

Name: _____

**Question: 1 of 50**

QID: 784

Marks: 1

Read the passage.

The Baseball's History

The modern baseball has come a long way from early baseballs. In the 1840s and 1850s, pitchers often made their own balls by hand. One of the most popular balls of the time was known as the "lemon peel" ball. The lemon peel ball was composed of a single piece of leather wrapped around a core with four lines of stitching. Today's Major League baseball must measure between 9 and 9.25 inches and weigh between 5 and 5.25 ounces. However, there were no standards for lemon peel balls, which were generally smaller and lighter than today's balls. While today's official ball must be white and stitched with waxed red thread, the lemon peel ball was often a dark brown leather and had a variety of stitching colors.

What is the main, or central, idea of the passage?

- A. Today's baseball is quite different from early balls such as the lemon peel.
- B. The lemon peel ball was one of the most popular early baseballs.
- C. The lemon peel baseball was made of one piece of leather with four lines of stitching.

Question: 2 of 50

QID: 785

Marks: 1

Read the passage.

Blooms in Death Valley

In March 2016, Death Valley National Park in California experienced a rare occurrence: thousands of yellow wildflowers covered the region in a "super bloom." Why was this unusual? Death Valley is the hottest and driest place in North America. The area's average yearly precipitation is just two inches, making it a challenging place for flowers to grow. However, in October 2015, the valley had received more than three inches of rain in some areas. As a result of the unusually wet season, wildflower seeds that had been lying dormant underground suddenly began to grow, producing an abundance of golden blooms.

What is the main, or central, idea of the passage?

- A. Because of an unusual amount of rain, thousands of wildflowers grew in Death Valley in 2016.
- B. Because of the hot, dry conditions in Death Valley, it is difficult for flowers to grow there.

Read the following story.

Self- Portrait

Alia was dismayed to find herself in the drawing studio. She had been sick with the flu during the week when everyone else got to pick their classes. She had hoped for Astronomy or Marine Biology, but they were full by the time she got to choose. She loved everything about science, from the way it used facts and formulas to how it revealed the basic nature of things. But art was so . . . un-scientific.

The first class project was self- portraits. Some students were drawing self- portraits using mirrors. Others were working from photographs. Alia glanced at the incomplete sketches, feeling like a cat in a dog show.

The teacher came up to Alia's easel and sat next to her.

"Every portrait begins with a circle," he said. "Then you create a series of lines."

To demonstrate, he drew a group of small, quick portraits. He began each one with a circle, some straight lines, and a triangle to determine where the eyes, nose, and chin should go. Alia had never thought about it, but the features of everyone's face were in the same spots.

Hesitantly, Alia began her own self- portrait. She drew the basic form of a head, the way she had been shown. From there, she used lines to plot the features of her face. The process took patience and precision. She had to take note of each detail. One wrong measurement could throw off the whole portrait.

Alia was surprised by the structure and discipline involved in drawing a portrait. Measuring, studying details, revealing the basic nature of something—it reminded her of what she loved about science.

Which of the following best describes the main theme or lesson of the story?

- A. It's important to know what your strengths are.
- B. Don't assume you won't like something until you try it.

Read the text.

Each rock tells a story of its formation. To determine a rock type, look for clues about its story. Compared with igneous and metamorphic rocks, sedimentary rocks may be the easiest to read.

Sedimentary rocks were often formed when sediment— particles of dirt, sand, or other matter—piled up on sea beds and then hardened into rock over time. Therefore, the clue to identifying sedimentary rocks is the presence of tiny bits of different rocks pressed together, often in layers. Look for stripes, indicating layers of sediment. If there are no layers, check for particles or rock fragments. Sedimentary rocks sometimes also contain fossils or other petrified specimens.

Which author's purpose is suggested by the text?

- A. to describe how different rock types look
- B. to explain how to identify sedimentary rocks

Which point of view does the narrator use in the passage?

My phone is waiting on top of the pile of dirty clothes, right where it landed when I chucked it at the wall early Sunday morning because the constant ringing was making me crazy and I was too tired to turn it off.

