

ASVAB-SECTION-8^{Q&As}

ASVAB Section Eight : Paragraph comprehension

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QUESTION 1

Many people assume that, once the eye of a hurricane has passed, the danger is over. Actually, the wind and heavy rains that follow a hurricane can last for a long time after. The dangers of large storms, like hurricanes and tropical storms, include flash flooding, which can occur far inside the point at which a storm made land. In the U.S., records show that over 70% of the lives lost in hurricanes are due to the hazards of flooding. In 1979, a tropical storm named Claudette, caused 45 inches of rain to fall in Alvin, Texas.

What is the main idea of this passage?

- A. Alvin, Texas, is not a safe place to live in a hurricane.
- B. Wind and water damage can occur even after a hurricane has passed.
- C. Tropical Storm Claudette flooded Alvin, Texas.
- D. Hurricanes bring record amounts of rain.

Correct Answer: B

QUESTION 2

Some pollutants that render air unsafe to breathe cannot be seen or smelted. Nitric oxide, carbon monoxide, and radon gas are examples. Other pollutants, such as formaldehyde, can be smelted at high levels only but are still unsafe to breathe even at lower levels.

You can conclude from the paragraph that formaldehyde _____.

- A. is safer to breathe than nitric oxide
- B. can never be seen or smelted
- C. cannot be smelted at lower levels
- D. is not one of the pollutants that renders air unsafe to breathe

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The paragraph states that unlike the other pollutants mentioned, formaldehyde can be smelted only at high levels. You can conclude that it cannot be smelted at lower levels.

QUESTION 3

In recent years, there has been much talk about something called ozone. What is this stuff and why is it important? Ozone is an invisible gas. There is a thin layer of it about 15 miles above the surface of the Earth. Some of the sun's rays can be harmful to us and ozone helps protect us from damage. Unfortunately, the amount of ozone in our

atmosphere has been reduced in the past few years and scientists think they know how this happened. Humans have produced chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which have caused a decrease in ozone. One other effect of reduced ozone involves climate change. If more of the sun's rays reach the Earth, they can cause changing weather patterns and a warmer climate. Possible disastrous effects of this change include the increased incidence of tornadoes and droughts.

What is the best title for this passage?

- A. "The Earth's Atmosphere and Human Life"
- B. "The Harmful Nature of CFCs"
- C. "The Ozone Layer Prevents Tornadoes"
- D. "The Varied Effects of Reduced Ozone"

Correct Answer: D

QUESTION 4

History tells us that Christopher Columbus once saved his own life because he knew from his almanac that there was going to be an eclipse of the moon. In 1504 Columbus was marooned in Jamaica with no food and unfriendly natives confronting him. The explorer threatened to turn off the light in the sky if the natives refused to give him food. Columbus kept his word; the natives gave him food.

The main idea of this paragraph is that _____.

- A. natives rarely own almanacs or understand scientific facts
- B. Christopher Columbus was in Jamaica in 1504 on his third voyage from Spain
- C. on his arrival in Jamaica, Christopher Columbus had no food
- D. Columbus saved his own life because he knew when there was going to be an eclipse of the moon

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

The main idea is stated in the first sentence of the paragraph.

All of the other sentences contribute to the main idea by describing the circumstances under which

Columbus was able to save his own life.

QUESTION 5

We are focused so much on requiring diversity that we have lost sight of why diversity is a good thing. The good part about having different kinds of people working together is that they bring their various abilities and insights to help the organization accomplish their shared goals. The different parts of the whole are important because, when joined together, they make a stronger, more capable whole. It is the strengthened unity resulting from diversity that is important, not just diversity for its own sake.

What does the writer say about different kinds of people working together?

- A. Working together is important for its own sake.
- B. Working together is too difficult to be important.
- C. Having different types of people working together is important because it strengthens the entire organization or group.
- D. Working together makes people lose their focus on their individual goals.

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Having different types of people working together is important because it strengthens the entire organization or group.

The writer of this passage is trying to get across the idea that the advantage of diversity is the increased strength and capability that the diverse group has over the non-diverse group, not that diversity itself is the only goal.

