

Grade 10 English: Inferences



Leading members of the U.S. Senate are considering new legislation to tax certain popular drinks. This federal tax would be added to the cost of sodas, sports drinks, and sugar-sweetened fruit drinks. Supporters claim that the few extra cents per beverage will decrease consumption of unhealthy processed sugar, improve the economy, and lower health-care costs. Approximately twelve states have already instituted taxes on sugary beverages, but beverage tax proposals in other states have met with serious opposition. Many opponents believe that taxing unhealthy products doesn't teach people how to live healthy lives. The American Beverage Association, a lobbying group for the beverage industry, opposes the federal tax proposal, but it does support programs to remove sugary drinks from schools. U.S. lawmakers are also considering other proposals, including a bill to limit trans fat and sodium, both of which have been linked to health problems, in packaged and restaurant food.

1. Based on this passage, what can the reader infer about the federal soda tax?

- A. It will be increased yearly until people get healthy.
 - B. It will face opposition before it becomes a law.
 - C. It will apply only to beverages in schools.
 - D. It will cause many restaurants to lose business.
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Six years after his first practice, Jermaine was ready for his big shot. He took a deep breath and remembered what his coach said the first day. "Practice helps you learn the skills, but loving the game makes you a great player."

More than anything, Jermaine loved soccer. He started playing when he was eight years old. While he was not the best technical player on any team, he had more heart for the game than half the professional players in the world. He quickly accelerated his skills through practice every day. Jermaine's parents were proud of him, and his friends cheered him at every game.

Now, Jermaine was the only freshman playing on his high school varsity team. He had not played a single game, but he was so proud of his position. With two minutes left in the final game of the season, Jermaine was in the game. He played fantastically and almost scored the winning goal when he was illegally tripped. Jermaine had a penalty shot.

Jermaine took another deep breath and took his shot. Before he knew what happened, the crowd erupted into cheers, and he was lifted onto the shoulders of two teammates. Jermaine grinned from ear to ear. Now that was a soccer game!

2. What can the reader predict about Jermaine?

- A. He will make his parents angry.
- B. He will continue to play soccer.
- C. He will learn a new sport.
- D. He will lose all of his friends.

Down in the Dumps

by J. Robbins

"Does anyone want to trade lives with me?" asked Jasper as he sat down at the lunchroom table. Iolanthe and Trixie exchanged amused looks.

"That's a pretty terrible attitude," Trixie replied as she patted Jasper on the shoulder. "Cheer up. Iolanthe has great news." Jasper barely glanced up from his plate.

"What news?" he mumbled as he stuffed french fries in his mouth.

"I made captain of the wheelchair rugby team!" exclaimed Iolanthe with a huge grin.

"You play wheelchair rugby?" asked Jasper in surprise.

"For the past five years," said Iolanthe. "You of all people should know that. Trixie and I are going to Frosty Palace after school to celebrate. Why don't you come with us?"

"I don't have anything to celebrate," said Jasper glumly. "I can't figure out this poetry stuff to save my life. If I don't get a good grade on tomorrow's test, I'll fail the class."

"Poor thing," Trixie cried compassionately. "It feels terrible to fail something. I should know! It took me twelve tries to get onto the cheerleading squad, after all. Even though I'm just an alternate, I still show up to every game. I know I'll get on the field one of these days."

"Why don't we help you study, Jasper?" suggested Iolanthe. "We're both pretty good at poetry."

"It won't help," he said. "I haven't bought the book yet."

"How do you expect to pass if you don't have the book?" asked Trixie.

"I thought I could bluff my way through the test," said Jasper. "The new *World of War Skill* video game came out, and I spent all my allowance on it. I didn't want to spend my money on some stupid book." Iolanthe shook her head in amazement.

"That is the most irresponsible thing you've ever done," she told Jasper. "And I didn't think you could get any more irresponsible."

"I agree completely," said Trixie. "I have helped you out of jams since you were a kid, Jasper, but this is just ridiculous. Iolanthe and I have better things to do than listen to you complain." Iolanthe rolled her wheelchair back from the table and joined Trixie in leaving the lunchroom. Jasper's head drooped as he contemplated his french fries.

"My friends abandoned me for no reason," Jasper moaned out loud. "Why does everything always happen to me?"

3. Which sentence from the passage supports the inference that Jasper is overconfident?

- A. "I made captain of the wheelchair rugby team!"
- B. "Iolanthe and I have better things to do than listen to you complain . . ."
- C. "I thought I could bluff my way through the test . . ."
- D. "I know I'll get on the field one of these days."

Texas Facts

- (1) Texas is an important agricultural state. It is a leading producer of a large number of farm products like cotton lint, cottonseed, watermelons, cabbage, spinach, horses, sheep and lambs, goats, and beef cattle. Many chickens and hogs are raised in the state. Corn, wheat, hay, rice, oats, peanuts, pecans, soybeans, citrus fruit, lettuce, sugar beets, sugarcane, carrots, tomatoes, potatoes, and onions are also important agricultural products. Wheat, corn, sorghum grain, poultry, and dairy products are other leading sources of farm income in Texas.
- (2) Despite this, the number of farms in Texas has decreased since 1940. As the number of farms has lessened, the size of the average working farm has increased. Texas is known for its large ranches, such as King Ranch, which covers a greater land area than the state of Rhode Island.
- (3) Most people don't think about Texas when it comes to producing timber. However, consider how big Texas is. Most of the lumber cut in the state of Texas makes its way all over the U.S. as paper, lumber, and plywood. The majority of trees harvested are pine. East Texas, the area known as the Piney Woods, is the most valuable spot for producing timber.
- (4) Fishing is also an important industry in Texas due to its coastline along the Gulf of Mexico. Shell-fishing, especially for shrimp, makes up the biggest portion of the industry. Smaller quantities of oysters are taken. The most important catch includes snapper, flounder, and tuna. Commercial fishing ports can be found in Port Arthur, Palacios, Brownsville, Port Isabel, and Galveston.
- (5) The travel industry depends on Texas. The state is one of the leaders in national and international tourism. State attractions include Big Bend and Guadalupe Mountains national parks. More than 130 state parks and recreation areas bring in more than 21 million visitors to the state each year. The Six Flags Over Texas amusement park in Arlington is a favorite attraction. Also, Six Flags AstroWorld and WaterWorld amusement centers in Houston and Six Flags Fiesta Texas in San Antonio draw tourists. Texas is also the center for hundreds of fairs, shows, and special events like the Texas State Fair and the Wurstfest in New Braunfels. In addition, many traveling to Mexico often make Texas a required stop on their way south.

4. Which of the following predictions can the reader make based on the evidence in paragraph 3?

- A. Texas will export more lumber than in the past six years combined.
 - B. Most of the wood harvested in Texas in the next ten years will be oak or cherry.
 - C. Many tree farms in Texas will need to close to make room for oil wells.
 - D. Many of the nation's houses will be built from Texas timber.
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5. Based on the information in paragraph 5, the reader can make which of these generalizations?

- A. Texas is a popular vacation spot for travelers.
- B. Texas brings in workers from other countries to work in tourism.
- C. Restaurants are more expensive in Texas than in Mexico.
- D. Most visitors to Texas amusement parks are locals.

6. Which of the following conclusions can the reader draw from the information in paragraph 4?

- A. Texas imports most of its shrimp from Maine.
 - B. The town of Palacios, Texas, is located near the water.
 - C. Texas is not well-located for commercial fishing.
 - D. Most of the fishing done in Texas is recreational.
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Marie Marvingt

by J. Robbins

Marie Marvingt was one of the most accomplished women in France's history. She was born in Aurillac, France in 1875. When she was only five years old, her father encouraged her to start competing in sports. She became an athlete who participated in many sports, including mountain climbing, swimming, boxing, football, and rifle shooting.

Even though Marie could compete and win awards in many sports, there were some sports that people thought were only for men. Marie tried to enter the Tour de France, a long distance bicycle race, in 1908. However, she was told that women were not allowed to race with men. She waited for the men to finish the race, and then she rode the entire course on her own. Two years after she rode the Tour de France course, Marie became the third woman in the world to earn her airplane pilot's license.

During World War I, Marie used her unique talents to serve her country. She volunteered to fly bombing missions and became one of the first women to fly an airplane in a combat mission. Marie also served as a nurse with the Red Cross. Her experiences during the war led Marie to campaign for the use of airplanes as air ambulances. As both a pilot and a nurse, Marie knew that many soldiers' lives could be saved if they could be flown from the battlefield to the hospital. She worked for many years to develop programs and training for the use of air ambulances in France and other countries across the world.

Marie was not a woman to let age slow her down. She continued to fly airplanes, and at the age of 80, she earned her helicopter pilot's license. Over the course of her lifetime, Marie won over 30 awards and medals for her athletic ability, her aviation skills, her medical service, and her courageous acts during wartime. She also earned the nickname, "The Fiancée of Danger." Marie Marvingt died in 1963 at the age of 88. In the years since her death, her home country of France has celebrated this amazing woman by naming streets, schools, and apartment complexes after her.

7. The reader can infer from this passage that Marie Marvingt

- A. drove the first ambulance.
- B. won the Tour de France.
- C. was strongly patriotic.
- D. was the first woman pilot.

Ragtime music began just prior to the twentieth century. It enjoyed a brief craze before its popularity declined amid the Roaring Twenties. The music first entered the American consciousness on a national level when Scott Joplin published "Maple Leaf Rag" in 1899. It was the first instrumental piece to sell over a million copies. Scott Joplin's work saw a revival during the 1970s with the success of the movie *The Sting*.

Joplin did not invent ragtime, however. The music's origins can be traced to the African American music of the late nineteenth century. Ragtime incorporated the rhythms and beats of African American music with the march music of the era, which had its origins in European classical. Once the dance music of ragtime became popular, it didn't take long to spread from the Southern hubs of New Orleans and St. Louis to the metropolitan centers of New York and Chicago.

By the 1920s, the ragtime craze was fading. It continued to be performed and recorded, but it was being replaced with new kinds of music. However, it had a lasting influence, evident in the early jazz styles that emerged. Some might argue that ragtime is the starting point for all popular music in America. Before ragtime, American music lacked individuality and character. The advent of this music instilled a new rhythm and style into popular American music that continues to this day.

8. Which of the following conclusions can be drawn from the passage?

- A. Ragtime music had an influence on European music.
- B. Modern pop music is based on European styles.
- C. Scott Joplin is the founder of American jazz.
- D. Modern music can be traced as a progression of style.

"The next presenter is...Katy Rios," Mr. Tucker announced. Gina watched her best friend move to the front of the room. Katy was presenting on Marie Antoinette. Gina would be next, presenting her research on Elizabeth I. Gina smiled as Katy started her speech.

"One of the most impressive monarchs in England was Queen Elizabeth I," Katy began. Gina almost fell out of her chair. That was exactly how her speech was supposed to start, not Katy's! She sat at her desk with her mouth open, unable to believe what happened.

The class applauded Katy's presentation. Mr. Tucker started to announce Gina's name, but before he could finish, the bell rang. Katy raced out of the door, but Gina sat rooted to her desk. She could not move, could not speak.

Mr. Tucker walked down the aisle to Gina's desk. "Is something wrong, Ms. Lang?"

Gina tried to speak several times. Finally, she mumbled, "That was my speech."

"I'm sorry, I didn't hear you."

Gina took a deep breath. "The speech that Katy gave was mine. She was supposed to present on Marie Antoinette. I spent weeks researching and even had pictures to show the class."

Mr. Tucker asked to see Gina's speech. He looked at the two speeches. Katy's speech was identical to Gina's in every way except her source list. Gina's source list was detailed, full of sources and explanations for the sources. Katy's was a short list of five books with no explanation.

"Thank you, Ms. Lang," Mr. Tucker said. "I will take care of this from here."

Gina nodded and left the room. She did not know what she would say when she saw Katy next.

9. What prediction can the reader make about Katy?

- A. She will ask Gina her opinion of Katy's speech.
- B. She will prove to Mr. Tucker that Gina copied her.
- C. She will decide to give a new, original speech.
- D. She will get in trouble for copying Gina's speech.

The Night Witches

by J. Robbins

During World War II, the Soviet Union created three regiments of female combat pilots to fly dangerous night bombing missions against German forces. The pilots, mechanics, and bomb loaders of the 588th Night Bomber Regiment were all women, and they were nicknamed *Nachthexen*, or “Night Witches,” by German soldiers for their cunning and successful attacks. These Soviet pilots wore ill-fitting clothing and boots passed down from male soldiers, and they conducted their missions in wood and canvas Polikarpov PO-2 biplanes, which were originally intended for crop dusting and had to be adapted to carry bombs. Although these planes were slow and poorly suited for air combat, they were very maneuverable and could fly close to the ground for concealment.

Throughout the war, the Night Witches primarily flew harassment bombing missions. When the sun went down, these pilots would take to the skies and bomb camps, supply depots, and enemy airplanes. One of the favorite tactics of the Soviet pilots was to fly near an enemy encampment, shut down the engines, and glide silently over their bombing site. The canvas and wood surfaces of their airplanes and their ability to fly close to the ground made the Night Witches difficult to detect on radar. The 588th Regiment conducted many bombing raids each night, and by the end of the war, they were credited with dropping 23,000 tons of bombs.

Many of the Soviet women pilots and navigators lost their lives in battle or on official missions. The entire regiment distinguished itself as a model of courage and patriotism. Night Witches earned a total of 23 Gold Star of the Hero of the Soviet Union medals, and the 588th Regiment was the most highly decorated in the Soviet Air Force. After the war, many of the female pilots continued to fly as civilian test pilots. Other members of the 588th Regiment retired to family life or factory work. Today, the Night Witches are still remembered as skilled warriors who fought bravely for their country.

10. Which of the following inferences can be supported by the information in this passage?

- A. The Night Witches were not the only Soviet women to fly combat missions.
- B. The male Soviet soldiers resented giving their provisions to the Night Witches.
- C. The Polikarpov PO-2 biplanes are known today as the most dangerous planes.
- D. The Night Witches earned more awards and honors than any other soldiers.

Answers: Inferences

1. B
2. B
3. C
4. D
5. A
6. B
7. C
8. D
9. D
10. A

Explanations

1. The passage states that the federal soda tax has both supporters and opponents. Additionally, the author adds that proposals for beverage taxes on the state level have "met with serious opposition." The reader can infer that the federal soda tax will face opposition before becoming a law.
2. In this story, the reader learns that Jermaine loves playing soccer. He has played for six years and has practiced every day. The reader can assume that Jermaine will continue to play soccer after this game.
3. It is important to support your conclusions with evidence from the text. In this passage, Jasper spends his money on a video game instead of buying a textbook because he thinks he can bluff his way through the test. This statement shows that Jasper is overconfident in his abilities.
4. The article says that Texas is a leader in the timber industry. It also says that, "Most of the lumber cut in the state of Texas makes its way all over the U.S. as paper, lumber, and plywood." It makes sense to predict that this timber will be used to build a large number of the houses in this country, since many houses are built from wood.
5. A number of the answer choices may be true statements, but only the correct one is a generalization that can be made based on the evidence in the selection. Paragraph 5 says, "The travel industry depends on Texas. The state is one of the leaders in national and international tourism." The paragraph also lists a number of tourist attractions. From this, the reader can generalize to say that Texas is a popular vacation destination.
6. The towns listed in paragraph 4 are centers of commercial fishing. This fact tells the reader that they are all located on a body of water.
7. In the third paragraph, the author states, "During World War I, Marie used her unique talents to serve her country." The author describes several ways in which Marvingt supported France during the war. Therefore, the reader can infer that she was strongly patriotic.
8. According to the passage, ragtime was influenced by African American music from the late nineteenth century. The passage also states that ragtime influenced jazz, which in turn influenced other music.

Based on this evidence, one can infer or conclude that modern music can be traced as a gradual progression of musical styles through history.

9. The author does not reveal much information about Katy in this story, but the author does explain that Katy did not give an original speech. After Gina explains this to Mr. Tucker, he says that he will take care of it. The reader can assume that Mr. Tucker will talk to Katy and that she will get in trouble for copying Gina's speech.

