



Reading Section

Read the passage below and then choose the best answer to the question. Base your answer on what is stated or implied in the passage.

The long reign of Elizabeth, who became known as the "Virgin Queen" for her reluctance to endanger her authority through marriage, coincided with the flowering of the English Renaissance, associated with such renowned authors as William Shakespeare. By her death in 1603, England had become a major world power in every respect, and Queen Elizabeth I passed into history as one of England's greatest monarchs.

1. The writer believes Queen Elizabeth I did not marry because–

- A. she did not want to diminish her power.
- B. she did not fall in love.
- C. there were no suitable matches.
- D. she was preoccupied with the English Renaissance.

Scientists have found a new function of the nuclear membrane, the envelope that encases and protects DNA in the nucleus of a cell—it fixes potentially fatal breaks in DNA strands. Previously, the nuclear membrane was thought to be mostly just a protective bubble around the nuclear material, with pores acting as channels to transport molecules in and out. But a recent study has documented how broken strands of a portion of DNA known as heterochromatin are dragged to the nuclear membrane for repair. The reason why we don't experience thousands of cancers every day in our body is because we have incredibly efficient molecular mechanisms that repair the frequent damages occurring in our DNA.

2. The main idea of the passage is–

- A. to present the findings from new research.
- B. to refute old notions of the structure of DNA.
- C. to describe how heterochromatin functions.
- D. to explain how our bodies destroy pre-cancerous cells.

In November 2007—after the sale of nearly 1.4 million iPhones—*Time* magazine named the sleek, 4.8-ounce device, originally available in a 4GB, \$499 model and an 8GB, \$599 model, its invention of the year. The iPhone went on sale in parts of Europe in late 2007 and in parts of Asia in 2008. In July 2008, Apple launched its online App Store, enabling people to download software applications that let them use their iPhones for games, social networking, travel planning and an ever-growing laundry list of other activities. Apple went on to release updated models of the iPhone, including the 4S, which debuted in October 2011 and featured Siri, a new voice-activated digital assistant.

3. We can conclude from the information in the passage that—

- A. each generation of the iPhone has been better than the last.
- B. Siri was released after the App Store was launched.
- C. the App Store is older than the iPhone.
- D. the iPhone is more popular in Europe than in Asia.

Marvin Freeman's groundbreaking new study of the plays of Henrik Ibsen will alter the course of Ibsen scholarship forever. Previously, scholars limited the areas of their studies to a particular phase of Ibsen's career, since a different scholarly approach seemed to fit each of the phases. Freeman has instead taken on the entirety of Ibsen's work. Happily, this breadth of scholarship does not diminish the depth with which Freeman explores each work. The career of Ibsen is now liberated from arbitrary divisions and stands before us as a complete picture. It will be years before we can fully appreciate the service that Freeman has rendered.

4. What is the main point of the paragraph?

- A. Freeman has triumphed over obstacles.
- B. Henrik Ibsen has triumphed over obstacles.
- C. Freeman's book is overly complicated, despite its scholastic value.
- D. Freeman's book will have lasting importance.

Caused by a genetic mutation that prevents humans from synthesizing vitamin C, scurvy was inevitable in long voyages of discovery during which fresh food was hard to get, causing the body to disintegrate. One of the remarkable symptoms was an extreme receptivity to sensory impressions. Sudden sounds, such as a loud boom from a musket or a cannon blast, were known to kill scorbutic sailors. Even pleasant stimuli such as a drink of fresh water, or a long-awaited taste of fruit, could provoke a seizure and put an end to their lives.

5. The passage implies which of the following about scorbutic sailors?

- A. Fresh food could cure them of the disease.
- B. They would be prone to genetic mutation.
- C. They could be easily overwhelmed.
- D. They were more likely to commit suicide.

