

Grade 12 English: Objective Summary

The Red Planet's Rocky History

- 1 We've all heard that the Earth could be in big trouble if global temperatures rise by even a few degrees Celsius. A couple of degrees, scientists say, could cause widespread havoc as the oceans rise, covering inhabited areas, and plants and animals would struggle to survive. Now multiply such chaos a million times, and you might get an idea of what the planet Mars has likely gone through.
- 2 The red planet is lined with deep channels that must have formed when great masses of water passed through. The plains area in the north of the planet shows evidence that oceans once existed there. There is also a web of valleys across the Martian surface. All of this indicates a mild, moist climate that may even have supported life. Yet today, we know that Mars is a bitterly cold, bone-dry environment, inhospitable to life. At its equator, daily average temperatures hover around 60 degrees Celsius *below zero* (or about negative 81 degrees Fahrenheit). Though water has been detected along the edges of impact craters, Mars is still a bleakly cold and desolate place. Billions of years ago, however, the planet must have been far warmer and more welcoming.
- 3 What happened between then and now is a mystery to scientists. However, by studying Martian meteorites that have been found on Earth, they are beginning to find answers. One technique being used is to progressively heat the meteorites (to as high as 1200 degrees Celsius). This causes the rocks to release gases from the different minerals within them in a sequence. Data from such experiments should yield a temperature history of the rocks. By learning when they were at what temperature, scientists hope to plot out the tumultuous geological history of the red planet.

1. What is the most effective summary of paragraph 2?

- A. of valleys and craters that can be seen on its surface.
- B. which is much too cold to sustain human or animal life.
- C. Interestingly, some water has been discovered seeping from impact craters on Mars' surface, giving scientists hope that the planet might be capable of supporting life.
- D. transformation from a warm, wet climate to a freezing, dry one.

2. Which statement most effectively summarizes this selection?

- A. Climate change is the talk of the day, as everyone weighs in on the subject, warning us that we will face a global doomsday if we do not change our ways quickly.
- B. Using highly advanced scientific techniques, scientists are studying Martian meteorites to learn when the rocks were at what temperature, which will tell them how long they have been around.
- C. Daily temperatures on the red planet are too cold to sustain life, and though water has been discovered seeping out of impact craters, it's unlikely that Mars had the capacity to support life.
- D. The scarred surface of Mars indicates that it has gone through catastrophic climate changes, and scientists are studying Martian meteorites to learn what happened.

William and Caroline Herschel: Sibling Astronomers

- 1 William Herschel is often called the father of modern astronomy. His sister, Caroline, is seldom mentioned, yet she was instrumental in his discoveries. In the late 1700s, the two siblings crafted homemade telescopes and made careful observations of the night sky, which eventually altered the whole way we view the universe.
- 2 Caroline provided essential help with her brother's work, not only with the observing, but also by painstakingly organizing their notes and data. For that time period, she was a very independent thinker, but she focused her energies on helping her brother in his work rather than her own achievements. Caroline also kept William fed, literally spoon feeding him while his hands were occupied for as long as 16 hours at a time as he ground down metal discs to make the mirrors inside the telescopes.
- 3 Using just such a homemade telescope, in March of 1781, William made a broad sweep of the night sky and discovered the planet Uranus. This discovery altered our view of the solar system, and it changed Herschel's life forever. With the discovery of the seventh planet, William received a pension from King George III. The king also recognized Caroline for her role, and she became the world's first professional woman astronomer.
- 4 Now that they had the financial means, the Herschels ambitiously decided to build the world's largest telescope. When finished, they used it to study the entire sky. This enabled William to theorize about the structure of a whole universe having no boundaries, as far as can be visualized, and this formed the basis for our modern study of astronomy.

3. In a summary of paragraph 2, which of these facts would be most important?

- A. Caroline carefully organized her and her brother's observing notes and data.
- B. The Herschels' homemade telescopes were crafted using metal discs for mirrors.
- C. With his sister's help, William Herschel was able to discover the planet Uranus.
- D. Caroline's brother was often occupied for many hours and could not eat.

Marian Anderson: Voice of a Century

(1) Though few young people know her name today, legendary opera singer Marian Anderson was one of the truly great voices of the 20th century. Hailed by acclaimed conductor Arturo Toscanini as a voice that comes along once in a hundred years, Anderson's rich contralto voice filled the famed concert halls of the world for many decades. Ms. Anderson also gave a memorable Easter Sunday concert on the Washington, D.C., capitol Mall in 1939—memorable in part because Anderson, who was African American, was denied the right to perform at Constitution Hall. The venue fell under the jurisdiction of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), and they had a strict "white artists only" policy. President Roosevelt quickly arranged for her to sing at the Lincoln Memorial on the Mall, where a crowd of 75,000 came to hear her sing and millions more heard the concert on the radio.

(2) Born in 1897 in an impoverished Philadelphia neighborhood, Anderson's singing talent soon became evident. Her father died young, and her mother, though trained as a teacher, could not teach professionally because she did not have a degree—a law that did not apply to whites—and had to work at odd jobs. The family lacked the funds to send Marian to high school or to pay for music lessons. Thankfully, her pastor and other leaders of the black community in Philadelphia raised the money to send her to school and get her voice training.

(3) After high school, Anderson won a prestigious contest and got to sing with the New York Philharmonic, garnering rave reviews. Her career launched from there, as she wowed audiences at Carnegie Hall and later embarked on a highly successful European concert tour. Though opera houses the world over courted her to join their companies, she preferred to give recitals and sing with orchestras, typically treating audiences to an evening of opera arias, classical songs, and spirituals.

(4) Anderson broke the color barrier at many points in her career, and was the first black person of any nationality to sing at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. She came of age at a time when the field of classical music was beginning to open a bit for black artists, though few who trained in music made it into a successful career—and no singer but Anderson, of any race, earned the title "voice of a century."

4. Which is the best possible summary of paragraph 2?

- A. At the time Marian Anderson was born in 1897, racism was such that her mother wasn't allowed to teach without a degree, even though whites didn't need a degree.
- B. Marian Anderson's father died when she was little, and the family had to scrape to get by, with her mother working various jobs just to make ends meet.
- C. Though Anderson's family lacked financial means, Philadelphia's black community leaders helped Marian get educated and trained for her musical career.
- D. With Anderson's singing talent evident early on, she soon applied to music schools, where she would train hard and long for a classical singing career.

Fossil Hunting

- 1 Dinosaurs roamed the Earth millions of years ago on every continent, which suggests that dinosaur fossils would be easy to find. However, they only exist in certain types of rock, so you have to know which type you're looking for.
- 2 Rocks are divided into categories corresponding to how they were formed. Metamorphic rock forms when any type of rock is altered by tremendous pressure or heat. Igneous rock is made when hot volcanic magma cools down and hardens. Sedimentary rock forms when "sediment" (particles of rock or organic material) compresses as it piles up over time. It is this last type that provides the right environment for fossils to form.
- 3 Many of the most significant dinosaur fossil finds came from dinosaurs that died and were covered with sediment soon after (such as from a sandstorm or by sinking into mud). This is the perfect situation for fossils to develop. The skin and organs decompose very fast, but harder areas like bones and teeth stay intact. As time passes, more and more sediment piles on top, which turns to rock. Water passing through it contains minerals, which gradually replace the chemicals in the dinosaur bones. The result of this process is a copy of the original, made of something like rock—a fossilized version that will last for eons, allowing us to study the remains long after the original matter is gone.

5. What sentence best summarizes the above selection?

- A. There are different types of rock where fossils can be found, though sedimentary is most common.
 - B. Although dinosaurs lived on all the continents, fossils have only been found on a few.
 - C. The best dinosaur fossils are found in sedimentary rock that began to form soon after the dinosaur's death.
 - D. Fossils are formed when water passes through the rock, replacing the original matter with minerals.
-

6. Which sentence best summarizes the third paragraph?

- A. The softer parts of dead animals decompose first, while teeth and bones last much longer, enabling archaeologists to study multiple creatures from prehistoric time periods.
- B. Fossil hunting is a pastime even amateurs can enjoy, as evidenced by the thousands of tourists who visit dinosaur fossil beds around the world each year.
- C. Dinosaur fossils are made when sediment piles over the animal, minerals from water replace the bones' chemicals, and a rock-like substance forms.
- D. Water is the key element in the formation of fossils, as it flows through rock and brings minerals that slowly come to replace the bones' chemicals.

The Forces of Nature

by T. Herlinger

Katie had finished studying and was contemplating playing the shiny black baby grand piano in the old dormitory's high-ceilinged living room with its giant paneled windows. She was exhausted and was facing an exam in her American Literature class the next morning, so she opted to turn in early. Before crawling under her comforter, she latched the two windows above her and her roommate Susan's beds, as an icy wind was rising. Then she switched on a desk lamp for Susan, who was down the hall studying, and went to sleep.

A loud "whomp!" woke them both up around midnight—the simultaneous slamming open of the two windows she'd so carefully latched. "What was that?" Susan asked, sitting up straight in bed, terrified. "Storm," answered Katie blearily as she got up to close the windows, but not before a roaring gust sent papers flying off their desks. Fierce winds smacked against the building, as if to topple it, and somewhere across campus the girls heard an ominous crash. Susan jumped to her feet and stood staring at the windows. "Katie, what's happening?" she asked, her voice quivering. As another wild gust shook the dorm, Susan stood frozen until Katie grabbed her hand and coaxed her out of the door. There in the hallway stood all of the girls on their floor, huddled in their nightgowns on the fraying carpet.

Just then Brenda, their Resident Assistant, came bounding up the hall, looking serious. "A tree slammed right into the chapel, and another fell near Olin dorm," she announced. "I hope none of you were thinking of going back out tonight."

Katie's mind raced as she tried to picture the vegetation surrounding the dorm. Could their building be hit by any of the lovely old sky-high trees the campus was famous for? There was only one she could think of—the majestic cedar that stood across from the giant paneled windows of the dorm lounge and the baby grand piano she loved to play. "I'll be right back," Katie told her roommate.

"Where are you going?" Susan called after her, sounding desperate, but Katie was gone.

Downstairs, Katie stepped into the dark lounge and waited for her eyes to adjust. Nobody was down here studying or practicing, so she stood and watched the great cedar swaying gently in the storm, her beloved piano a shadowy figure in the still room. Satisfied, she went back upstairs to join the others.

The next morning as Katie ran out the door for class, her mouth dropped open when she passed the lounge. There in the road outside the windows, exactly parallel to the paneled windows and the pristine piano, lay the big old cedar tree.

7. Which statement summarizes Katie's primary fear about the windstorm?

- A. She is afraid her dorm room will get hit by a tree.
- B. She is afraid a falling tree will crush the piano.
- C. She fears that she won't be able to get to class.
- D. She fears that Susan will fall apart emotionally.

Sharks are an integral part of marine ecosystems, and their populations must be protected. Overfishing can hurt many species of sharks for a number of reasons. In particular, sharks tend to live a long time compared to other fish. This means they mature over a long period and have only a few offspring at a time. Thus, if they are overfished, the population can take decades to replenish itself. Organizations like the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are working steadily to research this issue and implement restrictions where necessary, working with people in the fishing industry to put the most effective conservation policies in place. Through such measures, it is hoped that sharks will maintain healthy numbers and thrive wherever they may live.

8. What is the best summary of this passage?

- A. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is working with people in the fishing industry to institute policies that protect all sharks.
- B. Shark populations may die out if they are not protected by government policies and restrictions that forbid them from being overfished.
- C. Sharks are essential to ecosystems and vulnerable to overfishing, which is why organizations like the NOAA are working to protect them.
- D. Overfishing can damage sharks because they take a long time to mature and have very few young, which means the population has trouble recovering.

Federal Music Project: Employing Musicians in the Great Depression

- 1 The Federal Music Project (1935-39) and the WPA Music Program (1939-43) that followed were created to provide work for unemployed professional musicians. The project focused on helping them become self-supporting, retraining them for other types of music jobs, and educating the public in music appreciation. Directed by Nikolai Sokoloff, former conductor of the Cleveland Symphony, the Federal Music Project (FMP) employed 16,000 people at its peak.
- 2 Musicians in the FMP performed in large orchestras, small chamber groups, choruses and opera units, military bands, and theater ensembles. Weekly, they played an estimated 5,000 concerts in 27 states to audiences of 3 million. The concerts were mostly supported by federal funds, but there were local area sponsors as well, and ticket prices—which were kept low so more could attend—also helped cover expenses.
- 3 In both rural and urban neighborhoods, the Federal Music Project also offered music classes to 132,000 adults and children in 1939 alone. In addition, there was a Composers Forum Laboratory, which gave composers a chance to hear their work played by a full orchestra or band. FMP projects also included recording of traditional folk music in various regions of the country. Finally, the project employed people in music-related work as well, such as music arranging and librarianship.

9. What is the most effective summary of the third paragraph?

- A. Traditional folk music is passed down through families and communities and is often eventually forgotten if not written down or recorded.
- B. Musical arrangers and music librarians also needed work, and the Federal Music Project was able to provide them with jobs during the Depression.
- C. The Federal Music Project had many other roles, such as providing music instruction to the public and recording traditional folk music.
- D. The Depression was a time of great struggle and hardship, and musicians were among the many artists who had trouble making ends meet.

Learning a foreign language has untold benefits, not the least of which is a better understanding of the grammar of one's native language. There's nothing like having to conjugate a verb in German to teach you what pronouns are and how they fit with certain forms of a verb and not others. Language acquisition also educates us about other cultures. It isn't necessary to visit China, for example, to understand the deference given there to older members of the community. It's right there in the modes of address you learn in your first year of studying the language.

Any language teacher worth his or her salt will educate the class about other aspects of the country's culture as well, showing films or videos or playing music recordings to give a fuller backdrop for the language. As Americans living in a vast country, it's easy to think English is the language of the world and that our Western culture is the dominant one. Learning other languages helps remind us that our culture is but one of the thousands that make up our varied and endlessly fascinating world.