10. The first sentence of this passage states, "During World War II, the Soviet Union created three regiments of female combat pilots to fly dangerous night bombing missions against German forces." The author then provides details about one of these three regiments. The reader can infer that the Night Witches of the 588th Regiment were not the only Soviet women to fly combat missions.

Grade 10 English: Characters

Costume Drama

"Am I in the right place for the drama club rehearsal?" asked Lionel as he walked through the door of the school theater. Several students hurried past without hearing him, and he began to feel self-conscious and awkward.

"Lionel!" called his best friend Herlise from across the room. "Come meet the drama club president, Guilliana Hicks." Lionel carefully made his way through the maze of power cords and set pieces. He formally shook Guilliana's hand and introduced himself.

"Principal Smythe thought I might be useful in your upcoming production," said Lionel with a shy smile. "I don't really see how I can help, though. I'm liable to have a panic attack if I try to perform in front of an audience." Guilliana and Herlise exchanged amused glances.

"Herlise told me that you have a quiet personality," Guilliana replied. "I certainly don't want to cause anyone to have a panic attack. Do you have any experience with construction? We have several sets that need to be built." Lionel shook his head in embarrassment.

"Don't worry about it, L," said Herlise kindly. "I'll find something for you to do after I locate a needle and thread. My costume keeps falling apart at the seams." Lionel peered at her sparkly ball gown in disapproval.

"Who sewed this thing?" he asked. "They never should have used this stitching. A thick fabric like this needs stronger stitching and reinforcement, or it will never hold its shape."

"You sound like an expert on costumes," Guilliana said, her eyes lighting up with excitement.

"Not really," stammered Lionel. "I help my dad at his alteration shop. He's been a tailor for twenty years, and I guess I picked up more sewing tips than I'd realized."

"Don't you dare apologize!" laughed Guilliana. "We are in desperate need of a costumer. Are you interested?" Lionel nodded enthusiastically, and he offered several suggestions on improving the drama club's poorly-constructed costumes.

"Who is this guy?" demanded Rodhrim, who was dressed in an elaborately decorated knight costume. "I hope you're not auditioning anyone else for my role, Guilliana. I may have stormed out of the last three rehearsals, but I'm not going to stand for anyone else taking my place—especially since I'm the most talented person in this school." Herlise rolled her eyes behind the back of the dashing handsome—but extremely arrogant—leading man.

"This is our new costumer," Guilliana explained patiently. "Lionel has already offered great suggestions for our production. I love new ideas, especially when they benefit the drama club." Rodhrim stared openmouthed at Lionel.

"You'll need to talk to him about repairing your costume, Rodhrim," said Herlise with a smirk. "It would be a disaster if you went onstage in that thing."

"This is ridiculous!" blustered Rodhrim. "Guys can't sew! This must be a practical joke. We can't change the costumes two months before opening curtain! Everything has to stay the same, or I won't be able to perform at my best." Lionel almost felt sorry for the flustered prima donna.

"Both males and females can sew, Rodhrim," he explained patiently. "Sometimes change is a positive thing."

"I quit this lousy production—again!" Rodhrim responded angrily. He turned around to storm out of the room. The three drama club members burst into laughter at the sight of the back of his costume, which was tattered and flying in every direction.

"His attitude isn't very chivalrous," Guillian said. "I think I need to find someone else to play the gallant knight."

"Appearances can certainly be deceiving," agreed Lionel.

"Come on, L," said Herlise cheerfully. "I'll introduce you to the cast. They're a great group, and you'll soon feel right at home."

1. Rodhrim's dialogue in this story suggests that he

- A. is embarrassed by his costume.
 - B. has romantic feelings for Herlise.
 - C. feels superior to other students.
 - D. is jealous of Lionel's abilities.
-

2. Which of the following **best** describes Lionel at the beginning of the passage?

- A. irresponsible
- B. demanding
- C. insecure
- D. unhelpful

"How are you feeling, Ruston?" Thorold asked as he walked into the school auditorium. His friend gulped and turned even paler than usual while Thorold smiled and shook hands with each student he passed.

"I'm not feeling too well, actually," admitted Ruston. "Why did I sign up to perform my comedy routine at the talent show? The entire senior class will be watching and waiting for me to make a fool out of myself." Billiana waved from across the room and hurried to join them.

"This looks like a tough crowd," Billiana told her friends. "Everyone is nervous about final exams, and they don't seem to be in the mood for a talent show. We support you all the way, though!" Ruston groaned out loud, and Thorold patted him on the shoulder sympathetically.

"Hang in there, buddy," said Thorold. "Performing in front of a crowd is the best feeling there is! Billiana and I are going to find our seats. Don't worry—at least two members of the audience will be laughing at your jokes!" Ruston smiled weakly and pulled his notes out of his pocket. He tried to rehearse his comedy routine, but he was distracted by the students milling around him. Suddenly, a familiar face emerged in the crowd, and he felt his heart stop.

"If it isn't Avery High's very own comedian," Mariliste said with a sneer. "Please tell me you aren't planning to bore us with your lame jokes."

"You should be worried about your own performance," replied Ruston. "Someone told me that you were nearly booed off the stage last year."

"Well . . . I'd rather not talk about that," she muttered, her face bright red. The student body president stepped up to the podium and announced that Mariliste would perform first in the talent show. She looked around nervously before walking onstage. As she began her flashy gymnastics moves, an unfriendly silence filled the auditorium.

"This is not a good sign," Thorold whispered to Billiana

"The other students don't look happy," she agreed. "I know Mariliste isn't the nicest person in school, but I hate for anyone to feel humiliated. The least we can do is cheer for her when she's finished."

As Mariliste completed her last backflip and took a bow, Billiana and Thorold jumped to their feet and began cheering with as much enthusiasm as they could muster. The other students followed their lead and began clapping and stomping their feet on the bleachers.

"It looks like you were a big hit," Ruston said as Mariliste joined him behind the stage. She blushed and shook her head.

"Please thank your friends for me," Mariliste told him. "I know they are the only reason anyone cheered for me. I'm looking forward to watching your routine, Ruston. I know you'll do a great job." Ruston smiled at her and slipped his notecards into this pocket as he approached the microphone.

"So what's the deal with the principal scheduling our lunch breaks right after biology lab?" he asked, launching into his routine with a newfound confidence. His heart nearly burst with pride as the audience cheered and laughed after every punch line. Even Mariliste, standing backstage where no one could see her, managed a small smile.

3. Mariliste's attitude begins to change when

- A. she realizes that students enjoy watching comedy routines more than gymnastics.
- B. she makes Thorold and Billiana promise to cheer for her routine at the talent show.
- C. Billiana tells her that she doesn't like for anyone to feel humiliated in front of a crowd.
- D. Ruston reminds her that she was embarrassed during the previous year's talent show.

Overcoming by J. Robbins

"What happens next?" asked Onegin as he stared up at the ceiling of the computer lab. His friends Tatiana and Lensky groaned and shook their heads.

"This is too hard," Lensky complained. "Whose dumb idea was it to write a children's play anyway? Our writing skills won't exactly earn us the Nobel Prize in literature. We don't even know how to write a decent ending!"

"It was my dumb idea to write a play," admitted Tatiana nervously. "I'm sorry it is so difficult—I didn't mean to cause all this trouble. The children at the hospital love to see plays and skits, and I just want to help them feel better."

"We can do anything we put our minds to. The main point of our plot is that the characters have to work together to find the magic sword," mused Onegin. "Maybe we should include some danger and excitement? Nothing too scary, of course, but a little excitement should be okay." Tatiana started to speak but sat back in her chair instead.

"Something exciting but not too scary? That sounds impossible," Lensky said with a frustrated frown.

"Maybe this is too hard for us after all," sighed Tatiana. Suddenly, the door to the computer lab opened, and a loud group of students entered.

"What are you three doing in here?" demanded Vlad, whose voice was even louder and more piercing than usual. "I hope you don't mind that we're going to be spending the afternoon in here. I just found a great new computer game, and my friends want to test it out."

"Couldn't you please find somewhere else to play?" Tatiana requested. "We are working on a special project for the children's hospital, and we really need to concentrate."

"Oh, please," smirked Vlad. "Even I get better grades in English class than the three of you. What makes you think you can write a whole play?" Lensky and Tatiana drooped visibly at Vlad's harsh words, and Onegin felt his face turn red with anger.

"Some of us believe that kindness is more important than good grades," Onegin replied hotly. "We are not going to give up on this play, and we're not going to leave. Every student in this school has a right to use the computer lab." Vlad shook his head and turned away from the three of them. He and his friends began playing games and pointedly ignoring Onegin and his friends.

"I think I might have a good idea for the ending of our play," said Tatiana. "No, it's a great idea! The main characters in our play are confronted with an evil dragon while searching for the magic sword. They work together to overcome the dragon, and they earn the gratitude of the entire village." Onegin grinned and gave Tatiana a high-five.

"That's the best idea I've heard all day," he told her. "In fact, I think we should name the evil dragon 'Vlad.' What do you guys think?"

"It's perfect," agreed Tatiana. "Why don't you type as I tell you how the ending of the play should go?"

Onegin typed quickly, and the play, complete with an exciting ending, was finished an hour later. Lensky, in spite of his natural pessimism, felt his spirits lift. Vlad watched with a scowl as the three friends laughed and talked together. He quietly grabbed his backpack and slunk out of the room, leaving everyone behind him.

4. How does the character of Vlad advance the plot of the passage?

- A. He inspires the three main characters to write a play for children.
- B. His bad attitude provides inspiration for the ending of the play.
- C. His new computer game provides a much needed break for the students.
- D. He causes the three main characters to overcome their dislike for each other.

"What time is the train supposed to arrive?" asked Byrd as she sat down on an empty bench. Her friends tossed their backpacks on the ground and joined her.

"My ticket says the train leaves at 7 AM," Amundsen replied. He checked his wristwatch and then pulled a pocket watch out of his backpack to reassure himself that both clocks were accurate. "We have twenty minutes until it arrives."

"Twenty minutes is just enough time to take a nap," yawned Peary. "I can't believe I let you guys talk me into an early morning trip to an art museum."

"Please tell me you're not going to ruin another one of our trips with your complaining," his sister Hilary snapped. "No one forced you to come on this trip. The rest of us are looking forward to enriching our academic lives."

"Snooze," muttered Peary.

"I love seeing old paintings, and I have a lot of respect for the artists," Byrd said in an attempt to alleviate the growing tension. "Can you imagine how hard it must have been to grind and create your own paints? I mean, they were creating these beautiful masterpieces before they even had electricity!"

"That sounds like a lot of work," Peary said with a smirk. "I would have walked down to the local art supply store and bought a paint-by-numbers kit."

"Stop fooling around," Hilary remonstrated. "I agree with Byrd. It's a good reminder that most people throughout history haven't had access to the advantages of technology."

"I hope the train is running on schedule," worried Amundsen. "I want to arrive at the museum precisely at 8 AM." Byrd patted him on the arm reassuringly.

"Don't worry, Amie," she told him. "The museum stays open until midnight. I think we'll have plenty of time to see all of the exhibits."

"Our reports are due on Mr. Shackleton's desk on Monday," Amundsen mused. "That only gives me three days to analyze what I see at the museum, write the report, and proofread it for any possible grammar mistakes. I had better get started this afternoon." Peary opened his bleary eyes and stared at Amundsen in disbelief.

"Are you nuts?" he asked his friend. "Why are you working so hard on this report when Mr. Shackleton is only offering partial credit?" Amundsen nervously checked his pocket watch before replying.

"My dad has always taught me to take education seriously," Amundsen told Peary. "Working hard in school is my way of showing him respect." The four friends sat quietly as Amundsen's words echoed across the empty station. A rush of cool air and a muffled roar announced the arrival of the train.

"Ticket check, everyone," announced Amundsen. His friends held up their tickets for his inspection, and he carefully checked their train and museum tickets.

"At least I'll be able to sleep during the trip," Peary said as he boarded the train. "You guys are wearing me out with all this talk about art."

"The sooner you get to sleep, the better," remarked his sister with an irritable sigh. "The three of us *grown-ups* are planning to have important discussions about art." Amundsen and Byrd tried to hide their laughter as the two siblings continued to argue.

5. Based on the information in this passage, Byrd can **best** be described as

- A. lazy.
- B. peaceable.
- C. argumentative.
- D. stressed.

6. Amundsen's anxious behavior in this passage is most likely caused by

- A. his insecurity around Byrd.
- B. his need to be accepted by his friends.
- C. his fear of Mr. Shackleton.
- D. his desire to please his father.

Confrontation at Thomas High

"What are you guys working on today?" Betty asked as she walked into the drama club lounge.

"I sent you a text message earlier today about our plans," replied Jonathan, who was busy reading his notes and typing on a laptop. "We're supposed to be finishing our new play, but *someone* is having a hard time concentrating."

"I'm not having a hard time concentrating," Chris told his brother. "I just think your ideas are unoriginal, and I'm worried that the audience might fall asleep halfway through the play."

"I think your plays are the best," said Betty. "Your achievements are especially impressive considering the fact that our school doesn't offer any creative writing classes. Thomas High School Theater is hardly the best starting point for two aspiring Broadway playwrights."

"I enjoy writing so much that it doesn't feel like hard work," said Jonathan. "I'm not going to give up even if I never make it big as a playwright." He stopped working long enough to hand Betty a copy of his notes for the new play.

"This is great!" she exclaimed. "The drama club will be thrilled to perform a space opera. I can't wait to get started on the costume design. I've never sewn alien costumes before."

"There is a slight problem," Chris replied with a scowl. "Loretta told us yesterday that the drama club is no longer interested in accepting our scripts. They are only going to perform plays written by Steve Holt."

"Steve Holt?" asked Betty in amazement. "He's not even a writer! I can't believe Loretta would choose her boyfriend's scripts over yours. She doesn't deserve to be president of the drama club. I am still upset that I lost the election to her." Jonathan resumed typing on the computer, and Chris doodled on his notepad while Betty fumed in silent anger. Suddenly, she sat up in her chair.

"I have a great idea!" Betty announced. "We can talk to the drama club's faculty advisor. I'm sure that Dr. Teague will be much more reasonable than Loretta when it comes to script quality."

"There's no use in trying," moaned Chris. "Dr. Teague hates my writing. When he returns my research papers after grading them, it looks like an army of red ants has marched across every page."

"Nice description, Chris," Jonathan laughed. "I'm willing to give it a try. We shouldn't let a little thing like pride stand in the way of our success as writers."

"Speak for yourself," muttered Chris. "I'd rather be abducted by the aliens in our script than talk to Dr. Teague."

"Who's going to talk to Dr. Teague?" Loretta demanded as she strode into the lounge. "I hope you three aren't going to complain about my leadership as president of the drama club. I'd hate for Dr. Teague to be bothered with something this inconsequential."

"We'll just see who Dr. Teague sides with," seethed Betty. "If I have to, I'll take this issue up with Principal Moss. You and I have been going to school together for eight years, and you know that I never give up when I'm right."

"Dr. Teague will make the right decision and side with me!" Loretta shouted as she followed Betty out of the room. Chris and Jonathan stared at each other for a few minutes before bursting into laughter.

"We should definitely write a play about this situation," suggested Jonathan. "We can call it *Confrontation at Thomas High*."

"Absolutely," Chris agreed. "Although, I'm going to have to come up with a more original title than that. Your titles are always the worst."

"Let's just get to work, bro," said Jonathan with a sigh.

7. The author primarily depicts the character of Jonathan as

- A. mischievous.
 - B. sarcastic.
 - C. unreliable.
 - D. hardworking.
-

8. At the beginning of the passage, Betty's attitude toward Jonathan and Chris can **best** be described as

- A. supportive.
 - B. flirtatious.
 - C. patronizing.
 - D. impatient.
-

9. Which of the following **best** describes Chris' attitude in this passage?

- A. immature
- B. hostile
- C. critical
- D. easygoing

One Swing

Brenden saw the hockey stick swinging up, but it was too late to react. The hockey stick crashed into his upper chest, knocking Brenden backwards onto the ice. Looking up, he saw a flash of a white jersey speeding away. He knew who had hit him. It was Jackson.

