

ASVAB-SECTION-8^{Q&As}

ASVAB Section Eight : Paragraph comprehension

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QUESTION 1

Many criminal-law statutes permit more severe punishment of a person convicted of a crime if he or she intended to harm another person. For example, voluntary manslaughter carries a heavier penalty than involuntary manslaughter in most states. Planned crimes are also punished more severely than spur-of-the-moment crimes. The problem is that juries find it difficult to know what the intent of a person was at the time he or she committed a crime. Many defendants will deny that they intended to harm the other person and claim that any harm that occurred was "accidental." The law asks too much of juries when it expects them to determine what a person was thinking. Juries should only be asked to weigh objective evidence.

According to this passage, _____.

- A. most states don't distinguish between voluntary and involuntary manslaughter
- B. punishing people more severely for voluntary manslaughter is unconstitutional
- C. it's difficult for juries to determine a defendant's intentions at the time a crime was committed
- D. prosecutors can, through careful questioning, show a defendant's intention at the time a crime was committed

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The passage says that most states punish voluntary manslaughter more severely than involuntary manslaughter, so Choice "most states don't distinguish between voluntary and involuntary manslaughter" is incorrect.

The argument that punishing people more severely for voluntary manslaughter is unconstitutional isn't made in the passage, so Choice "punishing people more severely for voluntary manslaughter is unconstitutional" is incorrect.

The passage doesn't support Choice "prosecutors can, through careful questioning, show a defendant's intention at the time a crime was committed".

QUESTION 2

The fierce and warlike tribe, called the Huns, who'd driven the Goths to seek new homes, came from Asia into Southeastern Europe and took possession of a large territory lying north of the River Danube. During the first half of the fifth century, the Huns had a famous king named Attila. He was only 21 years old when he became their king. But although he was young, he was very brave and ambitious, and he wanted to be a great and powerful king. As soon as his army was ready, he marched with it into countries, which belonged to Rome. He defeated the Romans in several great battles and captured many of their cities. The Roman Emperor Theodosius had to ask for terms of peace. Attila agreed that there should be peace, but soon afterwards he found out that Theodosius had formed a plot to murder him. He was so enraged at this that he again began war. He plundered and burned cities wherever he went, and at last the emperor had to give him a large sum of money and a portion of the country south of the Danube.

After terms of peace were offered, Attila resumed the war against Rome because _____.

- A. he discovered the Emperor wanted to assassinate him
- B. he wanted to further expand his kingdom
- C. the Emperor of Rome offered too little money in the peace terms
- D. Danube, his second-in-charge, advised him not to accept the peace terms

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Attila agreed to peace but soon after discovered that the Roman Emperor had launched a plot to kill him.

QUESTION 3

Genetics is a branch of science dealing with heredity. The field is concerned with how genes operate and the way genes are transmitted to offspring. Subdivisions in the field include cytogenetics, which is the study of the cellular basis of inheritance; microbial genetics, the study of inheritance in microbes; molecular genetics, the study of the biochemical foundation of inheritance; and human genetics, the study of how people inherit traits that are medically and socially important. Genetic counselors are primarily concerned with human genetics. They advise couples and families on the chances of their offspring having specific genetic defects.

According to the passage above, it's reasonable to assume that genetic counseling _____.

- A. is restricted to the very rich
- B. is used to diagnose diseases
- C. can be used by parents to learn if their offspring are likely to inherit a disease one of the parents has
- D. can be used by parents to prevent their offspring from inheriting a specific genetic defect

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Nothing in the passage supports Choices "is restricted to the very rich", "is used to diagnose diseases", or "can be used by parents to prevent their offspring from inheriting a specific genetic defect."

QUESTION 4

Troy weight is based on a pound of 12 ounces and an ounce of 480 grains. Common, or avoirdupois, weight is based on a pound having 16 ounces and an ounce having 437.5 grains. A common pound has 7,000 grains while a troy pound has 5,760.

According to this passage, _____.

- A. a troy pound is smaller than a common pound
- B. a troy pound and a common pound are the same weight

C. common weight and avoirdupois weight are different measures

D. a troy ounce is smaller than a common ounce

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The passage describes how troy and common weights are different, so Choice "a troy pound and a common pound are the same weight" is incorrect.

Common and avoirdupois are the same system, so Choice "common weight and avoirdupois weight are different measures" is incorrect.

A troy ounce is larger than a common ounce, so Choice "a troy ounce is smaller than a common ounce" is incorrect.

QUESTION 5

Specialized warships are relatively recent in origin. They have always been expensive to build and need to be manned by crews with specialized skills. Their construction and operation therefore requires a great deal of the ruler's wealth. The earliest form of fighting at sea was probably piratical as opposed to political; even a pirate needs resources to get his start. The first navies may or may not have been pirate hunters but navies, by definition, cost more than individual ships. Whatever perspective one takes, fighting on water has cost more than fighting on land from the beginnings.

According to this passage, navies _____.

A. all started out as pirates

B. are more expensive to have and maintain than individual ships

C. normally cooperate with pirates to avoid attack

D. are suitable to be built by specialists

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

According to this passage, navies are more expensive to have and maintain than individual ships. The passage states that, "navies, by definition, cost more than individual ships."

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