steady decline.
 - (D) Military research is being directed more extensively to space technology than to short-range missiles.
 - (E) Competition from foreign industries has increased the cost of labor and materials.

Video solution: <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-43/R3NNAPN3>

Passage 44

Shaw's defense of a theater of ideas brought him up against both his great bugbears—commercialized art on the one hand and Art for Art's Sake on the other. His teaching is that beauty is a by-product of other activity; that the artist writes out of moral passion (informs varying from political conviction to religious zeal), not out of love of art; that the pursuit of art for its own sake is a form of self-indulgence as bad as any other sort of sensuality. In the end, the errors of "pure" art and of commercialized art are identical: they both appeal primarily to the senses. True art, on the other hand, is not merely a matter of pleasure. It may be unpleasant. A favorite Shavian metaphor for the function of the arts is that of tooth-pulling. Even if the patient is under laughing gas, the tooth is still pulled.

The history of aesthetics affords more examples of a didactic than of a hedonist view. But Shaw's didacticism takes an unusual turn in its application to the history of arts. If, as Shaw holds, ideas are a most important part of a work of art, and if, as he also holds, ideas go out of date, it follows that even the best works of art go out of date in some important respects and that the generally held view that great works are in all respects eternal is not shared by Shaw. In the preface to *Three Plays for Puritans*, he maintains that renewal in the arts means renewal in philosophy, that the first great artist who comes along after a renewal gives to the new philosophy full and final form, that subsequent artists, though even more gifted, can do nothing but refine upon the master without matching him. Shaw, whose essential modesty is as disarming as his pose of vanity is disconcerting, assigns to himself the role, not of the master, but of the pioneer, the role of a Marlowe rather than of a Shakespeare. "The whirligig of time will soon bring my audiences to my own point of view," he writes, "and then the next Shakespeare that comes along will turn these petty tentative of mine into masterpieces final for their epoch."

"Final for their epoch"—even Shakespearean masterpieces are not final beyond that. No one, says Shaw, will ever write a better tragedy than *Lear* or a better opera than *Don Giovanni* or a better music drama than *Der Ring des Nibelungen*; but just as essential to a play as this aesthetic merit is moral relevance which, if we take a naturalistic and historical view of morals, it loses, or partly loses, in time. Shaw, who has the courage of his historicism, consistently withstands the view that moral problems do not change, and argues therefore that for us modern literature and music form a Bible surpassing in significance the Hebrew Bible. That is Shaw's anticipatory challenge to the neo-orthodoxy of today.

1. The primary purpose of the passage is to discuss
 - (A) the unorthodoxy of Shaw's views on the Bible
 - (B) the aesthetic merit of Shaw's plays
 - (C) Shaw's theory of art
 - (D) Shavian examples of the theater of ideas
 - (E) Shaw's naturalistic and historical view of morals
2. The author sets off the word "pure" with quotation marks in order to
 - (A) contrast it with the word "true," which appears later
 - (B) suggest that, in this context, it is synonymous with "commercialized"
 - (C) underscore its importance
 - (D) strip away its negative connotations
 - (E) emphasize its positive connotations
3. According to the author, Shaw compares art to tooth-pulling in order to show that
 - (A) the moral relevance of a work of art must be extracted from the epoch in which it was created
 - (B) true art is painful to the senses
 - (C) even the best works of art go out of date
 - (D) pleasure is not the sole purpose of art
 - (E) all art has a lasting effect on its audience
4. According to the author, Shaw's didacticism was unusual in that it was characterized by
 - (A) idealism
 - (B) historicism
 - (C) hedonism
 - (D) moralism
 - (E) religious zeal
5. It can be inferred from the passage that Shaw would probably agree with all of the following statements about Shakespeare EXCEPT:
 - (A) He wrote out of a moral passion.
 - (B) All of his plays are out of date in some important respect.
 - (C) He was the most profound and original thinker of his epoch.
 - (D) He was a greater artist than Marlowe.
 - (E) His *Lear* gives full and final form to the philosophy of his age.
6. Which of the following does the author cite as a contradiction in Shaw?
 - (A) Whereas he pretended to be vain, he was actually modest.
 - (B) He questioned the significance of the Hebrew Bible, and yet he believed that a great artist could be motivated by religious zeal.
 - (C) Although he insisted that true art springs from moral passion, he rejected the notion that morals do not change.
 - (D) He considered himself to be the pioneer of a new philosophy, but he hoped his audiences would eventually adopt his point of view.
 - (E) On the one hand, he held that ideas are a most important part of a work of art; on the other hand, he believed that ideas go out of date.