The team trainers and Coach Kyle skated quickly to Brenden. He had not gotten up, and they were afraid he was hurt. They found that Brenden was fine physically, but emotionally, he was a storm.

"I saw what that bully did," Coach Kyle said. "I know how you feel, but you have to forget about it. Focus on the game, not Jackson."

Brenden calmed down once he got up and began playing again. Brenden ignored Jackson and played a clean game. With the incident forgotten, Brenden scored two extra goals for his team.

At halftime, the players began skating toward the benches for a break. Brenden saw a familiar flash of white heading toward Timothy, a small freshman that played on his team. Timothy suddenly crashed onto the ice as Jackson slipped away.

"Hey," Brenden shouted. "I saw what you did." He pointed at the culprit.

Jackson put his hands up and looked at everyone like he didn't know what happened. Then, he smirked at Brenden and rolled his eyes.

A fire in Brenden began burning hot. He streaked across the ice and grabbed that white jersey. Jackson didn't have his helmet on, and Brenden slammed his fist into Jackson's cheek.

Brenden was about to land another punch, when he felt strong arms pulling him away. It was Coach Kyle.

Brenden's heart stopped when he looked in the coach's eyes. Disappointment poured out of the coach.

"I taught you better than that," Coach Kyle grumbled. "I'm benching you until you can behave like the kind of player I want on *my* team."



10. Which excerpt shows how the author supports the theme of sportsmanship through Brenden's characterization?

- A. "He streaked across the ice and grabbed that white jersey."
- B. "Brenden ignored Jackson and played a clean game."
- C. "Then, he smirked at Brenden and rolled his eyes."
- D. "At halftime, the players began skating toward the benches for a break."

Answers: Characters

1. C
2. C
3. D
4. B
5. B
6. D
7. D
8. A
9. C
10. B

Explanations

1. In the ninth paragraph, Rodhrim claims to be "the most talented person in this school" and speaks arrogantly to several members of the drama club. His dialogue suggests that he feels superior to other students.

2. At the beginning of this passage, the author describes Lionel as "self-conscious and awkward," and Guilliana says that he has a "quiet personality." The passage mainly depicts Lionel as insecure.

3. When Mariliste first approaches Ruston, she acts arrogantly. She become embarrassed and nervous after Ruston mentions the fact that she was nearly booed off the stage at the previous year's talent show.

4. In this passage, Onegin, Lensky, and Tatiana are having trouble writing a play when they are interrupted by Vlad's rude comments. His bad attitude provides inspiration for the ending of the play when Tatiana suggests that the play's characters should encounter an evil dragon named Vlad.

5. In the sixth paragraph of this passage, Byrd changes the topic of conversation to "alleviate the growing tension" between Hilary and Peary. Later in the passage, she attempts to reassure her friend Amundsen when he is stressed. The passage shows that Byrd is a peaceable person.

6. Amundsen is nervous and worried throughout this passage, and he plans to work for three days on a report for school. When Peary questions him about this, Amundsen states, "My dad has always taught me to take education seriously . . . Working hard in school is my way of showing him respect." The reader can conclude that Amundsen feels anxious about getting a good education because he wants to please his father.

7. At the beginning of this passage, Jonathan is "busy reading his notes and typing on a laptop," and later in the passage, he continues working on the computer while Chris doodles in a notebook. He also states, "I'm not going to give up even if I never make it big as a playwright." The author primarily depicts Jonathan as hardworking in this passage.

8. At the beginning of this passage, Betty tells Jonathan and Chris that their plays are "the best" and their achievements are "impressive." She also compliments their latest play. Her attitude toward the two writers can best be described as supportive.

9. Throughout the passage, Chris speaks negatively about his brother's writing skills, and he also complains about the way Dr. Teague corrects his papers. Chris' attitude in this passage can best be described as critical.

10. The story has a theme about sportsmanship in a hockey game. Even though Brenden is hit, he does not retaliate against Jackson. He gets up and plays a clean game. That action shows good sportsmanship for Brenden.

Grade 10 English: Plot

Inside, the place was almost dark. It was a shabby pawnshop, and behind the counter lounged a shabby man with an unshaven face. After making payment, he noted that he still possessed some coins. The most decent thing would be to give them away.

He thought of this as he left the shop and began to cross the street. His mind was wandering, and he was less watchful. Suddenly, a carriage appeared immediately in his path. The horse's head loomed above his own. He whirled aside involuntarily and went on. His movement had been too swift for him to realize in which direction he had turned. He was unaware that he crossed the street backward instead of forward. He turned a corner, turned another, and suddenly understood, after walking down the street, that he was in a strange place and had lost his bearings.

He could not be far from his lodgings, but he felt like a blind man turned out of the path he knew. He would not stop and address anyone. He could not be certain to whom he might find himself speaking. He would wander until he came upon a clue. He went on.

He stopped near a bridge and leaned upon the walls, looking down.

As he drew back, he heard something fall with the tinkling sound of coin on the pavement. When he had been in the pawnbroker's, he had taken the gold and thrust it carelessly into his waistcoat pocket, thinking it would be easy to reach when he gave it to a beggar. Some movement he had made in bending had caused a coin to slip out, and it had fallen upon the stones.

He did not intend to pick it up, but he heard a shuffling movement near him. As he bent to listen to it, a small head, covered with brilliant red hair, thrust itself out, a small face turning to look up at him slyly with deep-set black eyes. It was a girl, about twelve years old. She pointed with a chapped and dirty hand at the coin.

"Pick it up," he said. "You may have it."

Her wild shuffle forward was an actual leap. The hand snatched at the coin. She was evidently afraid that he was insincere or would change his mind. The next minute she was on her feet and ready for flight.

"Stop," he said. "I've got more to give away."

She hesitated, not believing him, yet feeling it madness to lose a chance. "More?" she gasped in a street-strained voice. Then she drew nearer to him, and a change came upon her face. It made her look oddly human.

"Gawd, mister!" she said. "You give away a coin like it was nothin'—an' yer've got more!"

She was, for her years, so ugly and hardened in voice, skin, and manner that she fascinated him. He stood and stared at her.

"Do you know where we are?" he asked glumly.

She sidled nearer, her sharp eyes on his face. "I bin watchin' yer," she said. "I sat down and pulled the sack over me 'ead to breathe inside it an' get a bit warm. I watched yer through a 'ole in me sack. You looked all turned 'round. Come along er me an' I'll show yer the way. If yer've give me that coin straight, I'll go with yer myself. Come on, mister." *adapted from The Dawn of a To-morrow by Frances Hodgson Burnett*

1. What is the resolution to the conflict in this story?

- A. The little girl helps the man find his way home.
- B. The little girl runs away with the man's coins.
- C. The man accidentally falls off of the bridge.
- D. The man follows his coins back to the pawnshop.

2. Why does the girl snatch the coin so quickly?

- A. She believes that she will have time to buy food at the store if she hurries.
 - B. She believes that the coin will roll off of the bridge and into the water below.
 - C. She is afraid that someone else will come along and grab it before she does.
 - D. She is afraid that the man doesn't mean to give it away or will change his mind.
-

A man awakened in a third-story bedroom in a lodging-house in a poor street in London, and as his consciousness returned to him, its slow and reluctant movings confronted the second point of view—marked by enormous differences. He had not slept two consecutive hours through the night, and when he had slept he had been tormented by dreary dreams, which were more full of misery because of their elusive vagueness, which kept his tortured brain on a wearying strain of effort to reach some definite understanding of them. Yet when he awakened, the consciousness of being again alive was an awful thing. If the dreams could have faded into blankness and all have passed with the passing of the night, how he could have thanked whatever gods there be! Only not to awake—only not to awake! But he had awakened.

The clock struck nine as he did, so consequently, he knew the hour. The lodging-house servant had aroused him by coming to light the fire. She had set her candle on the hearth and done her work as stealthily as possible, but he had been disturbed, though he had made a desperate effort to struggle back into sleep. That was no use—no use. He was awake and he was in the midst of it all again. Without the sense of luxurious comfort, he opened his eyes and turned upon his back, throwing out his arms flatly, so that he lay as in the form of a cross, in heavy weariness and anguish. For months he had awakened each morning after such a night and had so lain like a crucified thing.

adapted from The Dawn of a To-morrow by Frances Hodgson Burnett

3. Why has the man's sleep not comforted him?

- A. It makes him forget reality.
- B. It is full of miserable dreams.
- C. It makes him strangely happy.
- D. It keeps him from thinking.

The Vendors

by A. Gautam

"Honey! Pure, sweet honeeeeeeeeeey!"

The vendor lady's shrill voice echoed in the quiet Saturday afternoon in Kathmandu. People in the city had just finished washing their clothes, bathing their children, and enjoying a late morning meal. As I tried to read a book lying on my straw mat in the balcony, my eyes got heavier under the influence of the warm April sun. The vendor's voice echoed in my ears like a lullaby.

"Child! Is your mother home?" The honey-seller was already in the balcony, and she was not just speaking in my imagination.

"Nah. Did you know Ma?" I asked the middle-aged woman who was hiding half of her face with her sari and still carrying a big jar of honey as if it were her infant child.

"She bought a kilo of honey for you from me all the time," the woman spoke between her breaths, still standing. "Only pure, sweet honeey—the best kind for best lady."

I thought about all these street vendors who swore by my mother's character. This vegetable-seller always gave Mother the freshest-looking cauliflowers on a discount. Even the peanut-seller gave Mother extra handfuls of nuts when she made the purchase. The vendors always came on Saturdays when Mother was heard singing and washing clothes in near the tap. I remembered how she left everything on the big aluminum bowls and washed her hands quickly to make tea for the vendors. As I watched the honey-seller look around desperately for my mother, I understood why they all loved her.

4. Which is an example of flashback in the passage?

- A. the narrator trying to keep awake while reading in the balcony
- B. the narrator trying to figure out the middle-aged honey-seller
- C. the narrator thinking of the vendors that came to his or her house
- D. the narrator describing a normal Saturday afternoon in Kathmandu

You're Aces by J. Robbins

"Oh, good, you're all here," said Pola as she walked into the community theater. She began handing out copies of her script to the assembled actors.

"This is a lot to memorize," remarked Gerhardt, flipping through the pages. "Neville, your character's name is Rhombus Fairchild. Boy, I bet he was picked on as a kid."

"*You're Aces*—what kind of title is that?" Neville asked.

"The play takes place in the 1920s, Neville," replied Pola irritably. "People used catchphrases like that back then. It means 'You're the best.' "

"If the play takes place in the past, why are the main characters fighting giant evil robots in the third act?" asked Nadezhda. Gerhardt and Neville gasped in surprise and started reading the script with renewed interest.

"Cool! I get to fire a laser gun," bragged Neville.

"Oh, man!" Gerhardt groaned. "My character gets killed at the end of Act III. Death scenes are the worst."

"Quit complaining, everyone," exclaimed Pola. "I had to write this by myself in two days while working a full-time job. It may not be Shakespeare, but it's good enough for community theater. I think we should just do the best we can with what we've got."

"That's a terrible attitude," Nadezhda said. "The proceeds from this play will be donated to charity, and I think we should try our hardest to give people their money's worth. Why don't we all work together to write a new script?"

"Fine!" Pola yelled. "I'll let you guys take over the play, and I'll save my efforts for people with better taste in entertainment." The three actors watched in amazement as Pola stomped out of the theater.

"Whoops," said Nadezhda with an embarrassed smile. "I forgot that she hates for anyone to question her talent as a writer."

"I'm just sad I won't get to wear a jet pack and use phrases like 'You're the bees' knees,' " Neville laughed.

"I thought doing a death scene was bad," said Gerhardt. "If we don't get a script put together by tonight, we'll all be in serious trouble." Nadezhda grabbed a notebook from her purse.

"This will be a snap," she said confidently. "What's a good topic for a play?"

"I know!" declared Gerhardt. "Neville and I will be lawmen sent from the future who try to stop a giant monster from destroying Dubuque, Iowa."

"Well, it is original," Nadezhda replied slowly. "But how would we create a giant monster on our \$10 prop budget?"

"Good point," admitted Gerhardt.

"Here's an idea," said Neville. "What if Gerhardt and I play Elvis and Abraham Lincoln, who have been brought back to life by scientists. We use our skills to defend the president, played by Nadezhda, from the cast of the musical *Cats*, who have been turned into vicious zombies." Neville's voice trailed off as he realized that both Nadezhda and Gerhardt were staring at him with their mouths open.

"That's very ambitious," Nadezhda finally said. "I think it would be a little difficult for three people to perform onstage, though."

"You're probably right," said Neville.

"I hate to say it, but our ideas are terrible," Gerhardt remarked. "What are we going to do?" The three actors dashed off the stage and hurried outside.

"She's over by her car!" exclaimed Nadezhda. "Let's go get her. I'm not too proud to beg; are you guys?"

"No way," replied Gerhardt. "As far as I'm concerned, death scenes are the bees' knees."

5. What causes Pola to feel upset in the passage?

- A. She doesn't get to participate in the play as an actress.
 - B. She is jealous of Nadezhda's talent as a writer.
 - C. She is unable to think of a new topic for the play.
 - D. She believes that her hard work is unappreciated.
-

6. Which of the following best explains the primary conflict in the passage?

- A. After treating a script writer with disrespect, three actors find out that they have been fired from the community theater.
 - B. After offending the script writer, three actors struggle to produce a new script in time for their first performance.
 - C. Three actors collaborate with a script writer to produce a play that will earn enough money to support a charity.
 - D. Three actors struggle to pursue their childhood dream of becoming script writers for a community theater.
-

7. Sally was running as fast as she could. There was someone right behind her, and she didn't want to get caught. She'd been caught once before, and Sally had always been fearful it would happen again. Sally was breathing heavily. She wanted to slow down, but the sound of footsteps was getting closer. The other person was catching up, and Sally still had a ways to go before she would be out of the woods. Finally, Sally stopped. She put her hand against a tree for support. "This is it," Sally thought. "I'm letting it happen again." Tears welled in her eyes as the other runner passed her; Sally knew she had lost the cross country championship for the second year in a row.

Which sentence **best** describes the pacing of the passage?

- A. The series of events happen in rapid sequence.
- B. The focus of the action is on events of the past.
- C. The setting description detracts from the action.
- D. The narrative events cover many years of time.

The Performance

Slouched down in her chair, Jessica watched everyone in the food court. There was an audible buzz of excitement. Everyone was in the middle of highly animated conversations. Jessica sighed heavily. She definitely did not want to be there; the mall was too crowded. But someone needed to be here to supervise her young sister Rachel.

Navigating through traffic wasn't usually that hard in the town Northern Hawk, but today, cars jammed the two-lane streets. No one had moved in the last 10 minutes. Miguel looked at his watch and drummed his fingers against the door's arm rest. He could hear crowds of people walk past the car, shouting and cheering. *We have to get going; we're running late*, Miguel thought as he looked at the driver.

In the food court, people were filing in and trying to squeeze into any available space. *Just breathe. Nothing bad is going to happen*, Jessica thought. People surrounded her table and towered over her. She was facing her personal nightmare of being in a suffocating crowd. Jessica quickly stood up and breathed in deeply. Then, a wave of panic rushed over Jessica. *Where's Rachel?*

Miguel smiled. The driver had finally made some progress in the traffic, and Miguel felt relieved that he could finally make it to his performance. The car came to a stop, and the driver rushed out to open the door. Miguel paused for a moment and thought, *Breathe. Just breathe.*

Dashing through the crowd, Jessica called out, "Rachel!" However, her shouting was muffled by the crowd. Jessica weaved in and out around groups, but there was no sign of Rachel at all.

It was dark in the backroom. Miguel's eyes had not yet adjusted to the darkness. Out of the corner of his eye, he noticed some movement in the back corner of the room. He prepared for the worst when the movement came toward him.