From Laurie Halse Anderson, Wintergirls. Copyright 2009 by Laurie Halse Anderson

- A. first person
- B. second person
- C. third person

Read the text.

As an avid stamp collector, my heart skipped a beat when I saw an old-fashioned storefront with a sign that read "The Post Office" over the front door. It seemed like just the type of place that offers collectors like me a chance to find some really rare stamps. My car pretty much drove itself into the parking lot! "Take my money!" I practically shouted. I couldn't wait to get a look at the stamps and possibly add to my collection.

Bells jingled as I opened the fancy door. My excitement only increased as I spotted an antique wooden desk and a wall of old combination lockboxes. But my euphoria turned quickly to frustration as I looked around. I felt like I had been duped! Although the interior was decorated to look like a post office from the 1800s, the waitstaff carrying trays of food was a clue that I had been deceived about the purpose of the place.

Which sentence best summarizes the author's point of view about The Post Office?

- A. The Post Office is a misleading name for the establishment.
- B. The Post Office is a delightful place to purchase collectible stamps.

Read the text.

Mexico has one of the highest rates of soda consumption in the world, a fact of significant concern to those who promote public health. Several years ago, the Mexican government decided to address this issue. The question they faced was how to encourage people to drink less soda. The answer they settled on was to impose a tax on soft drinks. This appears to have helped, as soda consumption in Mexico has gone down since the introduction of the tax.

Which organizational structure does this text primarily use?

- A. compare-contrast
- B. problem-solution

Read the source of the allusion.

George Orwell's novel 1984 focuses on a totalitarian society in which the citizens are frequently reminded that their leader, Big Brother, is always watching.

What is the meaning of the allusion in the sentence below?

The headline read: "Smart Phones Becoming Big Brother."

- A. a threatening power that monitors all aspects of people's lives
- B. a nuisance that distracts people from important tasks

Read the text.

Edward waited anxiously by his window, peering up and down the village lane. He searched every direction, but only an empty blue sky stretched over the kingdom. Still no birds.

His two younger sisters burst into his room.

"Isn't it here yet?" cried Lily.

"Not yet," sighed Edward, wiping his sweaty hands on his shirt. It was impossible to know exactly when the seer would arrive at each house on Selection Day; it had to deliver a scroll to each of the village's twelve-year-olds.

"I can't wait to find out what your job will be!" beamed Mila.

"Hopefully you'll be a village farmer, just like Father," added Lily, bouncing on her feet. "Then you would get to stay right here with us!"

Edward raised his eyebrows. He had hoped, as many children do, to be chosen to serve the kingdom as a knight. But looking at his eager younger sisters, he felt his stomach drop. The castle was far away, and if he were to be called away to train with Sir Maquette, he doubted that he would be able to return for the fall harvest.

Are Lily and Mila old enough to help Father in the fields? he wondered. And even if they are, what of their education? Would they have to stop going to school if I leave?

A heavy flap of wings shattered his thoughts. An enormous golden hawk soared towards Edward's window, carrying something in its talons: a rolled scroll tied with a blue ribbon and marked with the official seal of the castle.

What is likely true about Edward's obligations to his family?

- A. Edward plays a significant role in helping his father with farm labor.
- B. Edward's father has placed a great deal of pressure on him to become a knight.
- C. Edward is responsible for tutoring his younger sisters.

Read the story.