QUESTION 6

Aquaculture, otherwise known as "fish farming, " is a rapidly growing industry. Instead of catching fish in the wild, organizations around the world are developing aquaculture resources so that they can raise and harvest fish in controlled environments. This technique allows people to provide large supplies of fresh fish for marketing.

The best title for this passage is _____.

- A. The Science of Aquamarines
- B. Aquaculture – Developing Fish Farms
- C. Fishing Is Part of Our Culture
- D. Fish Farming Is the Next Best Thing to Deep-sea Excursions

Correct Answer: B

QUESTION 7

Many small cities and towns rely on volunteer fire departments to put out fires. A professional fire department, however, has more training, more expertise, and more experience in fighting fires and investigating their causes. In many cases, it's worthwhile for even very small towns to hire professional firefighters.

According to this passage, it's reasonable to assume that _____.

- A. volunteer firefighters have less training, expertise, and experience than professional firefighters
- B. volunteer firefighters have the skills and resources to investigate the causes of fires
- C. professional firefighters don't know what causes fires
- D. a professional fire department is cost prohibitive for small towns

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The passage says that professionals, not volunteers, have the skills needed to investigate fires, so Choice "volunteer firefighters have the skills and resources to investigate the causes of fires" is incorrect.

The passage states that professional firefighters have more experience investigating the causes of fires, so Choice "professional firefighters don't know what causes fires" is incorrect.

The passage states that hiring professional firefighters is worthwhile, so Choice "a professional fire department is cost prohibitive for small towns" is incorrect.

QUESTION 8

Common sense says that the shade of a tree will help retain snow, and snow exposed to sunlight in open areas will melt. This typically is the case in regions where winter temperatures are below freezing, such as the Northeast, Midwest and most of central and eastern Canada. But in Mediterranean climates – where the average winter temperatures usually are above 30 degrees Fahrenheit – a different phenomenon occurs. Snow tends to melt under the tree canopy and stay more intact in open meadows or gaps in a forest. This happens in part because trees in warmer, maritime forests radiate heat in the form of long-wave radiation to a greater degree than the sky does. Heat radiating from the trees contributes to snow melting under the canopy first.

Which of these statements is true, given the information in the above passage?

- A. There is always snow under trees in Canada.
- B. Average winter temperatures in the Northeast, Midwest, and most of central and eastern Canada are generally below 30 degrees Fahrenheit.
- C. Average winter temperatures in the Northeast, Midwest, and most of central and eastern Canada are generally above 30 degrees Fahrenheit.
- D. It does not snow in Mediterranean climates.

Correct Answer: B

QUESTION 9

An employer may offer, as part of its health plan, a limited incentive (in the form of a reward or penalty) to an employee

whose spouse (1) is covered under the employee's health plan; (2) receives health or genetic services offered by the employer, including as part of a wellness program; and (3) provides information about his or her current or past health status. Information about current or past health status usually is provided as part of a health risk assessment (HRA), which may include a questionnaire or medical examination, such as a blood pressure test or blood test to detect high cholesterol or high glucose levels. The total incentive for an employee and spouse to participate in a wellness program that is part of a group health plan and that collects information about current or past health status may not exceed 30 percent of the total cost of the plan in which the employee and any dependents are enrolled. The incentive may be financial or in-kind (e.g., time-off awards, prizes, and other items of value).

What is the best title for this passage?

- A. "Health Risks and Incentives"
- B. "Spousal Insurance Cost"
- C. "Incentives for Employee Health Plans"
- D. "Employee Wellness Plans"

Correct Answer: C

QUESTION 10

The Missile Gap was in essence a growing perception in the West, especially in the U.S.A., that the Soviet Union was quickly developing an intercontinental range ballistic missile (ICBM) capability earlier, in greater numbers, and with far more capability than that of the United States. Even as that perception was disproved, it became evident that the Soviets were placing their major effort toward developing strategic missiles against which, once launched, there was no defense. The perceived missile gap that ensued was based on a comparison between U.S. ICBM strength as then programmed, and reasonable, although erroneous estimates of prospective Soviet ICBM strength that were generally accepted.

