

1) The United States government generally tries to protect valuable natural resources but one resource has been ignored for too long. In the United States, each bushel of corn produced might result in the loss of as much as two bushels of topsoil. Moreover, in the last 100 years, the topsoil in many states, which once was about fourteen inches thick, has been eroded to only six or eight inches. Nonetheless, federal expenditures for nationwide soil conservation programs have remained at ridiculously low levels. Total federal expenditures for nationwide soil conservation programs have been less than the allocations of some individual states.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A) A layer of topsoil only six to eight inches thick cannot support the continued cultivation of corn.
- B) Soil conservation is a responsibility of the federal government, not the states.
- C) The federal government's expenditures for soil conservation in the various states have been inequitable.
- D) The federal government should spend much more on soil conservation than it has been spending.

2) A law that is not consistently enforced does not serve its purpose. Law without enforcement is not law, it is merely stature—a promise of law. To institute real law is not merely to declare that such and such behavior is forbidden, it is also to punish those who violate that edict. Furthermore, those who enforce law must punish without favor for their friends or malice for their enemies. To punish only those disliked while forgiving others is not to enforce law but to engage in the arbitrary and unjust exercise of power.

Which choice best states the main point of the text?

- A) Instituting real law consists in the exercise of power.
- B) Instituting real law consists in authorizing the enforcement of punishments.
- C) Instituting real law consists in the unbiased punishment of prohibited behavior.
- D) Instituting real law consists in clearly defining unacceptable behavior.

3) There is no mystery as to why figurative painting revived in the late 1970s. People want to look at recognizable images. Sorting out art theories reflected in abstract paintings is no substitute for the sense of empathy that comes from looking at a realistic painting of a figure in a landscape. Perhaps members of the art felt that its lack of realistic subject matter was a rejection of the viewers and their world.

Which choice best states the main point of the text?

- A) Abstract paintings often include or forms that are suggestive of real objects or emotions.
- B) The art-viewing public wished to see traditional subjects treated in a non-traditional manner.
- C) Paintings that depict a recognizable physical world rather than the emotional world of the artist's life require more artistic talent to create.
- D) The artistic preferences of the art-viewing public stimulated the revival.

4) According to a 2013 national survey, the average stress level among adults is 5.1 out of 10; that's 1.5 points above what the respondents judged to be healthy. Two-thirds of people say they had attempted to reduce their stress in the previous five years but didn't succeed. More discouraging, teens and young adults are experiencing higher levels of stress and are struggling to manage it. "Stress has a very bad reputation. It's in pretty bad shape, PR-wise," acknowledges Firdaus Dhabhar, a psychiatry professor at Stanford. But take heart: Recent research paints a different portrait of stress, one in which it indeed has a positive side. "There's good stress, there's tolerable stress, and there's toxic stress," says Bruce McEwen, an expert on the brain who trained Dhabhar.

What is the author's main point about stress?

- A) It is more pervasive today than it was in earlier periods.
- B) It can sometimes have beneficial effects.
- C) It has been linked to a variety of ailments.
- D) It can have a detrimental impact on personal relationships.

5) The hours of the Hatchard Memorial librarian were from three to five; and Charity Royall's sense of duty usually kept her at her desk until nearly half-past four. But she had never perceived that any practical advantage thereby accrued to herself; and she had no scruple in decreeing that the library should close an hour earlier. A few minutes after the boss's departure she formed this decision and turned the key in the door of the temple of knowledge. The street upon which she emerged was still empty: she began to walk toward a pasture on the hillside. There she lay down on the slope, tossed off her hat and hid her face in the grass. She was blind and insensible to many things; but to all that was light and air, perfume and color, every drop of blood in her responded.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

A) A woman who dislikes her job seeks solace in nature.

B) A woman works hard at her job but is persuaded to leave by a customer.

C) A woman feels overwhelmed by the demands of her job and desires solitude in a library.

D) A woman spends a day in the wilderness to avoid an unpleasant task.

6) Charity had liked the young man's looks, and his short-sighted eyes, and his odd way of speaking. His hair was sunburnt-looking; his smile shy yet confident, as if he knew lots of things she had never dreamed of, and yet wouldn't for the world have had her feel his superiority. But she did feel it, and liked the feeling; for it was new to her. It was partly, of course, owing to the fact that lawyer Royall was "the biggest man in North Dormer." In spite of everything-and in spite of Miss Hatchard- lawyer Royall ruled in North Dormer; and Charity ruled in lawyer Royall's house. She had never put it to herself in those terms; but she knew her power. Confusedly, the young man in the library had made her feel for the first time what might be the sweetness of dependence.