Brave Changes

1. The new fire engine was a true beauty. The firefighters and I stood in a silent semicircle as my father, the captain, climbed into the driver's seat. We'd been waiting months for this. Still, as I gazed at the gleaming Model T, I couldn't help feeling a little nostalgic for the old days. The station's fire horses had been the fastest and strongest in Boston. I was going to miss them. I was pretty sure the firefighters were already missing them. It's not easy to watch the world change under your feet.
2. When my father cranked the engine, it was loud enough to break the spell. The guys grinned and clapped, and Dad said, "Time stops for no one. Neither does progress."
3. Everyone nodded. My father commanded respect; he had been at Station 3 for twenty years, and his courage was practically legendary. Maybe that was why Henry and Lou, the dispatchers, let me hang around so much. Or maybe they just liked having company during those long stretches when they were alone in the station. Whatever the reason, they always seemed glad to see me when I burst in after school. They even taught me how to play chess to fill the time.
4. After we got the Model T, it seemed like the fire station got busier. Maybe that, too, was a mark of progress. Sparking trolley poles, someone's new refrigerator smoking from the back, an overheating conveyor on the assembly line—the Model T quickly earned its keep. As for me, I spent a lot of time playing chess, waiting for my father's return.
5. As soon as the fire engine pulled into the garage, I would run down the three flights of stairs to meet him. (Much as I hate to admit it, I couldn't take the dizzying, three-story drop down the fire pole.) Dad's smile always shone from his sooty face, as his sure hand turned the switch to shut off the engine. I wondered what it was like to be that confident and calm. That brave.
6. One blustery winter afternoon, the alarm screamed just as I came in the door. One by one, the company's firefighters slid down the pole. Dad flashed me a grin and gave me a quick salute before disappearing with the rest of them.
7. "White moves first," Henry called over to me, already setting up the chess pieces. I pulled up a chair, and we played for what seemed like an hour. Finally, as I was putting Henry's king in check, the radio crackled, and Henry and I both leaned forward.
8. "Automobile accident," Dad said. We could hear the wind ripping across his radio microphone. "Delivery truck and, uh, several automobiles. Hold on."
9. Henry waited a minute, two minutes. "Captain? Are you there? Over."
10. Finally, Dad's voice came through again. "Several automobiles," he repeated through the wind. "Icy conditions. Petroleum fire spreading to . . . 25 Dorchester Avenue."
11. "Captain? Confirm your location, 25 Dorchester Avenue, over."
12. Dorchester Avenue was just over the bridge. I walked past crumpled napkins and half-finished bottles of cola to the front windows of the fire station. The cloud of smoke took my breath away. Fireboxes flashed red on the sidewalk, and passersby had stopped in their tracks, staring at the enormous, dark cloud.
13. "Henry," I said. But he was concentrating on the radio.
14. High winds are a firefighter's worst enemy, my father had told me, even worse than the fire itself. I looked out the window and watched the cloud of smoke rise and expand.
15. "Backup needed!" Dad's voice crackled. It was high-pitched and wild, lacking its usual restraint. Lieutenant Mitchell's voice took over, and that's when my heart began to pound. Eventually, the static became too thick for any transmissions at all. Henry joined me at the window. We barely spoke as the winter sun set.
16. Hours later, the Model T chugged into the garage. Did it sound slower than usual? Less sure of itself? Perhaps. All I knew was that this time, my father needed me. I shut my eyes and slid down the cold metal pole.
17. The engine was still running, although the firefighters had already climbed off. Dad was sitting in the driver's seat, covered in soot. I climbed up and sat next to him. His soot-covered hand moved toward the ignition switch but quickly dropped back down to his lap. Finally, he looked at me. He didn't say anything. I nodded, reached over, and turned the switch for him. Then we headed upstairs together.

Based on the first paragraph, when does the story take place?

- A. in the past
- B. in the future
- C. in the present

Read the text.

Bald Is Beautiful

In 1966, a cat in Toronto, Canada, gave birth to a litter of kittens. Most of the kittens looked similar to their mother and father, but there was something surprising about one of them; it seemed to be bald! The kitten was named Prune, and it became the very first member of a new breed of cat. The breed was first called the Canadian hairless and later became known as the sphynx.

Although sphynx cats appear to be hairless, they actually do have tiny hairs on their body. However, these hairs make the cats feel soft rather than furry. Some people say it feels like petting suede; others say it is more like petting an apricot. Unfortunately, the tiny hairs are not enough to keep sphynxes warm when the weather gets chilly. Experts suggest this is one of the reasons why the cats seek out warm laps to snuggle on and warm covers to sleep under.

In 2012, a scientific study found the sphynx to be the most affectionate of all cat breeds. This intelligent and sociable cat often seeks out attention from humans and other animals. In fact, sphynxes are so gregarious, curious, and smart that they are sometimes trained as therapy animals. Their warm personality comforts others and their outgoing nature draws in strangers.