7. The ideas attributed to Shaw in the passage suggest that he would most likely agree with which of the following statements?
- (A) Every great poet digs down to a level where human nature is always and everywhere alike.
 - (B) A play cannot be comprehended fully without some knowledge and imaginative understanding of its context.
 - (C) A great music drama like *Der Ring des Nibelungen* springs from a love of beauty, not from a love of art.
 - (D) Morality is immutable; it is not something to be discussed and worked out.
 - (E) *Don Giovanni* is a masterpiece because it is as relevant today as it was when it was created.
8. The passage contains information that answers which of the following questions?
- I. According to Shaw, what is the most important part of a work of art?
 - II. In Shaw's view, what does the Hebrew Bible have in common with *Don Giovanni*?
 - III. According to the author, what was Shaw's assessment of himself as a playwright?
- (A) I only
 - (B) III only
 - (C) I and II only
 - (D) II and III only
 - (E) I, II, and III
9. As it is revealed in the passage, the author's attitude toward Shaw can best be described as
- (A) condescending
 - (B) completely neutral
 - (C) approving
 - (D) envious
 - (E) adulatory

Video solution: <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-44/FEW7LB07>

Passage 45

One of the many theories about alcoholism is the learning and reinforcement theory, which explains alcoholism by considering alcohol ingestion as a reflex response to some stimulus and as a way to reduce an inner drive state such as fear or anxiety. Characterizing life situations in terms of approach and avoidance, this theory holds that persons tend to be drawn to pleasant situations and repelled by unpleasant ones. In the latter case, alcohol ingestion is said to reduce the tension or feelings of unpleasantness and to replace them with the feeling of euphoria generally observed in most persons after they have consumed one or more drinks.

Some experimental evidence tends to show that alcohol reduces fear in the approach-avoidance situation. Conger trained one group of rats to approach a food goal and, using aversion conditioning, trained another group to avoid electric shock. After an injection of alcohol the pull away from the shock was measurable weaker, while the pull toward the food was unchanged.

The obvious troubles experienced by alcoholic persons appear to contradict the learning theory in the explanation of alcoholism. The discomfort, pain, and punishment they experience should presumably serve as a deterrent to drinking. The fact that alcoholic persons continue to drink in the face of family discord, loss of employment, illness, and other sequels of repeated bouts is explained by the proximity of the drive reduction to the consumption of alcohol; that is, alcohol has the immediate effect of reducing tension while the unpleasant consequences of drunken behavior come only later. The learning paradigm, therefore, favors the establishment and repetition of the resort to alcohol.

In fact, the anxieties and feelings of guilt induced by the consequences of excessive alcohol ingestion may themselves become the signal for another bout of alcohol abuse. The way in which the cue for another bout could be the anxiety itself is explained by the process of stimulus generalization: conditions or events occurring at the time of reinforcement tend to acquire the characteristics of state of anxiety or fear, the emotional state itself takes on the properties of a stimulus, thus triggering another drinking bout.

The role of punishment is becoming increasingly important in formulating a cause of alcoholism based on the principles of learning theory. While punishment may serve to suppress a response, experiments have shown that in some cases it can serve as a reward and reinforce the behavior. Thus if the alcoholic person has learned to drink under conditions of both reward and punishment, either type of condition may precipitate renewed drinking.

Ample experimental evidence supports the hypothesis that excessive alcohol consumption can be learned. By gradually increasing the concentration of alcohol in drinking water, psychologists have been able to induce the ingestion of larger amounts of alcohol by an animal than would be normally consumed. Other researchers have been able to achieve similar results by varying the schedule of reinforcement—that is, by requiring the animal to consume larger and larger amounts of the alcohol solutions before rewarding it. In this manner, animals learn to drink enough to become dependent on alcohol in terms of demonstrating withdrawal symptoms.

1. The primary purpose of the passage is to
 - (A) compare the learning and reinforcement theory to other theories of alcoholism
 - (B) discuss how the behavior of alcoholic persons is explained by learning theory
 - (C) argue that alcoholism is a learned behavior
 - (D) explain how fear and anxiety stimulate and reinforce drinking in alcoholic persons
 - (E) present experimental evidence in support of the learning and reinforcement theory of alcoholism
2. The passage contains information that answers which of the following questions?
 - (A) What are some of the psychosocial problems associated with alcoholism?
 - (B) Which has proven more effective in the treatment of alcoholism, aversion conditioning or reinforcement?
 - (C) Why does alcohol ingestion reduce tension and give rise to a feeling of euphoria in most people?
 - (D) According to the learning theory, in what cases does punishment reinforce rather than deter drinking in alcoholic persons?
 - (E) Are some persons genetically predisposed to alcoholism?
3. It can be inferred from the passage that aversion conditioning is based primarily on the principle that
 - (A) electric shock stimulates a response
 - (B) behavior that is punished will be avoided
 - (C) pain is a stronger stimulus than pleasure
 - (D) alcohol reduces fear
 - (E) behavior that is rewarded will be repeated
4. According to the passage, which of the following is true of stimulus generalization?
 - (A) It contradicts the learning and reinforcement theory of alcoholism.
 - (B) It is the process by which an organism learns to respond to one stimulus but not to similar stimuli.
 - (C) It supports the hypothesis that excessive alcohol consumption can be learned.
 - (D) It explains why people tend to avoid behavior that is associated with painful experiences.
 - (E) It occurs when the conditions associated with a stimulus come to evoke the same response as the stimulus itself evokes.
5. The author cites Conger's experiment with two groups of rats in order to
 - (A) show that ingestion of alcohol does not affect appetite
 - (B) corroborate the findings of other academic researchers
 - (C) show that alcohol decreases fear
 - (D) disprove the learning and reinforcement theory
 - (E) convince the reader of the usefulness of behavioral research
6. According to the passage, which of the following could induce an alcoholic to drink?
 - I. The need to relieve tension
 - II. Anxieties resulting from guilt feelings about previous drinking bouts
 - III. Punishment for alcoholic behavior
 - (A) I only
 - (B) II only
 - (C) I and II only
 - (D) II and III only