10. Choose the most accurate summary of the selection above.

- A.** Language teachers should make a point of teaching students about the differences between American culture and that of the country where the foreign language is spoken.
- B.** Learning a foreign language is valuable because it teaches us about our own language, educates us about other cultures, and reminds us that other ways of life exist besides our own.
- C.** Instead of traveling all the way to someplace like Germany or China, you can just study the country's language and learn about how they do things there.
- D.** Most American schools do not spend much time on English grammar, but learning the grammar of another language will shed light on how our own language is constructed.

Answers: Objective Summary

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

Explanations

1. Most of this paragraph describes the geologic formations on Mars that indicate it used to be a much different planet. The best summary mentions this geologic evidence, as well as the planet's shift from a mild to a frigid climate, which is also covered in the paragraph.

2. In this selection, the author emphasizes the fact that Mars has clearly had a "rocky" climate history, judging by the valleys and channels that scar its surface. Scientists' study of meteorites to learn more about the planet's history is also important to include in a summary.

3. The correct answer provides an important detail about Caroline's essential role in her brother's work. Details about how the telescopes were constructed are not central to the main idea of this paragraph.

4. The second paragraph gives a short biography of Anderson. The main points are that her family did not have the money to pay for her education, and that black community leaders raised money to help Marian go to school. These elements should be included in any general summary of the paragraph.

5. This passage generally tells where dinosaur fossils are found. It gives a description of different types of rock and also describes the process of how a fossil forms. The correct answer summarizes the overall idea of the passage rather than listing individual details.

6. The third paragraph describes the process of fossilization. The best summary encapsulates the main points of that process rather than focusing on one specific point, like the role of water.

7. Katie rushes to the lounge during the storm to check if the old cedar had fallen on her beloved piano. With her dorm mates out of danger, her main concern is for the safety of the instrument she loves.

8. This article focuses on two things. It tells why sharks are particularly vulnerable to overfishing, and it describes efforts to maintain their populations. The best summary incorporates both of these areas in a general statement.

9. This paragraph is a bit tricky to summarize as it's really just a list of other roles or activities of the Federal Music Project. The best summary first gives a context for the list—that the FMP had "many other roles"—and then gives two examples.

10. The author of this passage feels strongly that learning a foreign language has many benefits. The best summary of the passage briefly touches on each of these major benefits.

Grade 12 English: Impact and Tone

Irene finds joy like grains of sand in a desert
Sometimes she sees it in a high jump and twist
Of a nervous cheerleader
Often in the playground where children giggle
Most of all, in the warm embrace of her mother
Every morning before school and every evening at home
When Irene gives her dishes a bath in the sink
She enjoys the lathery spoons playing hide and seek

She has forgotten her absent father
Like a storm of years before
When he invades her memory, she dances
With her little brother, his replica
The dimples on his cheeks hold the key
To the castle of their dreams—
A secret place where everything is always alright
For now, her world is a musical
She will sing her heart out till the curtains drop

1. How does the word "invades" influence the poem?

- A. It describes the effect of imagining the castle of their dreams.
- B. It reinforces the optimistic tone established by the author.
- C. It shows how unpleasant thinking of her father is for Irene.
- D. It adds to the feelings of nervousness of the cheerleader.

Anna's Birthday

by A. Gautam

Time has taken an unseen turn
Again
She realizes that Earth must have spun
Many, many times already, as always

But today, history is being repeated

In an instant, she transforms from a newborn
To a young woman of this universe

Her legs feel the change—
From crawls and wobbly falls to her first dance
On the wedding day

She feels her soul expand and her heart blossom
Celebrating life—
The bluest sky outside her window
And the reddest rose in her balcony

There are clouds and thorns in the world
But today, she will only rejoice in beauty

2. What is the effect of the words "transforms," "change," and "expand" in the poem?

- A. They show Anna's physical and emotional growth.
- B. They reflect the playful tone of the poem.
- C. They describe the outer universe for Anna.
- D. They reiterate that history is being repeated.

Ayesha was peculiar in her ways. While most people loathed the grey clouds and constant drizzle in her hometown of Cherapunjee, Ayesha felt energized by the raindrops. She felt that the monsoon brought in the morning rain just for her. As the sky dropped a curtain of water to the earth, the smell of soil spread in the air. Ayesha smiled. Sometimes, she felt she could see the low clouds strike the foreheads of the hills. Whenever the wind was blowing in the valley, she could predict the rain.

That afternoon, she walked on the rocky road on her way to school. As she slowly cut through the mist, she watched the world around her reveal its beauty.

3. Which of these adds a poetic effect to the passage?

- A. She felt that the monsoon brought in the morning rain just for her.
 - B. Whenever the wind was blowing in the valley, she could predict the rain.
 - C. As the sky dropped a curtain of water to the earth, the smell of soil spread in the air.
 - D. That afternoon, she walked on the rocky road on her way to school.
-

These gray walls are sterilized. Neither plants nor real flowers can live here for much longer. Sunlight does not enter through the door. The window only faces a jungle of concrete. People wearing masks and green scrubs come and go. Sometimes, they remember to smile. I can hear wheels rolling on the smooth floors in the hallway. Once in a while, someone wails in sorrow. Mostly, everything is as quiet as a drying lake. I have only been here for a few days, but seconds feel like decades. They do not know how painful it is for me to just lay here. Although my leg feels heavier than a teenager's heart after the first heartbreak, I feel I could rip the cast and run. I could run endlessly against the waves of the ocean. I could run under the vast sky glowing with moonlight—forever.

4. Which of these best reflects the narrator's dismay at the environment?

- A. People wearing masks and green scrubs come and go.
 - B. I could run endlessly against the waves of the ocean.
 - C. I can hear wheels rolling on the smooth floors in the hallway.
 - D. The window only faces a jungle of concrete.
-

5. What is the effect of the description "as quiet as a drying lake"?

- A. It reflects the serenity and calm.
- B. It portrays a desertlike atmosphere.
- C. It describes the sound of the gurneys.
- D. It demonstrates that the silence is eerie.

Nikolai always strived to be a stern man. It was the most apparent in the way he managed to hide a half-smile when he thought something was genuinely funny. He would only pat his young son Andrei on the back if he felt compelled to show love in front of people. Nobody had heard Nikolai sing Andrei to sleep. In fact, even the songs were about warriors, ascetics, and heroes of some kind.

Once, when nobody was looking, Nikolai took off his shoes and socks to walk on the morning dew. He even bent low—messing up his crisp suit—to smell an unfolding rose. Nikolai would shock himself by such impulsive acts, and then he would walk about with a tyrant's expression on his face. Every day on his way home from work, Nikolai crossed a river that forked into two directions. It took him longer to get home the day the river was flooded. That evening, Nikolai stood on the riverbank—right where the river split into two—and watched the two streams merge into one. Rain had erased all boundaries.

6. What does the description of Nikolai as bearing "a tyrant's expression" imply?

- A. that he dislikes singing Andrei, his son, to sleep
- B. that he really tries hard to seem like a tough man
- C. that he does not believe in smiling in public
- D. It creates a sympathetic tone for the dateless guys at a prom.

After making Sarah and Kyle laugh for hours, I wondered when I had become so cool. *When did people start wanting to be like me?* I watched Sarah with her hair parted sideways just like mine, and Kyle sporting my trademark khakis. Their expectant eyes were drawn to my face as if I were a saint about to enlighten them with my wisdom. Although I was still continuing the conversation from before, I was unaware of the words I was uttering. In fact, my mind was drifting to somewhere else.

I was thinking of a lanky teenager hugging her books and walking timidly in the hallway. Her gait revealed that she did not want to be seen. She would hurry to her locker, hasten to her classes, and run home in no time. Today, she had her own crew. She had an audience and followers. I was still that teenager, but I was not sure if I was the same inside. I had to ask myself, *Have I sold out for popularity?*

7.

Their expectant eyes were drawn to my face as if I were a saint about to enlighten them with my wisdom.

The sentence establishes a tone of

- A. cynicism.
- B. reverence.
- C. fairness.
- D. concern.

Shield

by A. Gautam

Radha and Chinua sat facing each other in the bright-lit café. They had come here to say important things to each other, but neither of them could find the right word to begin. Radha hugged the warm coffee mug with her fingers clasped around it. She looked into Chinua's eyes for a clue. They revealed nothing. Everyone else in the cafe seemed to be bursting with life.

The waitress had come and gone a few times. She had sensed a thick and foggy layer of silence between the couple and did not want to break through the fog.

Chinua had rolled up the menu in his hands and he, too, was reading Radha. *When did it become difficult for us to even say a word?* he wondered. Chinua felt like he was trying to fight a dream and wake up into reality. But, he could not.

"So, this is the last time we will see each other in this life," Radha began with words like steel—words that cut through Chinua's heart. She had decided to join the Peace Corps and leave for a country torn by war.

Chinua wanted no part in the life Radha had chosen. He had seen and suffered too much to choose chaos voluntarily. Besides, he was on a Fulbright scholarship; he could not leave now.

"I wish you all the luck in this galaxy," Chinua managed to say. His utterance hung like a prayer between him and Radha. At once, they both closed their eyes and wished for the words to shield Radha from all the dangers in the world.

8. What does the sentence "His utterance hung like a prayer between him and Radha" show?

- A. Chinua prays even though he is an atheist at heart.
 - B. Radha is feeling delusional that night in the café.
 - C. The words are really important in this conversation.
 - D. The words confuse the people sitting near Radha.
-

Adriana was not looking forward to going to the wedding. She could not feign emotions, and today she was feeling especially sad. Ever since her heart was broken into a million little pieces, she did not want to be around happy couples. *Who wants to watch another heartbreak in the making anyway?* she sulkily thought. *If the bride wasn't my best friend's sister, I could skip the wedding.* Adriana remembered that she had never put on her make up or dressed up for an occasion in such low spirits. As Vivi, her best friend, honked the car horn three times in the driveway, Adriana took sluggish steps toward the front door. While she dragged herself down the stairs, she felt her heart, as heavy as lead, slowing her down.

"Don't look like a truck ran over your heart," Vivi, already driving toward the beach—the location of the wedding—said in a hurry. "Come on. Move on. Stop moping!" *This is exactly the kind of talk I hate. I know I have to get over it. Why keep stating the obvious!* Adriana thought. These days, she did not say every thought that crossed her mind. She tried to block the flood of her emotions with an invisible dam. "OKAY. Just take me there," she revealed her frustration.

For Adriana, the wedding ceremony and the reception was a blur. The only thing she remembered from the day was watching an old couple walking on the beach holding hands. Their wrinkled hands and slow walk spoke volumes about their love for each other. That chilly afternoon, they walked on despite the waves splashing against their bare feet. Adriana remembered learning how to smile again.

9. Read this sentence from the story.

She tried to block the flood of her emotions with an invisible dam.

What is the effect of this description on the reader?

- A. It reinforces the idea of friendship giving Adriana moral support.
- B. It shows how big of a struggle it is for Adriana to control her emotions.
- C. It emphasizes the lack of understanding Vivi shows for her friend.
- D. It reflects how Adriana uses her knowledge of mechanics in real life.

CHARACTERS:

PEDRO, *Juan's older brother*

JUAN, *a boy in love with Rosa*

ROSA, *Juan's best friend*

JEN, *Rosa's neighbor*

Stage Set: Late in the evening in Juan's room.

PEDRO: If it gets you to talk to me, I will do anything.

JUAN: *(still silent and turning his back towards Pedro)* Huh.

PEDRO: Please forgive me, brother. I am begging. I am a beggar whose soul has not rested in peace since I learned I hurt you. Give me the alms of forgiveness.

JUAN: Uh huh. *(turns a little towards Pedro to hear him better and scoffs)*

PEDRO: You know I love you, right? And, I always meant well, right? I had no idea Rosa was standing behind me when I told Jen that you liked her. How was I supposed to know that Rosa never thought of you like that?

JUAN: You should have asked for my permission before talking about my feelings to just anyone. I knew Rosa did not *like* like me. We could still have been best friends. Now, she acts all awkward and avoids me.

PEDRO: I am sorry.

JUAN: What did Jen say?

PEDRO: Well, not much. Rosa had already told her about your feelings for her.

JUAN: She knew?

PEDRO: I guess everyone knows that you like Rosa.

JUAN: How is that supposed to make me feel better?

PEDRO: Remember that time I did not know that the microphone was on when I was in the broadcasting studio? Remember DJ Pedro confessing his feelings for Steph in front of all the students and teachers of Magnum High? I got over it with time.

JUAN: Yeah. That was bad. *(laughs)*

PEDRO: My brother, the universe is an expanding giant, and the events in our lives are disappearing specks. In the long run, this won't matter at all. Do you remember Charlotte, the cutest girl in second grade, who still had an infantile lisp?

JUAN: Oh yeah! I could I forget about Charlotte, the charming girl with dimples!

PEDRO: Now, her lisp is forgotten. It goes in the vault with other unimportant things and will never be opened. Give it time.

JUAN: I suppose I can forgive you.

10. What is the effect of the line "My brother, the universe is an expanding giant, and the events in our lives are disappearing specks"?

- A.** It reflects the pessimistic view of Juan.
- B.** It restates the bond between Juan and Rosa.
- C.** It reiterates Pedro's confidence in himself.
- D.** It reinforces the reassuring tone of the play.

Answers: Impact and Tone

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

Explanations

1. The word "invades" creates a shift in the tone of the poem. The word implies an attack. Thus, thinking of her father is not pleasant for Irene. Notice how Irene responds to the feelings generated by the invasion.

2. In this poem, the words "transforms," "change," and "expand" reflect a theme. They describe the growth Anna feels as she contemplates on her birthday. These words show how Anna is reliving her life leading up to the birthday and looking forward to the future.