While some prospective pet owners seek out sphynx cats for their amiable nature, others are drawn to this breed because they think it is hypoallergenic (meaning it will not trigger allergic reactions in humans). Unfortunately, many people incorrectly blame an animal's fur for their allergies when the culprit is actually an allergen that lies in the animal's skin, urine, and saliva. This means that a nearly fur-free feline like a sphynx can still cause nearby humans to suffer an allergic reaction. Even for those who don't suffer from allergies, owning a sphynx does come with its challenges. Like dogs, sphynxes tend not to bathe themselves. Owners are typically encouraged to bathe their sphynxes once a week to remove the buildup of oil that accumulates on their skin. Veterinarians also suggest moisturizing a sphynx's skin with a light, odorless lotion. In keeping with the sphynx's personality, most owners report that these cats actually learn to enjoy their "spa time." Sphynx cats may not have a thick coat of fur that needs to be brushed, but they still love being pampered.



What is the text mainly about?

- A. It is about the physical appearance and personality of the sphynx cat.
- B. It is about the origin and evolution of the sphynx cat.
- C. It is about how sphynx cats require less grooming and care than other cats.
- D. It is about the history behind how the sphynx cat became hairless.

Read the text.

Will, the "Real" Shakespeare, Please Stand Up

1. Many plays and poems were published under William Shakespeare's name during his lifetime. Despite this fact, some people doubt that Shakespeare really wrote those works. Most scholars are Shakespeare supporters—they believe Shakespeare did write his own plays. But Shakespeare doubters are also widespread and include some well-respected experts. Shakespeare doubters usually admit that there was an actor named William Shakespeare whose name appears on numerous plays and poems. They deny, however, that he was the real author of those works.

2. Doubters' arguments usually rest on two claims. First, they argue that Shakespeare wasn't educated enough to write the plays credited to him. Second, doubters point out that Shakespeare was a "commoner," someone without a noble rank, but many of his plays are about kings and queens. How could a low-born, relatively uneducated person have become one of the greatest writers of all time? He couldn't have, doubters insist. As a result, they speculate that some other (better-educated and better-born) writer was really the author of the plays attributed to Shakespeare. They also claim that this writer chose to use Shakespeare's name, not his or her own.

3. Many candidates have been suggested as the "real" Shakespeare. Three of the most popular are the rival playwright Christopher Marlowe, the politician and essay writer Sir Francis Bacon, and the poet and seventeenth Earl of Oxford, Edward de Vere. These alternatives are proposed even though both Marlowe and de Vere died long before many of the plays attributed to Shakespeare first appeared onstage.

4. Marlowe, Bacon, and de Vere all attended the famous University of Cambridge. There is no evidence that William Shakespeare himself studied at a university. And yet, his plays suggest that their writer knew about a range of topics and had read widely, especially classical Greek and Roman authors. Doubters argue that Shakespeare simply wasn't educated enough to have written these plays. This argument, however, ignores what educational opportunities Shakespeare probably did have. Where Shakespeare grew up, the local grammar school could have given him a solid education in classical literature, including Roman authors such as Terence, Plautus, and Virgil. As historian and Shakespeare supporter Simon Schama writes, "One of the great stories of the age was what such schooling did for boys of humble birth." In London, Shakespeare could have continued his education by borrowing books from friends like Richard Field, who printed many of the works that Shakespeare used as sources.

5. Similarly, doubters argue that Shakespeare was born a commoner, so he couldn't have written knowledgeably about the nobility and royalty. Again, there is evidence to the contrary. Shakespeare's acting company frequently performed for Queen Elizabeth and later King James. These performances would have given Shakespeare chances to observe royalty and the nobility up close. He could have also picked up much of his knowledge from books or by talking to other writers who did have ties to the court.

6. Doubters also ignore something else. Shakespeare's plays are not great because they are filled with allusions to classical writers or because they talk knowingly of kings and queens. Shakespeare's plays are great because they are entertaining dramas. Who was more likely to learn how to write great drama—an Earl or an actor? As an actor, Shakespeare would have performed in front of the audiences he wrote for, learning what worked and what didn't from their reactions. He also would have known many other successful playwrights from whom he could have learned.