(E) I, II, and III

7. The passage contains information that supports which of the following statements?

- (A) If the pleasurable taste of whisky leads to an acquired taste for brandy, then stimulus generalization has occurred.
- (B) Slapping a child for misbehaving may over time encourage the child to repeat the misbehavior.
- (C) If a person has learned to drink under two sets of conditions, both must be present in order to induce that person to drink again.
- (D) Continued heavy use of alcohol usually causes severe damage to the body and nervous system.
- (E) When consumed in moderation, alcohol may benefit health.

8. According to the passage, how does the behavior of alcoholics appear to contradict learning theory?

- (A) Learning theory holds that people are drawn by pleasant situations and repelled by unpleasant ones, but in alcoholics that pattern appears to be reversed.
- (B) Contrary to learning theory, alcoholic persons do not respond to life situations in terms of approach and avoidance.
- (C) The unpleasant consequences of excessive alcoholic consumption do not deter alcoholics from drinking, as might be predicted from learning theory.
- (D) According to learning theory, drinking is a reflex response to an external stimulus, but for alcoholics it is more often a way to reduce an inner drive such as fear.
- (E) Instead of the feeling of euphoria predicted by learning theory, alcoholics frequently experience discomfort and pain after drinking.

9. It can be inferred from the passage that the author views the learning and reinforcement theory of alcoholism as

- (A) credible
- (B) unassailable
- (C) outdated
- (D) fallacious
- (E) revolutionary

Video solution: <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-45/KBLVZHSD>

Passage 46

Recent years have brought minority-owned businesses in the United States unprecedented opportunities—as well as new and significant risks. Civil rights activists have long argued that one of the principal reasons why Blacks, Hispanics, and other minority groups have difficulty establishing themselves in business is that they lack access to the sizable orders and subcontracts that are generated by large companies. Now Congress, in apparent agreement, has required by law that businesses awarded federal contracts of more than \$500,000 do their best to find minority subcontractors and record their efforts to do so on forms filed with the government. Indeed, some federal and local agencies have gone so far as to set specific percentage goals for apportioning parts of public works contracts to minority enterprises.

Corporate response appears to have been substantial. According to figures collected in 1977, the total of corporate contracts with minority businesses rose from \$77 million in 1972 to \$1.1 billion in 1977. The projected total of corporate contracts with minority businesses for the early 1980's is estimated to be over 53 billion per year with no letup anticipated in the next decade. Promising as it is for minority businesses, this increased patronage poses dangers for them, too. First, minority firms risk expanding too fast and overextending themselves financially, since most are small concerns and, unlike large businesses, they often need to make substantial investments in new plants, staff, equipment, and the like in order to perform work subcontracted to them. If, thereafter, their subcontracts are for some reason reduced, such firms can face potentially crippling fixed expenses. The world of corporate purchasing can be frustrating for small entrepreneurs who get requests for elaborate formal estimates and bids. Both consume valuable time and resources, and a small company's efforts must soon result in orders, or both the morale and the financial health of the business will suffer.

A second risk is that White-owned companies may seek to cash in on the increasing apportionments through formation of joint ventures with minority-owned concerns. Of course, in many instances there are legitimate reasons for joint ventures; clearly, White and minority enterprises can team up to acquire business that neither could acquire alone. But civil rights groups and minority business owners have complained to Congress about minorities being setup as "fronts" with White backing, rather than being accepted as full partners in legitimate joint ventures.

Third, a minority enterprise that secures the business of one large corporate customer often runs the danger of becoming—and remaining—dependent. Even in the best of circumstances, fierce competition from larger, more established companies makes it difficult for small concerns to broaden their customer bases: when such firms have nearly guaranteed orders from a single corporate benefactor, they may truly have to struggle against complacency arising from their current success.