NASA's Kepler Space Telescope has discovered a star with three planets only slightly larger than Earth. Its outermost planet orbits in the 'Goldilocks' zone—a region where surface temperatures could be moderate enough for liquid water, and perhaps life, to exist. The star ranks among the top 10 nearest stars known to have transiting planets.

6. The purpose of the passage is to—

- A. explore the possibility of life in outer space.
- B. fundraise for further research.
- C. announce the discovery of a new planet.
- D. describe the conditions required for the 'Goldilocks' zone.

The amount of time a person sits during the day is associated with a higher risk of heart disease, diabetes, cancer, and death, regardless of regular exercise, according to a recent study. More than one half of an average person's day is spent being sedentary—sitting, watching television, or working at a computer. Avoiding sedentary time and getting regular exercise are both important for improving your health and survival.

7. Which of the following is implied by the passage?

- A. Regular exercise will help counteract the negative effects of being sedentary.
- B. Physical activity alone may not be enough to reduce the risk for disease.
- C. Sitting still causes some types of heart disease and cancer.
- D. Watching television while on a treadmill is considered sedentary time.

At the time Paine wrote "Common Sense," most colonists considered themselves to be aggrieved Britons. Paine fundamentally changed the tenor of colonists' argument with the crown when he wrote the following: "Europe, and not England, is the parent country of America. This new world hath been the asylum for the persecuted lovers of civil and religious liberty *from every part* of Europe. Hither they have fled, not from the tender embraces of the mother, but from the cruelty of the monster; and it is so far true of England, that the same tyranny which drove the first emigrants from home, pursues their descendants still."

8. The main idea of the paragraph suggests that Paine—

- A. influenced people to migrate from England to the colonies.
- B. contributed to the colonists' growing sense of group identity.
- C. refuted the notion that most colonists emigrated from Britain.
- D. had come from a country other than England.

Although much about dolphin communication remains a mystery, scientists have discovered three distinct sounds that dolphins frequently make: chirps, clicks, and whistles. Scientists have learned that dolphins use clicks to create a sonar map, which allows them to navigate and hunt. But, apart from possibly transmitting location, the clicks do not appear to serve any communication purpose. Rather, research indicates that dolphins communicate with each other by whistling. This discovery has necessitated further investigation, as scientists are not yet sure whether the whistles comprise a complex system of linguistic communication or a simple set of sonic cues, like the ones used by other animal species.

9. According to the passage, the whistles are significant in part because they—
- A. show that dolphins are capable of expressing emotion.
 - B. prompt questions about the complexity of dolphin communication.
 - C. aid dolphins in navigating and hunting.
 - D. continue to spur research into their unknown purpose.

Questions 10–11

Read the two passages below and answer the questions that follow.

Passage 1

Beatrix Potter had a life of two halves, which makes her a difficult subject for biography. Until she was 45-ish she had twice-yearly publications of the little books that transformed childhood and made her famous. Between 1902 and 1913 characters such as Peter Rabbit, Mrs Tiggy-Winkle, Jeremy Fisher and Jemima Puddle-Duck poured from Potter's fertile sketchbooks into the imaginations of small children everywhere. After that her work slowed down and became less inventive. Previous studies of Potter have tended, inevitably, to concentrate on the first part of her working life. But there was never anything sentimental about Potter's attitude to animals. When the real Peter Rabbit or Mrs Tiggy-Winkle were sick, they were gassed, boiled down and their skeletons used to better understand anatomy. It was this ability to look closely at the natural world that brought Potter her first opportunity to break out of her limited family circle.

Passage 2

Helen Beatrix Potter, born Saturday, 28 July 1866, grew up in a fully-serviced Kensington house. A cold, uninterested mother raised the child at arm's length, and the warmest early companionship came from pets—lizards, guinea-pigs, newts, birds, mice, bats and rabbits, cats and dogs. Her animal friends opened a portal into the widest and most powerful arena of all—the natural world. In the year she was born, her grandfather purchased a 300-acre estate in the countryside. Annual family trips to the Lake District and Scotland clinched the deal, and led to a lifelong love affair with the fields and forests of England.