With eyes welling up with tears, Jessica leaned against a column. Suddenly, she heard cheers erupting across the food court, and a voice boomed across the room. "Hi, everyone. Before I start my performance, we are looking for seven-year-old girl Rachel Stevens' sister. They were separated in the crowd."

Jessica immediately looked up, and there was her sister holding the hand of pop sensation Miguel Ortiz. She could see Rachel's smile reach from ear to ear.

8. To develop the passage, the author uses

- A. dialogue to establish the setting.
- B. two distinct plotlines that converge.
- C. two characters who have similar problems.
- D. flashbacks to reveal the characters' conflicts.

Unless one is wealthy, there is no use in being charming. Romance is the privilege of the rich. The poor should be practical and common. It is better to have a permanent income than to be fascinating. These are the great truths of modern life, which poor Hughie Erskine never realized.

To make matters worse, he was in love. He loved Laura Merton, the daughter of a retired colonel. Laura adored him. They were the handsomest couple in London, without a penny-piece between them. The Colonel was fond of Hughie, but would not hear of an engagement.

"Come to me, my boy, when you have ten thousand pounds, and we will see," he used to say. Hughie looked glum on these days.

One morning, he was on his way to the Mertons. He dropped by to see a friend, Alan Trevor. Trevor was a painter.

When Hughie came in, Trevor was finishing a life-size picture of a beggar-man. The beggar was standing on a raised platform in a corner of the studio. He was a wizened old man with a wrinkled face and a piteous expression. With one hand, he leaned on a rough stick. With the other, he held out his battered hat for alms.

After some time, the servant came in and told Trevor the frame-maker wanted to speak to him. Trevor went out for a bit, and the beggar-man rested on a wooden bench behind him. Hughie pitied him and checked his pockets for money. He slipped his largest coin into the beggar's hand.

The old man started, and a smile flitted across his lips. "Thank you, sir," he said.

When Trevor came back, Hughie left, blushing at what he did. Later, Trevor told Hughie about the beggar-man.

"That old beggar is one of the richest men in Europe. He was Baron Hausberg, a great friend of mine. He buys all of my pictures. He is a millionaire!" Trevor said.

"Baron Hausberg!" cried Hughie. "I am an unlucky devil. Please say nothing. I am so embarrassed."

The next morning, Hughie was at breakfast when Baron Hausberg's servant came to the house. "Please offer the Baron my apologies," Hughie said.

"The Baron," the servant said, "has asked me to bring you this letter."

The outside said, "A wedding present to Hugh Erksine and Laura Merton, from an old beggar." Inside was a check for ten thousand pounds.

When they were married, Trevor was the best man. Baron Hausberg came to the wedding.

"Millionaire models," remarked Trevor, "are rare enough. Model millionaires are rarer still!"

adapted from "The Model Millionaire" by Oscar Wilde

9. How does Hughie win the favor of the baron?

- A. He gives a beggar a valuable coin.
- B. He convinces Trevor to help the baron.
- C. He buys a beggar some new clothing.
- D. He lets a model take a break for lunch.

The Handkerchief of Aramis

D'Artagnan decided to practice politeness because he got into one mess after another. Aramis was a perfect role model. He spotted Aramis with three gentlemen in front of the hotel d'Arguillon and approached with a bow and a smile. All four immediately broke off their conversation.

D'Artagnan saw that Aramis had let his handkerchief fall and by mistake, no doubt, had placed his foot upon it. He stooped, drew the handkerchief from under the foot of the musketeer, and holding it out to him, said, "I believe that this is a handkerchief you would be sorry to lose?"

The handkerchief was richly embroidered with a coronet and arms at one of its corners. Aramis blushed and snatched rather than took the handkerchief.

"Ah!" cried one of the guards. "Will you persist in saying, Aramis, that you are not on good terms with Madame de Bois-Tracy, when that lady has the kindness to lend you one of her handkerchiefs?"

Aramis darted at d'Artagnan one of those looks which informs a man that he has acquired a mortal enemy. "You are deceived, gentlemen," said he. "This handkerchief is not mine, and I cannot fancy why Monsieur has taken it into his head to offer it to me rather than to one of you. As proof of what I say, here is mine in my pocket." He pulled out his own handkerchief, likewise elegant but without embroidery and arms, only ornamented with its proprietor's symbol.

The friends of Aramis were not convinced by his denial, and one of them addressed the musketeer with seriousness. "If it were as you pretend it is," said he, "I should be forced to recover it for Bois-Tracy is an intimate friend of mine, and I cannot allow the property of his wife to be sported as a trophy."

"The fact is," offered d'Artagnan, timidly, "I did not see the handkerchief fall from the pocket of Monsieur Aramis. He had his foot upon it, and I thought the handkerchief was his."

"You were deceived," replied Aramis, coldly. Then, turning toward the guards, he continued, "I have reflected that I am not less his friend than you can possibly be, so this handkerchief is as likely to have fallen from your pocket as mine."

"No, upon my honor!" cried his Majesty's guardsman.

"You are about to swear upon your honor and I upon my word, and then it will be pretty evident that one of us will have lied. Now, here, Montaran, we will do better than that—let each take a half of the handkerchief."

"Perfectly just," cried the other two guardsmen, "the judgment of King Solomon! Aramis, you certainly are full of wisdom!"

The young men burst into a laugh. In a moment or two the conversation ceased, and the three guardsmen left after having shaken hands.

Aramis spoke to d'Artagnan, "I suppose you knew very well that people do not tread upon handkerchiefs without a reason! Why did you restore me the handkerchief?"

"Why did you so awkwardly let it fall?" cried d'Artagnan.

"I have said that the handkerchief did not fall from my pocket."

"And thereby you have lied twice for I saw it fall."

"Ah, you take it with that tone, do you? Well, I will teach you how to behave yourself," threatened Aramis. "I wish to kill you, but quietly in a remote place, where you will not be able to boast of your death to anybody. At two o'clock I shall have the honor of expecting you at the hotel of Monsieur de Treville. There I will indicate to you the best place and time."

adapted from The Three Musketeers by Alexander Dumas, père

10. What happens when Aramis proposes that he and Montaran each take half of the handkerchief?

- A. D'Artagnan admits that he was lying and apologizes.
- B. The guards laugh and declare the matter settled.
- C. Madame de Bois-Tracy asks for her handkerchief back.
- D. The guards decide to fight both Aramis and d'Artagnan.

Answers: Plot

1. A
2. D
3. B
4. C
5. D
6. B
7. A
8. B
9. A
10. B

Explanations

1. The man becomes fascinated with the girl after offering her all of his remaining coins. He finally asks her where they are, and she decides to show him the way back. "Come along er me an' I'll show yer the way," she says.

2. The passage says, "The hand snatched at the coin. She was evidently afraid that he was insincere or would change his mind." She is prepared to run away immediately so that she'll be able to keep it.

3. In the first paragraph, the man thinks about how he has not been comforted by the little sleep he has gotten. He goes on to say that the little sleep he gets is full of "dreary dreams." He cannot enjoy the little sleep he gets because he has these miserable dreams while he sleeps.

4. A flashback is a literary device in which an earlier event is inserted into the normal chronological order of a narrative. The story goes back to a time when different vendors came to the narrator's house. The flashback helps the narrator understand why the vendors were fond of his or her mother.

5. In this passage, Pola angrily leaves the theater after the three actors complain about her script. She states that she worked on the script for two days while working a full-time job. The reader can conclude that Pola believes her hard work is unappreciated by Neville, Gerhardt, and Nadezhda.

6. This passage describes the efforts of three actors, Gerhardt, Neville, and Nadezhda, to write a new play after they offend Pola, the script writer. Their struggle to produce a new script in time for their first performance is the primary conflict in this passage.

7. The pacing of a story helps a writer develop the story and engage the reader. In this passage, the author uses fast pacing. All of the events happen in rapid sequence or succession. The passage contains very little description of the setting or of past events.

8. The author develops the story using parallel plots. Parallel plots alternate between two or more different plotlines of equal importance, and these plotlines eventually come together in the end. Parallel plots can help an author create tension, surprise, or mystery in a story. In this case, the story switches back and forth from Jessica's viewpoint to Miguel's. These plotlines ultimately converge.

9. The most significant plot point of the story is when Hughie wins the favor of the baron. He does this by giving a beggar, who is really the baron, a coin. Think about what this action leads to at the conclusion of the story.

10. In the tenth paragraph, Aramis proposes that they "each take a half of the handkerchief." In the next paragraph, "The young men burst into a laugh. In a moment or two the conversation ceased, and the three guardsmen left after having shaken hands." This means that the guards laugh and declare the matter settled.

Grade 10 English: Author's Point of View

Marietta, Ohio, may not be on your short list for a vacation destination, but I encourage you to consider visiting this historic town. Located right on the Ohio River, on the National Scenic Waterway, this Old World city boasts a string of picturesque covered bridges. You could easily lose yourself in an afternoon of strolling back and forth across them, as well as exploring the town's myriad other treasures.

Summers here are blistering hot and the winters mighty chilly, so spring or fall might be best for a first-time look-see. The locals don't mind the extreme temperatures, though. In fact, you'll find it hard to upset the warm and happy folks who call Marietta their home. They welcome visitors, too and are glad to show off their little piece of paradise.

The town glitters with quaint, Appalachian charm, yet it doesn't lack the modern conveniences. You might say it's the best of both worlds—a step back in time with all the comforts of today. The downtown streets are like a walk back into history. You'll enjoy the candy stores, pubs, and cafes, and don't forget to take a riverboat tour! The view from the river really shows off this entrancing town. Stay for a week, and, if you're like me, you'll wonder why on earth you didn't visit sooner!

1. Which word describes the author's feelings about the town of Marietta?

- A. critical
 - B. ambivalent
 - C. bored
 - D. delighted
-

2. This piece of writing would most likely appear

- A. in a government report.
- B. in a travel magazine.
- C. in the preface to a novel.
- D. on a news Web site.



No travel destination can beat China for its fascinating history, from the mysterious dynasties of ancient times to the economic powerhouse it is today. Take a tour with Paradise Travel, and you'll be treated to a feast for the senses in the spectacular cities of Beijing, Shanghai, and others as you cruise the Yangtze River! Come experience for yourself China's fast-paced cities, eye-popping scenery, and polite and friendly people. Book now for supersaver tours that will fit any budget.

3. What is the author's purpose in writing this passage?

- A. to instruct readers in what sights they should see in China
- B. to inform the audience about the history of China
- C. to entertain readers with travel stories from far-off lands
- D. to convince readers to book a tour with Paradise Travel

Linda and Mark,

I know you were given no warning that I would be visiting the bookstore this morning, but that is no excuse for the sloppy condition I found the place in. As the owner of Books for Kids, I expect my employees to maintain order and cleanliness. I shouldn't have to remind you of this—especially you, Mark, as you've worked for me for nearly 4 years. Honestly, I thought, even at your young age, that you had a stronger work ethic than this. Unless you can prove me wrong, it seems I was sadly mistaken.

When kids and other customers drop books on the floor and do not pick them up, it is your job to clean up after them, much as you may dislike it. There were books lying all over the carpet this morning, and what's more, the countertop area behind the desk was strewn with scraps of paper, which is unacceptable.

Finally, my other employees confirm that the two of you spend most of your time e-mailing friends and text-messaging. If this childish behavior does not improve dramatically, and soon, I regret to say your continued employment at Books for Kids will seriously be in question.

Signed,

Marilyn Kresky

4. Read this sentence from the passage above:

"Finally, my other employees confirm that the two of you spend most of your time e-mailing friends and text-messaging."

How does this sentence support the author's purpose?

- A. It tells Mark and Linda that the owner is against computer technology.
- B. It lets Mark and Linda know that others also see their misbehavior.
- C. It expresses Ms. Kresky's general dislike of her two employees.
- D. It tells the reader that the bookstore owner has a bias against teenagers.

I think it's high time we start charging people for destroying the environment, and plastic bags are a good place to begin. Grocery stores should start charging 10 cents every time a customer requests a plastic bag. Maybe then, people will get on the bandwagon and start bringing their own bag. Everybody knows that plastic takes forever to degrade and gives off toxic byproducts in the process. We simply can't go on producing plastic bags in such quantity and dumping them in the landfill. "Convenience" has to start taking a backseat to caring for the planet.

Sadly, the United States is miles behind in this regard. Ireland, for example, has charged people for plastic bags for nearly a decade. Paris, France, has also begun charging for non-biodegradable bags, and so have 50 other countries! But this brilliant idea has not caught hold here in the USA. Even liberal San Francisco couldn't get such a program off the ground. Everyone from grocers to dog owners to the plastics lobby shot the idea down.

The fact is, the United States uses a huge percentage of the world's resources and is one of the biggest polluters. Worst of all, we're so addicted to convenience that we can't be bothered to even reuse paper or plastic bags. That addiction will cost us dearly in the form of a toxic environment for our kids and grandkids. When you think of it that way, is keeping a cloth bag in the car for grocery trips really too much to ask?

5. Which word describes the author's attitude toward the U.S. "addiction to convenience"?

- A. shameful
- B. understandable
- C. laughable
- D. hopeful

Juan,

Dude, did I tell you my grandparents are paying for me to take guitar lessons? It's every Wednesday at 7, so I can't watch videos with you that night, like we've always done. I'm disappointed, but it's not like I can turn them down. The lessons are a gift. Can't believe I'm gonna be hauling around some crazy big guitar case. So much for my cool image, huh? I wish they'd at least talked to me first and given me a choice. I'd probably have picked the drums. I'm thinking of telling my grandparents thanks, but no thanks, only it would crush them. E-mail me when you get this, would you? I could use your advice.

Thanks man,

Travis

6. What can you tell about the authors' feelings toward his grandparents?

- A. He feels neutral toward them.
- B. He cares about them.
- C. He wants them to be proud of him.
- D. He strongly dislikes them.

7. What is Travis's main reason for writing this letter?

- A. to ask Juan's help in deciding whether to refuse the lessons
 - B. to explain why he has never really liked the guitar
 - C. to announce the fact that he would be starting guitar
 - D. to inform Juan that he would be turning down the lessons
-

I'm appalled that KPTL.com today published a salacious story about the ex-governor of our state, using a tabloid newspaper as its only apparent source. This article suggesting the ex-governor took bribes is the shoddiest journalism I've ever seen. Anyone who lived here during his tenure knows his reputation was unblemished and that his only interest was in serving the people. Until today, I was a loyal reader of your site for local news, but I will go elsewhere from now on. I strongly suggest you read the dozens of comments from people below the article. Readers will not put up with such nonsense from a local news source. For shame!

Signed,
Terry Hughes, disgruntled reader

8. What could the author include to better get her point across?

- A. the full name of the ex-governor
- B. a direct quote from the article in question
- C. a list of other news sites the author reads
- D. statistics on politicians who break the law

Director Patricio Washington's 2012 film *Dawn of Tumult*, starring Jules Tyne and Mac Emerson does not disappoint. In my view, not since *Night of Ice* has a version of the *Infantry of Space* tale been so captivating and enthralling. The fireballs, explosions, and fight scenes are achieved with special effects designed to dazzle but not overwhelm. From the opening battle scenes, I was on the edge of my seat—and I stayed there.

The old, familiar characters seem freshly realized, given new life by the writing as well as superb performances by the cast. Perhaps the only exception is Demidov, played by Sam Quarles, who seems to be tacked on as an afterthought. Demidov was a rather boring character even in the original series, and making him more interesting and integral is a challenge every *Infantry of Space* movie has faced. Jules Tyne as Dr. Waldo and Mac Emerson as the young Timothy Grace more than do the roles justice. Rafael Dias as Santos will have you howling with his one-liners. Adela Bevan as Natalia is electrifying—the camera loves her, and she gives the traditionally staid character a comic twist.

To give the plot away would be a crime, so I will merely say that the writers have succeeded where others have failed. They have paid homage to the original TV series, while also throwing in a few surprises that even the most diehard fan will not see coming. Admittedly, the adventures of the crew have gotten a bit old and tired over the years, and I knew it would take a miracle to draw me back into the story. Patricio Washington managed to pull off exactly that.