1. The primary purpose of the passage is to
 - (A) present a commonplace idea and its inaccuracies
 - (B) describe a situation and its potential drawbacks
 - (C) propose a temporary solution to a problem
 - (D) analyze a frequent source of disagreement
 - (E) explore the implications of a finding
2. The passage supplies information that would answer which of the following questions?
 - (A) What federal agencies have set percentage goals for the use of minority-owned businesses in public works contracts?
 - (B) To which government agencies must businesses awarded federal contracts report their efforts to find minority subcontractors?
 - (C) How widespread is the use of minority-owned concerns as "fronts" by White backers seeking to obtain subcontracts?
 - (D) How many more minority-owned businesses were there in 1977 than in 1972?
 - (E) What is one set of conditions under which a small business might find itself financially overextended?
3. According to the passage, civil rights activists maintain that one disadvantage under which minority-owned businesses have traditionally had to labor is that they have
 - (A) been especially vulnerable to governmental mismanagement of the economy
 - (B) been denied bank loans at rates comparable to those afforded larger competitors
 - (C) not had sufficient opportunity to secure business created by large corporations
 - (D) not been able to advertise in those media that reach large numbers of potential customers
 - (E) not had adequate representation in the centers of government power
4. The passage suggests that the failure of a large business to have its bids for subcontracts result quickly in orders might cause it to
 - (A) experience frustration but not serious financial harm
 - (B) face potentially crippling fixed expenses
 - (C) have to record its efforts on forms filed with the government
 - (D) increase its spending with minority subcontractors
 - (E) revise its procedure for making bids for federal contracts and subcontracts
5. The author implies that a minority-owned concern that does the greater part of its business with one large corporate customer should
 - (A) avoid competition with larger, more established concerns by not expanding
 - (B) concentrate on securing even more business from that corporation
 - (C) try to expand its customer base to avoid becoming dependent on the corporation
 - (D) pass on some of the work to be done for the corporation to other minority-owned concerns
 - (E) use its influence with the corporation to promote subcontracting with other minority concerns
6. It can be inferred from the passage that, compared with the requirements of law, the percentage goals set by "some federal and local agencies" are
 - (A) more popular with large corporations
 - (B) more specific
 - (C) less controversial
 - (D) less expensive to enforce
 - (E) easier to comply with

7. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's assertion that, in the 1970's, corporate response to federal requirements was substantial
- (A) Corporate contracts with minority-owned businesses totaled \$2 billion in 1979.
 - (B) Between 1970 and 1972, corporate contracts with minority-owned businesses declined by 25 percent.
 - (C) The figures collected in 1977 underrepresented the extent of corporate contracts with minority-owned businesses.
 - (D) The estimate of corporate spending with minority-owned businesses in 1980 is approximately \$10 million too high.
 - (E) The \$1.1 billion represented the same percentage of total corporate spending in 1977 as did \$77 million in 1972.
8. The author would most likely agree with which of the following statements about corporate response to working with minority subcontractors?
- (A) Annoyed by the proliferation of "front" organizations, corporations are likely to reduce their efforts to work with minority-owned subcontractors in the near future.
 - (B) Although corporations showed considerable interest in working with minority businesses in the 1970's, their aversion to government paperwork made them reluctant to pursue many government contracts.
 - (C) The significant response of corporations in the 1970's is likely to be sustained and conceivably be increased throughout the 1980's.
 - (D) Although corporations are eager to cooperate with minority-owned businesses, a shortage of capital in the 1970's made substantial response impossible.
 - (E) The enormous corporate response has all but eliminated the dangers of over-expansion that used to plague small minority-owned businesses.

Video solution: <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-46/CDJQZH58>

Passage 47

Although much has been written about the theological conflicts with Darwinian theory, little is known of the powerful scientific objections that modified Darwin's beliefs.

During Darwin's lifetime, the accepted theory of heredity was not Mendel's theory of particulate inheritance, which, though published, was unrecognized, but the theory of blending inheritance, which holds that forms intermediate between those of the parents result from mating. Jenkin pointed out that if a rare and favorable mutation occurred, it would soon be blended out by repeated crossings from the wild-type form. Disputing Darwin's conception of evolution as proceeding through the natural selection of those with slightly better characteristics that arose randomly, Jenkin concluded that natural selection could not account for the tremendous diversity of life, hypothesizing that large numbers of organisms mutated simultaneously in the same direction—a controlled orthogenetic process resembling a series of "special creations."

Since "special creationism" was an ideological target of his, Darwin found himself in a quandary. Although he did not abandon his theory, he admitted that natural selection played a much smaller part in evolution than he had previously claimed. He also embraced the Lamarckian concept that acquired traits in parents are transmitted to their offspring, thus providing a mechanism by which an entire population could change in the same direction at once.