Which choice best summarizes the main idea of the text?

A) A character is forced to make a momentous decision after an unexpected meeting.

B) A character feels uncertain about her life following a significant encounter.

- C) A character holds great power at work but feels powerless in her own home.
- D) A character works hard at her job but is persuaded to leave it by a man she meets.

7) For science fiction aficionados, Isaac Asimov anticipated the idea of using massive data sets to predict human behavior, coining it "psychohistory" in his 1951 Foundation trilogy. The bigger the data set, Asimov said then, the more predictable the future. With big-data analytics, one can finally see the forest, instead of just the capillaries in the tree leaves. Or to put it in more accurate terms, one can see beyond the apparently random motion of a few thousand molecules of air inside a balloon; one can see the balloon itself, and beyond that, that it is inflating, that it is yellow, and that it is part of a bunch of balloons en route to a birthday party. The data/software world has, until now, been largely about looking at the molecules inside one balloon.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A) The predictions of science fiction writers tend to be more accurate than those of scientists.
- B) All human behavior can be understood through the use of massive data sets.
- C) Technological innovation is often inspired by the natural world.
- D) Data sets will reveal unforeseen relationships between large-scale phenomena.

8) Women have done more harm than good. Constraint and dissimulation have been their lot. What force has robbed them of, ruse returned to them; they had recourse to all the resources of their charms, and the most irreproachable persons did not resist them. Poison and the sword were both subject to them; they commanded in crime as in fortune. The French government, especially, depended throughout the centuries on the nocturnal administrations of women; the cabinet could keep no secrets as a result of their indiscretions; all have been subject to the cupidity and ambition of this sex, formerly contemptible and respected, and since the revolution, respectable and scorned.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A) Women are encouraged by their husbands to secretly gather information.

B) Women have played a significant but unacknowledged role in political life.

C) Women have been responsible for undermining their own cause.

D) Women must play a more active role in civic life.

9) The text is from Olympe de Gouges, Declaration of the Rights of Women.

Woman, wake up: the toxin of reason is being heard throughout the whole universe; discover your rights. Enslaved man has multiplied his strength and needs recourse to yours to break his chains. Having become free, he has become unjust to his companion. Oh, women! When will you cease to be blind? The reclamation of your patrimony, based on the wise decrees of nature - what have you to dread from such a fine undertaking? Do you fear that our legislators, long ensnared by political practices now out of date, will only say to you: women, what is there in common between you and us? Everything, you will have to answer. If they persist in their weakness in putting this hypocrisy in contradiction to their principles, courageously oppose reason to the empty pretensions of superiority; unite yourselves beneath the standards of philosophy; deploy all the energy of your character.

Which choice best states the main point of the text?

A) Women and men must work together to improve conditions for women.

B) Women must excel in the arts in order to gain approval from society.

C) Women must unite to demand the rights that society has denied them.

D) Women's lack of rights can be primarily attributed to government policies.

10) This text is from a 1950 speech by Dean Acheson, who served as Secretary of The United State.

It is now nearly 5 years since the end of hostilities, and the victorious Allies have been unable to **define the terms of peace with the defeated countries**. This is a grave, a deeply disturbing fact. For our part, we do not intend nor wish, in fact we do not know how, to create satellites. Nor can we accept a settlement which would make Germany, Japan, or liberated Austria **satellites** of the

Soviet Union. The experience in Hungary, Rumania, and Bulgaria has been one of bitter disappointment and shocking betrayal of the solemn pledges by the wartime Allies. The Soviet leaders joined in the pledge at Tehran that they looked forward "with confidence to the day when all peoples of the world may live free lives, untouched by tyranny, and according to their varying desires and their own consciences." We can accept treaties of peace which would give reality to this pledge and to the interests of all in security.

Which choice best states the main point of the text?