3. Poetic language is not limited to poetry. When authors use rich language in prose, they create an enriching reading experience. In this story, the poetic description of the rain helps the reader vividly imagine the simple act of rain.

4. In this passage, the author creates a tone of despair and dismay while describing the environment. The narrator sees the buildings outside his or her window as a jungle of concrete. While the narrator longs for nature, he or she is trapped in a room far removed from it.

5. The author uses rich language to describe the environment in a hospital and a patient's feelings of discomfort while lying in a hospital bed with a cast on his or her leg. Instead of saying that the silence in the hospital is uncomfortable, the author describes the quietness as resembling a drying lake.

6. Authors use figurative and symbolic language to enrich the reading experience. In this passage, describing Nikolai as walking about with a tyrant's expression helps the reader imagine Nikolai's demeanor more vividly. The description shows that Nikolai tries hard to appear tough.

7. The sentence shows how the narrator thinks she was perceived by Sarah and Kyle. Instead of saying "Their eyes revealed an expectation from me," the author uses rich language to enrich the story.

8. In this story, the author shows how hard it is for Radha and Chinua to break the silence. What they do say to each other is very important. Chinua's wish for Radha is held in reverence. His words are as important as sincere prayers.

9. In this story, the author describes the thought processes in Adriana's head as she tries to face and overcome heartbreak. The sentence shows that Adriana needs to control her powerful emotions with a lot of determination. The author uses rich language to describe this process.

10. The character of Pedro serves to reassure Juan who feels embarrassed about his crush knowing about his feelings. This line in Pedro's dialogue reflects the reassuring tone of the play.

Grade 12 English: Analyzing Multiple Ideas

In order to figure out how text messaging works, it is also important to understand how cell phones work. Your cell phone is sending and receiving information even when you aren't talking on it. The cell phone contacts your service provider's tower using something called a control channel. This communication lets the cell phone system know which "cell" (or voice channel) you are on, and from this information, the system knows to change cells as you move around the city. The control channel is also used for phone calls.

When someone calls you, the tower sends your phone a signal that tells it to ring and gives the phone a pair of voice channels to use during the call. When your friends send you texts, they go to your cell phone tower first and then to a place called the SMSC, or Short Message Service Center. After they flow through the SMSC, they are delivered to your phone using the same control channel that is used to process calls. When you send a text to someone else the same thing happens: it goes to your cell phone tower, and the tower sends it to the SMSC. Then, it is forwarded to its destination.

Using text messages to communicate has its advantages over regular phone calls. One cool thing about text messages is that the message doesn't go directly to your friend's phone. If he or she is in area with no cell phone coverage or has the phone turned off, the message will be delivered later. The SMSC can hold messages for several days. Another advantage is that sending text messages could be more discreet than making a phone call in an environment that is not private. Sometimes, it is also quicker to send a text than to make a phone call or compose an email. You also don't have to be near a working computer to send one.

In addition, information can be distributed to a large number of people at one time very quickly using text messaging. Mass messaging can be useful for getting friends together, but it has also been a political tool. In Beijing, texts have been used to rally political activists. They were also used to gather and mobilize students for riots in Belfast.

Many television shows and companies have taken advantage of the popularity of text messaging. Shows that allow viewers to vote on their outcomes often offer text messaging voting because texts don't overload the network as much as phone calls. News shows also allow viewers to text in their responses to polls. Cell phone users can even get text reminders to do things like take medication. Google and Yahoo! have services that allow people to get directions, movie information, or addresses of local businesses via text.

As popular as text messaging has become with some people, it also has its critics. A primary concern for them is that texts are impersonal. Picking up the phone to call a friend shows more concern than sending a text, in their opinion. Other people complain that you have to pay extra for text messaging service in your cell phone plan. While many wireless carriers offer unlimited service, it may not be affordable for everyone. If you have a limited amount of text messages on your plan, you may be charged 10 cents per text message you receive that is over your limit. Some complain that sending text messages sometimes takes too long with busy networks that may not deliver the message for hours.

Text messages have become an important part of society. Although they are extremely popular with students and teenagers, they are also used by older people. It is likely that even if you don't like sending texts, you've probably either sent or received them out of necessity.

1. What is the main focus of paragraph 3?

- A. You don't need to be near a working computer to send a text message.
 - B. If a friend's phone is turned off, he or she can still receive your texts.
 - C. Text messages have become an important form of communication.
 - D. Sometimes, sending a text message is a better way to communicate.
-

Is iPod Deafness a Real Concern?

In 2008, a group of European scientists released a study that said 1 in 10 iPod users could go deaf. Listening to loud music appears to be the culprit behind the increasing number of hearing loss cases. They estimate that after using MP3 players for an hour each day for five years, many people could go deaf. Although European MP3 players are limited to 100 decibels, researchers say listening to anything above 89 decibels could affect hearing. And even with the 89-decibel limit, using in-ear headphones could have the effect of 120 decibels on the eardrum.

Statistics also show that hearing loss is becoming more common than ever before in the United States. According to an *Archives of Internal Medicine* (a journal published by the American Medical Association) survey, more than 30% of Americans over the age of 20 say they have lost some of their high-frequency hearing. That amounts to 55 million people.

But what does high-frequency hearing loss mean for the average person? He or she could probably hear sounds and understand most speech, but hearing may become more difficult if background noise is introduced. For example, a person with 50-to-55-decibel noise-induced hearing loss would be able to hear a private conversation at home with the television turned off just fine. But the same conversation held in a crowded restaurant might be unintelligible.

However, there is information that says people are affected differently by loud sound. Although this is likely related to genetics, there are a number of researchers conducting studies around this phenomenon. On average, people exposed to a high level of noise every day are going to have some degree of hearing loss. But the amount of hearing loss could differ greatly (as much as 30 decibels!) between people who have "tough ears" and those who have tender ones.

Doctors say that their primary advice is to let volume direct how long you listen to music. At maximum volume, one probably should not listen to ear buds, or any headphones, for longer than five minutes a day. But as sound level decreases, listeners can use their headphones for longer durations of time. Some people are prone to listen to their music more loudly in order to block out the sounds around them. If background noise at work or during a commute is an issue, music lovers should probably invest in noise-canceling headphones.

2. Which statement best states the main idea of paragraph 4?

- A. Loud noise exposure affects all people the same.
- B. Hearing loss is more common in some groups.
- C. Genetics plays a prominent role in hearing loss.
- D. Some people have "tougher" ears than others.

Believe it or not, some of the most important political movements have been sparked by people in their 20s or younger. Student activism is work that has been done by students to encourage change—be it political, environmental, or social. Some young protestors and advocates say adding the “student” label to their activist titles is another form of oppression. Even so, it is clear that education centers around the world have seen students united.

In Indonesia, students have been the first to stage protests demanding government change at several points during history. In 1928, Sumpah Pemuda (the Youth Pledge) protested colonization. During the 1960s, several student groups called for then-President Sukarno to remove Communists from his government. They also called for his resignation, and he eventually stepped down in 1967. Sukarno was replaced by Army General Suharto, and in 1998, students led demonstrations that voiced discontent with him and eventually led to his downfall.

Students in the United Kingdom have been involved in politics since the 1880s when student representative councils were formed. Union organizations were formed to represent students’ interests, and they eventually became a part of the National Union of Students that was formed in 1921. The Vietnam War and racism prompted student activism at British universities during the 1960s. In 1965, students protested the Vietnam War outside of the American Embassy in Edinburgh. In 1966, the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign and the Radical Student Alliance were both formed, and the London School of Economics saw the first student sit-in. As a result, more than 100,000 students rallied around the nation.

As far back as the 1930s, the American Youth Congress was involved in protests against racial discrimination and lobbied Congress for support of youth programs. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt is said to have been a major supporter of the AYC. In the 1960s, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and Students for a Democratic Society and other organizations were outlets for political activism. The largest American student strike took place in 1970 as students rallied in response to the shootings at Kent State University and America’s invasion of Cambodia. Modern students have become active in anti-war protests with organizations like the Campus Antiwar Network.

One thing’s for sure, student activism is still alive and thriving all around the world. Today’s student movements vary greatly and include students from elementary school to graduate school. They encompass all races, socioeconomic backgrounds, and political viewpoints. Prominent issues include student rights, school funding, drug policy reform, anti-racism education, and campus workers’ rights.

3. What is the main idea of this passage?

- A. Students in Indonesia have been responsible for two presidents stepping down.
 - B. Many activists feel being labeled as "students" is another form of oppression.
 - C. Student activists have made major impacts on countries around the world.
 - D. The United Kingdom has the longest record of student activist involvement.
-

4. What is the main idea of paragraph 5?

- A. Students as young as elementary school age are getting involved in the student activism movement.
 - B. Today's student movement has different concerns than those of the past and is much less effective.
 - C. Student activism is still taking place across cultural and social boundaries all around the world.
 - D. Student rights and anti-racism education are new issues that modern students have to deal with.
-

There is No Such Thing as “Enough Sleep”

Most research reveals that there is not an exact amount of sleep that works for every person. Different age groups need different amounts of sleep, and some individuals need more sleep than others. Some researchers have compared the need for sleep to other genetic characteristics that can vary in people who are the same age and gender.

Two factors that play a major role in the amount required for productivity and happiness are *basal sleep need* and *sleep debt*. *Basal sleep need* is the amount of sleep that our bodies need on a regular basis for us to perform our absolute best. *Sleep debt* is an accumulation of all the sleep that is lost as a result of poor sleep habits, illness, interrupted sleep, and other factors. A couple of studies suggest that the basal sleep need for healthy adults is seven or eight hours a night. But, because of sleep debt, someone can fulfill his or her basal sleep need several nights in a row and still wake up sleepy. The good news is that some research suggests that sleep debt can eventually be reduced.

Not getting enough sleep can limit your productivity and memory, and it can lead to serious health issues, as well as place you and those around you in danger. Sleep deprivation has been linked to motor vehicle accidents and increased risk for obesity, diabetes, heart problems, and psychiatric problems like depression.

However, some research suggests that getting *too much sleep* could also lead to health issues. Diabetes, heart disease, and increased mortality rates have all been observed in conjunction with oversleeping. It is important, however, to note that in many cases, depression and low socioeconomic status have also been closely linked with oversleeping. As a result, it is hard to say that oversleeping was the primary cause of health problems. It could be a combination of these factors that lead to health risks.

The best way to determine how much sleep you need is to examine what your body is saying. Are you happy and productive after sleeping seven hours? Do you depend on caffeine to stay alert during the day? Do you feel sleepy when you are driving? Depending on your answers to these questions, there are a few things you can do to improve your quality of sleep: Create a consistent schedule. Go to bed and wake up at the same time every day, even on weekends. Start a routine. Start preparing for bed by taking a hot shower or listening to soothing music about an hour before you plan to fall asleep. Sleep on a comfortable mattress and pillows in a cool, dark room. Avoid watching TV or using a computer in bed. Use your bedroom just for sleeping.

Although it is difficult to say how much an individual needs, there are a few guidelines that most sleep experts agree on. These could be useful for people who struggle to get enough sleep. Newborns should average between 12 and 18 hours of sleep while infants probably need to get 14 to 15 hours of sleep. Toddlers, ages 1 to 3, need between 12 and 14 hours a night. Preschoolers should get 11 to 13 hours of sleep, and school-aged children need to sleep 10 to 11 hours every night. Experts say teens should sleep between 8.5 and 9.25 hours. Adults should be sleeping 7 to 9 hours a night.

Make sleep a priority instead of treating it like something you do after everything else is done. Chances are you will see an improvement in your attitude and productivity levels after you figure out how much sleep is enough for you.

5. What is the main idea of this passage?

- A. The amount of sleep needed for productivity varies by person.
- B. Parents should make sure infants get 14 to 15 hours of sleep.
- C. Not getting enough sleep puts people at risk for health issues.
- D. Basal sleep need is the most important factor in resting enough.

6. What is the main idea of paragraph 5?

- A. Setting up a sleep schedule and following a bedtime routine will ensure you get enough sleep.
 - B. It is important to avoid watching TV or listening to music right before you go to bed at night.
 - C. Everyone should sleep on a comfortable mattress and soft pillows in a cool room every night.
 - D. Listening to his or her body is the best way for each person to start developing a sleep routine.
-

7. What is the main focus of paragraph 4?

- A. Depression and low socioeconomic status can cause sleeplessness.
 - B. Socioeconomic status can be a major contributing factor to depression.
 - C. Getting too much sleep might be linked to serious health issues.
 - D. Diabetes is linked to several health factors, including oversleeping.
-

Is iPod Deafness a Real Concern?

In 2008, a group of European scientists released a study that said 1 in 10 iPod users could go deaf. Listening to loud music appears to be the culprit behind the increasing number of hearing loss cases. They estimate that after using MP3 players for an hour each day for five years, many people could go deaf. Although European MP3 players are limited to 100 decibels, researchers say listening to anything above 89 decibels could affect hearing. And even with the 89-decibel limit, using in-ear headphones could have the effect of 120 decibels on the eardrum.

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But what does high-frequency hearing loss mean for the average person? He or she could probably hear sounds and understand most speech, but hearing may become more difficult if background noise is introduced. For example, a person with 50-to-55-decibel noise-induced hearing loss would be able to hear a private conversation at home with the television turned off just fine. But the same conversation held in a crowded restaurant might be unintelligible.

However, there is information that says people are affected differently by loud sound. Although this is likely related to genetics, there are a number of researchers conducting studies around this phenomenon. On average, people exposed to a high level of noise every day are going to have some degree of hearing loss. But the amount of hearing loss could differ greatly (as much as 30 decibels!) between people who have “tough ears” and those who have tender ones.

Doctors say that their primary advice is to let volume direct how long you listen to music. At maximum volume, one probably should not listen to ear buds, or any headphones, for longer than five minutes a day. But as sound level decreases, listeners can use their headphones for longer durations of time. Some people are prone to listen to their music more loudly in order to block out the sounds around them. If background noise at work or during a commute is an issue, music lovers should probably invest in noise-canceling headphones.

