

College Admission

PSAT-8-9
PSAT 8/9 Exam

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Question: 1

Which of the following sentences would be a relevant detail to add as the second sentence to the paragraph above?

- A. Scaffolding is individual instruction for the weakest students.
- B. Students will want to use scaffolding methods in all their learning.
- C. Teachers are able to assess students' needs individually when scaffolding.
- D. Scaffolding is done quietly and is unnoticed by many students.

Answer: C

Explanation:

Answer C would be the most appropriate as the second sentence in the passage. Answers B and D are both sentences that discuss whether or not students appreciate scaffolding techniques. These would not fit well in the passage because the passage focuses on teachers and scaffolding, not how students feel about scaffolding. Answer A gives a potential definition for scaffolding. However, this sentence does not fit the rest of the information in the passage or the purpose of the passage. Answer C is relevant to all of the information in the passage and flows well with the other sentences.

Question: 2

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To demonstrate Jane's appreciation of wildlife in areas uninhabitable by humans
- B. To convey Jane's feelings of frustration and discouragement towards continuing
- C. To describe the setting in which the duration of the novel will take place
- D. To introduce and describe Jane as a supporting character

Answer: B

Explanation:

This passage describes Jane's frustration at having not died in the night and at having to continue a difficult journey. It describes her feelings of hopelessness and refers to the responsibility to carry on as a burden," further demonstrating her discontent.

Choice A is incorrect. While the passage addresses the wildlife Jane sees, it is to demonstrate her wish to survive in the same way that they do. It does not show that she appreciates the wildlife, but instead shows that she is jealous of their ability to survive in conditions she cannot. Choice C is incorrect, as she leaves the area in the final sentence of this passage: therefore, it does not establish the setting for the duration of the novel. Choice D is incorrect. The passage details Jane's feelings and emotions from a first-person point of view. This positions her as being crucially important and

serves as character development to further evolve her as a main character—not a supporting character.

Question: 3

In the American Southwest of the late 1800s, the introduction of barbed wire fencing led to fierce disputes between ranchers and farmers, both eager to protect their rights and their livelihood. The farmers were the clear winners of the two groups, and the barbed wire fences stayed and proliferated. Barbed wire proved to be ideal for use in western conditions; it was cheaper and easier to use than the alternatives of wood fences, stone walls, or hedges. Within a few decades all the previously open range land became fenced-in private property. This change was so dramatic to the western culture that some consider the introduction of barbed wire fencing to be the event that ended the Old West period of our history.

According to the author, what do some believe the introduction of barbed wire ended?

- A. the disputes between the farmers and the ranchers
- B. the controversy over whether wood fences or stone walls were better
- C. the Old West period of our history
- D. the livelihood of the farmers

Answer: C

Explanation:

This is stated in the fifth and final sentence of the passage. Barbed wire led to disputes between farmers and ranchers, rather than ending them (answer choice A). Answer choice B was not disputed in the article. Answer choice D does not follow from the message of the passage.

Question: 4

Which choice correctly punctuates the sentence and completes the passage?

- A. such as; love, identity, social injustice, and the pursuit of knowledge.
- B. like love identity, social injustice and the pursuit of knowledge.
- C. like love: identity, social injustice, and the pursuit of knowledge.
- D. such as, love, identity, social injustice, and the pursuit of knowledge.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Choice A is the correct choice. The phrase "such as; love, identity, social injustice, and the pursuit of knowledge" uses a semicolon to separate the introductory phrase and maintains parallelism across themes. The semicolon's placement before the list ensures proper punctuation. Choices B, C, and D contain punctuation and parallelism errors.

Question: 5

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. flytraps obtain nitrogen through the digestion of insects.
- B. flytraps do not need nitrogen in order to digest insects.
- C. flytraps are more resilient than other plant species.
- D. other species of carnivorous plants may live there.

Answer: B

Explanation:

The passage opens by explaining that Venus flytraps digest insects to fill nutrient gaps. It closes by saying that these plants are found in an area that is low in nitrogen. Using those two pieces of information, it is logical to conclude that the nutrient gaps filled by insects are at least partially caused by the low nitrogen in the soil.

Choice B is incorrect. The text does not suggest that the digestion of insects occurs despite low nitrogen levels. Choice C is incorrect, as there is no information regarding other plants and their abilities to thrive in similar conditions; therefore, it would be illogical to conclude that flytraps are more resilient by comparison. There is not enough information given regarding additional carnivorous plant species for choice D to be a logical conclusion.

Question: 6

How is this passage structured?

Harriet Tubman was a runaway slave from Maryland who became known as the "Moses of her people." Over the course of 10 years, and at great personal risk, she led hundreds of slaves to freedom along the Underground Railroad, a secret network of safe houses where runaway slaves could stay on their journey north to freedom. She later became a leader in the abolitionist movement, and during the Civil War she was a spy for the federal forces in South Carolina as well as a nurse. Harriet Tubman's name at birth was Araminta Ross. She was one of 11 children of Harriet and Benjamin Ross born into slavery in Dorchester County, Maryland. As a child, Ross was "hired out" by her master as a nursemaid for a small baby. Ross had to stay awake all night so that the baby wouldn't cry and wake the mother. If Ross fell asleep, the baby's mother whipped her. From a very young age, Ross was determined to gain her freedom.

- A. cause and effect
- B. problem and solution
- C. chronological order
- D. compare and contrast

Answer: C

Explanation:

Clue words such as "as a child" and "later," as well as the use of dates, indicates that this passage is arranged in chronological order.

Question: 7

Consider the following passage:

The importance of a comfortable workspace cannot be overstated. Developing a comfortable work environment is relatively simple for employers. Ergonomic chairs, large computer screens, personal desk space, and some level of privacy are all essential. This involves some expense, but not a great deal. Not surprisingly, employees are happier in this type of environment, but it is the employers who really benefit. Reduced sick time, higher levels of employee satisfaction, higher productivity, and more creativity have all been observed.

What is the main idea expressed in this passage?

- A. A comfortable workspace is not as important as people say.
- B. Developing a comfortable workspace is easy.
- C. Establishing a comfortable workspace is not expensive.
- D. Employers benefit greatly when they provide comfortable workspaces.

Answer: D

Explanation:

The main idea discussed in the passage is that employers benefit the most from establishing a comfortable workspace. The author points out that it is not extremely expensive, and then identifies all the benefits for employers. Answer choice A directly opposes the opening sentence. Answer choices B and C are consistent with the passage, but they are not the main idea.

Question: 8

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition and maintains proper punctuation?

- A. Furthermore
- B. In contrast
- C. Importantly
- D. For example

Answer: C

Explanation:

Choice C is the best answer. "Importantly" logically connects the sentences by emphasizing the significance of the discussed red shift phenomenon and how it contributes to our understanding of the universe's expansion. Choice A is wrong, as "Furthermore" adds information, not emphasis on red shifts importance. Choice B is incorrect, as "In contrast" isn't fitting; no contrasting relationship exists. Choice D is erroneous, as "For example" introduces an example, not

the needed emphasis on red shifts significance.

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