9. This piece of writing would most likely appear in which of these places?

- A. a syllabus for a film appreciation class
 - B. a biography of the film director
 - C. a movie and entertainment website
 - D. a newspaper ad for local movies
-

If you're like me, you've never forgotten the first eclipse of the Moon you ever witnessed. Well, if you live in the western United States, you're in for a treat this Saturday, June 26. Beginning around 2:15 AM and lasting for 2.5 hours, a partial eclipse of the Moon will take place. Those who live the farthest west will have the best visibility. (No one east of the Mississippi will be able to observe the eclipse, as the Moon will have set by the time it occurs.) Hawaii will see the entire event, from start to finish. On the West Coast, just the final stages should be visible, but they could be spectacular. During an eclipse, the Earth and Moon are lined up in such a way that the Earth's shadow partially or fully obscures the Moon for a time. If you miss this one, a total eclipse will occur on December 21 and should be visible to the entire United States.

10. The author most likely wrote this article to

- A. explain exactly what a lunar eclipse entails.
- B. express his or her strong opinion about eclipses.
- C. reminisce about eclipses he or she has seen.
- D. inform readers about the June 26 eclipse.

Answers: Author's Point of View

1. D
2. B
3. D
4. B
5. A
6. B
7. A
8. B
9. C
10. D

Explanations

1. The author paints a very favorable picture of the town of Marietta in this passage. He or she uses words like "entrancing" and "picturesque" to describe the area. The author also calls the town the "best of both worlds." These clues all suggest that the author is delighted by the town of Marietta.
2. This selection describes a particular town in Ohio, including some of its most appealing features. It is not a news item, and it does not contain many facts or statistics. The author most likely intends it for people who like to travel or read about places they've never been, such as in a travel magazine.
3. This passage is an advertisement. With phrases like "Come experience for yourself" and "you'll be treated to a feast," the author is trying to persuade readers to take a tour of China with Paradise Travel. Details about the country are included to entice readers into booking a tour.
4. In her letter, the bookstore owner conveys that she was appalled at how messy the store was. By telling Mark and Linda that their colleagues also see their lazy behavior, Ms. Kresky probably hopes it will convince them to change.
5. The third paragraph uses some strong language to express the author's views. It says our addiction will "cost us dearly in the form of a toxic environment for our kids and grandkids." This and other language in the passage conveys the belief that this addiction is shameful and needs to stop.
6. Travis is contemplating turning down his grandparents' gift. However, the one thing that may stop him from doing this is that "it would crush them." That line makes it clear that he cares about his grandparents and doesn't want to hurt their feelings.
7. Travis is torn about how to handle his grandparents' gift of guitar lessons. He doesn't want to hurt his grandparents' feelings, but he also doesn't really want to play the guitar. The reason for the letter is to explain his predicament and ask for his friend's advice.

8. The author expresses outrage about the article she read, but she does not provide specifics. Her point of view would be further advanced by including a short quote that illustrates the article's "shoddy journalism."
9. This passage expresses the personal opinions of one movie reviewer. Such an opinion piece would not be appropriate for a class syllabus, a biography, or a newspaper ad—although ads sometimes use very short excerpts from reviews. An entertainment website is one place people would go to seek out movie reviews.
10. Most of this passage gives information about the upcoming eclipse. It tells readers what part of the country will be able to observe the event, and it also gives the approximate time frame.

Grade 10 English: Evaluating Arguments

Dear Editor,

Should thieves be treated differently according to their crimes? I don't understand why state senators always seem to pass laws that help the rich get richer instead of helping those who really need help. The FBI says that this year, more than 20,000 people in this city will have their cars broken into or stolen. They will suffer thousands of dollars in damages, not to mention mental anguish and the loss of items that hold sentimental value.

When law enforcement officers from across the state lobbied behind a bill to make these kinds of break-ins a felony, the lawmakers couldn't see past how much it might cost to lock the criminals up.

Then the Senate turns around and approves a bill that fights illegal copying of CDs and DVDs. Although both these crimes are wrong, which one hurts the average person more? Whom are our state congress people looking out for?

Sincerely,

Bettina Suleman

1. What is the author of this letter trying to accomplish by writing this letter?

- A. She wants to persuade the audience to write their lawmakers about the problem.
 - B. She wants to persuade the editor to write a piece on motor vehicle theft.
 - C. She wants to persuade the audience that laws on vehicle theft are too lenient.
 - D. She wants to persuade the editor that lawmakers are to blame for illegal bootlegging.
-

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Technology has changed our lives. The fast-paced world we live in has come with its own ways of communication. The text message, the email, the instant message—they're all quick ways for us to contact each other. People are able to instantly communicate their thoughts on things as trivial as the long checkout line in front of them to things as important as breaking news events.

We live in the age of multitasking. Why sit down and talk to one friend when you can Facebook, instant message, and text five friends while ordering dinner, cleaning up, and watching your favorite television show? We keep in contact with each other constantly. But do we really communicate? I believe all the mindless messages we send to each other on a daily basis create a false sense of closeness. Our relationships are shallow, at best.

When was the last time you wrote a letter? I mean sat down with a pen and a piece of paper and scratched out a note to a friend or family member? I can count on one hand the number of letters I have sent and received this year: None. How many emails have I dashed off from my phone without stopping whatever activity in which I was engaged? Too many to count.

Writing your thoughts on paper takes time and requires your full attention. Taking a handwritten letter to post office and sending it someone shows that you are thinking of them. All it takes is a few minutes out of your hectic schedule to make someone feel valued and appreciated. He or she will appreciate the time you spent writing the letter and feel like you regard or think highly of them. It also takes patience to wait for your friend or family member to receive the letter and respond to it. Write a loved one a letter today. I promise you won't regret it.

3. According to the author, why does electronic communication seem artless and unflattering?

- A. because it doesn't require your full attention
 - B. because it's too precise for talking to friends
 - C. because it's too easy to send an email
 - D. because it's too vague a form of communication
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5. Which point used by the author supports the idea that letter writing is more personal than electronic communication?

- A. Letter writing calls for grammar.
- B. Letter writing involves thinking.
- C. Letter writing shows consideration.
- D. Letter writing requires precision.

6. According to the author, how is letter writing unique and beneficial?

- A. It instills pride.
- B. It teaches patience.
- C. It is attractive.
- D. It requires manners.

Should We Do Something about Leaf Blowers?

Surely leaf blowers seem innocent enough, right? Other than the noisiness of those things, I can't really complain. I'm all about getting things done quickly and efficiently. These garden power tools can blow at up to 200 miles per hour. With speed like that, they have to work better than a rake or a broom.

At first I thought the yard workers in our neighborhood were using the leaf blowers to blow leaves and trash into a pile to make them easier to pick up. When I actually sat down to watch them one day, the workers were just blowing the trash from the yard they were working on into another.

I did some research on exactly what was being blown through the air by the leaf blowers. Some call this potent mixture "fugitive dust," and it includes everything from carbon monoxide, mold, and pesticides to bird and animal droppings. Mmm! Doesn't that sound like the most appetizing thing to have on your picnic table? Let's not even think about how that mixture will impact the elderly, children, and people with breathing problems.

Are leaf blowers even all they are cracked up to be? A study conducted in California had a 50-year-old grandmother to compete against gas and battery-operated blowers. Using a rake and broom, she was able to beat the battery-powered leaf blower. She was almost as fast as the gas-powered machines. And, in fact, she did a better job than either of them because she was able to get the small nuts and twigs they couldn't.

You may be surprised to learn that some cities, like Los Angeles, have made it illegal to use leaf blowers near homes. It turns out that using a leaf blower for one hour produces the same amount of pollution as driving a car 50 miles.

As homeowners, should we take the steps to have regulations against leaf blowers in our neighborhoods, too? Should the city ban the use of leaf blowers? Should we be willing to pay a little extra for our yard crews to remove leaves and debris from our yards manually instead of using the blowers? Or, could we just ask the workers to use lower power levels when using them? Until we come to a consensus, it's safe to say whoever removes leaves from their yard last has the cleanest yard.

7. Which of the following reasons does the author use to emphasize why using a leaf blower is harmful?

- A. Garden workers are unwilling to give up power tools.
 - B. Some cities have tight restrictions on the use of blowers.
 - C. Lawn care reduces the amount of available fresh air.
 - D. Leaf blowers send harmful pollutants into the air.
-

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Protect Internet Privacy

by Dave McCaul

Have you ever Googled yourself? These days, blogs and social-networking sites have made information more available—and that includes everything that you or your friends have posted. Did your friend tag you in a recent photo? Did you just twitter a random thought about your favorite teacher? If so, you might want to ask yourself whether you're truly ready to share these images and thoughts with the rest of the world. In a world where information is available with a single click, keeping your personal information secret isn't quite as easy as it used to be.

Take Kate Smith, a local tenth-grader and an avid blogger. Last year, Kate wrote a blog about her favorite English teacher. Pretty harmless, right? Well, not exactly. Within a few days, Kate's blog entry received ten comments, and not all of them were nice. Several anonymous comments went so far as to ridicule Kate's teacher with profanity. News of Kate's blog then spread to her high school, and before she knew it, she ended up in the principal's office. Though Kate wasn't necessarily responsible for the comments to her blog, she said she learned a lesson. "Online information spreads fast," she said. "Next time I'll probably keep that sort of discussion private."

The sooner that you can learn to control the spread of personal information online, the better. Leaked personal information can be damaging in more ways than one, and no one is more at risk than recent graduates. A recent study conducted by careerbuilder.com revealed that as many as twenty percent of employers have reviewed candidates' profiles on social-networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace before making hiring decisions. Of this group, thirty-three percent decided not to hire a candidate based on the candidate's online profile.

Granted, privacy settings and password-protected sites have become commonplace. But we're all learning to use the Internet at an increasingly young age—sometimes as early as kindergarten. Thus, the ability to tell the difference between a harmless post and a potentially damaging one must be instilled at a young age. That's why we must demand that today's educators make Internet privacy a central part of the public school curriculum. Not only will this allow us to protect our reputations as students, but also it will ensure that we remain competitive in the future job market.

9. According to the author, why should Internet privacy be taught to children at a young age?

- A. because young children are more likely to remember the information
 - B. because children are learning to use the Internet as early as kindergarten
 - C. because young children use the Internet much more than adults
 - D. because children often say cruel things on the Internet about their classmates
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Answers: Evaluating Arguments

1. C
2. C
3. A
4. A
5. C
6. B
7. D
8. D
9. B
10. B

Explanations

1. The author of this letter believes that stealing is wrong no matter what, but she thinks that there is a big gap between stealing someone's car and someone copying a DVD or CD. By writing this, she hopes that the reader, or audience, will see that there is a problem when the penalty for stealing movies is worse than for burglarizing a car.
2. The author of this letter believes that stealing is wrong no matter what, but she thinks that there is a big gap between stealing someone's car and someone copying a DVD or CD. By writing this, she hopes that the reader, or audience, will see that there is a problem when the penalty for stealing movies is worse than for burglarizing a car.
3. Statements like, "Why sit down and talk to one friend when you can Facebook, instant message, and text five friends while ordering dinner, cleaning up, and watching your favorite television show?" show the reader that the author thinks electronic communication does not require your full attention.
4. Statements like, "Why sit down and talk to one friend when you can Facebook, instant message, and text five friends while ordering dinner, cleaning up, and watching your favorite television show?" show the reader that the author thinks electronic communication does not require your full attention.
5. The author states, "He or she will appreciate the time you spent writing the letter and feel like you regard or think highly of them." This statement implies that letter writing is a much more personal form of communication than electronic communication because it involves more time and care. Though writing a letter may require precision, thinking, and grammar, these are not points used by the author to support the idea that letter writing is "personal."
6. In the article, the author states, "It also takes patience to wait for your friend or family member to receive the letter and respond to it." The author also believes you can become more patient by having to think out what you are feeling before you write.
7. The author discusses how a leaf blower can send harmful pollutants into the air. She states, "Some call it 'fugitive dust,' and it includes everything from carbon monoxide, mold, and pesticides to bird and

animal droppings." She also states that "It turns out that using a leaf blower for one hour produces the same amount of pollution as driving a car 50 miles."

8. The author discusses how a leaf blower can send harmful pollutants into the air. She states, "Some call it 'fugitive dust,' and it includes everything from carbon monoxide, mold, and pesticides to bird and animal droppings." She also states that "It turns out that using a leaf blower for one hour produces the same amount of pollution as driving a car 50 miles."

9. According to the author, the main reason why Internet privacy must be learned at a young age is because "we're all learning to use the Internet at an increasingly young age." The author claims that children are learning to use the Internet as early as kindergarten. Thus, he believes that the need to teach Internet privacy is especially urgent.

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Grade 10 English: Introducing and Closing Topics

The Dust Bowl



(1) The Dust Bowl was an eight-year period of drought and dust storms that plagued the Northern and Southern Plains of the United States. The catastrophe lasted from the summer of 1931 to the fall of 1939. The Dust Bowl was the result of poor land management and a lack of rain.

(2) Before the Great Plains were settled, plant and tree roots held the soil in place and prevented the water from running off. Settlers cleared the land, plowed deep into the ground, and planted cotton, wheat, and corn. In 1930, the plains farmers were harvesting bountiful crops. However, overuse of the land sapped it of nutrients needed to support the crops. In the summer of 1931, the decrease in rainfall and poor soil condition caused a lot of the crops to die. Strong winds blew away the dead and weakened plants.

(3) In 1932, the skies became brown and black with clouds of dirt. Deep blankets of dust covered homes, vehicles, and anything else that was out in the open. People and animals died of suffocation and pneumonia. In 1934, the government minimally compensated farmers for their livestock and rid them of the burden of caring for the animals. Masses of people left their homes in search of work and food. Bordering states did not welcome the migrant workers because their own economies and employment opportunities were in decline. Many of the displaced workers and their families lived in makeshift shacks without plumbing or electricity.

(4) In 1935, a conservationist by the name of Hugh Hammond Bennett led a strong campaign for better farming practices and land management. He spoke to Congress and succeeded in getting the Soil Conservation Act of 1935 passed. President Roosevelt also took action to prevent further harm to U.S. lands. The Roosevelt administration educated farmers on techniques to conserve the land. In 1937, the government began paying farmers to use new farming techniques. The farmers received a dollar an acre for trying crop rotation, strip farming, contour plowing, terracing, and other approved conservation methods. Also under Roosevelt's guidance, the Civilian Conservation Corps planted millions of trees between Canada and Abilene, Texas, to create a windbreak and to hold the soil in the ground. These efforts yielded a 65 percent reduction in the amount of soil being carried away by the wind by 1938. Although there was a lot of improvement in the quality of the land, the dry soil failed to produce adequate harvests.

1. Which of the following sentences best concludes paragraph 3?

- A. Many of the animals the government bought were dying of starvation.
- B. Workers from other states did not know how to use the modern farm machinery in California.
- C. Migrant workers were often treated unfairly and were paid very little.
- D. Dust storms created terrible conditions for the people of the Great Plains.

The first banjos were created by Africans who were held as slaves in the southern United States and the Caribbean. Banjos were designed after African musical instruments, and they were an important part of African American traditional music. Early banjos had bodies carved out of gourds and long strings attached to bamboo sticks. Modern banjos have four, five, or six strings, and the circular bodies are made from wood. Banjos can be used to play many different musical styles. Bluegrass, southern gospel, and country music bands often include a banjo player. The design of modern banjos continues to evolve, and several different styles of electric banjos were created in the 1960s.

2. What would be the best introduction to this article?

- A. Banjos have provided musical entertainment for people around the world since the 1800s.
- B. Banjo heads were once made from animal skins but are made from synthetic materials today.
- C. The modern banjo became popular in the 1830s due to American performer Joel Sweeney.
- D. Akontings, traditional musical instruments of the Jola people in West Africa, look similar to banjos.