8. What is main focus of this passage?

- A. People who use commercial airlines for travel and commute using public transportation are more likely to lose their hearing.
- B. The best way to avoid iPod deafness is to purchase a set of noise-canceling headphones and use them sparingly.
- C. iPod deafness is an issue that is largely limited to the United Kingdom because of the MP3 player restriction in place there.
- D. Listeners should consider both the volume of their music and the length of time spent listening to it to avoid hearing loss.

9. What is the main focus of paragraph 3?

- A. Loud background noise is one cause of high-frequency hearing loss in some people.
 - B. One way to avoid high-frequency hearing loss is to not eat at crowded restaurants.
 - C. High-frequency hearing loss can affect people's ability to hear over background noise.
 - D. People with high-frequency hearing loss can still enjoy loud dinner conversation.
-

10. What is the main idea of paragraph 2?

- A. The *Archives of Internal Medicine* produces studies.
 - B. High-frequency hearing loss may not affect daily life.
 - C. Hearing loss is becoming a big problem in the U.S.
 - D. Different people are affected by loud sound differently.
-

Answers: Analyzing Multiple Ideas

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

Explanations

1. Paragraph 3 is mainly about the advantages that sending a text message can have over making a phone call. The author gives examples of several situations where a text message is a more effective form of communication.
2. The main idea of paragraph 4 is that some people are more affected by loud sounds than others. Those with "tougher" ears are said to experience less hearing loss.
3. The main idea of the passage is that students around the world have affected social, political, economic, and environmental change.
4. Paragraph 5 says that student activism is alive and thriving all around the world. It also states that activists vary in age, political beliefs, race, and socioeconomic status.
5. The main idea of the passage is that there is no exact amount of sleep that will work for every person. Each person's need for sleep can vary based on a number of factors.
6. Paragraph 5 says that the first step to determining how much sleep you need is to listen to your body.
7. The main idea of paragraph 4 is that oversleeping could be a contributing factor to several serious health problems like diabetes, heart disease, and increased mortality rates.
8. The entire passage talks about the role of MP3 players and headphones in causing hearing loss. It reports that doctors suggest that users monitor the amount of time spent listening to music in addition to the volume level in order to avoid going deaf.
9. Paragraph 3 is about how high-frequency hearing loss might affect the average person. Although he or she might hear just fine at home, in crowded environments a person with high-frequency hearing loss may not be able to make out words and speech.
10. The main idea of paragraph 2 is that more Americans than ever before are reporting some form of hearing loss.

Grade 12 English: Structuring Text



Pisanice are elaborately decorated Easter eggs made in Croatia. During Easter, they are given as gifts to young children or other family members. The eggs were once decorated with dyes made from vegetables and other natural sources, but today they are most often painted with synthetic paints. The most common phrase written on *pisanice* is "*Sretan Uskrs*," which means "Happy Easter" in Croatian. Many traditions surrounding this holiday involve *pisanice*. For example, on Easter day, two people will choose eggs and tap them lightly to see which person's egg will crack. The game continues until all the eggs have been cracked but one, and the person who is left with the only solid *pisanice* wins the game.

1. Which sentence from the passage shows compare and contrast organization?

- A. The game continues until all the eggs have been cracked but one, and the person who is left with the only solid *pisanice* wins the game.
 - B. For example, on Easter day, two people will choose eggs and tap them lightly to see which person's egg will crack.
 - C. The eggs were once decorated with dyes made from vegetables and other natural sources, but today they are most often painted with synthetic paints.
 - D. The most common phrase written on *pisanice* is "*Sretan Uskrs*," which means "Happy Easter" in Croatian.
-



The American bison is a large, four-footed nomadic grazing animal that once roamed the grasslands of North America in massive herds. Bison are herbivores that can strip an area of land of all vegetation in a short period of time; therefore, they must migrate often in order to prevent starvation. Early explorers and pioneers in North America used the migration routes of bison to travel across the country. Although bison were hunted almost to extinction during the 1880s, they were reintroduced to North America in the first part of the 20th century. Today, it is legal to hunt wild bison in several areas of the United States and Canada, which is due in part to the dangers posed to humans by these animals. Between 1978 and 1992, 56 visitors to Yellowstone National Park were killed or injured by bison.

2. Which sentence from the passage is structured according to chronological order?

- A. Although bison were hunted almost to extinction during the 1880s, they were reintroduced to North America in the first part of the 20th century.
 - B. The American bison is a large, four-footed nomadic grazing animal that once roamed the grasslands of North America in massive herds.
 - C. Bison are herbivores that can strip an area of land of all vegetation in a short period of time; therefore, they must migrate often in order to prevent starvation.
 - D. Early explorers and pioneers in North America used the migration routes of bison to travel across the country.
-

In 1884, Hungarian confectioner József Dobos created a delicious dessert that eventually became known worldwide as a Dobos torte. The torte is traditionally made with five layers of sponge cake topped with chocolate buttercream and thin caramel slices. The sides are sometimes dusted with ground almonds, walnuts, or hazelnuts to add additional flavor. A final topping of thick caramel helps the torte stay moist and fresh.



Dobos torte was first presented to the general public at the National General Exhibition of Budapest in 1885. Soon after the exhibition, the simple but elegant torte became popular around the world as József Dobos traveled across Europe to share his confections. The exact recipe was kept a secret until 1906, when Dobos retired and donated his recipe to the Budapest Confectioners' Chamber of Industry. In the 21st century, Dobos torte is served in upscale hotels, restaurants, and pastry shops around the world.

3. How does the organizational structure of the second paragraph support the author's purpose?

- A. It explains the gradual decline in popularity of József Dobos' confections.
- B. It describes the effect of the National General Exhibition of Budapest on European history.
- C. It highlights the events that contributed to the popularity of the Dobos torte.
- D. It compares pastries made in Budapest to pastries made in other European countries.

Carrier pigeons are born with natural homing abilities that make them uniquely suited to carry messages. These birds will travel long distances—in some cases as far as 1,000 miles—to return to their home. Messages are rolled up and placed inside a small tube before being tied to the bird's leg, and once the pigeon is released, it will travel directly back to its nest.

Pigeon post has been employed for thousands of years. Ancient Roman pigeon messengers were used to sustain military communication over long distances, while ancient Greek pigeons were used to proclaim the winner of the Olympic Games.

During World War I, carrier pigeons were used extensively, and they often delivered messages despite severe injuries. The Confidential Pigeon Service was created in World War II to facilitate the use of homing pigeons in situations where radio silence was vital. Today, carrier pigeons are most often bred for racing, and the sport of pigeon racing has become very popular in the United States and Canada.

4. Which sentence from the passage shows compare and contrast organization?

- A. Today, carrier pigeons are most often bred for racing, and the sport of pigeon racing has become very popular in the United States and Canada.
- B. Ancient Roman pigeon messengers were used to sustain military communication over long distances, while ancient Greek pigeons were used to proclaim the winner of the Olympic Games.
- C. The Confidential Pigeon Service was created in World War II to facilitate the use of homing pigeons in situations where radio silence was vital.
- D. During World War I, carrier pigeons were used extensively, and they often delivered messages despite severe injuries.



Both Romania and Bulgaria have similar holiday traditions surrounding the arrival of spring. Mărțișor is an annual Romanian celebration that begins on March 1. The name is taken from the Romanian word for "March" and can refer to the celebration, the month of March, or a decorated string amulet. Decorations are tied to the string mărțișors and they are given as gifts during the celebration to represent friendship, respect, and love. It is popularly believed that decorated mărțișors will bring power and health to those who receive them, and recipients wear their amulets for many months. Although the strings were made from black and white wool for many years, today red and white or blue and white mărțișors can be found.

In Bulgaria, the beginning of March is celebrated with a holiday called Baba Marta. Bulgarians welcome the upcoming spring by making and sharing martenitsa, which are small decorations made from red and white woven threads. The red and white colors of the martenitsa are thought to help winter pass more quickly and ensure an early spring, and they are also associated with new life and purity. The tassels are given as presents between friends, family members, and colleagues, and they are often worn until spring weather arrives. It is common for Bulgarians to wear more than one martenitsa at a time, and after removal, the tassels are placed on the branches of a blossoming tree.

5. The overall structure of this passage can **best** be described as

- A. classification.
- B. compare and contrast.
- C. cause and effect.
- D. chronological order.

The amygdalae are almond-shaped clusters of nuclei located in the human brain. Scientists have determined that these regions play a primary role in the processing of emotional reactions. Further research has revealed that the amygdalae store memories of emotional events within the brain. These "emotional snapshots," as they are referred to by scientists, are stored in synapses located within the nuclei of the amygdalae. Furthermore, fear reactions, such as a fast pulse rate and increased respiration, are controlled by these regions in the human brain.

6. Which of the following **best** describes the structure of this passage?

- A. chronological order
- B. cause and effect
- C. compare and contrast
- D. definition

The fictional character of Baba Yaga appears in many Russian, Czech, Slovak, and Polish fairy tales. Her name is composed of two elements meaning “old woman” and “fire,” and its spelling differs within the various Slavic languages. She is usually portrayed either as an antagonist who tricks, kidnaps, or kills or as a source of guidance and wisdom. Baba Yaga’s hut moves through the forest on dancing chicken legs, which makes it difficult for anyone to find her.

There are two different versions of the folk tale “Vasilisa the Beautiful” that feature Baba Yaga. In the version recorded by Alexander Afanasyev, she challenges a young woman named Vasilisa to perform three impossible tasks. Once the tasks are completed, Baba Yaga provides Vasilisa with the means to destroy her wicked stepsisters. Another version of this story states that Baba Yaga kidnaps Vasilisa and plans to kill her. However, Baba Yaga's servants help the girl escape and turn the witch into a crow. Baba Yaga also appears in several modern books and movies, including *The Uncanny X-Men* and *Bartok the Magnificent*.

7. Which sentence from the passage **best** shows cause and effect organization?

- A. There are two different versions of the folk tale "Vasilisa the Beautiful" that feature Baba Yaga.
- B. Her name is composed of two elements meaning "old woman" and "fire," and its spelling differs within the various Slavic languages.
- C. Baba Yaga's hut moves through the forest on dancing chicken legs, which makes it difficult for anyone to find her.
- D. She is usually portrayed either as an antagonist who tricks, kidnaps, or kills or as a source of guidance and wisdom.

A percussion instrument can be classified as any instrument that produces sound when struck with an implement. The glockenspiel is one example of a percussion instrument. It is composed of a set of bars mounted in a frame and looks similar to a xylophone; however, xylophones have wooden bars that produce sound when struck, and glockenspiel bars are made from metal. Sound is produced from glockenspiels by striking the bars with hard plastic or rubber mallets. When struck, the bars give a high-pitched, bell-like sound. Glockenspiels are popular in many different musical forms, including classical, hip hop, and jazz.

8. Based on the information in the passage, the xylophone and glockenspiel are similar in which of the following ways?

- A. They can both be constructed with plastic or rubber bars.
- B. They are both used exclusively in classical music.
- C. They both produce high-pitched ringing sounds.
- D. They are both composed of a set of bars inside a frame.

The zoetrope is an optical toy which consists of an open drum supported by a single axis. A strip of hand-drawn pictures is placed along the inside of the drum, and as the drum spins, the images appear to move. This optical illusion has historically been attributed to persistence of vision—the theory that states the human eye retains an afterimage on the retina for approximately 1/25 of a second. The zoetrope was popular among children and adults until it was replaced by another optical toy called the praxinoscope. Its popularity further declined when modern cinema was developed in 1895. Optical toys like the zoetrope could not compete with the new medium of cinema, and they were gradually relegated to the dusty shelves of museums and antique stores.

9. Why does the author most likely use this organizational pattern?

- A. to show a cause and effect relationship between the invention of modern cinema and the decline in popularity of the zoetrope
- B. to define the zoetrope as the first form of modern cinema that was equally popular with children and adults
- C. to compare and contrast early forms of optical toys with more complex optical toys created after the invention of modern cinema
- D. to describe the chronological progression of events from the invention of the first children's toy to the development of modern cinema

The history of nail polish can be traced all the way back to the ancient Egyptians. Nail color was used to signify social status, and the Egyptians used dyes made from henna to give their fingernails and toenails a reddish-brown hue. Women of higher status, such as Queen Nefertiti, could use vibrant colors on their nails, while lower class women were only allowed to use pale tones.

During the Chou Dynasty in China, members of the royal family dyed their nails with gold and silver. This time period also produced nail polish made from Arabic gum, egg whites, gelatin, and beeswax, as well as dyes made by crushing flower petals and combining them with alum. Several decades later, during the 15th century, Chinese royalty wore red and black dyes on their nails.

By the turn of the 19th century, people were tinting their fingers and toes with scented red oils rather than painting them. Many cookbooks in the United States and England contained recipes for making homemade nail dyes. The creation of automobile paint in the 1920s led to the introduction of colored nail enamels that looked similar to the nail polishes available today.

10. Which sentence from the passage **best** shows compare and contrast organization?

- A. Nail color was used to signify social status, and the Egyptians used dyes made from henna to give their fingernails and toenails a reddish-brown hue.
- B. Women of high status, such as Queen Nefertiti, could use vibrant colors on their nails, while lower class women were only allowed to use pale tones.
- C. Many cookbooks in the United States and England contained recipes for making homemade nail dyes.
- D. During the Chou Dynasty in China, members of the royal family dyed their nails with gold and silver.

Answers: Structuring Text

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

Explanations

1. The sentence "The eggs were once decorated with dyes made from vegetables and other natural sources, but today they are most often painted with synthetic paints" compares egg painting techniques from two different time periods. The information in this sentence is presented in a compare and contrast structure.

2. The sentence "Although bison were hunted almost to extinction during the 1880s, they were reintroduced to North America in the first part of the 20th century" is structured according to chronological order. The author uses this structure to show the changes that occurred in the number of bison over a period of time.