Another potent objection came from the physicists led by Lord Kelvin, who contested the assumption of previous geologists and biologists that life had existed for billions of years, if not infinitely. How, they asked, could evolution proceed by slow steps in millions of years, and how could advanced forms recently evolved show such great differences? The Kelvinists, basing their conclusion on the assumption that the sun was an incandescent liquid mass rapidly radiating heat, calculated that the age of the earth was between 20 and 40 million years.

Admitting that their calculations were correct and their premises rational, Darwin was forced to adjust this theory. He proposed that change had occurred much more rapidly in the past than in the present, where species seemed static, and that more advanced forms varied more rapidly than lower forms. This provided further reason to advocate Lamarck's theory of inheritance, because that could account for the rapid change.

Interestingly, both these retreats of Darwin were later shown to be faulty. The discovery that the sun runs on a nearly infinite amount of atomic fuel totally invalidated Kelvin's argument, Mendel was "rediscovered" in the twentieth century, when it was pointed out that the particulate nature of inheritance meant that favorable mutation not only could persist, but could rapidly become prevalent.

1. The primary purpose of the passage is to
 - (A) outline the process by which Darwin formulated and modified his theory of natural selection
 - (B) propose a new interpretation of Darwin's theory of evolution
 - (C) explain how other scientists of the time helped Darwin modify and perfect his theories
 - (D) defend Darwinian theory against the objections raised by Darwin's contemporaries in the scientific community
 - (E) discuss some of the scientific controversy that Darwin sparked and describe his response to it
2. It can be inferred from the passage that the theory of blending inheritance would predict that the offspring of
 - (A) two strains of snapdragons, one with abnormal, radically symmetrical flowers and the other with normal, bilaterally symmetrical flowers, would always have normal, bilaterally symmetrical flowers
 - (B) a white horse and a black horse would always be gray
 - (C) a man with type A blood and a woman with type B blood would always have type A, type B, or type AB blood
 - (D) a fly with large eyes and a fly with small eyes would always have one large eye and one small eye
 - (E) two pink-flowered plants would always be red or white
3. It can be inferred from the passage that "wild-type" means
 - (A) non mutant
 - (B) rare
 - (C) abnormal
 - (D) random
 - (E) favorable
4. Which of the following, if it could be demonstrated, would tend to support the Lamarckian concept that Darwin embraced?
 - (A) Human beings evolved from now-extinct animals much like chimpanzees as a result of an erratic accumulation of changes in the gene pool through thousands of generations.
 - (B) Some parental traits disappear in offspring and reappear in the following generation.
 - (C) All species of organisms were immutably created in their present forms.
 - (D) Rats who have had their tails cut off produce tailless offspring.
 - (E) Those hereditary traits that make their owners more likely to grow up and reproduce become increasingly common in a population from one generation to the next.
5. The author's attitude toward Jenkin and Kelvin can best be described as
 - (A) respectful
 - (B) contemptuous
 - (C) ambivalent
 - (D) denunciatory
 - (E) adulatory
6. According to the passage, Darwin modified his beliefs in order to
 - (A) bring them into line with the theory of particulate inheritance
 - (B) disprove Lord Kelvin's view on the age of the earth
 - (C) meet the objections of Jenkin and Lamarck

- (D) resolve theological conflicts about evolution
- (E) dissociate himself from those who believed in “special creationism”

7. The author sets off the word “rediscovered” in quotation marks in order to
- (A) emphasize that major scientific theories are rarely acknowledged or accepted when they are first promulgated
 - (B) indicate that the term is somewhat ironic, since Mendel’s work was virtually ignored when it was published
 - (C) rebuke the scientific community for deliberately suppressing Mendel’s work until long after his death
 - (D) underscore the similarity between Mendel’s theory of particulate inheritance and the theory of blending inheritance that was accepted during his lifetime
 - (E) suggest that a scientist of Darwin’s stature should have read Mendel’s work when it was first published and immediately recognized its importance
8. It can be inferred from the passage that if Mendel’s work had been recognized and accepted during Darwin’s lifetime, it would have had which of the following effect?
- I. It would have refuted Jenkin’s objections to Darwin’s theories.
 - II. It would have supported Darwin’s theory that evolution proceeds by very slow steps over millions of years.
 - III. It would have clarified and supported Darwin’s theory of natural selection.
- (A) I only
 - (B) III only
 - (C) I and III only
 - (D) II and III only
 - (E) I, II, and III
9. All of the following can be reasonably inferred from the passage EXCEPT:
- (A) The idea that evolution occurs by means of natural selection was not widely accepted until the twentieth century.
 - (B) Darwin’s theories were originally predicated on the assumption that the earth is more than 40 million years old.
 - (C) Many of Darwin’s ideas about heredity were later shown to be incorrect.
 - (D) Other scientists of Darwin’s time, including both Jenkin and Lamarck, believed in evolution.
 - (E) Darwin was the only scientist of his day who believed in natural selection.