What is the main idea of this paragraph?

- A. Despite erroneous thinking, the Soviet Union missile threat was still taken seriously.
- B. The Soviet Union was never a real threat for ballistic missiles.
- C. The Missile Gap had nothing to do with the perceptions of the U.S.A. regarding Soviet advances.
- D. The United States and Soviet Union worked together on the Missile Gap.

Correct Answer: A

QUESTION 11

University of British Columbia (UBC) researchers have discovered a unique nerve structure in the mouth and tongue of orca whales that can double in length and then recoil like a bungee cord. The stretchy nerves explain how the massive whales are able to balloon an immense pocket between their body wall and overlying blubber to capture prey during feeding dives. In humans, stretching nerves usually damages them. In these whales, the nerve cells are

packaged inside a central core in such a way that the individual nerve fibers are never really stretched, they simply unfold.

From the above passage, the reader can infer that _____.

- A. all whales have stretchy tongues
- B. human tongues can double in length
- C. stretching would not damage a whale's nerve cell fibers
- D. tongue construction is important to these whales' ability to survive

Correct Answer: D

QUESTION 12

Due process, the guarantee of fairness in the administration of justice, is part of the 5th Amendment to the

U.S. Constitution. The 14th Amendment further requires states to abide by due process. After this amendment was enacted, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down many state laws that infringed on the civil

rights guaranteed to citizens in the Bill of Rights.

According to the above passage, due process _____.

- A. is an outdated concept
- B. guarantees fairness in the justice system
- C. never became part of the U.S. Constitution
- D. is the process by which winning lottery tickets are selected

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Nothing in the paragraph supports Choice "is an outdated concept", which is incorrect.

When an amendment is passed, it becomes part of the Constitution, so Choice "never became part of the

U.S. Constitution" is incorrect.

The passage doesn't support Choice "is the process by which winning lottery tickets are selected".

QUESTION 13

In 2013, a gigantic landslide at a Utah copper mine probably was the biggest non volcanic slide in North America's modern history, and included two rock avalanches that happened 90 minutes apart and surprisingly triggered 16 small earthquakes, University of Utah scientists discovered. The landslide – which moved at an average of almost 70 mph and

reached estimated speeds of at least 100 mph – left a deposit so large it "would cover New York's Central Park with about 20 meters (66 feet) of debris," the researchers report in the January 2014 cover study in the Geological Society of America magazine GSA Today. While earthquakes regularly trigger landslides, the gigantic landslide the night of April 10, 2013, is the first known to have triggered quakes.

From the above passage, the reader can conclude that _____.

- A. the Utah copper mine landslide was the largest ever recorded in the world
- B. the 2013 earthquakes were triggered by a volcano
- C. the landslide was a slow-moving one
- D. scientists would be surprised if another landslide created earthquakes

Correct Answer: D

QUESTION 14

Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes saga has enjoyed – or in some cases suffered – countless reinventions since its original publication from 1887 to 1927. The BBC's current television version starring Benedict Cumberbatch is perhaps one of the most successful, not least as its scriptwriters combine a deep knowledge of the original with a flair for departing wittily from it: the show's strategy of allusion, transformation, and up-to-dateness gives it both freshness and familiarity. The new series begins with "The Empty Hearse", its title alluding playfully to Conan Doyle's 1903 story "The Empty House" in which Holmes returns from apparent death at the hands of Professor Moriarty in Switzerland.

The word flair, as used in the above passage, most nearly means _____.

- A. dash
- B. aptitude
- C. style
- D. poise

Correct Answer: B

QUESTION 15

About three-fourths of the Earth's surface is covered with water. Of these 336 million cubic miles of water, most (97.2 percent) is found in the oceans and is salty. Glaciers at both poles contain another 2 percent of the total amount. Less than 1 percent (0.8 percent) is available as fresh water for people to use – and much of that is not near the people who need it the most.

The amount of fresh water available for people to use is _____.

- A. 97.2 percent

B. 0.8 percent

C. two-tenths

D. 2.0 percent

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The amount of fresh water available for people to use is, as stated in the passage, 0.8 percent.

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