Little Angels

Ronnie and Matthew are part of a neighborhood group that focuses on keeping the environment green by spreading awareness about "bicycle culture." The group calls themselves "The Cycling Club," and through their group they try to spread the message that cycling is not only economical and safe, but also helps keep the environment free from pollution. One evening Ronnie and Matthew are cycling around the neighboring locality. "I am glad we do this work, Matthew. It's a great feeling to know that we are doing our bit for the society." Ronnie replies cheerfully. "I agree and I am happy that Sam and Tony too have decided to join the group." They continue chatting as they cycle, then head home as it is getting dark. Ronnie looks at the darkening sky, enjoying the sight of flocks of birds flying to their nests.

Ronnie applies the brakes and stands still, listening carefully, but he can't hear anything. "I must be imagining it," he mutters to himself, as he is now alone on the deserted road, for Matthew has raced ahead and has left Ronnie behind. Suddenly he freezes, as he hears that faint sound again from near the bushes to his right. He parks his bicycle, and moves cautiously in the direction of the sound. To his surprise, he finds a small puppy in the bush. The poor creature is injured and needs help. Ronnie talks to it softly, strokes it, and hopes someone would come by to help him.

Matthew soon realizes that Ronnie is not with him. He isn't worried much, knowing that his friend would not be far. Instead of moving ahead, he decides to wait for him. But as time passes by and there is no sign of Ronnie, Matthew begins to get upset. Knowing that Ronnie is a nature enthusiast, Matthew thinks that Ronnie may have stopped somewhere to admire a flower, or a tree, or the night sky. As Ronnie is still nowhere to be seen, Matthew grows angrier, and decides that he wouldn't go cycling with Ronnie again, and that he needs to tell Ronnie how irresponsible he is.

A couple of minutes later, his eyes widen in surprise as he sees Ronnie cycling slowly toward him, holding a bundle in his left hand, which is wrapped in his shirt. "Now what craziness is this? Do you realize how long I have been waiting for you?" shouts Matthew angrily. "Couldn't you collect these flowers and leaves some other time?" he says, pointing at the bundle. Ronnie simply opens his shirt from one side.

3. Which of the following statements **best** concludes the story?

- A. As Matthew sees the injured pup, his heart melts, and he feels embarrassed for getting upset at Ronnie.
- B. When Matthew peers into the bundle and sees the pup, he immediately tells Ronnie that he wants to adopt it.
- C. Matthew looks at the pup and scolds Ronnie for being irresponsible and making him wait.
- D. Matthew looks angrily at the pup and advises Ronnie to leave it back in the bushes nearby.

Meow, Don't Bark

by Tirzah Tyler

Have you ever dreamed of owning a pet? Perhaps you have allowed yourself to be swayed by idyllic phrases and images such as "man's best friend" or "a boy and his dog." However, this is false advertising. Cats make much better pets than dogs do.

Owning a dog is much more work than owning a cat. Dogs typically require extensive exercise, but cats usually require very little exercise. As a result, dog owners must walk their dogs regularly. This can be hard to do each day if you have a busy lifestyle. Additionally, dogs require their owners to bathe and groom them regularly. People usually have to bathe and groom long-haired cats, but short-haired cats generally bathe and groom themselves. Because they are self-grooming, short-haired cats are usually clean animals and do not stink. Another example of how cats are low-maintenance pets is that they typically fare well if they are left alone for extended periods of time because they are independent. For instance, when a cat owner travels out of town for a few days, he or she can leave extra cat food and water, and the cat will be fine without the owner. Dogs, on the other hand, are fairly dependent on humans for survival. When a dog owner travels out of town, he or she must leave his or her dog in the care of another person. This often requires the use of a boarding or kennel service, which can be expensive. Because cats require less maintenance than dogs, they make better pets.

Granted, anyone who is shopping for a new pet should be allowed to make his or her own decision. However, I hope you can see that having a cat for a pet makes for a cleaner, easier living environment than having a dog.

Which of the following is the best concluding sentence for the passage?

- A. Due to their survival instincts, cats usually live longer than dogs do.
- B. As a pet owner, I urge you to consider owning a cat instead of a dog.
- C. Although cats' minds are quite active, they often require stimulation.
- D. Would you really want to spend all that money on the dog groomer?



The Borobudur Temple

(1) The Borobudur Temple was built in the 8th and 9th centuries on a hill in the Central Java region of Indonesia. The multi-leveled temple is filled with reliefs that depict historical tales of Buddhism. Stone statues and *stupas*, cone-shaped structures, also adorn the temple grounds. Millions of dollars are needed to preserve and restore this ancient site. If funding is not granted, the Borobudur Temple will be destroyed by vandals, environmental factors, and natural disasters.

(2) Despite the signs and loudspeaker announcements that warn visitors not to touch the carvings, vandalism still occurs simply by people touching the site's surfaces. Oils and dirt from human hands causes deterioration. Another problem for the temple is that rain causes soil erosion and undermines the structure of the temple. Earthquakes pose the greatest threat to the Borobudur Temple. Shock waves shake the ground and break apart the temple's foundation. Mount Merapi's eruption in November 2010

covered the temple in a one-inch-thick blanket of acidic ash. The fine ash got into the carved lines of the statues and into the drainage pipes. After it rained, the ash became like cement and hardened as it dried. The cement-like coating is very difficult to remove from the statues and carvings. Another concern is that the acid in the volcanic ash might eat away at the stone. Also, the blocked drainage system makes the site vulnerable to flooding.

(3) The Borobudur Temple is a significant part of Buddhist history. It also houses an unsurpassed collection of ancient Buddhist art. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO, added the site to the World Heritage List in 1991. The ancient temple is constructed around a hilltop. The base contains detail wall carvings about aspects of Buddhism. Above the base, five square terraces, each one smaller than the one below it, form a pyramid. On top of the terraces are three circular platforms. Seventy-two carved stupas, each containing a statue of Buddha, sit on top of the circular platforms. At the very top of the monument, stairs lead to a 30-foot stupa with a large statue of Buddha inside of it. This ancient site is said to house the largest collection of Buddhist reliefs in the world. Buddhists make pilgrimages to the temple so they can see the carvings and statues. Every year, a major religious festival called Vesak is celebrated at the Borobudur Temple. Tourists from all over the world visit this unique place to learn about the culture and history of Central Java.

(4) While funds could create new development for the people of Central Java, doing so would not preserve a site that draws tourists to the area. Millions of tourists visit the Borobudur Temple each year. Tourists spend thousands of dollars in this area of Indonesia. Preserving the temple will ensure that tourists continue to visit the area. Without tourist dollars supporting the local economy, the people who live in the area would feel the economic impact.

(5) Although the Borobudur Temple is vulnerable to the elements and natural disasters, it has survived for hundreds of years. Restoration projects in the past have proven successful in maintaining the integrity of this ancient site. The sooner grant money is allocated, the more damage will be prevented. With more funding, even better measures can be taken to protect the monument from vandals, weather conditions, volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes. The existence of this unique monument is at stake.

5. Which sentence is the best topic sentence of paragraph 2?

- A. Guards cannot control the large number of tourists.
- B. Volcanic eruptions also add to the deterioration of the site.
- C. Heavy rainfall in the Central Java region of Indonesia continually threatens the Borobudur Temple.
- D. The Borobudur Temple suffers damage from visitors, vandals, weather, and natural disasters.

6. Which sentence best states the topic of paragraph 4?

- A. Allocating money to restore the Borobudur Temple will be more effective than using it for new development.
- B. The first Trail of Civilizations symposium was held at the temple in August 2006 to discuss how to build tourism in Indonesia.
- C. Tourists spend money on accommodations, local cuisine, hand-crafted souvenirs, transportation and much more.
- D. Java is home to three other UNESCO world heritage sites: Ujung Kulon National Park, Prambanan Temple, and Sangiran Early Man Site.

In 1582, Pope Gregory ordained in his Gregorian calendar that January 1st would replace April 1st as New Year's Day. News traveled slowly in Medieval Europe, so not all the people knew of the change. Some also were aware of the change yet chose not to accept it. The phrase "April fool" was used to describe people who lived according to the old Julian calendar. These April fools were ridiculed, and others played jokes on them. The targets of these jokes were called *poisson d'avril*, or April fish. This practice became the custom of playing pranks on the first day of April.

7. What would be the best introduction to this essay?

- A. On April 1st, when you fall for a trick played on you, you are an April fool.
 - B. There are several explanations for the origin of April Fools' Day, but here is the most plausible one.
 - C. Many people love to play pranks on their friends and neighbors on April Fools' Day.
 - D. Pranksters cry out, "April Fools'," after playing their trick on unsuspecting victims on April 1st.
-

8.

Dear Principal Sheffield:

I have been a student of at Ernest Meadows High for the past two years. I like the school very much, and I especially enjoy attending my music classes. However, I do have one concern about being in concert choir.

Currently, our high school choir plans a tour every spring that requires students to raise funds for an out-of-state trip. I feel that is a waste of money. Most of the students in the choir would prefer it if we performed more locally or even throughout the state. There are plenty of schools, senior centers, and public gatherings that would enjoy hearing the students in our choir.

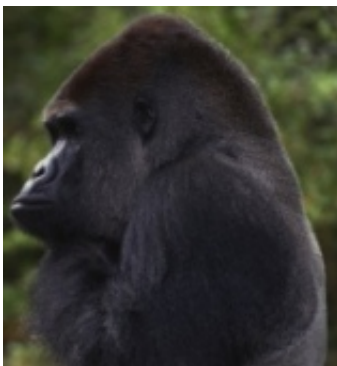
Ernest Meadows High is the best school I have ever attended. I love to go to school, and I love being in the choir. However, my classmates and I do not need the added burden of raising money for a trip that we don't really want to take.

Sincerely,

Tirzah Tyler

Which sentence would **best** conclude the last paragraph?

- A. On the way to school, my parents often ask me how choir practice is going.
- B. Please consider asking the choir director to stop planning out-of-state trips.
- C. After I leave choir practice, I often regret having joined because of the trip.
- D. Our school should provide the funding for any trips required for the choir.



In Search of Progress

Evan and I rode in a 4X4 jeep up and over a series of steep hills. When we reached the border of a bamboo forest, our tour guide Apolo told us to get out of the vehicle. Evan looked at me with alarm. Admittedly, I felt a twinge of panic, but the brochure had said there would be some hiking before we reached our destination. Evan and I obeyed our guide and marched behind him into the thick jungle. Insects buzzed around us as Apolo hacked a path through the dense foliage. Suddenly, Apolo stopped and stood very still. He motioned us to step closer and take a look. There he was—the magnificent king of the jungle. He stood six feet high with a mass of about 400 pounds. His bulky arms, giant hands, broad chest, and enormous head would strike fear into any adversary. Fortunately, we were not his adversaries.

“He is called Jabari—Fearless One,” Apolo said.

“He’s beautiful. His fur is as black as coal,” I said.

“I have to confess, Jabari is an extraordinary animal,” Evan said.

We observed Jabari for hours. Some female gorillas came and lounged about with him. All of them happily ate bamboo shoots and rested on the ground.

“We must go. Sun will set soon,” Apolo said.

Evan and I reluctantly turned our backs to the gentle giants and began our trek back to the jeep. We arrived back at camp a few hours later.

“Did we help or hinder?” Evan asked me when we were alone.

“What do you mean?” I asked with the feeling that my husband was about to deflate our life-changing experience into a pile of mushy moral dilemmas.

“We gave our money to rebels who fight the local government so they would take us to see the mountain gorillas. Don’t you see a problem with that?” Evan asked.

“You’re asking this now? After the fact?” I snapped the questions at him like a crisp, white, sheet.

“I knew how much you wanted to see them—so I didn’t mention this before,” Evan explained.

“Why bring it up at all? You’re ruining the most amazing adventure of my life!” I yelled.

“I’m sorry. But I don’t think we should let our selfish desires blind us from the truth,” he said.

“Now you’re calling me selfish? You’re making me regret this entire trip,” I said on the verge of tears.

“For what it’s worth, I don’t think it was a mistake. We saw some truly remarkable creatures that are endangered. The rebels keep the mountain gorillas safe because of tourists like us,” Evan said.

“Yes, but our money helps the rebels buy weapons that keep them in power,” I said.

“The truth is difficult to find, and it’s even harder to face. Let’s keep searching and see if we can find a way to help the local people regain control of their homeland,” Evan said.

9. Which of the following statements best concludes the story?

- A. Apolo said that the local people would not protect the gorillas.
- B. Evan went on talking about the gorillas for hours on end.
- C. That was the day that our endless quest for progress began.
- D. I was happy that Evan finally came around to my side.

Oral Health

Oral hygiene is a window to good health. Unfortunately, many people take this aspect of health for granted. First, we need to understand what oral health is.

Good oral health indicates having a healthy set of teeth and gums. It also means being free of pain and discomfort that is caused, directly or indirectly, due to tooth decay, tooth loss, and infection in the gums.

Our mouth is a home to a lot of bacteria, most of which are harmless. However, we need to keep these bacteria under control, which we can do by brushing our teeth twice a day—in the morning and at night. Cleaning between the teeth with dental floss or an interdental cleaner should be done regularly once a day.

The kind of food we eat plays an important role in maintaining good oral health. Raw fruits, salads, yogurt, and vegetables help clean the teeth and gums and freshen the breath. We should eat a balanced diet, limit snacks between meals, and rinse our mouth after every meal. Lastly, a regular visit to a dentist for oral examination and cleaning is a must.

10. At the end of which paragraph would you place the following concluding sentence?

It is also important that we replace our toothbrush every 3–4 months.

- A. paragraph 3
- B. paragraph 1
- C. paragraph 4
- D. paragraph 2

Answers: Introducing & Closing Topics

1. D
2. A
3. A
4. B
5. D
6. A
7. B
8. B
9. C
10. A

Explanations

1. This concluding statement summarizes the topic of the paragraph and provides closure. Paragraph 3 gives details about the hardships caused by the dust storms. The correct answer choice summarizes this topic.

2. A good introduction should introduce the topic of an essay, engage the reader's attention, and set the tone for the rest of the passage. The sentence "Banjos have provided musical entertainment for people around the world since the 1800s" is the best choice because it provides a good overview of the topic. The other sentences would fit into the body of the essay, but they are not the best introductory sentences for this essay.

3. The title of the story is "Little Angels." The passage describes how Ronnie and Matthew are part of a group that spreads awareness about helping the environment through bicycling. Toward the end of the passage, Ronnie finds an injured, abandoned pup. Keeping in mind the title of the passage, the best way to conclude the story is to state that Matthew realizes his mistake in misunderstanding Ronnie and helps him look after the pup.

4. A concluding sentence ties everything from the introduction and body together, and it encourages the audience to think about what has been said. Also, a concluding sentence should not introduce new information. In this passage, the author compares and contrasts owning a dog to owning a cat. She clearly explains why she feels that cats make better pets than dogs. The best concluding sentence ties in how the author feels with her plea to the reader to agree with her.

5. A topic sentence states what the rest of the paragraph is about. All of the sentences in paragraph 2 give details and information about what is causing the destruction of the Borobudur Temple. The topic sentence encompasses all of the threats to the temple's existence.

6. A topic sentence states what the rest of the paragraph is about. All of the sentences in paragraph 4 give details and information about how funding the restoration of the Borobudur Temple will help the economy and people of Central Java.

7. While these other options also might technically fit in an article about April Fools' Day, none are appropriate to the formal tone of this essay. The correct choice is a strong introduction because it clearly sets up the information that the remainder of the paragraph will cover.

8. A concluding sentence ties everything from the introduction and body together, and it encourages the audience to think about what has been said. Also, a concluding sentence should not introduce new information. The best concluding sentence ties in how the author feels with her plea to the principal: "Please consider asking the choir director to stop planning out-of-state trips."

9. The title of the story is "In Search of Progress." At the end of the story Evan suggests that he and his wife, the narrator, search for a way to help the local people get control of their land. The best way to conclude the story is for the narrator to state that the couple will continue seeking after progress.

