

Accuplacer

Reading Comprehension Sample Questions

Directions for questions 1–5

Read the statement or passage and then choose the best answer to the question. Answer the question based on what is stated or implied in the statement or passage.

1. Unemployment was the overriding fact of life when Franklin D. Roosevelt became president of the United States on March 4, 1933. At the time, the government did not systematically collect statistics of joblessness; actually it did not start doing so until 1940. The Bureau of Labor Statistics later estimated that 12,830,000 persons were out of work in 1933, about one-fourth of a civilian labor force of more than 51 million. Roosevelt signed the Federal Emergency Relief Act on May 12, 1933. The president selected Harry L. Hopkins, who headed the New York relief program, to run FERA. A gifted administrator, Hopkins quickly put the program into high gear. He gathered a small staff in Washington and brought the state relief organizations into the FERA system. While the agency tried to provide all the necessities, food came first. City dwellers usually got an allowance for fuel, and rent for one month was provided in case of eviction.

This passage is primarily about

- A. methods of estimating unemployment rates in the 1930s
 - B. the effect of unemployment on United States families
 - C. President Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidency
 - D. the creation of President Roosevelt's FERA program
2. With varying success, many women around the world today struggle for equal rights. Historically, women have achieved greater equality with men during periods of social adversity. The following factors initiated the greatest number of improvements for women: violent revolution, world war, and the rigors of pioneering in an undeveloped land. In all three cases, the essential element that improved the status of women was a shortage of men, which required women to perform many of society's vital tasks.

We can conclude from the information in this passage that

- A. women today are highly successful in winning equal rights
 - B. only pioneer women have been considered equal to men
 - C. historically, women have only achieved equality through force
 - D. historically, the principle of equality alone has not been enough to secure women equal rights
3. All water molecules form six-sided structures as they freeze and become snow crystals. The shape of a snow crystal is determined by temperature, vapor, and wind conditions in the upper atmosphere. A snow crystal is always symmetrical because these conditions affect all six of its sides simultaneously.
- The purpose of the passage is to present
- A. a personal observation
 - B. a solution to a problem
 - C. factual information
 - D. opposing scientific theories
4. Many people have owned, or have heard of, traditional "piggy banks," coin banks shaped like pigs. A logical theory about how this tradition started might be that because pigs often symbolize greed, the object is to "fatten" one's piggy bank with as much money as possible.

However, while this idea makes sense, it is not the correct origin of the term. The genesis of the piggy bank is the old English word "pygg," which was a common kind of clay hundreds of years ago in England. People used pots and jars made out of this red "pygg" clay for many different purposes in their homes. Sometimes they kept their money in one of the pots, and this was known as a pygg bank. Over the years, because "pygg" and "pig" sounded the same, glaziers began making novelty banks out of pottery in the shape of a pig as a kind of joke. These banks were given as gifts and exported to countries where people spoke other languages and where no one had ever heard of pygg clay. The

tradition caught on all over the world, and today piggy banks come in all colors and are made of all kinds of materials, including plastic.

This passage is mainly about how

- A. people in different countries save their money
 - B. people in England made pottery centuries ago
 - C. a common term originated in a surprising way
 - D. an unusual custom got started
5. The wheel is considered one of the most important mechanical inventions of all time. Many technologies since the invention of the wheel have been based on its principles, and since the industrial revolution, the wheel has been a basic element of nearly every machine constructed by humankind. No one knows the exact time and place of the invention of the wheel, but its beginnings can be seen across many ancient civilizations.

The passage suggests that the wheel is an important invention because it

- A. is one of the world's oldest inventions
- B. forms the basis of so many later inventions
- C. can be traced to many ancient cultures
- D. is one the world's most famous inventions

Directions for questions 6–10

For the questions that follow, two underlined sentences are followed by a question or statement. Read the sentences, then choose the best answer to the question or the best completion of the statement.

6. The Midwest is experiencing its worst drought in 15 years.

Corn and soybean prices are expected to be very high this year.

What does the second sentence do?

- A. It restates the idea found in the first.
 - B. It states an effect.
 - C. It gives an example.
 - D. It analyzes the statement made in the first.
7. Social studies classes focus on the complexity of our social environment.

The subject combines the study of history and the social sciences and promotes skills in citizenship.

What does the second sentence do?

- A. It expands on the first sentence.
 - B. It makes a contrast.
 - C. It proposes a solution.
 - D. It states an effect.
8. Knowledge of another language fosters greater awareness of cultural diversity among the peoples of the world.

Individuals who have foreign language skills can appreciate more readily other peoples' values and ways of life.

How are the two sentences related?

- A. They contradict each other.
 - B. They present problems and solutions.
 - C. They establish a contrast.
 - D. They repeat the same idea.
9. While most people think of dogs as pets, some dogs are bred and trained specifically for certain types of work.

The bloodhound's acute sense of smell and willing personality make it ideal for tracking lost objects or people.

What does the second sentence do?

- A. It makes a contrast.
 - B. It restates an idea found in the first.
 - C. It states an effect.
 - D. It gives an example.
10. Paris, France, is a city that has long been known as a center of artistic and cultural expression.

In the 1920s, Paris was home to many famous artists and writers from around the world, such as Picasso and Hemingway.

What does the second sentence do?

- A. It reinforces the first.
- B. It states an effect.
- C. It draws a conclusion.
- D. It provides a contrast.