7. This last point does suggest something worth acknowledging. Shakespeare probably did receive help from other writers with several of his plays. Such partnerships were common during the time that Shakespeare wrote. Shakespeare's fellow writers wouldn't have been nobles such as Edward de Vere, but working playwrights, such as Thomas Middleton and John Fletcher. Thus, while Shakespeare was the principal author of most of his plays, he may not have written all of them by himself.

What is the author's main claim or argument?

- A. Shakespeare was the primary author of his plays.
- B. Playwrights often worked together during Shakespeare's time.
- C. Shakespeare was a successful actor and businessman.
- D. A commoner like Shakespeare could not have penned such sophisticated works.

Read the following passage from *A Long Walk to Water*. In this excerpt, Salva, an eleven-year-old boy, is running away from war and joins a new group of refugees.

The old woman gave Salva a bag of peanuts and a gourd for drinking water. He thanked her and said goodbye. Then he caught up with the group, determined not to lag behind, not to complain, not to be any trouble to anyone. He did not even ask where they were going, for fear that his questions would be unwelcome.

He knew only that they were Dinka and that they were trying to stay away from the war. He had to be content with that.

The days became a never-ending walk. Salva's feet kept time with the thoughts in his head, the same words over and over: Where is my family? Where is my family?

Every day he woke and walked with the group, rested at midday, and walked again until dark. They slept on the ground.

The terrain changed from scrub to woodland; they walked among stands of stunted trees. There was little to eat: a few fruits here and there, always either unripe or worm-rotten. Salva's peanuts were gone by the end of the third day.

After about a week, they were joined by more people—another group of Dinka and several members of a tribe called the Jur-chol. Men and women, boys and girls, old and young, walking, walking. . . .

Walking to nowhere.

Salva had never been so hungry. He stumbled along, somehow moving one foot ahead of the other, not noticing the ground he walked on or the forest around him or the light in the sky. Nothing was real except his hunger, once a hollow in his stomach but now a deep buzzing pain in every part of him.

From Linda Sue Park, A Long Walk to Water. Copyright 2010 by Linda Sue Park

Which of the following best describes how Salva interacts with the other refugees?

- A. Salva does not want the group to leave him, so he bonds with the other refugees by listening to their stories.
- B. Salva does not want to give anyone a reason to dislike him, so he keeps to himself.
- C. Salva is determined to find his family, so he tries to step up and take on the role of a leader.

Read the following passage from *A Long Walk to Water*. In this excerpt, Salva is twenty- two years old and has been a refugee for eleven years.

A rumor was spreading through the camp. It began as a whisper, but soon Salva felt as if it were a roar in his ears. He could think of nothing else.

America.

The United States.

The rumor was that about three thousand boys and young men from the refugee camps would be chosen to go live in America!

Salva could not believe it. How could it be true? How would they get there? Where would they live? Surely it was impossible. . . .

But as the days went by, the aid workers confirmed the news.

It was all anyone could talk about.

"They only want healthy people. If you are sick, you won't be chosen."

"They won't take you if you have ever been a soldier with the rebels."

"Only orphans are being chosen. If you have any family left, you have to stay here."

Weeks passed, then months. One day a notice was posted at the camp's administration tent. It was a list of names. If your name was on the list, it meant that you had made it to the next step: the interview. After the interview, you might go to America.

Salva's name was not on the list.

Nor was it on the next list, or the one after that.

Many of the boys being chosen were younger than Salva. Perhaps America doesn't want anyone too old, he thought.

Each time a list was posted, Salva's heart would pound as he read the names. He tried not to lose hope. At the same time, he tried not to hope too much.

Sometimes he felt he was being torn in two by the hoping and the not hoping.

From Linda Sue Park, A Long Walk to Water. Copyright 2010 by Linda Sue Park

What is the rumor in the refugee camp?

-
- A. All of the refugees are being relocated to live in America. B. Americans are coming to the camp to rescue the refugees.
- C. Some of the refugees may have a chance to go live in America.

Read this passage from Anne Frank's diary. In it, Anne describes an event that occurred in July 1942, less than three weeks after her thirteenth birthday.