- A) Leaders must act according to their conscience as well as their desires.
- B) Control of Soviet satellites will be granted to the United States if the Soviet Union continues to behave unreliably.
- C) Soviet control of Germany, Japan, and Austria would inevitably end in disaster.
- D) **The Soviet Union must abide by its promises in order for the United States to accept its treaties.**

11) Olmsted foresaw the need for plans at a time when they were considered mysterious. He anticipated that city parks would ensure future prosperity for the cities by increasing the value of city real estate, as well as creating a more balanced and egalitarian life for city dwellers then and in the future. Olmsted possessed an ability to see into the future and address the future needs of city dwellers in his planning. In this way, his planning had a permanent effect on history that remains pertinent to our modern lifestyles. Even today, his concepts of city parks and landscaping are widely accepted and practiced.

Which choice best states the main point of the text?

- A) City parks are essential to city real estate.
- B) **Olmsted was a man of vision.**
- C) City park planning has not changed much since Olmsted's time.
- D) Olmsted sought egalitarian city park use.

12) During the Eiffel's construction, many Parisian citizens complained about the tower's aesthetics, inconvenience, and potential danger. Some people went so far as to testify in court. A number of well-known artists and musicians got together to sign a petition against the tower. They stated that it was ugly, useless, costly, and likely to fall in harsh weather. Gustave replied to the complaints by saying that he was as dedicated to the tower's aesthetics as they were, and that he designed the tower in such a way that the iron lattice work created almost no wind resistance, thus ensuring the tower's endurance.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A) Depict an era.
- B) Justify an expenditure.
- C) Give an historical account.
- D) Defend a decision.

13) Ma makes sassafras tea while Pa's boss compliments the tree. Then, they all sit down for grown-up talk while we gather round the tree to shake the copious presents. When carolers come by, we witness the enchanted looks on their faces as they too are inebriated by the magic of the gorgeous tree. Then Ma gives them some gingerbread and cider. If we had a tree like this, we'd never travel to Brooklyn to see Grandma; she'd come to us, despite the fact that she hates our dogs.

Which choice best describes the text?

- A) An illustration of a lasting relationship.
- B) A nostalgic recollection.
- C) A pleasant fantasy.
- D) A story of imminent change.

14) Ben Jonson, a well-known playwright and seventeenth-century contemporary of John Donne, wrote that while “the first poet in the world in some things,” Donne nevertheless “for not keeping of an accent, deserved hanging.” Donne’s generation admired the depth of his feeling, but was puzzled by his irregular rhythm and obscure references. It was not until the twentieth century and modern movements that celebrate emotion and allusion that Donne really began to be appreciated. Writers such as Eliot and Yeats admired the psychological intricacies of a poet who could one moment flaunt his earthy dalliances with his mistress and the next, wretched, implore God to “bend your force, to break, blow, burn, and make me new.”

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A) Poetry is judged by different standards at different times.
- B) Jonson misjudged Donne’s work.
- C) Donne’s poetry was not fully appreciated until hundreds of years after his death.
- D) Donne’s rough meter prevented him from being understood in his own lifetime.

15) The term "genetic modification" refers to technology that is used to alter the genes of living organisms. Genetically modified organisms are called “transgenic” if genes from different organisms are combined. The most common transgenic organisms are crops of common fruits and vegetables, which are now grown in more than 50 countries. These crops are typically developed for resistance to herbicides, pesticides, and disease, as well as to increase nutritional value. Some of these transgenic crops currently under development might even yield human vaccines. Along with improving nutrition and alleviating hunger, genetic modifications of crops may also help to conserve natural resources and improve waste management.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A) To establish that transgenic crops are safe.
- B) To critique the process of genetic modification.
- C) To overcome opposition to genetically modified foods.
- D) To provide information about transgenic crops.

16) The goal of plants, or any living organism, is to propagate as much as possible. To this end, many plants in the wild, including wheat's ancestors, have mechanisms that scatter seeds as widely as possible. However, this adaptation makes it difficult to cultivate some plants; it is impossible to farm productively if a crop is spread hither and thither! Wild wheat had a number of other mechanisms that supported its existence in nature but lessened its usefulness in the field. A number of mutations had to take place before wild wheat was a suitable candidate for agriculture. Humans encouraged these mutations by providing a stable environment that favored and nurtured the mutation that would have proven deleterious in the wild.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A) **Wheat's evolution into a plant that could be farmed productively was shaped by humans' needs and actions.**
- B) Wheat is difficult to farm unless a very stable environment is available.
- C) The most important mechanism utilized by wild wheat is the means of scattering seeds as widely as possible.
- D) All living organisms seek to reproduce as much as possible.