3. The second paragraph of this passage is organized according to chronological order. This organizational structure highlights the progression of events that contributed to the popularity of the Dobos torte.

4. The sentence "Ancient Roman pigeon messengers were used to sustain military communication over long distances, while ancient Greek pigeons were used to proclaim the winner of the Olympic Games" compares the pigeon posts of two ancient civilizations. The author uses a compare and contrast structure to organize this information.

5. This passage provides information about two holidays that take place at the beginning of March. The author compares and contrasts the two holidays and the ornaments, măștișors and martenitsa, associated with the celebrations.

6. This passage provides a definition of a scientific term. The author describes the amygdalae and provides information about the regions' effect on the human body.

7. The sentence "Baba Yaga's hut moves through the forest on dancing chicken legs, which makes it difficult for anyone to find her" shows a cause and effect relationship. Anyone seeking Baba Yaga will find it difficult because her house moves from one location to another.

8. The passage states that the glockenspiel, which is "composed of a set of bars mounted in a frame," looks similar to a xylophone. The reader can conclude that both glockenspiels and xylophones are composed of a set of bars inside a frame.
9. This passage is organized according to cause and effect. The author describes the declining popularity of optical toys like the zoetrope after the invention of modern cinema.
10. The sentence "Women of high status, such as Queen Nefertiti, could use vibrant colors on their nails, while lower class women were only allowed to use pale tones" compares nail polish used by two different social classes. It provides an example of compare and contrast organization.

Grade 12 English: Introducing and Closing Topics

Listening to music is a popular pastime, but it may surprise some people to learn that music can heal. In music therapy, a trained therapist uses music to help clients improve or regain their health and quality of life. People with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, brain injuries, or substance abuse problems can all benefit from this unique type of therapy. Some people think they can't participate in music therapy because they don't play a musical instrument or they only like a certain kind of music, but this is not the case. Anyone can become involved in music therapy because therapists tailor each program to their client's individual preferences and personal challenges.

In the United States, both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree are required for music therapists. Students in music therapy programs learn music theory, music history, and counseling skills. They also practice reading music, playing instruments, and singing. The next step is to become board-certified, which means that a music therapist must successfully complete course work and an internship at an American Music Therapy Association program and pass the Certifying Board Examination. After finishing their education, certified music therapists can work in hospitals, daycare centers, senior centers, hospice programs, schools, and private practices.

1. Which sentence should the author choose to conclude this passage?

- A. Music therapy is an interesting and rewarding profession that allows therapists to improve the lives of their patients.
- B. In music therapy, it is best to use a wide variety of musical instruments from different countries to engage patients.
- C. Music therapy sessions can take place in a one-on-one setting or in a group setting, according to the therapist's discretion.
- D. The first undergraduate degree program in music therapy was established at Michigan State University in 1944.

Beverley is writing a travel article about the city of Monterey, California. She wants to include the following points in her article:

1. Due to Monterey's mild climate, tourists can scuba dive, surf, and kayak year-round.
2. Animal lovers will enjoy watching unique animals at the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.
3. People can visit Monterey's original adobe homes, still present on many of the city's street corners.

2. Based on the points Beverley would like to include, which of the following would make the **best** topic sentence for her article?

- A. Monterey, California has a wide array of activities that will keep any tourist entertained.
 - B. Monterey, California is fun, but it is not nearly as enjoyable as San Francisco or Hollywood.
 - C. If you're visiting Monterey, California, you must check out Fisherman's Wharf and Cannery Row.
 - D. If you enjoy the heat and night life, Monterey, California is your perfect vacation destination.
-

3. Based on the points Beverley would like to include, which of the following would make a good topic sentence for a supporting paragraph?

- A. Monterey hosts many summer festivals, including the Monterey Seafood Celebration and Fisherman's Days.
 - B. The Monterey County Convention and Visitor's Bureau is happy to offer advice on family activities.
 - C. The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is the best place to see animals in their natural habitats.
 - D. Monterey's business districts are packed with extraordinary shops, inns, hotels, and restaurants.
-

The Wieliczka Salt Mine in Poland is one of the oldest salt mines in the world. Although mining was discontinued in 2007, the site is still a popular tourist attraction. There are dozens of statues carved from blocks of salt, and there is an underground chapel and reception room which can be reserved for weddings or other festivities. Approximately 1.2 million tourists visit the mine each year. In 1978, the site was recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

4. How should the author conclude this paragraph?

- A. The medieval ruins in the Polish town of Toruń were declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997.
 - B. The beautiful town of Wieliczka was founded in 1290 by Duke Premislas II of Poland.
 - C. There are many popular tourist sites in Poland, including the beautiful Masurian Lake District.
 - D. Visitors to the Wieliczka Salt Mine will be impressed by its interesting exhibits and rich history.
-

Baseball: A Real Game Changer

Over the centuries, the rules of various sports have been altered to make the sports fair, logical, and more challenging, thus changing the very idea of certain sports as people once knew them. One of the sports to change the most is the classic American pastime of baseball.

The American version of baseball draws its roots from rounders, a British sport similar to cricket. It is thought to have been brought to the Colonies by the mid-1700s. In this pre-baseball version of the modern sport, the batter hit a ball and ran the bases, similar to any baseball game you might watch on television. However, the number of bases on the field was not yet established, so a player might run one, two, three, four, or even five bases depending on the game. Not only did the batter have to avoid being tagged out (similar to the contemporary rules), he needed to avoid being "plugged"—hit with the ball by another player—a dangerous rule banned in subsequent versions of the game.

For example, pitching was underhand (more like softball than baseball). In addition, a batter was considered out if the ball was caught on one bounce, as opposed to the contemporary rule of leaving the ball in play until the batter is tagged or safely reaches a base. The standard of nine innings had not yet been established either, with victory awarded to the first team to score 21 runs (referred to as "aces" in Cartwright's era). The hazards of plugging were not yet fully realized, so this practice was still permitted.

Although the fundamental idea of baseball has remained the same for centuries, the rules and regulations have undergone significant and vital changes. It is fun to wonder what other alterations will be made to popular, modern-day sports over the next few centuries, and what future sports fans will think of the 21st-century versions.

5. Which of these sentences would make the **best** topic sentence for paragraph 1?

- A. The world of sports is constantly evolving.
- B. Baseball fans are a particularly die-hard group.
- C. Not all changes to sports have been good ones.
- D. Baseball has always been popular in the U.S.

Enrico is writing a product critique for a consumer electronics magazine. His article will focus on the BoomBlaster MP3 player by Avitron Electronics. His opening paragraphs are below.

Although touted by many as "the most stellar and stylish device to hit the MP3 scene," Avitron Electronics' BoomBlaster is more hype than value. Plagued with sluggish download speeds, fuzzy sound quality, limited battery time, and a difficult-to-navigate menu, the BoomBlaster is definitely not the "must-have" product that Avitron would lead consumers to believe.

It typically takes several minutes to download 10 or 12 tracks. With no indication of what the problem is, the consumer is left wondering if the device is defective, broken, or in need of charging. In addition, the more tracks downloaded to the device, the slower the download speeds, which discourages the consumer from getting the most from the product. For anyone accustomed to near instantaneous downloads, the BoomBlaster will force you to return to your older MP3 player—and possibly return this one to the store.

The BoomBlaster also has multiple issues in terms of sound. First, the quality of downloads is iffy, at best. The volume sporadically increases and decreases, with no discernible pattern or reason. Whether this is related to the download speed or some other issue, Avitron refuses to comment. Secondly, the "state-of-the-art" ear buds that come with the BoomBlaster are far from impressive, occasionally producing annoying feedback. Unfortunately, they can only be replaced with similar models manufactured by Avitron—convenient for the company, but aggravating for the consumer.

6. Which of these sentences would make the **best** topic sentence for paragraph 2?

- A. Anyone interested in speed will be frustrated by the BoomBlaster's horrendous download time.
 - B. For the past three years, Avitron has been noted for MP3 players that are both durable and trendy.
 - C. Most manufacturers of MP3 players produce high-quality devices capable of speedy downloads.
 - D. The BoomBlaster is Avitron's newest product, and it has been greatly anticipated by consumers.
-

7. Kathie is writing an expository essay on modern technology. Her thesis is: "Modern technology has saved countless lives, makes access to information easier, and continues to improve education around the world."

Based on this thesis, which of these would make a good topic sentence for Kathie's essay?

- A. There are just as many drawbacks to modern technology as there are benefits.
- B. Modern technology allows people to have easy access to movies and videogames.
- C. The advantages of modern technology are as diverse as they are extraordinary.
- D. Most people in the U.S. have become far too dependent on modern technology.



Guard Llamas

by J. Robbins

Livestock, such as sheep, cattle, and goats, are vulnerable to many threats, and predation of valuable livestock costs millions of dollars per year. A guard animal lives with a herd or flock to protect the livestock and deter predators. Shepherds, farmers, and ranchers consider the ideal guard animal to be one that is effective, fearless, cost-effective, and easy to maintain. Surprisingly, guard llamas have proven to fit the bill in most circumstances and can be found guarding animals on farms and ranches across the United States and North America.

Llamas are members of the South American Camelidae family and are used as beasts of burden in many areas of the world. They adapt well to working with humans and to living with livestock. Additionally, llamas react aggressively to members of the Canidae family—including dogs, coyotes, jackals, foxes, and wolves. These attributes make llamas ideal guard animals for a variety of livestock, although they are most widely used to guard sheep. Once llamas become attached to their livestock, they actively protect the animals by chasing, kicking, or spitting at predators.

In a study conducted by Iowa State University in 1990, llamas were rated as effective guard animals by 80 percent of sheep owners. Many ecologists and wildlife biologists are also pleased with this practice because it provides a non-lethal way to handle predators. Llamas are also a sound investment for shepherds, farmers, and ranchers because they are long-lived (often living up to 20 years), acclimated to a wide variety of climates, and able to graze on the same land as sheep, goats, and cattle.

8. Which sentence **best** concludes this essay?

- A. Although they are not 100% successful against predators, guard llamas can be an effective, economic, and ecologically friendly resource to help livestock owners protect their livelihood.
- B. Animals such as sheep are vulnerable to predation because they have few natural defenses; worldwide, most sheep deaths are caused by animals from the Canidae family.
It is believed that llamas originated in the central plains of North America many years ago, and they
- C. disappeared from the continent for centuries; however, they have since been reintroduced to the U.S. and Canada.
- D. Although llamas and camels are both in the Camelidae family, they are very different animals, and llamas lack the large hump on the back that makes camels so distinctive.

The Pioneer Woman Succeeds

by J. Robbins

Ree Drummond, who still calls herself a city girl at heart, seems like an unlikely candidate to write about Oklahoma ranch life. Her blog "Confessions of a Pioneer Woman," however, is one of the most popular blogs on the Internet, and in 2009, she won Weblog of the Year. Her blog describes her daily life as the wife of a cattle rancher and the mother of four children.

Drummond was born in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, and she left soon after high school to attend the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. After graduating, she planned to go to law school and live in Chicago, but her plans changed when she met and married Oklahoma rancher Ladd Drummond.

"Confessions of a Pioneer Woman" began as a way for Drummond to share her ranch life with friends and family, but it quickly expanded to include topics such as farming, animal husbandry, cooking, and homeschooling. Her tutorial "How to Cook a Steak" became wildly popular with fans, which encouraged the blogger to post more cooking tutorials and food photography.

In October 2009, Drummond published her first cookbook *The Pioneer Woman Cooks*, and her autobiography, *From Black Heels to Tractor Wheels*, will be published in February 2011. It is rumored that a movie based on her life, starring popular actress Reese Witherspoon, is being filmed, although the release date is unknown.

9. Which sentence would make the **best** concluding statement for this passage?

- A. Unfazed by her success, Drummond plans to continue writing about the ups and downs of life on the Oklahoma countryside.
- B. "Confessions of a Pioneer Woman" also received honors for its photography at the annual Weblog Awards in 2007 and 2008.
- C. The "How to Cook a Steak" tutorial, which is still available online, includes more than 20 photographs of the cooking process.
- D. After majoring in journalism, Drummond changed her major to gerontology, and she began preparing law school applications.

Bessie Coleman

Bessie Coleman has the distinct honor of being the first African-American female aviator. Though her career was not long, Coleman's skills, as well as her resolve to succeed in her chosen field, were widely known in her day. Over eighty years after her death, she continues to inspire each generation of new pilots.

Coleman was born in 1892 in Atlanta, Texas, but spent most of her life on a small farm 30 miles outside of Dallas. After graduating from eighth grade, she worked doing laundry, determined to pay for her higher education. Although she enrolled in the Agricultural and Normal University in Langston, Oklahoma in 1910, Coleman had managed to save only enough money to pay for one semester. Upon completing that semester, she had to leave Oklahoma, returning to Texas and her laundry job. Undaunted, Coleman left Texas again in 1915. This time, she headed for Chicago, where she took a course in manicuring. She became a talented and successful manicurist, but Coleman knew she was destined to do more.

In the 1920s, few women had achieved a pilot's license; none of them were African American. However, Coleman was inspired by her brother, who told her exciting wartime stories about female aviators in France. Though her dream was unusual, unlikely, and nearly impossible, Coleman decided to pursue the adventurous world of aviation. After receiving numerous rejections from aviation schools in the U.S., Coleman saved her money, learned basic French, and applied to flying schools in France. In November 1920, Coleman set sail for Europe, where she immediately enrolled in a training course at the Ecole d'Aviation des Freres Caudron at Le Crotoy in France. After seven months, Coleman had completed the course and passed her qualifying exam. In June 1921, she became the first African-American woman to earn her pilot's license from the Federation Aeronautique Internationale.