Video solution: <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-47/E00DSJ4M>

Passage 48

Woodrow Wilson was referring to the liberal idea of the economic market when he said that the free enterprise system is the most efficient economic system. Maximum freedom means maximum productiveness; our "openness" is to be the measure of our stability. Fascination with this ideal has made Americans defy the "Old World" categories of settled possessiveness versus unsettling deprivation, the cupidity of retention versus the cupidity of seizure, a "status quo" defended or attacked. The United States, it was believed, had no status quo ante. Our only "station" was the turning of a stationary wheel, spinning faster and faster. We did not base our system on property but opportunity—which meant we based it not on stability but on mobility. The more things changed, that is, the more rapidly the wheel turned, the steadier we would be.

The conventional picture of class politics is composed of the Haves, who want a stability to keep what they have, and the Have-Nots, who want a touch of instability and change in which to scramble for the things they have not. But Americans imagined a condition in which speculators, self-makers, runners are always using the new opportunities given by our land. These economic leaders (front-runners) would thus be mainly agents of change. The nonstarters were considered the ones who wanted stability, a strong referee to give them some position in the race, a regulative hand to calm manic speculation; an authority that can call things to a halt, begin things again from compensatory staggered "starting lines."

"Reform" in America has been sterile because it can imagine no change except through the extension of this metaphor of a race, wider inclusion of competitors, "a piece of the action," as it were, for the disenfranchised. There is no attempt to call off the race. Since our only stability is change, America seems not to honor the quiet work that achieves social interdependence and stability. There is, in our legends, no heroism of the office clerk, no stable industrial work force of the people who actually make the system work. There is no pride in being an employee (Wilson asked for a return to the time when everyone was an employer). There has been no boasting about our social workers—they are merely signs of the system's failure, of opportunity denied or not taken, of things to be eliminated. We have no pride in our growing interdependence, in the fact that our system can serve others, that we are able to help those in need; empty boasts from the past make us ashamed of our present achievements, make us try to forget or deny them, move away from them. There is no honor but in the Wonderland race we must all run, all trying to win, none winning in the end (for there is no end).

1. The primary purpose of the passage is to
 - (A) criticize the inflexibility of American economic mythology
 - (B) contrast "Old World" and "New World" economic ideologies
 - (C) challenge the integrity of traditional political leaders
 - (D) champion those Americans whom the author deems to be neglected
 - (E) suggest a substitute for the traditional metaphor of a race
2. According to the passage, "Old World" values were based on
 - (A) ability
 - (B) property
 - (C) family connections
 - (D) guild hierarchies
 - (E) education
3. In the context of the author's discussion of regulating change, which of the following could be most probably regarded as a "strong referee" in the United States?
 - (A) A school principal
 - (B) A political theorist
 - (C) A federal court judge
 - (D) A social worker
 - (E) A government inspector
4. The author sets off the word "Reform" with quotation marks in order to
 - (A) emphasize its departure from the concept of settled possessiveness
 - (B) show his support for a systematic program of change
 - (C) underscore the flexibility and even amorphousness of United States society
 - (D) indicate that the term was one of Wilson's favorites
 - (E) assert that reform in the United States has not been fundamental
5. It can be inferred from the passage that the author most probably thinks that giving the disenfranchised "a piece of the action" is
 - (A) a compassionate, if misdirected, legislative measure
 - (B) an example of Americans' resistance to profound social change
 - (C) an innovative program for genuine social reform
 - (D) a monument to the efforts of industrial reformers
 - (E) a surprisingly "Old World" remedy for social ills
6. Which of the following metaphors could the author most appropriately use to summarize his own assessment of the American economic system?
 - (A) A windmill
 - (B) A waterfall
 - (C) A treadmill
 - (D) A gyroscope
 - (E) A bellows
7. It can be inferred from the passage that Woodrow Wilson's ideas about the economic market
 - (A) encouraged those who "make the system work"
 - (B) perpetuated traditional legends about America
 - (C) revealed the prejudices of a man born wealthy
 - (D) foreshadowed the stock market crash of 1929
 - (E) began a tradition of presidential proclamations on economics

8. The passage contains information that would answer which of the following questions?

- I. What techniques have industrialists used to manipulate a free market?
 - II. In what ways are “New World” and “Old World” economic policies similar?
 - III. Has economic policy in the United States tended to reward independent action?
- (A) I only
 - (B) II only
 - (C) III only
 - (D) I and II only
 - (E) II and III only

9. Which of the following best expresses the author’s main point?

- (A) Americans’ pride in their jobs continues to give them stamina today.
- (B) The absence of a *status quo ante* has undermined United States economic structure.
- (C) The free enterprise system has been only a useless concept in the United States.
- (D) The myth of the American free enterprise system is seriously flawed.
- (E) Fascination with the ideal of “openness” has made Americans a progressive people.