10. The author of Passage 1 would most likely criticize the author of Passage 2 for—

- A. a somewhat limited perspective on the life of Beatrix Potter.
- B. placing too much emphasis on the importance of Beatrix Potter's later life.
- C. neglecting to provide details on Beatrix Potter's close study of animals.
- D. failing to specifically mention Beatrix Potter's main characters in her books.

11. According to both passages, which of the following was the most important influence on Beatrix Potter's development?

- A. her isolated childhood
- B. her family's wealth
- C. her sentimentality
- D. the natural world

Questions 12–13

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

An overview of the United States at the end of the Civil War reveals a society which bears little resemblance to our society today. The America of Civil War days was a country without railroads, telephones, cars, electricity, skyscrapers, the internet and email, or a thousand other things that today supply the conveniences and comforts of our civilization. The cities of that period, with their unpaved streets, their dingy, flickering gaslights, and their slums, were appropriate settings for the rough-and-ready political methods of American democracy.

Only by talking with the business leaders of that time could we understand the changes that have taken place in the last hundred years. For the most part we speak a business language which our fathers and grandfathers would not have understood. The word "trust" was not part of their vocabulary; "restraint of trade" was a phrase which only the antiquarian lawyer could have interpreted; "interlocking directorates," "holding companies," "subsidiaries," "underwriting syndicates," and "community of interest"—all these words of modern business would have meant nothing to our Civil War-era ancestors.

Our nation of 1865 was a nation of farmers, city artisans, independent business men, and small-scale manufacturers. Millionaires, though they were not unknown, did not swarm all over the land. Luxury had not become the American standard of well-being. The industrial story of the United States in the last one hundred and fifty years is the story of the most amazing economic transformation the world has ever known—a true marvel.

12. The author of the passage mentions "restraint of trade" and "holding companies" in order to—

- A.** paint a picture of what life was like in 1865.
- B.** draw a comparison between the days of the Civil War and the present.
- C.** illustrate how word connotations change over time.
- D.** emphasize the divide between business leaders of the past and present.

13. The primary purpose of the passage is—

- A.** to give a survey of changes in business in the past hundred years.
- B.** to describe how the language of business has changed significantly over time.
- C.** to tell the industrial story of the United States and describe the rise of the corporation.
- D.** to marvel at the swift and all-encompassing recent shifts in the American economy.

Questions 14–15

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

In the year 1885, the Eiffel Company, which had an extensive background of experience in structural engineering, undertook a series of investigations of tall metallic piers based upon its recent experiences with several railway viaducts and bridges. Preliminary studies for a 300-meter tower were made with the 1889 world's fair immediately in mind. With an assurance born of positive enthusiasm, Gustave Eiffel in June of 1886 approached the fair's commissioners with his idea for a unique project, the Eiffel Tower.

However, numerous difficulties, both structural and social, confronted Eiffel as the project advanced. In the wake of the initial enthusiasm—on the part of the fair's Commission inspired by the desire to create a monument to French technological achievement, and on the part of the majority of Frenchmen by the stirring of their imagination at the magnitude of the structure—there grew a rising movement of disfavor. The nucleus was, not surprisingly, formed mainly of the intelligentsia, but objections were made by prominent Frenchmen in all walks of life.

The most interesting point is that although the Eiffel Tower's every aspect was criticized, there was remarkably little criticism of its structural feasibility, either by the engineering profession or by large numbers of the general population. True, there was an undercurrent of what might be characterized as unease by many property owners in the structure's shadow, but the most stubborn element of resistance was that which thought the Tower was an ugly intrusion upon the architectural and natural beauties of Paris. It wasn't that people thought it was unsafe, just hideous. This resistance voiced its fury in a flood of special newspaper editions, petitions, and manifestos signed by such famous figures as De Maupassant, Gounod, and Dumas.