10. If you look at how the passage is organized, the first paragraph talks about the importance of oral health. The second paragraph explains what good oral health includes. The third paragraph talks about what we should do to maintain oral hygiene. This is the best place to add the sentence since it talks about the steps needed to maintain good oral health. Even the last two sentences mention "brushing" and "cleaning between the teeth." Since the sentence states, "It is also important that we replace our toothbrush every 3–4 months," this answer makes the most sense in terms of the way the essay is organized.

Grade 10 English: Planning

Simone is writing a paper about why play is so important for children. She is making a chart to help her organize the points that she wants to present in her paper. Look at the chart and answer the question that follows.

Why Play Is Important		
Cognitive Development	Emotional and Social Development	Physical Development
child learns to communicate child learns to adapt to new situations child learns to use senses child learns new vocabulary	child learns to understand and imitate facial expressions helps child and the caregiver or other playmate know each other better child learns socially acceptable behavior—following rules, taking turns, sharing	develops cardiovascular health develops fine motor skills—picking up and placing small objects, using tools like scissors, hand shovels, etc. develops gross motor skills—kicking a ball, throwing a ball, catching a ball, running, jumping, balancing

1. Which item best belongs in the section labeled Emotional and Social Development?

- A. child learns to trust and depend on caregiver
- B. child learns to use his or her imagination
- C. caregiver gives child options to choose from
- D. caregiver feels connected to child

2. Which item best belongs in the section labeled Cognitive Development?

- A. parents feel proud
- B. makes child feel loved and secure
- C. child learns problem-solving
- D. develops muscles

3. Which item best belongs in the section labeled Physical Development?

- A. develops coordination
 - B. provides practice of manners
 - C. child learns cause and effect
 - D. helps child express anger
-

4. Kelly's older sister is trying to convince her parents that she is ready to move out of her college dorm and find an apartment. She created this table in order to anticipate her parents' concerns:

Things to Consider When Getting an Apartment

Location	Cost	Security	Amenities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safe neighborhood• Closeness to work or school	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rent and security deposit• Utilities, water, gas, electricity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lighting• Locks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pool, fitness center, or courtyard• Free parking

She wants to add a point that says "proximity to library" to the table. Which title should that fit under?

- A. Security
 - B. Amenities
 - C. Cost
 - D. Location
-

5. Vanessa's teacher assigns a paper on one aspect of the Revolutionary War. Which question below would address a topic appropriate to this paper?

- A. During which century did the Revolutionary War take place?
- B. How did France help the colonists win the Revolutionary War?
- C. Which Revolutionary War battlefields are popular for tourists today?
- D. What was the Revolutionary War and why did it have to happen?

- I. Glacier formation
 - A. snow builds up
 - B. upper layers press down on buried layers of snow and turn them into an ice mass
 - C. upper layers continue to compress the lower layers and the ice mass becomes denser
- II. Glacier movement
 - A. weight and pressure cause glaciers to move outward and downward
 - B. **V**
 - 1. **valley glaciers** – flow down valleys
 - 2. **continental glaciers** (ice sheets) – flow outward in all directions from center
 - C. ways of moving
 - 1. **internal deformation** – weight and gravity cause glacier to spread
 - 2. **W**
 - D. **X**
 - 1. **erosion** – pushes rock and earth as it moves
 - 2. **deposition** – dumps rock and earth off at the sides or the end of the glacier
 - 3. land formations
 - a. **moraine** – a mound or ridge composed of clay, silt, sand, gravel, and boulders
 - b. **Y**
 - c. **esker** – a long ridge of sedimentary material—usually sand or gravel—formed by the water that cut channels through or under the glacier
- III. **Z**
 - A. **retreat** – glacier does not extend as far down a valley as it previously did
 - 1. cause: **ablation** – combination of processes such as evaporation, melting, wind erosion, and avalanche, which reduces the glacier's snow and ice
 - B. **calving** – ice breaks off a glacier's lowest end

6. Which item best belongs in place of the **X**?

- A. becoming icebergs
- B. shaping the land
- C. water cuts channels
- D. what glaciers look like

Miles is writing a research paper on how caves form. He has created a chart about the four different ways that caves form. The chart will help Miles organize the processes that he will describe in his paper.

Look at the chart, and answer the following question.

How Caves Form			
Bacteria	Lava	Waves	Rainwater
<p>bacteria feed off oil deposits deep within the earth</p> <p>X</p> <p>the gas travels through groundwater into the cave</p> <p>hydrogen sulfide mixes with oxygen and forms sulfuric acid</p> <p>sulfuric acid eats away limestone and leaves behind gypsum</p> <p>other bacteria living inside the pitch-black cave feed off the hydrogen sulfide</p> <p>the bacteria combine the hydrogen sulfide with oxygen and produce more sulfuric acid</p> <p>the sulfuric acid continues to eat away limestone and leaves behind gypsum</p>	<p>lava flows down a slope in a tongue-like shape</p> <p>a channel of lava inside the "tongue" flows faster than the surrounding lava</p> <p>the slower-moving lava on the outside begins to cool, and the inner lava continues to flow</p> <p>Y</p> <p>when the lava flow ends, the lava exits the tube</p> <p>the last of the lava clogs the opening at the end of the tube</p>	<p>sea waves pound against the side of a vertical cliff face at a weak point—a crack or softer rock</p> <p>the action of the waves is concentrated at the base of the cliff and causes an overhang to form</p>	<p>rain with a trace amount of dissolved carbon dioxide seeps into the soil</p> <p>Z</p> <p>the water and carbon dioxide form carbonic acid</p> <p>the carbonic acid continues to seep into the soil and limestone until it reaches the water table, the point at which the ground is saturated with water</p> <p>the acid eats away the limestone at points directly below the water table and eventually creates channels</p> <p>as the channels become larger, they hold more water, and the limestone dissolves faster</p> <p>the cave will form over millions of years</p>

7. Which item best belongs in place of **Y**?

- A.** a crust forms over the top of the outer lava and creates a tube
 - B.** other types of bacteria feed off minerals in the rock, such as sulfur and manganese
 - C. extremophiles** are bacteria that live in extreme environments, like inside caves
 - D.** the sea cave opening becomes more pronounced over time
-

8. Which item best belongs in place of **X**?

- A.** they expel hydrogen and sulfide gas
- B.** sea caves are mostly formed in soft rock like sandstone
- C.** crust hardens along the sides first
- D.** fast-moving water carves canyons in caves

Sherry is preparing an outline for a report on the computer programming process.

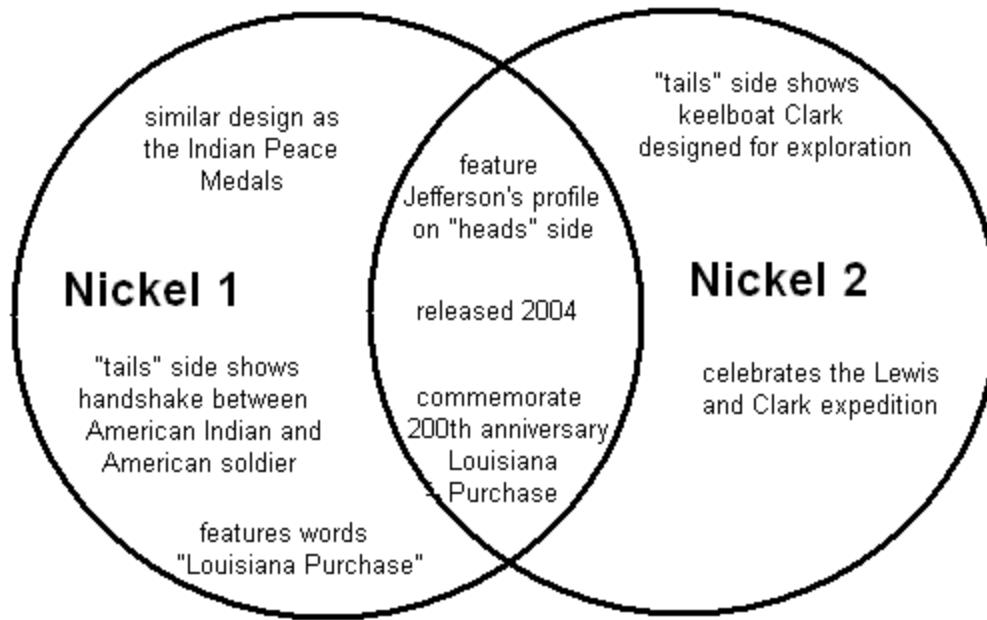
Process of Writing Computer Programs

- I. Writing Computer Programs
 - A. Paradigms
 - 1. Imperative paradigms
 - a. Declarations
 - b. Expressions
 - c. Statements
 - 2. Declarative paradigms
 - a. Functional language
 - b. Logical language
 - B. _____
- II. Positive and Negative Effects of Writing Programs
 - A. Positive aspects
 - 1. Less time spent on repetitive tasks
 - 2. Greater flexibility in development
 - 3. Improved accuracy
 - B. Negative aspects
 - 1. Increased complexity
 - 2. The unrealistic expectations of users
 - a. A cure-all for problems
 - b. A way to avoid learning
 - 3. _____
- III. Future Possibilities of Computer Programs
 - A. Artificial intelligence
 - B. Biointegration
 - 1. Human-computer singularity
 - 2. Brain computer interface

9. Sherry forgot to add a general topic to explain programming languages. She should place this new topic

- A. under the heading "III. B. Biointegration."
- B. under heading "I. Writing Computer Programs."
- C. under a new heading with Roman numeral IV.
- D. under the heading "II. A. Positive aspects."

Two New Nickels in 2004



10. Shagit is writing a paper about the two nickels released in 2004. To plan his writing, he created the Venn diagram above. He is now ready to begin writing. Which sentence reflects the information found in the Venn diagram?

- A. The second nickel features the keelboat, which was designed by William Clark.
- B. The second nickel sports a design similar to that of the Indian Peace Medal.
- C. The second nickel was released in 2004, but the first nickel was released in 2005.
- D. The second nickel shows a handshake between an American Indian and an American soldier.

Answers: Planning

1. A
2. C
3. A
4. D
5. B
6. B
7. A
8. A
9. B
10. A

Explanations

1. Emotional and social development is the process that children go through to learn how to deal with their emotions and how to interact with others. "Child learns to trust and depend on caregiver" is an example of how a child develops emotionally and socially through play.

2. Cognitive development is the process that children go through to learn how to think and process information. The item that best fits under this heading is "child learns problem-solving."

3. Physical development is the process that children go through to learn how to use their bodies. Also, it is the natural growth and development of all of their bones, joints, muscles and organs. "Develops coordination" best belongs under the heading Physical Development because it is an example of how children learn to use their bodies.

4. Since "proximity to library" is a point about location, this should fit under Location. The four titles in the table represent the four main points of the topic. The points under them represent details.

5. Only one question above would be an appropriate: "How did France help the colonists win the Revolutionary War?" When you formulate questions for a research paper, keep a narrow focus so you only find data on your topic. When and where the Revolutionary War took place are basic questions that would be too difficult to write an entire paper over. Today's popular tourists sites have nothing to do with "one aspect of the Revolutionary War." Can you think of another question that would be appropriate for Vanessa to ask?

6. The correct answer choice "shaping the land" best belongs in place of the **X** because it describes the information below it.

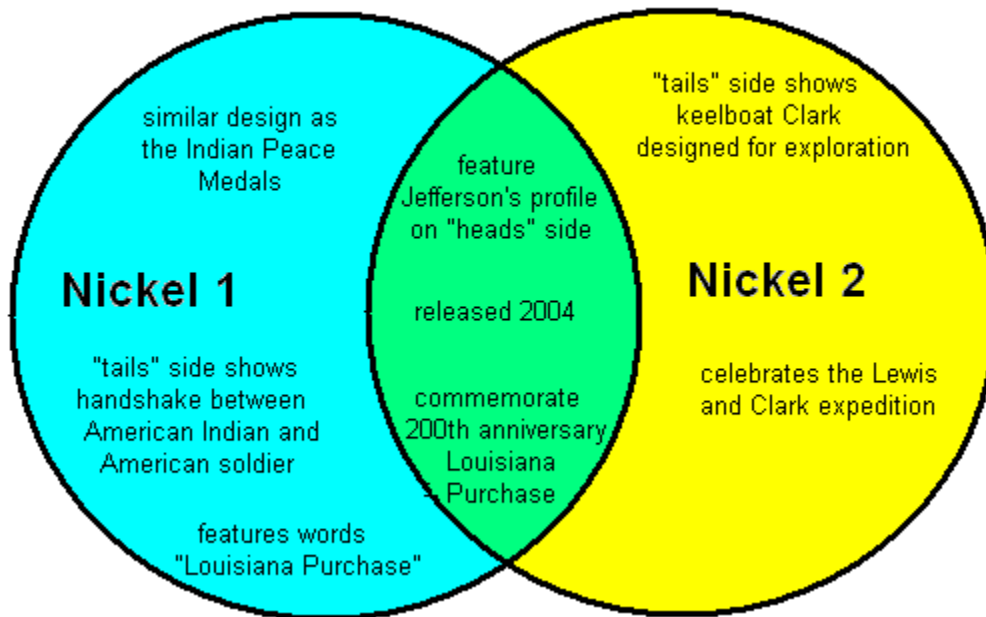
7. The **Y** is in the part of the chart that explains how lava forms caves. The answer choice "a crust forms over the top of the outer lava and creates a tube" is part of the process the lava goes through to form a cave. Also, right above the **Y**, the chart tells about how the outer, slower-moving lava starts to cool. The correct answer makes sense in this sequence.

8. The **X** is in the part of the chart that explains how bacteria form caves. The answer choice "expel hydrogen and sulfide gas" is part of the process the bacteria go through to form a cave.

9. Outlines are one of the last steps in the prewriting process because they are highly organized. Each major point is followed by details and examples that are increasingly indented to show relationships. Because Sherry wants to add a general topic to explain computer languages, it would best fall under topic "I. Writing Computer Programs" since computer languages are used in the programming process.

10. The information contained in the area colored blue gives information about the first nickel ONLY. The information contained in the area colored yellow gives information about the second nickel ONLY. The information contained in the area colored green gives only the information that applies to both coins.

Two New Nickels in 2004



Grade 10 English: Pronouns

1. Which of the following words does the underlined word refer to in the sentence below?

The reaction from the band's performance during half time inspired the team to play its best during the second half of the football game.

- A. the team
 - B. the band's performance
 - C. the reaction
 - D. the football game
-

2. Choose the answer that is the **most** effective substitute for the underlined part of the sentence. If no substitution is necessary, choose "Leave as is."

"When you begin your paper," Mr. Ramos told his class, "remember that us are writing about another person's memories."

- A. I
 - B. we
 - C. Leave as is.
 - D. you
-

3. Choose the answer that is the **most** effective substitute for the underlined part of the sentence. If no substitution is necessary, choose "Leave as is."

Hannah's sister would not admit that you borrowed Hannah's favorite sweater again.

- A. they
- B. she
- C. we
- D. Leave as is.

4. Rewrite the following sentence so that it has correct pronoun-antecedent agreement.

Trina decided to teach her dog how to sit, stay, and fetch our favorite tennis ball outside.

- A. Trina decided to teach her dog how to sit, stay, and fetch its favorite tennis ball outside.
 - B. Trina decided to teach her dog how to sit, stay, and fetch their favorite tennis ball outside.
 - C. Trina decided to teach her dog how to sit, stay, and fetch it favorite tennis ball outside.
 - D. Trina decided to teach her dog how to sit, stay, and fetch hers favorite tennis ball outside.
-

5. Which of the following sentences demonstrates **correct** pronoun/antecedent agreement?

- A. I have decided to start running three miles a day so that I can improve her health.
 - B. I have decided to start running three miles a day so that I can improve its health.
 - C. I have decided to start running three miles a day so that I can improve your health.
 - D. I have decided to start running three miles a day so that I can improve my health.
-

6. Choose the answer that is the **most** effective substitute for the underlined part of the sentence. If no substitution is necessary, choose "Leave as is."

Greg and Ingrid went to the park to play Frisbee with me big dog Rufus.