Video solution: <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-48/8YKNBMKW>

Passage 49

No very satisfactory account of the mechanism that caused the formation of the ocean basins has yet been given. The traditional view supposes that the upper mantle of the earth behaves as a liquid when it is subjected to small forces for long periods and that differences in temperature under oceans and continents are sufficient to produce convection in the mantle of the earth with rising convection currents under the mid-ocean ridges and sinking currents under the continents. Theoretically, this convection would carry the continental plates along as though they were on a conveyor belt and would provide the forces needed to produce the split that occurs along the ridge. This view may be correct: it has the advantage that the currents are driven by temperature differences that themselves depend on the position of the continents. Such a back-coupling, in which the position of the moving plate has an impact on the forces that move it, could produce complicated and varying motions.

On the other hand, the theory is implausible because convection does not normally occur along lines, and it certainly does not occur along lines broken by frequent offsets or changes in direction, as the ridge is. Also it is difficult to see how the theory applies to the plate between the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and the ridge in the Indian Ocean. This plate is growing on both sides, and since there is no intermediate trench, the two ridges must be moving apart. It would be odd if the rising convection currents kept exact pace with them. An alternative theory is that the sinking part of the plate, which is denser than the hotter surrounding mantle, pulls the rest of the plate after it. Again it is difficult to see how this applies to the ridge in the South Atlantic, where neither the African nor the American plate has a sinking part.

Another possibility is that the sinking plate cools the neighboring mantle and produces convection currents that move the plates. This last theory is attractive because it gives some hope of explaining the enclosed seas, such as the Sea of Japan. These seas have a typical oceanic floor, except that the floor is overlaid by several kilometers of sediment. Their floors have probably been sinking for long periods. It seems possible that a sinking current of cooled mantle material on the upper side of the plate might be the cause of such deep basins. The enclosed seas are an important feature of the earth's surface, and seriously require explanation because, in addition to the enclosed seas that are developing at present behind island arcs, there are a number of older ones of possibly similar origin, such as the Gulf of Mexico, the Black Sea, and perhaps the North Sea.

1. According to the traditional view of the origin of the ocean basins, which of the following is sufficient to move the continental plates?
 - (A) Increases in sedimentation on ocean floors
 - (B) Spreading of ocean trenches
 - (C) Movement of mid-ocean ridges
 - (D) Sinking of ocean basins
 - (E) Differences in temperature under oceans and continents
2. It can be inferred from the passage that, of the following, the deepest sediments would be found in the
 - (A) Indian Ocean
 - (B) Black Sea
 - (C) Mid-Atlantic
 - (D) South Atlantic
 - (E) Pacific
3. The author refers to a "conveyor belt" in order to
 - (A) illustrate the effects of convection in the mantle
 - (B) show how temperature differences depend on the positions of the continents
 - (C) demonstrate the linear nature of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge
 - (D) describe the complicated motions made possible by back-coupling
 - (E) account for the rising currents under certain mid-ocean ridges
3. The author regards the traditional view of the origin of the oceans with
 - (A) slight apprehension
 - (B) absolute indifference
 - (C) indignant anger
 - (D) complete disbelief
 - (E) guarded skepticism
4. According to the passage, which of the following are separated by a plate that is growing on both sides?
 - (A) The Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Japan
 - (B) The South Atlantic Ridge and the North Sea Ridge
 - (C) The Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic Ridge
 - (D) The Mid-Atlantic Ridge and the Indian Ocean Ridge
 - (E) The Black Sea and the Sea of Japan
5. Which of the following, if it could be demonstrated, would most support the traditional view of ocean formation?
 - (A) Convection usually occurs along lines.
 - (B) The upper mantle behaves as a dense solid.
 - (C) Sedimentation occurs at a constant rate.
 - (D) Sinking plates cool the mantle.
 - (E) Island arcs surround enclosed seas.
6. According to the passage, the floor of the Black Sea can best be compared to a
 - (A) rapidly moving conveyor belt
 - (B) slowly settling foundation
 - (C) rapidly expanding balloon
 - (D) violently erupting volcano
 - (E) slowly eroding mountain

7. Which of the following titles would best describe the content of the passage?
- (A) A Description of the Oceans of the World
 - (B) Several Theories of Ocean Basin Formation
 - (C) The Traditional View of the Oceans
 - (D) Convection and Ocean Currents
 - (E) Temperature Differences among the Oceans of the World

Video solution: <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-49/QWFGOLH9>

Passage 50

The fossil remains of the first flying vertebrates, the pterosaurs, have intrigued paleontologists for more than two centuries. How such large creatures, which weighed in some cases as much as a piloted hang-glider and had wingspans from 8 to 12 meters, solved the problems of powered flight, and exactly what these creatures were—reptiles or birds—are among the questions scientists have puzzled over.