So much has happened it's as if the whole world had suddenly turned upside down. But as you can see, Kitty, I'm still alive, and that's the main thing, Father says. I'm alive all right, but don't ask where or how. You probably don't understand a word I'm saying today, so I'll begin by telling you what happened Sunday afternoon.

At three o'clock [. . .], the doorbell rang. I didn't hear it, since I was out on the balcony, lazily reading in the sun. A little while later Margot appeared in the kitchen doorway looking very agitated. "Father has received a call-up notice from the SS," she whispered. [. . .]

I was stunned. A call-up: everyone knows what that means. Visions of concentration camps and lonely cells raced through my head. How could we let Father go to such a fate?

Of course he's not going, declared Margot as we waited for Mother in the living room. "Mother's gone to Mr. van Daan to ask whether we can move to our hiding place tomorrow." [. . .]

Hiding . . . where would we hide? In the city? In the country? In a house? In a shack? When, where, how . . . ? These were questions I wasn't allowed to ask, but they still kept running through my mind.

Margot and I started packing our most important belongings into a schoolbag. The first thing I stuck in was this diary, and then curlers, handkerchiefs, schoolbooks, a comb and some old letters. Preoccupied by the thought of going into hiding, I stuck the craziest things in the bag, but I'm not sorry. Memories mean more to me than dresses. [. . .]

Even though I knew it'd be my last night in my own bed, I fell asleep right away and didn't wake up until Mother called me at five-thirty the next morning. Fortunately, it wasn't as hot as Sunday; a warm rain fell throughout the day. The four of us were wrapped in so many layers of clothes it looked as if we were going off to spend the night in a refrigerator, and all that just so we could take more clothes with us. No Jew in our situation would dare leave the house with a suitcase full of clothes. I was wearing two undershirts, three pairs of underpants, a dress, and over that a skirt, a jacket, a raincoat, two pairs of stockings, heavy shoes, a cap, a scarf and lots more. [. . .]

Moortje, my cat, was the only living creature I said goodbye to. According to a note we left for Mr. Goldschmidt, she was to be taken to the neighbors, who would give her a good home.

The stripped beds, the breakfast things on the table, the pound of meat for the cat in the kitchen—all of these created the impression that we'd left in a hurry. But we weren't interested in impressions. We just wanted to get out of there, to get away and reach our destination in safety. Nothing else mattered.

From Anne Frank, The Diary of a Young Girl: The Definitive Edition. Copyright 1991 by The Anne Frank Fonds. Trans. Susan Massotty

What is this passage mainly about?

- A. It is about Anne's father being sent to a concentration camp.
- B. It is about a surprise vacation to a mysterious location.
- C. It is about Anne and her family suddenly going into hiding.

Read the following text from a memoir. This excerpt is about the early days of the Jamestown colony.

Within ten days, barely ten of us could either go or even stand, such extreme weakness and sickness oppressed us. And none will marvel at that, if they consider the cause and reason, which was this: while the ships stayed, our food allowance was somewhat improved by a daily portion of biscuit, which the sailors would steal to sell, give, or exchange with us. But when they departed, there remained no place of relief but the shared rations. And that was half a pint of wheat, and as much barley, boiled with water for a man a day. And this, having fried some twenty- six weeks in the ship's hold, contained as many worms as grains.

From Captain John Smith, The Generall Historie of Virginia, New- England, and the Summer Isles

Based on this excerpt, what can you conclude about the early days of the Jamestown colony?

- A. The settlers needed medicine to survive.
- B. The settlers were sick and starving.
- C. The settlers were tired of eating only wheat and barley.

Question: 17 of 50

QID: 1138

Marks: 1

Both of these images depict Penelope, a character from Greek mythology. In the *Odyssey*, she claims that before she chooses a suitor to marry, she must finish weaving a burial shroud for her father-in-law. At the end of each day, however, she undoes part of the shroud. Select the image that suggests that Penelope doesn't want anyone to know she is undoing the shroud.



Question: 18 of 50

QID: 1149

Marks: 1

Which sentence states a fact?

- A. The greatest benefit of Parkour training is that it teaches people to see obstacles and challenges as opportunities.
- B. Parkour is a physical discipline that involves getting from one point to another while navigating obstacles along the way.