17) Perhaps the scientists most excited about reigniting the lunar program are not lunar specialists, but astronomers studying a wide range of objects. Such scientists would like new missions to install a huge telescope with a diameter of 30 meters on the far side of the moon. Two things a telescope needs for optimum operation are extreme coldness and very little vibration. Temperatures on the moon can be as frigid as 200 Celsius degrees below zero in craters on the dark side. Because there is no seismic activity, the moon is a steady base. Proponents claim that under these conditions a lunar-based telescope could accomplish as much in seventeen days as the replacement for the Hubble telescope will in ten years of operation.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A) Most astronomers are in favor of reigniting the lunar program.

B) Some scientists believe the moon is an ideal location for an interplanetary telescope.

C) New lunar missions could discover important new features of the moon.

D) The new lunar telescope will replace the defunct Hubble telescope.

18) Robert Schumann's orchestral music has been underappreciated and misunderstood for many years by critics and audiences alike. The nineteenth-century virtuoso's works for the piano are acknowledged as brilliant masterworks. However, his large scale orchestral works have always suffered by comparison to those of contemporaries such as Brahms. Perhaps this is because Schumann's works should be measured with a different yardstick. His works are often considered poorly orchestrated, but they actually have an unusual aesthetic. He treats the orchestra as he does the piano: one grand instrument with a uniform sound. This is so different from the approach of most composers that, to many, it has seemed like a failing rather than a conscious artistic choice.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

A) To praise Schumann for his innovative approach.

B) To reassess a portion of Schumann's portfolio.

C) To reevaluate the standing of Brahms.

D) To examine the influence of Schumann's performances.

19) European zoos of the late 19th and early 20th centuries incorporated the visual cultures of their animals' native homes into ornate buildings - reflections of their nations' colonial aspirations. The Berlin Zoo's ostrich house resembled an Egyptian temple, with large columns flanking the entrance and scenes of ostrich hunts decorating the exterior. Berlin's elephant enclosure was built in the spirit of a Hindu temple; the home for its giraffes adopted an Islamic architectural style. Zoos in Cologne, Lisbon, Antwerp, and Budapest, among others, created similar exhibits. These zoos were no home for subtlety: The animals they contained were exotic to most visitors; the buildings that did the containing reinforced the sensation.

* Which of the following best states the main idea of the text?

- A) Buildings in the late 19th and early 20th European zoos emphasized the exotic origins of the animals they housed.
- B) Many buildings in the late 19th and early 20th centuries European zoos were built to resemble Egyptian temples.
- C) European zoos in the late 19th and early 20th centuries sought to evoke subtle emotions in their visitors.
- D) During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, most of the animals in European zoos came from outside of Europe.

* What is the primary purpose of the text?

- A) To argue that European zoos of the late 19th and early 20th centuries should have made more of an effort to accommodate their animals' needs
- B) To describe specific ways in which late 19th and early 20th century European zoo buildings evoked the animals' home countries
- C) To compare the buildings at the Berlin Zoo to zoo buildings in Cologne, Lisbon, Antwerp, and Budapest
- D) To illustrate the importance of housing zoo animals in buildings that recreate their native homes

21) Fire ants are painful and destructive pests. The fire ant earned its name because of its venom. The insect uses a wasp-like stinger to inject the venom, which causes a painful burning sensation and leaves tiny, itching pustules. The ants will swarm over anyone or anything that disturbs their nests. In addition to causing pain, fire ants damage many crops by eating the plants and by protecting other insects that damage crops. Fire ants are attracted to soybeans, eggplant, corn, okra, strawberries, and potatoes.

* What is the topic of the text?

- A) Fire Ants
- B) Ant bites
- C) Farming
- D) Pests

* What does the author want you to know about the topic?

- A) Fire ants have a wasp-like stinger.
- B) Fire ants swarm.
- C) Fire ants are pests to farmers.
- D) Fire ants are painful and pesky.

23) Rosa Parks was an African American woman who worked hard as a **seamstress** in a **department store in the early 1960s**. One day, tired from work, she refused to **give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama**, and became **a national hero**. She was arrested and placed in jail for her refusal to move to the back of the bus, where African Americans were forced to sit in those days. The way she was treated garnered **national attention**. Some people say her refusal to give up her seat launched the civil rights movement. Rosa Parks **proved that one brave person can make a difference**.

* What is the topic of the text?