She returned to Europe to receive some additional training, then returned home once again to appear in her first air show. In September 1922, Coleman flew in a New York air show honoring the 369th American Expeditionary Force of World War I, which was made up entirely of African Americans. The show billed Coleman as "the world's greatest woman flyer." Only six weeks later, Coleman went to Chicago to give yet another daredevil performance that delighted the huge crowd. From there, she toured the U.S., receiving praise and publicity wherever she performed. She attracted scores of fans throughout the country, becoming an aviation phenomenon from coast to coast.

Her memory and determination live on in the many pilots who were inspired by Coleman. Aviation clubs were subsequently formed in her name, including the Bessie Coleman Aero Clubs and the Bessie Coleman Aviators Club. Every year, the Bessie Coleman Aviators, as well as pilots from the Negro Airmen International and the Chicago American Pilots Association, fly over Lincoln Cemetery in Blue Island, Illinois, dropping flowers on her grave on the anniversary of her death. A road at O'Hare Airport in Chicago bears her name. Though her career was brief, her memory is indelible.

10. Which of these sentences would make the **best** topic sentence if a new paragraph were added after paragraph 4?

- A.** Further recognition came in the 1990s when the U.S. Postal Service issued a stamp in her honor.
- B.** Hoping to attract more African-Americans to flying, Coleman planned to open a flying school.
- C.** In addition, Amelia Earhart was a famous female aviator who flew during the early days of flight.
- D.** Contemporary airplanes are vastly superior to the flimsy aircraft common in the 1920s and 1930s.

Answers: Introducing Closing Topics

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

Explanations

1. A concluding statement brings the piece of writing to a close. It can summarize the main points, suggest answers to a problem, make predictions, or present a significant quote. The sentence "Music therapy is an interesting and rewarding profession that allows therapists to improve the lives of their patients" is the best concluding statement because it provides a summary of the main points of the passage.
2. The three points Beverley would like to make are quite diverse. Therefore, this option is general enough to introduce such a broad article. The other options are not relevant based on the points Beverley has outlined.
3. This option draws on Beverley's second point, "Animal lovers will enjoy watching unique animals at the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary." It would be a logical topic sentence for a supporting paragraph. The other options stray from the points Beverley plans to make.
4. A concluding statement brings the piece of writing to a close. It can summarize the main points, suggest answers to a problem, make predictions, or present a significant quote. This paragraph describes the Wieliczka Salt Mine and explains why the site is a popular tourist attraction. Therefore, the best concluding sentence is "Visitors to the Wieliczka Salt Mine will be impressed by its interesting exhibits and rich history."
5. This sentence best introduces paragraph 1, as well as the passage as a whole. The other sentences in this paragraph, and the details throughout the passage, support the idea of this sentence.
6. This sentence best introduces paragraph 2. All of the details in this paragraph support the idea of poor download speed.
7. This sentence encapsulates in a broad way the specific ideas Kathie uses in her thesis. Therefore, it is the best choice for a topic sentence for her essay.
8. A concluding statement brings the piece of writing to a close. It can summarize the main points, suggest answers to a problem, make predictions, or present a significant quote. This essay focuses on the

effectiveness of llamas in preventing livestock predation, so the best concluding sentence is "Although they are not 100% successful against predators, guard llamas can be an effective, economic, and ecologically friendly resource to help livestock owners protect their livelihood."

9. A concluding statement brings the piece of writing to a close. It can summarize the main points, suggest answers to a problem, make predictions, or present a significant quote. The sentence "Unfazed by her success, Drummond plans to continue writing about the ups and downs of life in the Oklahoma countryside" is the best concluding statement because it restates the main idea of the passage—Ree Drummond has become successful with her blog about Oklahoma ranch life—and suggests that she will continue writing her blog in the future.

10. This sentence best introduces a new paragraph because it focuses on Coleman's life as an aviator. The sentence about the stamp commemorating her life would best be used as a detail in the concluding paragraph. The other two options are off topic.

Grade 12 English: Transitional Devices

A Vitamin for the Eyes

(1) Poverty and lack of information on eye care is prevalent in the least-developed countries. (2) The lack of vitamin A in the diet of millions of children causes them to suffer from poor eyesight. (3) Vitamin A is a key element to healthy eyes. (4) Lack of the vitamin can make it difficult for people to see in dim light. (5) A severe drop in Vitamin A levels can cause dryness and damage of the eye tissues. (6) _____, scarring and blindness could occur. (7) Some of the eye problems are actually easy to correct with a little help.

1. Which linking word or phrase should begin sentence 2 for clarity?

- A. Consequently,
 - B. Aside from,
 - C. Afterwards,
 - D. Subsequently,
-

You Know You Can Dance

(1) Have you noticed a really complex dance move and wondered how the dancers do it? (2) Like any complicated task, learning a complex dance move is best done by breaking it into small pieces. (3) You should not try to learn a whole dance routine at once. (4) First of all, keep in mind whether you are preparing for a solo or a group dance. (5) It is important to set a realistic goal by thinking of the collective ability of the group. (6) Remember that a dance tells a story. (7) Likewise, make sure your routine has a clear beginning, middle, and end. (8) You can captivate your audience with a powerful opening, a striking middle, and a dynamic ending. (9) Ensure that the movements transition smoothly. (10) Even though you and your friends might know a lot of moves, don't try to use them up in one routine. (11) Not all moves compliment each other. (12) _____, remember to think like the audience and to make your routine enjoyable.

2. Which linking phrase could be added to sentence 3 to improve its flow?

- A. Just in case,
- B. In contrast,
- C. Aside from,
- D. In other words,

3. How should these sentences 8 and 9 be combined to improve cohesion?

- A. You can captivate your audience with a powerful opening, a striking middle, and a dynamic ending; in any case, ensure that the movements transition smoothly.
 - B. You can captivate your audience with a powerful opening, a striking middle, and a dynamic ending; however, ensure that the movements transition smoothly.
 - C. You can captivate your audience with a powerful opening, a striking middle, and a dynamic ending, although ensure that the movements transition smoothly.
 - D. You can captivate your audience with a powerful opening, a striking middle, and a dynamic ending, such as ensure that the movements transition smoothly.
-

4. Identify the best linking word to complete sentence 12.

- A. Earlier
 - B. Finally
 - C. Nevertheless
 - D. Currently
-

Fashion During World War II

(1) Every era has a distinct style of fashion, and many factors determine what men and women wear every day. (2) Particularly in the early 1940s, the shortage of fabric inspired people to be more creative with clothing. (3) Women who were joining the workforce because of men being away in the war had to be inventive. (4) Many items that were not considered must-haves were scarce. (5) Silk stockings were hard to come by. (6) Some women created an illusion of the seam on the back of silk stockings by drawing lines on the back of their legs with eyeliner.

5. Is the underlined linking phrase Particularly in the early 1940s appropriate?

- A. no, because the passage is about the influence of war on fashion
 - B. yes, because it shows the lack of silk stockings in the 1940s
 - C. yes, because it emphasizes the creativity of people in the 1940s
 - D. no, because the sentence applies to the role of women in all ages
-

6. Which linking word or phrase would best be added to sentence 3?

- A. With attention to,
 - B. On the contrary,
 - C. Namely,
 - D. Still,
-

7. Choose the linking word or phrase that best connects the ideas of sentences 4 and 5.

- A. Coupled with,
 - B. Meanwhile,
 - C. All in all,
 - D. For one thing,
-

(1) A new study shows that rich people try to be nice to jealous people from whom they sense resentment. (2) Scientists say that people experience a surge of envy when they see someone with a lot of fortune. (3) The feeling of jealousy is even stronger when they do not like the person to begin with. (4) _____, when a former classmate is suddenly a millionaire, the less successful people at the reunion are usually visibly upset. (5) The rich former classmate is used to the negative feelings. (6) Hence, he or she tries to make up for the dislike through charity and extra sociability. (7) Habitat for Humanity receives a lot of help from the wealthy.

8. Choose the sentence that best links the ideas of sentences 6 and 7.

- A. Some believe the rich stay rich because they do not donate much.
 - B. One way to do so is through a well-known charitable organization.
 - C. Young millionaires are the new leaders in today's economy.
 - D. The very poor and very rich are the most giving groups.
-

9. Which of these sentences would best be added between sentences 3 and 4 for cohesiveness?

- A. This could be a reason a lot of rich people give away money to charitable organizations.
 - B. A high school reunion is an excellent setting to study social reactions and displays of envy.
 - C. Because they anticipate negative feelings from less successful people, rich people act kind.
 - D. Jealousy is the feeling of rivalry against a person enjoying success or the advantage itself.
-

(1) The general temperature of Earth's atmosphere is supposed to increase by three degrees Celsius in the 21st century. (2) Not only will plant and animal life be adversely affected, but water and food supply for humans will also be negatively impacted. (3) At least 20–30% of species could face extinction. (4) Elevated geographic areas and wet tropics will face an increase in water supply. (5) Conversely, drought will be even more severe in low altitude and dry areas. (6) Many of us are unaware of these catastrophic scientific predictions.

(7) We capture and use energy from stored resources, like gasoline. (8) We consume resources by using up fossil fuels. (9) And we transport our water, food, and fuel for hundreds to thousands of miles, using up more fossil fuel. (10) We are continuously multiplying and, in turn, using more resources. (11) We use up fossil fuel and emit carbon dioxide (CO₂). (12) We cause an increase in global warming. (13) These emissions happen through human activities such as driving a car, flying in an airplane, or burning coal for fuel. (14) Furthermore, we are rapidly reducing the storehouse for CO₂—trees—by ruthless deforestation. (15) Won't you do your share to keep global warming in control by reducing consumption, sharing resources, and genuinely caring about planet Earth?

10. What is the role of the linking word Furthermore in sentence 14?

- A. to signal consequence
- B. to signal example
- C. to signal time
- D. to signal addition

Answers: Transitional Devices

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

Explanations

1. The best linking word or phrase would signal consequence. The sentence shows an effect of the lack of vitamin A in children. "Consequently" signals effect.
2. This sentence is restating the ideas presented in the sentence prior to it. "In other words" would be the best linking phrase to use to signal restatement.
3. The best transition word or phrase would combine these sentences by showing a contrast. The author expects the reader to create powerful segments, but he or she also emphasizes the idea of linking the segments smoothly. "However" links the ideas of these two sentences and adds clarity to the passage.
4. The best linking word would signal emphasis in the last sentence of the paragraph. The author means to highlight the importance of making the routine enjoyable for the audience. "Finally" signals emphasis.
5. In this paragraph, the author focuses on creativity in fashion in the 1940s. The linking phrase word would best link the idea in the sentence before it and create emphasis.
6. The best linking word would exemplify the role of women in inventing fashion. Namely would be a good linking phrase to use in this case.
7. "For one thing" signals illustration. The phrase would best link these sentences by exemplifying that silk stockings were scarce.
8. Only the correct answer links the ideas of charity and the example of a charitable organization that is popular among the rich. It would be the best transitional sentence to use in this passage.
9. The correct answer choice shows a sentence that best links the idea in sentences 3 and 4. It explains why the author discusses jealousy as exemplified in a high school reunion.
10. The linking word furthermore shows that more information is to follow. By using this word, the author shows that there are more ways we are changing the atmosphere of the Earth.

Grade 12 English: Subject-Verb Agreement

1.

Mina and Jonathan, who worked together on the project all semester, is expecting to learn the final grade this afternoon.

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

- A. change **learn** to **learns**
- B. change **is** to **are**
- C. change **grade** to **grades**
- D. change **project** to **projects**



(1) "We will never find the hotel at this rate," Gregory complained. (2) His three friends, Shellie, Samson, and Timothy, was too busy looking around the city to pay attention to him. (3) This were their first trip to New York City, and everyone but Gregory was having a great time.

(4) "Look at all the people!" Shellie exclaimed. (5) "There are a million people on this sidewalk."

(6) "More like two million," muttered Gregory. (7) "At least they knows where they are going." (8) Timothy playfully punched Gregory in the shoulder.

(9) "Cheer up, gang," Samson said as he pointed to a small news stand nearby. (10) "Someone go over and buy a map for us, and we'll figure out how to get to the hotel."

(11) "This city are too big and confusing," Gregory groaned.

(12) "Oh, stop complaining," said Shellie. (13) "Everyone else is having a great time. (14) Why doesn't you join the fun?" (15) Gregory looked at his friends' smiling faces and felt his heart lift.

(16) "I'll buys the map for us," he volunteered with a grin. (17) "Plus, I think we deserve some hot dogs from that street vendor over there." (18) Gregory's friends let out a loud cheer at his improved attitude.

2. Which sentence from the passage contains an error in subject-verb agreement?

- A. sentence 8
- B. sentence 1
- C. sentence 5
- D. sentence 7

3.



Marcel's senior thesis, which includes four years' worth of data, interviews, and photographs, _____ his pride and joy.

Choose the correct verb for this sentence.

- A. are
 - B. have been
 - C. is
 - D. were
-

4.



One of the dogs love meeting new people, but the other one might snap if approached by a stranger.

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

- A. change **dogs** to **dog**
 - B. change **stranger** to **strangers**
 - C. change **snap** to **snaps**
 - D. change **love** to **loves**
-

5. Which sentence from the passage contains an error in subject-verb agreement?

- A. sentence 13
 - B. sentence 17
 - C. sentence 15
 - D. sentence 14
-

6. Which sentence demonstrates correct subject-verb agreement?

- A. Here is the books Dunicia misplaced last week.
 - B. Everybody are susceptible to getting the flu this year.
 - C. Someone is working in the office next to this one.
 - D. Nobody know when Ricardo will return from Iran.
-

7. Which sentence demonstrates correct subject-verb agreement?

- A. One of my favorite books is *Letters of a Woman Homesteader* by Elinore Stewart.
 - B. The movie on the kitchen table need to be returned before midnight tonight.
 - C. The roommates has moved into separate dorm rooms since I saw them last.
 - D. Russian and Chinese is the hardest languages I've studied while in high school.
-

8. Which sentence demonstrates correct subject-verb agreement?

- A. Juan's final report, consisting of only two pages, were too short.
- B. Measles are a respiratory infection caused by a specific virus.
- C. There are no easy way to tell which of you is right in this situation.
- D. Spinach and lettuce plants were the first to sprout in the garden.