Perhaps the least controversial assertion about the pterosaurs is that they were reptiles. Their skulls, pelvises, and hind feet are reptilian. The anatomy of their wings suggests that they did not evolve into the class of birds. In pterosaurs a greatly elongated fourth finger of each forelimb supported a wing-like membrane. The other fingers were short and reptilian, with sharp claws. In birds the second finger is the principal strut of the wing, which consists primarily of feathers. If the pterosaurs walked on all fours, the three short fingers may have been employed for grasping. When a pterosaur walked or remained stationary, the fourth finger, and with it the wing, could only turn upward in an extended inverted V-shape along each side of the animal's body.

The pterosaurs resembled both birds and bats in their overall structure and proportions. This is not surprising because the design of any flying vertebrate is subject to aerodynamic constraints. Both the pterosaurs and the birds have hollow bones, a feature that represents a savings in weight. In the birds, however, these bones are reinforced more massively by internal struts.

Although scales typically cover reptiles, the pterosaurs probably had hairy coats. T. H. Huxley reasoned that flying vertebrates must have been warm-blooded because flying implies a high rate of metabolism, which in turn implies a high internal temperature. Huxley speculated that a coat of hair would insulate against loss of body heat and might streamline the body to reduce drag in flight. The recent discovery of a pterosaur specimen covered in long, dense, and relatively thick hair like fossil material was the first clear evidence that his reasoning was correct.

Efforts to explain how the pterosaurs became airborne have led to suggestions that they launched themselves by jumping from cliffs, by dropping from trees, or even by rising into light winds from the crests of waves. Each hypothesis has its difficulties. The first wrongly assumes that the pterosaurs' hind feet resembled a bat's and could serve as hooks by which the animal could hang in preparation for flight. The second hypothesis seems unlikely because large pterosaurs could not have landed in trees without damaging their wings. The third calls for high waves to channel updrafts. The wind that made such waves however, might have been too strong for the pterosaurs to control their flight once airborne.

1. It can be inferred from the passage that scientists now generally agree that the
 - (A) enormous wingspan of the pterosaurs enabled them to fly great distances
 - (B) structure of the skeleton of the pterosaurs suggests a close evolutionary relationship to bats
 - (C) fossil remains of the pterosaurs reveal how they solved the problem of powered flight
 - (D) pterosaurs were reptiles
 - (E) pterosaurs walked on all fours
2. The author views the idea that the pterosaurs became airborne by rising into light winds created by waves as
 - (A) revolutionary
 - (B) unlikely
 - (C) unassailable
 - (D) probable
 - (E) outdated
3. According to the passage, the skeleton of a pterosaur can be distinguished from that of a bird by the
 - (A) size of its wingspan
 - (B) presence of hollow spaces in its bones
 - (C) anatomic origin of its wing strut
 - (D) presence of hook like projections on its hind feet
 - (E) location of the shoulder joint joining the wing to its body
4. The ideas attributed to T. H. Huxley in the passage suggest that he would most likely agree with which of the following statements?
 - (A) An animal's brain size has little bearing on its ability to master complex behaviors.
 - (B) An animal's appearance is often influenced by environmental requirements and physical capabilities.
 - (C) Animals within a given family group are unlikely to change their appearance dramatically over a period of time.
 - (D) The origin of flight in vertebrates was an accidental development rather than the outcome of specialization or adaptation.
 - (E) The pterosaurs should be classified as birds, not reptiles.
5. It can be inferred from the passage that which of the following is characteristic of the pterosaurs?
 - (A) They were unable to fold their wings when not in use.
 - (B) They hung upside down from branches as bats do before flight.
 - (C) They flew in order to capture prey.
 - (D) They were an early stage in the evolution of the birds.
 - (E) They lived primarily in a forest-like habitat.
6. Which of the following best describes the organization of the last paragraph of the passage?
 - (A) New evidence is introduced to support a traditional point of view.
 - (B) Three explanations for a phenomenon are presented, and each is disputed by means of specific information.
 - (C) Three hypotheses are outlined, and evidence supporting each is given.
 - (D) Recent discoveries are described, and their implications for future study are projected.

(E) A summary of the material in the preceding paragraphs is presented, and conclusions are drawn.

7. It can be inferred from the passage that some scientists believe that pterosaurs
- (A) lived near large bodies of water
 - (B) had sharp teeth for tearing food
 - (C) were attacked and eaten by larger reptiles
 - (D) had longer tails than many birds
 - (E) consumed twice their weight daily to maintain their body temperature

Video solution: <https://unacademy.com/course/reading-comprehension-practice-50/M6QRL4KD>