Question: 19 of 50

QID: 1236

Marks: 1

Complete the sentence so that it uses personification.

Fine rays of sunlight _____ through the tangle of leaves overhead.

A. appeared

B. peered

Question: 20 of 50

QID: 1248

Marks: 1

Complete the text with the better conjunctive adverb.

Former firefighter George Sigelakis designed an innovative fire hydrant that's stronger and more resistant to the elements than earlier designs. _____, one of his test hydrants even survived Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

A. Besides

B. In fact

Question: 21 of 50

QID: 1250

Marks: 1

Complete the sentence.

Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo aims to help endangered animal species both by educating visitors and _____.

A. by breeding animals in captivity

B. breeding animals in captivity

Question: 22 of 50

QID: 1254

Marks: 1

Complete the text with the correct word.

Jazz Fest is a popular celebration of music and culture in New Orleans. Every year thousands of people attend the festival to experience _____ spectacular performances as well as the local cuisine and artwork.

A. it's

B. its

Consider the following research topic:

keeping pigs as pets

Which book would likely include the most relevant information about the topic?

- A. *Can I Please Pet the Pigs? Managing Guests at Your Petting Zoo*
- B. *From Pigs to Porcupines: Caring for Non-traditional Animal Companions*

When would you preheat an oven?

- A. a few minutes before you're ready to use it
- B. right when you're ready to use it

The root **bene** means good. What does the word **beneficent** mean?

- A. performing acts of kindness
- B. having little effect on others
- C. causing hostilities and conflict

Which word is a synonym of adverse?

- A. unexpected
- B. unfavorable

Complete the sentence with the correct homophone.

The Eagles beat the Raiders, _____they will be playing the Falcons in the championship game.

- A. so
- B. sow
- C. sew

Which is more forceful?

- A. a request
- B. a demand

Complete the analogy.

cake is to **dessert** as **throne** is to

- A. bed
- B. chair

Read the passage and then answer the question.

At high latitudes, one might look into the night sky and see dazzling curtains of colorful light. This brilliant sight, known as an aurora, is the result of solar winds. Solar winds occur when the outer layers of the sun boil off due to the intense heat, emitting streams of magnetically charged particles into the surrounding space.

Some of these solar wind particles end up traveling in Earth's direction. If unimpeded, these particles would have deleterious effects on human health, increasing the risk of heart failure and other health problems. But Earth's magnetic poles— located near the geographic North and South Poles— create a magnetic field that protects the planet from the solar wind particles. Some of these particles, however, do manage to break free and end up colliding with oxygen and nitrogen in Earth's atmosphere. The collisions release energy, thus creating the aurora's stunning display.

What is the meaning of **brilliant** as used in the passage?

- A. visible
- B. surprising
- C. intelligent
- D. shining

Read the text.

When an animal dies, it still has valuable nutrients stored in its body. Helping return these nutrients to the ecosystem are detritivores and decomposers, both of which feed on dead organic matter. Detritivores, such as worms and some millipedes, eat and internally digest small chunks of dead organic matter. Decomposers, in contrast, often don't have mouths, so they must externally digest the dead organic matter. They break the matter into simpler parts, often dissolving it, and then absorb the broken-down matter. Fungi and bacteria are examples of decomposers. By breaking down dead organic matter, decomposers return some nutrients directly to the ecosystem. Other organisms also eat detritivores and decomposers, and nutrients return to the ecosystem in this way, too.

Which term matches the picture?



A. decomposer

B. detritivore

Read the text.

Most animals need to maintain a body temperature within a narrow range. Endotherms, such as humans and other mammals, can regulate their temperatures internally. When the temperature of their surrounding environment changes, endotherms may shiver or sweat to keep their body temperatures within a normal range.

For ectotherms, by contrast, a change in the temperature of the surrounding environment will usually affect the animal's body temperature. Ectotherms often regulate their body temperatures by moving within their environments; for instance, a lizard will lie out in the sun to warm itself up.

Which term matches the picture?



A. ectotherms

B. endotherms

Would you find the word **interval** on a dictionary page with the following guide words?

imagine - ivory

- A. yes B. no

What kind of sentence is this?