14. Based on the discussion of public opinion regarding the Eiffel Tower's construction, it can be inferred that—

- A.** the Tower was generally embraced by the public early in its planning.
- B.** the poorer Parisians took to the Tower more readily than the educated classes.
- C.** there was some disagreement about whether a 300-meter tower could be constructed.
- D.** the only people who disagreed with the plans for the Tower were members of the intelligentsia.

15. Which of the following is the author's main goal?

- A. To discuss the effectiveness of the Eiffel Firm's plan for the Tower.
- B. To detail how the public turned against the Tower in the months after the Exposition.
- C. To give a general history of the Tower's construction and public reaction to it.
- D. To explain how the Tower would not have been approved without Eiffel's reputation and knowledge of structural engineering.

Grammar Section

For questions 16–26, select the best version of the underlined part of the sentence. If you think the original sentence is best, choose the first answer.

16. To swim, to jog, and spinning are my aunt's favorite ways of maintaining her health.

- A. To swim, to jog, and spinning
- B. To swim, to jog, and spin
- C. Swimming, jogging, and to spin
- D. Swimming, jogging, and spinning

17. Returning to his old job, everything there looked the same as John remembered.

- A. Returning to his old job,
- B. As he was returning to his old job,
- C. When he returned to his old job,
- D. To have returned to his old job,

18. Mount Kilimanjaro is a dormant volcano in Tanzania, being the highest mountain in Africa.

- A. being the highest
- B. and is the highest
- C. higher than any
- D. the most high

19. I was alarmed by the noise looking through the window to see who was outside.

- A. I was alarmed by the noise looking
- B. The noise alarmed me, looking
- C. I was alarmed by the noise, looked
- D. Alarmed by the noise, I looked

20. Scientists have found evidence that acid rain was a major cause of the largest extinction on Earth 250 million years ago.

- A. Scientists have found evidence that acid rain was a major cause of the largest extinction
- B. The largest extinction, caused by acid rain, was found by scientists to have happened
- C. Scientists have been finding evidence that acid rain is being a major cause of the largest extinction
- D. The largest extinction, which was found by scientists happening, could have been a major cause

21. Rushing to the scene, the frightened cat was stuck high in the tree and had to be pulled down by the firemen.

- A. the frightened cat was stuck high in the tree and had to be pulled down by the firemen.
- B. the cat that was frightened and stuck high in the tree was pulled down by the firemen.
- C. the firemen had to pull down the frightened cat that was stuck high in the tree.
- D. the firemen pulled down the frightened cat and were stuck high in the tree.

22. You should never leave your car running while filling the gas tank although it is cold.

- A. filling the gas tank although
- B. filling the gas tank, though
- C. filling the gas tank, even if
- D. filling the gas tank, notwithstanding if

23. Alex was given the cold shoulder to Mary Ann ever since he heard about her rude comments.

- A. was given
- B. had given
- C. had giving
- D. were giving

24. He was sure that *To Kill a Mockingbird* was his favorite novel, but he just couldn't explain why he loved it so much.

- A. novel, but
- B. novel; but
- C. novel, however
- D. novel, nonetheless

25. If the roads were covered in snow and ice, so Kate decided to cancel her dinner plans.

- A. If the roads
- B. Since the roads
- C. When the roads
- D. The roads

26. The constant noise was driving the poor woman insane, she had to find some peace and quiet soon.

- A. insane, she had to find
- B. insane, then she had to find
- C. insane; she had to find
- D. insane but

Questions 27–30

Read this early draft of an essay and then answer the questions that follow.

(1) Howard Hughes was a successful Hollywood movie producer when he founded the Hughes Aircraft Company in 1932. (2) He personally tested cutting-edge aircraft of his own design and in 1937 broke the transcontinental flight-time record. (3) In 1938, he flew around the world in a record three days, 19 hours, and 14 minutes.