9.

_____ of the cars need major repairs before being sold.

Choose the correct subject for this sentence.

- A. Another
 - B. One
 - C. Each
 - D. Several
-

10. How should the author rewrite sentence 3 to correct the problem of subject-verb agreement?

- A. This were their first trip to New York City, and everyone but Gregory were having a great times.
- B. This was their first trip to New York City, and everyone but Gregory was having a great time.
- C. This were their first trips to New York City, and everyone but Gregory was having a great time.
- D. This was their first trips to New York City, and everyone but Gregory were having a great time.

Answers: Subject-Verb Agreement

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

Explanations

1. A compound subject is made up of two or more nouns. When the nouns are connected with "and," the subject is plural and needs a plural verb. In this sentence, the singular verb "is" should be changed to the plural verb "are" for correct subject-verb agreement.
2. Sentence 7 contains an error in subject-verb agreement because the plural subject "they" is followed by the singular verb "knows." The best way to correct this error is to change "knows" to the plural verb "know."
3. The verb in this sentence should agree with the subject, which is "thesis," not with a noun or pronoun in the modifying phrase. The correct way to write this sentence is "Marcel's senior thesis, which includes four years' worth of data, interviews, and photographs, is his pride and joy."
4. "One" is a singular indefinite pronoun that requires a singular verb. The plural verb "love" should be changed to the singular verb "loves." The correct way to write this sentence is "One of the dogs loves meeting new people, but the other one might snap if approached by a stranger."
5. The subject of sentence 14 is "you," which is a singular subject. The contraction "don't" should be used with the second person singular pronoun "you." Sentence 14 should be changed to read, "Why don't you join the fun?"
6. This sentence has correct subject-verb agreement because the singular subject "Someone" is followed by the singular verb "is working."
7. This sentence is correct because both the subject ("One") and the verb ("is") are singular. The other answer choices do not demonstrate correct subject-verb agreement.
8. This sentence is correct because both the subject ("plants") and the verb ("were") are plural. The other answer choices do not demonstrate correct subject-verb agreement.
9. The verb "need" is plural and requires a plural subject. "Several" is an indefinite plural pronoun. The correct way to write this sentence is "Several of the cars need major repairs before being sold."
10. The subject "trip" is singular and requires a singular verb. The first part of this sentence should be changed to "This was their first trip to New York City" to correct the problem of subject-verb agreement. The second part of this sentence demonstrates correct subject-verb agreement because the singular indefinite pronoun "everyone" is followed by the singular verb "was having."

Grade 12 English: Capitalization

1.

Mary, our class president, almost burst with pride when her older brother Lieutenant Colonel Markus Brody was awarded the bronze star for his service in the Middle East.

Which change should be made to this sentence?

- A. capitalize **bronze star**
- B. put **Lieutenant Colonel** in lowercase
- C. put **Middle East** in lowercase
- D. capitalize **class president**

MEMO

To: All graduating seniors at Fulbright High School
From: Assistant Principal Valeri Rhesus
Date: February 20, 2010
Re: Important information about The Senior Salute

Congratulations! You are approaching one of the most exciting and momentous days of your life, May 2, 2010, Commencement day.

The Senior Salute is a special event that will be held in the Watermark coliseum on March 8, 2010. This event heightens the spirit of celebration for the graduating seniors and allows our faculty members the opportunity to salute your hard work and dedication. The Senior Salute creates a foundation for a strong community between graduates and Fulbright staff.

In addition to a three course dinner, there will be an opportunity to win raffled prizes of items that will come in handy for any graduating senior. The prizes were donated by the Knights of Columbus and Mayor Castleridge.

Graduating seniors are entitled to have two guests attend the event with them. (Guests will not be eligible for raffle prizes.) The guest must be a member of the senior's immediate family or a legal guardian. Please register both of your guests by contacting principal Davis before March 5th.

We look forward to seeing you on March 8th!

2. Read this sentence from the passage.

"The Senior Salute is a special event that will be held in the Watermark coliseum on March 8, 2010."

How should the author rewrite this sentence to correct the capitalization?

- A. The senior salute is a special event that will be held in the Watermark Coliseum on March 8, 2010.
 - B. The Senior Salute is a special event that will be held in the watermark coliseum on March 8, 2010.
 - C. The senior salute is a special event that will be held in the Watermark coliseum on March 8, 2010.
 - D. The Senior Salute is a special event that will be held in the Watermark Coliseum on March 8, 2010.
-

3. Read this sentence from the passage.

"The prizes were donated by the Knights of columbus and mayor Castleridge."

How should the author rewrite this sentence to correct the capitalization?

- A. The prizes were donated by the Knights of columbus and Mayor Castleridge.
 - B. The prizes were donated by the knights of columbus and mayor Castleridge.
 - C. The prizes were donated by the Knights of Columbus and mayor Castleridge.
 - D. The prizes were donated by the Knights of Columbus and Mayor Castleridge.
-

1324 Amelia Court
Plano, TX 75023
January 13, 2011

Ms. Frieda Stark-Lewis
Fey Improvisational Theater
1010 Springview Avenue
Chillicothe, OH 45520

Dear Ms. Stark-Lewis:

Beginning on February 14th, the north Plano Senior High Drama Club will be performing the play *the Death Of Common Sense*. Performances will be held in the main theater of the Ridgeview civic center. Many students who benefited from your tenure as Drama Instructor will be performing in this play.

We would be pleased and honored if you could attend the opening performance. The students, led by assistant principal John Ross, have worked long and hard on this production. The ushers, members of our 2011 senior class, will reserve a seat in the vip section for you.

We hope to see you on the 14th.

Yours truly,

Anatoly Gorodetsky

Dr. Anatoly Gorodetsky
Principal

4. Which of the following sentences from the letter has correct capitalization?

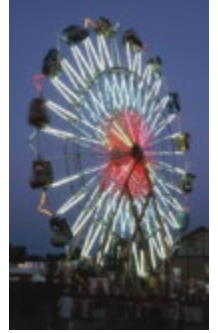
- A. Performances will be held in the main theater of the Ridgeview civic center.
- B. The students, led by assistant principal John Ross, have worked long and hard on this production.
- C. We would be pleased and honored if you could attend the opening performance.
- D. Many students who benefited from your tenure as Drama Instructor will be performing in this play.

5. Which of the following sentences is capitalized correctly?

- A. Jana enjoys learning about political systems in the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries.
- B. Davis tells people that he has read the Encyclopedia from cover to cover.
- C. Nicole plans to apply to volunteer with Senator Jones after her junior year.
- D. Fleur would like to purchase a previously owned honda accord with her savings.

High school seniors are encouraged to participate in Friday's Save the Food Bank Carnival, which will be set up outside the North parking lot of the school. Additional parking will be available on the east side of Harlon street, in front of the public library. Local volunteers from the junior league of Royse City and the rotary club will be waiting at the gate to pass out tickets. While entry to the carnival is free, there will be a small fee for food, prizes, games, and rides. All proceeds from the carnival, as well as any donations, will benefit the Royse City Food Bank.

Our wonderful cafeteria staff has prepared treats such as funnel cake, hot dogs, and cotton candy for the festivities. In addition, Mr. Haney, our school's beloved french teacher, will sing karaoke favorites at 10:30 p.m. Immediately after the karaoke, Dr. Talbot, our guidance counselor, will share excerpts from her new book *Surviving the College Application Process*. Show your community spirit by attending the carnival this Friday!



6. Read this sentence from the passage.

"Local volunteers from the junior league of Royse City and the rotary club will be waiting at the gate to pass out tickets."

How should the author rewrite this sentence to correct the capitalization?

- A. Local volunteers from the Junior League of Royse City and the Rotary Club will be waiting at the gate to pass out tickets.
- B. Local volunteers from the junior league of Royse city and the rotary club will be waiting at the gate to pass out tickets.
- C. Local volunteers from the Junior league of Royse City and the Rotary club will be waiting at the gate to pass out tickets.
- D. Local Volunteers from the junior league of Royse City and the rotary club will be waiting at the gate to pass out tickets.

7.

During the spring semester, Tina will be appearing in an off-Broadway play at the Lakeshore Theater on Marlowe Street; she hopes to become an actress with the famous shakespeare players one day.

How should this sentence be changed to correct the problem of capitalization?

- During the Spring Semester, Tina will be appearing in an off-Broadway play at the Lakeshore
- A. Theater on Marlowe Street; she hopes to become an actress with the famous Shakespeare Players one day.
- During the spring semester, Tina will be appearing in an off-broadway play at the Lakeshore
- B. theater on Marlowe Street; she hopes to become an actress with the famous shakespeare players one day.
- During the Spring semester, Tina will be appearing in an off-broadway play at the Lakeshore
- C. Theater on Marlowe Street; she hopes to become an actress with the famous Shakespeare Players one day.
- During the spring semester, Tina will be appearing in an off-Broadway play at the Lakeshore
- D. Theater on Marlowe Street; she hopes to become an actress with the famous Shakespeare Players one day.
-

8. Which of the following sentences is capitalized correctly?

- A. Lisa drove north on Adams Avenue to reach the Freehold Farmer's Market.
- B. Lisa drove north on Adams Avenue to reach the Freehold Farmer's market.
- C. Lisa drove North on Adams Avenue to reach the Freehold Farmer's Market.
- D. Lisa drove North on Adams avenue to reach the Freehold Farmer's market.

Tomas traveled to Costa Rica last summer with eight other students and professor Jones, who supervised the group. They studied artifacts, practiced their spanish-speaking skills, and learned about local customs. His mother initially didn't want Tomas to go on the trip. She drilled him every day about travel safety and gave him a copy of *the Smart Traveler's Guide*. When she received her son's letters about the wonderful experience he was having, she changed her mind. In fact, she ordered her own passport so she can travel with Tomas the next time he leaves the country.

9. Read this sentence from the passage.

"They studied artifacts, practiced their spanish-speaking skills, and learned about local customs."

How should the author rewrite this sentence to correct the capitalization?

- A. They studied artifacts, practiced their Spanish-speaking skills, and learned about Local Customs.
 - B. They studied artifacts, practiced their spanish-speaking skills, and learned about local Customs.
 - C. They studied Artifacts, practiced their spanish-speaking skills, and learned about local customs.
 - D. They studied artifacts, practiced their Spanish-speaking skills, and learned about local customs.
-

10. Which of the following sentences is capitalized correctly?

- A. Joni Mae got her first traffic ticket while driving South toward LAX Airport.
- B. Helios has always dreamed of trekking across the gobi desert with a camel caravan.
- C. Alejandro was elected president of the Student Council after a close election.
- D. My twin sister was thrilled to meet secretary of state Zenovia Paulos-Reyes.

Answers: Capitalization

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

Explanations

1. The names of military awards should be capitalized. The correct way to write this sentence is "Mary, our class president, almost burst with pride when her older brother Lieutenant Colonel Markus Brody was awarded the Bronze Star for his service in the Middle East."
2. The correct way to write this sentence is "The Senior Salute is a special event that will be held in the Watermark Coliseum on March 8, 2010." Proper names such as "The Senior Salute" and "Watermark Coliseum" should be capitalized.
3. This sentence should be rewritten to read, "The prizes were donated by the Knights of Columbus and Mayor Castleridge." The names of civic groups ("The Knights of Columbus") and titles preceding proper names ("Mayor Castleridge") should be capitalized.
4. The sentence "We would be pleased and honored if you could attend the opening performance" is correctly capitalized. In the other sentences, proper names ("Ridgeview civic center") and titles that precede proper names ("assistant professor John Ross") should be capitalized. Titles without proper names ("Drama Instructor") should begin with lowercase letters.
5. This sentence is correct because titles that precede proper names ("Senator Jones") should be capitalized. In the other answer choices, common nouns ("Encyclopedia") and century numbers ("Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries") should begin with lowercase letters. Trademarks such as "honda accord" should be capitalized.
6. The names of social and civic groups should be capitalized. In this sentence, both "Junior League" and "Rotary Club" should be capitalized. The sentence should be edited to read, "Local volunteers from the Junior League of Royse City and the Rotary Club will be waiting at the gate to pass out tickets."
7. "Shakespeare players" should be capitalized in this sentence because it is a proper name of a group of people.

8. This sentence addresses several capitalization issues. "North" should not be capitalized because it relates to a direction. Specific street names ("Avenue") and proper names ("Freehold Farmer's Market") should be capitalized.

9. The names of countries, nationalities, and specific languages should be capitalized. This sentence should be revised to read, "They studied artifacts, practiced their Spanish-speaking skills, and learned about local customs." The words "artifacts" and "local customs" are used as common nouns in this sentence and do not need to be capitalized.

10. This sentence is capitalized correctly because proper names ("Student Council") should be capitalized but titles not joined to proper names ("president") should begin with lowercase letters. In the other answer choices, proper names ("gobi desert") and titles attached to proper names ("secretary of state Zenovia Paulos-Reyes") should be capitalized but compass directions ("South") should not be capitalized.

Grade 12 English: Punctuation



Gone Fishing

"Hey, are you sure there are fish in this lake?" Thomas asked doubtfully. "We haven't had a bite all afternoon." His best friend Annette rolled her eyes at him.

"Of course there are fish in the lake," she replied. "It's called Bass Lake. My dad and I fish here all the time! My uncle, who fishes here every year, promised we'd be able to catch something. Maybe you're just a terrible fisherman." Thomas laughed and bobbed his fishing pole in the water thoughtfully.

"This is relaxing after all the pressure of studying for finals," he said with a yawn. "I barely survived taking calculus, geography, English literature and chemistry. My brain is tired."

"Mine too," agreed Annette. "I can't believe we're finally done with high school."