Dwayne has never tried chocolate ice cream before, which I find astounding!

- A. interrogative B. declarative
 C. exclamatory

Is the group of words in bold a phrase or a clause?

Crayfish are often associated with water, but the prairie crayfish can be found in pastures, where they live in underground burrows.

- A. phrase B. clause

What is the word in bold?

Our **representative's** voting record has proved to be popular, even among those who were her vocal critics.

- A. a plural possessive noun B. a singular possessive noun

Which of the following contains a vague pronoun reference?

- A. Dave accidentally bumped into the waiter, and food splattered all over Dave's shirt. B. Dave accidentally bumped into the waiter, and food splattered all over his shirt.

Select the correct pronoun to complete the sentence.

The toddler wobbled toward _____ with his arms waving in the air.

A. she

B. her

Complete the sentence with the best verb.

When we take our three dogs to the park, our black lab or our golden retriever usually _____ the ball faster than our old English sheepdog.

A. fetches

B. fetch

Choose the word that best describes or modifies the adjective in bold.

The plot of the story is extremely detailed and _____ **emotional**.

A. intensely

B. intense

Is the phrase in bold a direct object or an indirect object?

A helpful neighbor, Carson often lends us **his gardening tools**.

A. direct object

B. indirect object

Complete the sentence with the better correlative conjunctions.

Most vertebrates can perceive the same five flavors that humans can: bitter, salty, sour, sweet, and umami. However, genetic research indicates that _____ whales _____ dolphins are unable to taste any flavor other than salty.

A. both . . . and

B. either . . . or

Question: 43 of 50

QID: 1080

Marks: 1

Which sentence is correct?

- A. Similar to today's marshmallows, Ancient Egyptians enjoyed a type of candy made from the sap of the marsh- mallow plant.
- B. Ancient Egyptians enjoyed a type of candy— similar to today's marshmallows—made from the sap of the marsh- mallow plant.

Question: 44 of 50

QID: 1082

Marks: 1

Which sentence is correct?

- A. Disoriented by the dizzying flurry of snow, Eve's thick wool coat cushioned her inevitable fall.
- B. Eve's thick wool coat served as a cushion when, disoriented by the dizzying flurry of snow, she inevitably fell.

Question: 45 of 50

QID: 1084

Marks: 1

What does the following sentence suggest?

"Put the cherries that are bruised or soft in this container," Charlotte instructed her assistants in the kitchen. "We can use them to make jam."

- A. Only some of the cherries are bruised or soft.
- B. All of the cherries are bruised or soft.

Question: 46 of 50

QID: 1086

Marks: 1

What does the following sentence suggest?

Sofia is a college admissions counselor at the local high school, where Eduardo expects to enroll in a few years.

- A. There is more than one local high school.
- B. There is only one local high school.

Question: 47 of 50

QID: 1093

Marks: 1

Add a comma or semicolon if needed. Otherwise, submit the text without any additional punctuation.

On the Pont des Arts, a pedestrian bridge in Paris, couples have expressed their love by clipping padlocks to the bridge's railings and throwing the keys into the river___ however, the weight of so many locks has caused the railings to collapse in some places.

- A. ;
- B. ,

Read this text.

Michael St. Maur Sheil, an Irish landscape photographer, has photographed World War I battlefields in Europe that still reveal the trenches and indentations of exploded bombshells some one hundred years later.

Is this an appropriate use of an ellipsis?

"Michael St. Maur Sheil . . . has photographed World War I battlefields in Europe that still reveal the trenches and indentations of exploded bombshells some one hundred years later."

- A. yes
- B. no, because the text with an ellipsis no longer has the same meaning

Read this text.

Space Invaders, an arcade game imported from Japan in 1979, is now considered one of the most influential video games of all time.

Is this an appropriate use of an ellipsis?

"Space Invaders . . . considered one of the most influential video games of all time."

- A. yes
- B. no, because the text with an ellipsis is no longer grammatically correct

Which correctly shows the title of a movie?

- A. *Something Wicked This Way Comes*
- B. "Something Wicked This Way Comes"

--- END OF QUESTION PAPER ---