(4) Following the U.S. entrance into World War II in 1941, the U.S. government commissioned the Hughes Aircraft Company to build a large flying boat capable of carrying men and materials over long distances. (5) Because of wartime restrictions on steel, Hughes decided to build his aircraft out of wood laminated with plastic and covered with fabric, and they had a wingspan of 320 feet and was powered by eight giant propeller engines.

(6) Development of the Spruce Goose cost a phenomenal \$23 million and took so long that the war had ended by the time of its completion in 1946. (7) The aircraft had many detractors, and Congress demanded that Hughes prove the plane airworthy. (8) On November 2, 1947, Hughes obliged, taking the prototype out into Long Beach Harbor, CA for an unannounced flight test. (9) Thousands of onlookers had come to watch the aircraft taxi on the water and were surprised when Hughes lifted his wooden behemoth 70 feet above the water and flew for a mile before landing.

(10) The Spruce Goose never went into production, primarily because critics alleged that its wooden framework was insufficient to support its weight during long flights. (11) Nevertheless, Howard Hughes, who became increasingly eccentric and withdrawn after 1950, refused to neglect what he saw as his greatest achievement in the aviation field. (12) From 1947 until his death in 1976, he kept the Spruce Goose prototype ready for flight in an enormous, climate-controlled hangar at a cost of \$1 million per year. (13) Today, the Spruce Goose is housed at the Evergreen Aviation Museum in McMinnville, Oregon.

27. In context, which of the following sentences would best be inserted after sentence 3?

- A. The Hughes XF-11, a prototype military reconnaissance aircraft was designed by him for the USAF.
- B. He directed the 1943 Western film, *The Outlaw*, which starred Jane Russell.
- C. The concept for what would become the "Spruce Goose" was originally conceived by the industrialist Henry Kaiser, but Kaiser dropped out of the project early.
- D. In 1939, he quietly purchased a majority share of TWA stock for nearly US\$7 million and took control of the airline.

28. In context, which of the following is the best way to revise and combine sentences 2 and 3 (reproduced below)?

He personally tested cutting-edge aircraft of his own design and in 1937 broke the transcontinental flight-time record. In 1938, he flew around the world in a record three days, 19 hours, and 14 minutes.

- A. He personally tested cutting-edge aircraft of his own design and in 1937, he broke the transcontinental flight-time record, and then he flew around the world in a record three days, 19 hours, and 14 minutes in 1938.
- B. Howard Hughes personally tested cutting-edge aircraft of his own design and broke the transcontinental flight-time record in 1937, and in 1938, he flew around the world in a record three days, 19 hours, and 14 minutes.
- C. He personally tested cutting-edge aircraft of his own design and in 1937 broke the transcontinental flight-time record, and in 1938 he flew around the world in a record three days, 19 hours, and 14 minutes.
- D. Howard Hughes personally tested cutting-edge aircraft of his own design and in 1937 broke the transcontinental flight-time record; and in 1938, flew around the world in a record three days, 19 hours, and 14 minutes.

29. In context, where would the following sentence best be placed?

This project came to be known as the "Spruce Goose."

- A. After sentence 2
- B. After sentence 5
- C. After sentence 6
- D. After sentence 8

30. Which of the following sentences from the passage could best be deleted without losing too much essential information?

- A. Sentence 3
- B. Sentence 7
- C. Sentence 10
- D. Sentence 12

Essay Section

Passage

School districts across the country are facing major budgetary restrictions, leading many districts to make cuts to their art programs. Is it important that children experience art education in our public schools, or are these classes expendable luxuries?

"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up."
— Pablo Picasso

Assignment

Creativity is an important part of everyone's childhood, but should it be an important part of every child's education?

Plan and write an argumentative essay in which you develop your point of view on the question above. Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, studies, experience, or observations.

Be sure to—

- 5 paragraphs, indented
- 500–600 words
- Include: concession, counterargument, and rebuttal