"You're still going to Havergal University, right" Thomas asked as he watched a duck paddle past the boat.

"Yes," Annette replied with a sigh. "I'm going to miss you! At least your sister, and I are going to be roommates."

"Dunicia is about to burst with excitement," laughed Thomas. "She was afraid she wouldn't know anyone on campus."

"You'll be halfway across the world at Mission Saint Navarro," Annette grumbled. "You'd better email me and Dunicia and we expect at least one postcard."

"Plus, I'll send you both presents," promised Thomas just as his fishing pole jumped in his hands "I think I've got a bite over here!"

1. Which sentence from the passage contains a punctuation error?

- A. "I can't believe we're finally done with high school."
- B. "At least your sister, and I are going to be roommates."
- C. "Hey, are you sure there are fish in this lake?"
- D. "She was afraid she wouldn't know anyone on campus."

2. Which sentence has correct punctuation?

- A. The school plans to reduce its carbon footprint by thirty eight percent.
- B. Jovie owns a one-quarter share in Bluman-Neely's Department Store.
- C. Julio's frequent attempts to impress Michelle are not well-received.
- D. The book Chandler gave Kathy was leather-bound, with gold-pages.

MEMO

To: All graduating seniors at Montgomery High School
From: Principal Albi Dean
Date: April 12, 2010
Re: Important information about the Senior Carnival

Please be advised that our Twenty First Annual Senior Carnival will be held on May 7, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. Seniors are welcome to attend this event with their families. Entry admission for students will be free, but family members will be required to pay a minimal fee. The cafeteria staff will provide funnel cakes and hot dogs, as well as gluten free cookies. Additionally, our very own physics teacher, Dr. Renault, will perform karaoke songs at the carnival. The first thirty five seniors who arrive at the carnival will receive gift bags with t shirts, books, and backpacks.

We look forward to seeing you on May 7th!

3. Read this sentence from the memo.

"The first thirty five seniors who arrive at the carnival will receive gift bags with t shirts, books, and backpacks."

How should the author rewrite this sentence to correct the punctuation?

- A. The first thirty-five seniors who arrive at the carnival will receive gift bags with t-shirts, books, and backpacks.
- B. The first thirty five seniors who arrive at the carnival will receive gift bags with t-shirts, books, and backpacks.
- C. The sentence is correct as is.
- D. The first thirty-five seniors who arrive at the carnival will receive gift bags with t shirts, books, and backpacks.

4.

The city council will vote later today on several issues, including the controversial _____ .

Choose the correct phrase to complete the sentence.

- A. antiimmigration bill
 - B. anti immigration-bill
 - C. anti-immigration bill
 - D. anti-immigration-bill
-

(1) Tibo was headed to his car after a long, stressful day of classes. (2) He pulled his brand new set of keys out of his pocket and opened the door. (3) Suddenly, an ear piercing wail began to blare across the parking lot. (4) He had accidentally set off the anti-theft alarm. (5) Tibo groaned as he realized that he had no idea how to turn off the alarm. (6) Students walking by began to stop and stare at him. (7) He waved glumly at them. (8) A police car pulled up next to him, and a tired looking officer stepped out. (9) Tibo couldn't wait for the day to be over.

5. What is the best way to hyphenate sentence 3?

- A. Suddenly, an ear-piercing wail began to blare across the parking lot.
 - B. Suddenly, an ear piercing-wail began to blare across the parking-lot.
 - C. The sentence is correct as is.
 - D. Suddenly, an ear-piercing-wail began to blare across the parking lot.
-

6. Which sentence contains a word or phrase that needs to be hyphenated?

- A. sentence 2
 - B. sentence 9
 - C. sentence 6
 - D. sentence 1
-

7. Which sentence has correct punctuation?

- A. The idea of living off campus is appealing to many students.
 - B. Anne hoped to get a ten percent discount at her new job.
 - C. The Seventy Second Academy Awards will be held this week.
 - D. Ritva picked up a box of take out food to eat at her desk.
-

8. Which sentence is correctly punctuated?

- A. "I want to see a movie before we start studying for finals," Tracie told her friend Liz, who nodded in agreement.
- B. "I want to see a movie before we start studying for finals!", Tracie told her friend Liz, who nodded in agreement.
- C. "I want to see a movie before we start studying for finals." Tracie told her friend Liz, who nodded in agreement.
- D. "I want to see a movie before we start studying for finals," Tracie told her friend Liz, "who nodded in agreement."

9.

Hetty didn't see her ex boyfriend at the graduation ceremony because there were two hundred fifty five students in attendance.

What is the correct way to hyphenate this sentence?

- A. The sentence is correct as is.
- B. Hetty didn't see her ex boyfriend at the graduation ceremony because there were two hundred fifty-five students in attendance.
- C. Hetty didn't see her ex-boyfriend at the graduation ceremony because there were two hundred fifty-five students in attendance.
- D. Hetty didn't see her ex-boyfriend at the graduation ceremony because there were two hundred fifty five students in attendance.

10. Which sentence is correctly punctuated?

- A. "You will be required to bring the following items to the test a calculator, two pencils, and a government-issued ID," said the test proctor.
- B. "You will be required to bring the following items to the test; a calculator, two pencils, and a government-issued ID," said the test proctor.
- C. "You will be required to bring the following items to the test, a calculator, two pencils, and a government-issued ID," said the test proctor.
- D. "You will be required to bring the following items to the test: a calculator, two pencils, and a government-issued ID," said the test proctor.

Answers: Punctuation

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

Explanations

1. This sentence contains a punctuation error because the comma is not needed. A comma should be placed before a coordinating conjunction to separate two independent clauses. "At least your sister" is not an independent clause, so the comma is not needed. The correct way to write this sentence is "At least your sister and I are going to be roommates."
2. The sentence "Jovie owns a one-quarter share in Bluman-Neely's Department Store" is correctly hyphenated because fractions that are used as modifiers should be hyphenated.
3. Compound numbers such as "thirty-five" should be hyphenated. Additionally, the word "t-shirt" is spelled with a hyphen.
4. Use a hyphen to join two or more words serving as a single adjective before a noun. Additionally, a hyphen should be used to avoid an awkward combination of letters ("antiimmigration"). In this example, the phrase should be written "anti-immigration bill."
5. Use a hyphen to join two or more words serving as a single adjective before a noun. In this example, "ear-piercing" should be hyphenated because it precedes the noun ("wail") it describes.
6. Sentence 2 is incorrectly punctuated because "brand-new" should be hyphenated. Use a hyphen to join two or more words serving as a single adjective before a noun.
7. When compound modifiers follow the noun they modify, they should not be hyphenated. The sentence "The idea of living off campus is appealing to many students" does not need a hyphen.
8. In this sentence, "I want to see a movie before we start studying for finals" should be set off with quotation marks because it is a direct quote. Additionally, only one ending punctuation mark should be placed after "finals."
9. Use a hyphen when forming compound words with the prefix "ex-." Additionally, use a hyphen in large numbers like 255 (two hundred fifty-five). The correct way to write this sentence is "Hetty didn't see her

ex-boyfriend at the graduation ceremony because there were two hundred fifty-five students in attendance."

10. A colon can be used to introduce a list. In this sentence, a colon should be placed after the word "test" to introduce the list of required items.

Grade 12 English: Connotation and Denotation

1. In which sentence does the underlined word suggest the most positive connotation?

- A. Helios was nervous about bringing a homemade soufflé to the party, but his friends declared that it was satisfactory.
 - B. Helios was nervous about bringing a homemade soufflé to the party, but his friends declared that it was adequate.
 - C. Helios was nervous about bringing a homemade soufflé to the party, but his friends declared that it was commendable.
 - D. Helios was nervous about bringing a homemade soufflé to the party, but his friends declared that it was presentable.
-

2. In which sentence does the underlined word suggest the most negative connotation?

- A. Once the curtain rose, Giovanni had an attack of stage fright, forgot his lines, and stood in front of the audience feeling humiliated.
 - B. Once the curtain rose, Giovanni had an attack of stage fright, forgot his lines, and stood in front of the audience feeling flustered.
 - C. Once the curtain rose, Giovanni had an attack of stage fright, forgot his lines, and stood in front of the audience feeling uncomfortable.
 - D. Once the curtain rose, Giovanni had an attack of stage fright, forgot his lines, and stood in front of the audience feeling disconcerted.
-

3.

Duennia and Potifar visited the most exclusive restaurant in town only to discover that the food was distasteful and the servers were rude and inattentive.

Which word has a similar denotation to distasteful, as it is used in this sentence?

- A. obscene
 - B. unappetizing
 - C. vulgar
 - D. nondescript
-

(1) "Whew! I've never climbed so many stairs in my life," Uli gasped as she and her best friend Rosque paused to catch their breath at the top of the staircase.

(2) "What about me?" asked Rosque with a smile. (3) "I'll be making that trip several times a day once classes start."

(4) "Don't remind me," Uli replied. (5) "I'm distressed enough as it is. (6) Why do you have to go to college so far away? (7) I'll miss hanging out with you."

(8) "I'll miss you, too," Rosque said somberly, his smile gone. (9) "Let's see my dorm room before we both start crying out on the stairwell." (10) They walked inside the tiny, cramped dorm and looked around in dismay.

(11) "This is awful," cried Uli. (12) "It's the size of a shoe box and as dirty as a landfill. (13) That mattress looks prehistoric. (14) I bet George Washington was the last person to sleep on it."

(15) "I don't need anything fancy," Rosque said. (16) "This place may not be extravagant, but it's tolerable. (17) I'll either be in class or working most of the time, anyway."

(18) "That's true, I guess," agreed Uli. (19) "Well, let the drudgery begin. (20) I'll start cleaning the walls, and you can start mopping the floor."

(21) "We can make this place shine!" Rosque remarked. (22) His positive attitude made Uli smile, and she began to feverishly attack the grime on the walls.

(23) "Maybe we'll be featured on 'Best Dorm Room Makeovers' and win a million dollars," Uli joked. (24) Rosque laughed and shook his head doubtfully.

(25) "I'll just be happy if we make this room habitable," he told her. (26) "It'll be hard enough living far away from my friends and family. (27) I'd like a decent place to come back to at the end of the day." (28) Uli dug around in her backpack until she found a large picture frame.

(29) "Maybe this will help," she said as she handed it to Rosque. (30) He turned the frame over to see a photograph of all of his friends and family.

(31) "Thanks, Uli," Rosque said warmly. (32) "This photo is the best present I've ever gotten. (33) It would make a dungeon feel like home."

4. Read sentence 25 from the passage.

"I'll just be happy if we make this room habitable," he told her.

Which of the following substitutes for "habitable" expresses the most positive connotation?

- A. tolerable
- B. livable
- C. comfortable
- D. passable

5. The words momentous, important, considerable, and consequential all have similar meanings. Which word expresses the strongest positive connotation?

- A. important
 - B. momentous
 - C. consequential
 - D. considerable
-

6. Which pair of words has the same denotative meaning but different connotative meanings?

- A. resourceful, inventive
 - B. moody, irritable
 - C. trivial, unimportant
 - D. cautious, indecisive
-

7. Which of the following words meaning "unusual" has the most negative connotation?

- A. peculiar
 - B. quirky
 - C. singular
 - D. rare
-

8.

Treena made an appointment with the veterinarian because she was concerned about Miss Kitty Fantastico's thin condition.

Which word would **best** replace thin to suggest a negative connotation?

- A. slender
- B. gaunt
- C. svelte
- D. slim

9. Which of the following words meaning "impulsive" has the most positive connotation?

- A. impetuous
 - B. overzealous
 - C. careless
 - D. spontaneous
-

10.

Even though Jenna is awarded a certificate every year for having the most volunteer hours of any student at our school, she still remains humble and grateful for the opportunity to help others.

In this sentence, the word "humble" implies that Jenna is

- A. unpretentious.
- B. subservient.
- C. inconsequential.
- D. plain.

Answers: Connotation and Denotation

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

Explanations

1. "Satisfactory," "adequate," "presentable," and "commendable" have similar meanings and can be used to mean "meeting expectations." However, "commendable" conveys the most positive connotation out of these four synonyms. It is often used to mean "meeting expectations in an admirable manner."
2. "Flustered," "uncomfortable," and "disconcerted" have similar meanings and imply that Giovanni is nervous and upset by his situation. However, "humiliated" conveys the most negative connotation out of these four words. This word choice suggests that Giovanni is experiencing extremely painful feelings of embarrassment.
3. The word "distasteful" has several connotative and denotative meanings. In this context, it is used in a negative way to suggest that the restaurant's food is unappealing. "Unappetizing" has a similar denotation to "distasteful," as it is used in this sentence.
4. The words "habitable," "tolerable," "livable," and "passable" imply that the dorm room is acceptable for human habitation. However, the word "comfortable" has a more positive connotation and suggests the dorm room is a pleasant place to live.
5. The words "important," "considerable," "consequential," and "momentous" have similar meanings and can be used to describe a notable event. "Momentous" has a strong positive connotation and implies an event of unparalleled significance.
6. Words have connotations (suggestive meanings) and denotations (literal or dictionary meanings). The word "cautious" is often used in a positive way to mean "showing careful forethought." Even though "indecisive" has a similar dictionary meaning, it carries a more negative connotation than "cautious."
7. Although the dictionary defines all of these words similarly, "peculiar" has the most negative connotation. It is often used to mean "eccentric" or "strange."
8. The words "slender," "svelte," "slim," and "gaunt" can be used to mean "lacking excess flesh." However, "gaunt" conveys the most negative connotation and suggests a dangerously low weight.

9. "Overzealous," "careless," "impetuous," and "spontaneous" can all be used to mean "acting without forethought." However, the word "spontaneous" has a more positive connotation than the other four words and implies unconstrained action.

10. The word "humble" has several denotative, or dictionary, meanings. In this context, the speaker uses the word to describe a person who is unpretentious despite having won several awards. The context of a word can often help you understand its connotative meaning.