- A. them
 - B. Leave as is.
 - C. your
 - D. her
-

7. What is the correct way to write the sentence below?

The coaches rallied behind their suspended players because they believed they did nothing wrong during the game last week.

- A. The coaches rallied behind its suspended players because they believed they did nothing wrong during the game last week.
- B. The coaches rallied behind their suspended players because they believed the players did nothing wrong during the game last week.
- C. The coaches rallied behind their suspended players because they believed it did nothing wrong during the game last week.
- D. The coaches rallied behind his or her suspended players because they believed they did nothing wrong during the game last week.

8. Which of the following words does the underlined word refer to in the sentence below?

The committee argued over potential locations for the prom, but in the end it decided that the Dorfman Hotel would be the best place for a large gathering.

- A. the Dorfman Hotel
 - B. the gathering
 - C. the prom
 - D. the committee
-

9. What is the correct way to write the sentence below?

Someone opened the door to the room, and they interrupted the lecture.

- A. Someone opened the door to the room, and he or she interrupted the lecture.
 - B. The sentence is correct as is.
 - C. Someone opened the door to the room, and him or her interrupted the lecture.
 - D. Someone opened the door to the room, and them interrupted the lecture.
-

10. What is the correct way to write the sentence below?

Everyone who entered the park was told to keep their tickets for re-entry in case they needed to leave the fair grounds.

- A. Everyone who entered the park was told to keep his or her ticket for re-entry in case he or she needed to leave the fair grounds.
- B. Everyone who entered the park was told to keep his or her tickets for re-entry in case they needed to leave the fair grounds.
- C. Everyone who entered the park was told to keep their tickets for re-entry in case he or she needed to leave the fair grounds.
- D. Everyone who entered the park was told to keep they tickets for re-entry in case they needed to leave the fair grounds.

Answers: Pronouns

1. A
2. D
3. B
4. A
5. D
6. D
7. B
8. D
9. A
10. A

Explanations

1. The antecedent "the team" is singular and matches in number and voice with the pronoun "its."
2. In this sentence, Mr. Ramos is talking to his class about a paper his students will write. He uses the pronoun "you" to refer to his class, so the pronoun in the second part of his statement should also be "you" to refer to the correct antecedent. The correct sentence reads: "When you begin your paper," Mr. Ramos told his class, "remember that you are writing about another person's memories."
3. In this sentence, Hannah's sister borrowed Hannah's sweater and would not admit to it. The pronoun should agree with the antecedent "Hannah's sister." It should be singular and feminine, which means that the pronoun should be "she." The corrected sentence reads: Hannah's sister would not admit that she borrowed Hannah's favorite sweater again.
4. In this sentence, Trina is teaching her dog how to fetch a ball. When referring to animals, especially when a name is not given, use pronouns you would use for things—it, they, them, etc. The ball is the dog's, and so the pronoun should agree with the antecedent "dog." The pronoun "its" is correct because it is singular like dog and is also possessive.
5. The subject of this sentence is "I." The subject is the one doing all of the action in this sentence, and the pronoun "my" is the only pronoun that makes sense.
6. In this sentence, the pronoun should agree with either Greg, Ingrid, or both, as the dog would belong to one or both of them. The correct pronoun "her" agrees with the antecedent Ingrid. The corrected sentence reads: Greg and Ingrid went to the park to play Frisbee with her big dog Rufus.
7. Because there are two plural subjects in the sentence, you should be as specific as possible with your pronouns to avoid confusion. The coaches are the ones rallying, so they must also be the ones that believe that the players did nothing wrong. To fix this sentence, it makes sense to assign the subject's name to one of the two pronouns (they).
8. The antecedent "the committee" (even though there is more than one member, it is still just one committee) is singular and matches in number and voice with the pronoun "it."

9. The words everybody, anybody, anyone, each, neither, nobody, someone, a person, etc. are singular and take singular pronouns.

Everybody ought to do his best. (not: their best)

Neither of the girls brought her umbrella. (not: their umbrellas)

10. **Everyone** is singular and needs a singular pronoun (he or she) if it is to agree in number.

Grade 10 English: Subject-Verb Agreement

1.

The committee that will decide the next president of the school board meet tomorrow evening at seven o'clock.

What change should be made to correct the problem of subject-verb agreement?

- A. No change is necessary.
 - B. Change **decide** to **decides**.
 - C. Change **meet** to **meets**.
 - D. Change **president** to **presidents**.
-

2. Which sentence below demonstrates correct subject-verb agreement?

- A. Cell phones and laptop computers each requires high-output batteries.
 - B. The price and the location each depend on the availability of the tickets.
 - C. Both comes to us on a regular basis to discuss the expectations of the day.
 - D. The teachers and the students both knows the educational requirements.
-

3. Which sentence below demonstrates correct subject-verb agreement?

- A. Each one of the singers in the choir do have a beautiful voice.
- B. Each one of the singers in the choir possess a beautiful voice.
- C. Each one of the singers in the choir has a beautiful voice.
- D. Each one of the singers in the choir have a beautiful voice.

(1) Clouds are great predictors of weather if one can recognize and distinguish between their different shapes and sizes. (2) For the most, all clouds consist of the same basic ingredient, which is moisture in the form of condensed water vapor that clings to microscopic airborne particles like dust. (3) Most varieties of clouds typically form and remains in either the lower, middle, or upper atmosphere. (4) The white and puffy cumulus clouds, what one might identify as a "standard cloud," are low altitude clouds that signal fair weather. (5) Stratus clouds, which tends to look more ominous and threatening, stretch horizontally covering the sky. (6) Serious precipitation, however, rarely _____ from these clouds, but they do produce light rain and drizzle. (7) A nimbostratus cloud is a middle altitude cloud that appear as a huge dark gray cloud covering most of the sky. (8) Typically associated with these clouds are strong winds, steady rains, and heavy snowstorms. (9) Cirrus clouds _____ in high altitudes and _____ from tiny ice crystals, which appear as thin streaks across the sky. (10) These streaks of icy mist _____ no noticeable precipitation but often _____ bad weather to follow. (11) The most ominous clouds of all is the cumulonimbus, also known as a thunderhead, which forms in the lower altitude and then stretches to the upper atmosphere where it flattens out like an anvil. (12) Damage in the form of wind, hail, lightning, and tornadoes are common effects associated with these clouds.

4. Choose the correct verb for sentence 6.

- A. develop
 - B. is developing
 - C. develops
 - D. developing
-

5. Which sentence below demonstrates **incorrect** subject-verb agreement?

- A. Every planet and celestial body represents an undiscovered country yet to be explored.
 - B. Each debate and discussion between us contains too many words and not enough thought.
 - C. Every man, woman, and child have a right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
 - D. Each household and resident of this great town is entitled to an informed and educated opinion.
-

6. Which of the following correctly fills in the verbs in sentence 9?

- A. exist; forms
- B. exist; form
- C. exists; form
- D. exists; forms

7. Choose the correct complete subject for the sentence below.

_____ observes silently while the doings of the night transpire below.

- A. A parliaments of owls
 - B. A parliaments of owl
 - C. A parliament of owl
 - D. A parliament of owls
-

8. What change should be made to correct the problem of subject-verb agreement?

- A. Damage in the form of wind, hail, lightning, and tornadoes is common effects associated with these clouds.
 - B. Damages in the form of wind, hail, lightning, and tornadoes is a common effects associated with these clouds.
 - C. Damage in the form of wind, hail, lightning, and tornadoes is a common effect associated with these clouds.
 - D. Damage in the form of wind, hail, lightning, and tornadoes are a common effect associated with these clouds.
-

9. In which of the following sentences do the subject and verb agree?

- A. The paintings on display at the art museum is priceless.
 - B. The paintings on display at the art museum seems priceless.
 - C. The paintings on display at the art museum was priceless.
 - D. The paintings on display at the art museum are priceless.
-

10. How should sentence 7 be revised for correct subject-verb agreement?

- A. A nimbostratus cloud are a middle altitude cloud that appear as a huge dark gray cloud covering most of the sky.
 - B. A nimbostratus clouds is a middle altitude cloud that appear as huge dark gray clouds covering most of the sky.
 - C. A nimbostratus cloud is a middle altitude cloud that appears as a huge dark gray cloud covering most of the sky.
 - D. A nimbostratus cloud are middle altitude clouds that appears as huge dark gray clouds covering most of the sky.
-

Answers: Subject-Verb Agreement

1. C
2. B
3. C
4. C
5. C
6. B
7. D
8. C
9. D
10. C

Explanations

1. In the sentence, the subject is "committee," which is a collective noun that identifies a group of individuals. Because the "committee" acts as a single unit, the subject is singular. Therefore, it must agree with the singular verb "meets."

2. In the correct sentence, the subjects "price" and "location" are joined by "and," which makes the complete subject plural. Therefore, the correct verb is "depend." Compound subjects that are followed by "each" or "every" take a plural verb, but compound subjects that are preceded by "each" or "every" usually take a singular verb. The indefinite pronoun "both" is plural because it refers to more than one thing, so it takes a plural verb.

3. "Each one" is the subject of the sentence, and it requires a singular verb.

4. The subject of sentence 6 is "precipitation," which is singular. Therefore, the singular verb "develops" is the correct choice because it agrees with the subject.

5. Compound subjects that are preceded by the adjectives "each" or "every" usually take verbs that are singular. In the sentence with the incorrect subject-verb agreement, the plural verb "have" should be changed to the singular form "has" because the compound subject "man, woman, and child" is preceded by the adjective "every."

6. The sentence contains a plural subject ("Cirrus clouds") and a compound verb. To agree with the subject, both verbs must be in the plural form. Therefore, "exist" and "form" are the correct answers.

7. The choice "A parliament of owls" is the only subject that works with the singular verb "observes." In the phrase, "parliament" (a term used to describe a group of owls) is the subject. The phrase "of owls" is a prepositional phrase that modifies "parliament." Prepositional phrases never serve as subjects of a sentence.

8. The subject of the sentence is "Damage," which is a singular noun. The prepositional phrases "in the form" and "of wind, hail, lightning, and tornadoes" function as modifiers in the sentence. Therefore, the plural verb "are" should take the singular form "is" to read "is a common effect."

9. The subject of this sentence is "paintings"; therefore, it requires a plural verb. The verb that agrees with "paintings" is "are."

10. Sentence 7 as it appears in the passage contains a subject-verb error in the dependent clause that begins with "that." Relative pronouns such as "who," "which," and "that" can function as subjects in a dependent clause, yet they also refer to another word in the sentence, called the antecedent. In this sentence, "that" refers to the antecedent "middle altitude cloud," which is the singular subject of the sentence. Therefore, the verb that follows "that" must agree with the singular subject "cloud." The plural verb "appear" should be written as the singular verb "appears."

Grade 10 English: Spelling

Azar, Erast, and I ate at a new place last week. I had quite a few servings of the delicious soup, and my friends ate burgers and salads. It was a culinary feast, and I gorged myself in the celebration! Since then, we have recommended the restarant to everyone we know.

1. Which underlined word in the passage is spelled incorrectly?

- A. culinary
 - B. recommended
 - C. gorged
 - D. restarant
-

2. Which of the following sentences demonstrates correct spelling?

- A. "Who's definatly coming to the party tonight?"
 - B. "Who's definitely coming to the party tonight?"
 - C. "Who's definatly coming to the party tonite?"
 - D. "Whose definitely coming to the party tonight?"
-

3. Which sentence contains a spelling error?

- A. You don't need to keep your receipt because the computer will record the transaction.
 - B. Kallie possesses a good sense of humor, but she can be very mischievous at times.
 - C. Tina's mother is a promanent member of the Volunteers Association of America.
 - D. The movie will portray the life and death of Lieutenant Colonel Rodriquez-Smith.
-

4. Which of the following sentences demonstrates correct spelling?

- A. My acedemic career was interrupted when I had to go back to work.
- B. My academic career was interrupted when I had to go back to work.
- C. My academic career was interupted when I had to go back to work.
- D. My accademic career was interrupted when I had to go back to work.

5. Which sentence demonstrates correct spelling?

- A. "It is a pleasure to make your acquaintance," Chelsea told Keith with uncharacteristic exuberance.
 - B. "It is a pleasure to make your aquaintance," Chelsea told Keith with uncharacteristic exuberance.
 - C. "It is a pleasure to make your aquaintence," Chelsea told Keith with uncharacteristic exubrance.
 - D. "It is a pleasure to make your acquaintance," Chelsea told Keith with uncharacteristic exubrence.
-

6. Which sentence contains a spelling error?

- A. The pilot performed an evasive maneuver to avoid the hazardous power lines.
 - B. The astronauts must be quarentined after they return from the space station.
 - C. Kendall is making a movie to portray the life of Victorian writer Wilkie Collins.
 - D. Martin's name has become synonymous with charity at Smith High School.
-

7. Which sentence demonstrates correct spelling?

- A. The school hopes to replace the harsh fluoresent lighting with calming natural light.
 - B. The school hopes to replace the harsh florscent lighting with calming natural light.
 - C. The school hopes to replace the harsh fluorecent lighting with calming natural light.
 - D. The school hopes to replace the harsh fluoescent lighting with calming natural light.
-

Daphne and Frasier intended to visit the driver's license office as soon as they had eaten lunch. However, they were distracted by the irresistable lure of watching Martin eat an entire box of marshmallow peeps in one sitting, and they missed the deadline. All three of them will be regretting their decisions for days.

8. Which underlined word in the passage is spelled incorrectly?

- A. marshmallow
 - B. distracted
 - C. license
 - D. irresistable
-

9. Which sentence below demonstrates correct spelling?

- A. Anna was embaressed when her teacher asked her to speak in front of the whole class.
 - B. Anna was embarrassed when her teacher asked her to speak in front of the whole class.
 - C. Anna was embarrassed when her teacher asked her to speak in front of the whole class.
 - D. Anna was embareassed when her teacher asked her to speak in front of the whole class.
-

10. Which sentence demonstrates correct spelling?

- A. During the 1800s, many homesteaders made the pilgrimige out west to find better lives.
- B. During the 1800s, many homesteaders made the pilgrimage out west to find better lives.
- C. During the 1800s, many homsteders made the pilgramage out west to find better lives.
- D. During the 1800s, many homsteders made the pilgrimage out west to find better lives.

Answers: Spelling

1. D
2. B
3. C
4. B
5. A
6. B
7. D
8. D
9. B
10. B

Explanations

1. The word "restarant" is misspelled in this passage; the correct spelling is "restaurant." The other underlined words are spelled correctly.
2. This question addresses several common spelling errors. The first word in the sentence should be spelled "who's." This is a contraction of "who is." "Whose" should be used to show possession. "Definitely" should never contain the letter *a*. Finally, "tonight" should always be spelled with the -ight ending.
3. The word "promanent" is misspelled in this sentence. The correct spelling is "prominent." The sentence should read "Tina's mother is a prominent member of the Volunteers Association of America."
4. This question addresses two commonly misspelled words: "academic" and "interrupted." The correct answer is "My academic career was interrupted when I had to go back to work."
5. This question addresses two commonly misspelled words: "acquaintance" and "exuberance." The correctly spelled sentence should read " 'It is a pleasure to make your acquaintance,' Chelsea told Keith with uncharacteristic exuberance."
6. The misspelled word in this sentence is "quarentined." The correct spelling is "quarantined." The sentence should read "The astronauts must be quarantined after they return from the space station."
7. Only one sentence correctly spells the word "fluorescent." This is a commonly misspelled word, and it may be helpful to break the word down into three parts for memorization: flu-ore-scent.
8. The word "irresistable" is misspelled in this passage. The correct spelling is "irresistible." It may be helpful to remember that this word contains three *i*'s.
9. The correct spelling of the word "embarrass" has a double *r* and a double *s*, and then "-ed" was added at the end to make the correct spelling for this sentence—"embarrassed."
10. This question addresses two commonly misspelled words: "homesteaders" and "pilgrimage." The correctly spelled sentence is "During the 1800s, many homesteaders made the pilgrimage out west to find better lives."