- A) Rosa Parks
- B) Brave People
- C) Civil Rights
- D) **National Heroes**

* What is the message of the text?

- A) Rosa Parks was a hard working woman.
- B) Brave people deserve special attention.
- C) Stubborn people always get their way.
- D) **Brave people can make a difference.**

25) **Deviation** in **smoking pervasiveness** is influenced by several factors, including **public awareness of the harm of tobacco use**, tolerance of tobacco use within the community, local tobacco control activities, and local promotional activities by the tobacco industry. The states where lung cancer death rates for women are on the rise have higher percentages of adult female smokers, low taxes on tobacco products, and local economies that have been dependent on tobacco farming and production for generations.

What is the main purpose of the text?

- (A) **To explain why different states and regions have different lung cancer death rates.**
- (B) To recommend new local tobacco control activities.
- (C) To dissuade women from working in restaurants and city parks.
- (D) To warn against tobacco farming and production.

26) When you want to hang the American flag over the middle of a street, suspend it vertically with the blue field (called the union) to the north and east-west street. When the flag is displayed with another banner from crossed staff, the American flag is on the right. Place the staff of the American flag in front of the other staff. Raise the flag quickly and lower it slowly and respectfully. When flying the flag at half-mast, hoist it to the top of the pole for a moment before lowering it to mid-pole. When flying the American flag with banners from states or cities, raise the nation's banner first and lower it last. Never allow the flag to touch the ground.

What is the main idea of this text?

- A) The American flag is the symbol of American freedom
- B) The American flag has fifty stars.
- C) Placing the American flag inappropriately will draw government intervention.
- D) The American flag should be flown differently in certain situations.

27) One of the big programming surprises of the 2002 summer TV series was a show on the Fox Network called American Idol, a talent search that highlighted several aspiring performers. The final episode of the show garnered the biggest audience share among 18- to 49-year olds that the network has ever had. Based on a British series called Pop Idol, American Idol is another in a long list of shows that the United States has imported. In fact, many popular U.S. TV shows originated overseas. These include the quiz shows Who Wants to Be A Millionaire and The Weakest Link, both also from Britain . Other examples include Survivor, imported from Sweden; Big Brother , based on a Dutch series of the same name; and TLC's Trading Spaces, based on the British series, Changing Rooms.

What choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A) One of the big programming surprises of the 2002 summer TV series was a show on the Fox Network called American Idol, a talent search that highlighted several aspiring performers.
- B) Based on a British series called Pop Idol, American Idol is another in a long list of shows that the United States has imported.
- C) In fact, many U.S. TV shows have first originated overseas.
- D) These include the quiz shows Who Wants to Be A Millionaire and The Weakest Link, both also from Britain.

28) There are gender differences in adolescents' satisfaction with their bodies. Compared with boys, girls are usually less happy with their bodies and have more negative body images. Also, as puberty proceeds, girls often become even more dissatisfied with their bodies. This is probably because their body fat increases. In contrast, boys become more satisfied as they move through puberty, probably because their muscle mass increases.

What choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A) There are gender differences in adolescents' satisfaction with their bodies.
- B) Compared with boys, girls are usually less happy with their bodies and have more negative body images.
- C) Also, as puberty proceeds, girls often become even more dissatisfied with their bodies.
- D) In contrast, boys become more satisfied as they move through puberty, probably because their muscle mass increases.

29) Congratulations! You have been offered a job. The time has come to negotiate your salary. The question to ask yourself is: "How much am I worth?" Your answer will likely affect the outcome of your salary negotiation. The point is, in order to negotiate the best possible salary, you must convince both yourself and the employer of the value that you will bring to the job.

What choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A) You have been offered a job.
- B) The time has come to negotiate your salary.
- C) The question to ask yourself is: "How much am I worth?"
- D) In order to negotiate the best possible salary, you must convince both yourself and the employer of the value that you will bring to the job.

30) Don't wait for your company to send you to school. Determine your needs and ask about the company's training program. If they don't have one, sign up for classes at a local college. When it comes to your profession, you should be a lifelong learner. Put a high priority on learning new skills and on personal growth and professional development. Learn new software technology and improve interpersonal and writing skills.

What choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A) Don't wait for your company to send you to school.
- B) Determine your needs and ask about the company's training program.
- C) When it comes to your profession, you should be a lifelong learner.
- D) You should learn new software technology and improve interpersonal and writing skills.

