

Grade 9 English: Textual Evidence

"Want to go fishing with us?" Jenny asked Cathy, her new friend who had recently moved to the city from the Midwest. "You just need a hat and sunscreen. We won't be gone too long. We have food. What do you say?"

"Sure," Cathy replied. "Do I need to pack any vegetarian food?"

"Oh! I forgot! I can make you a sandwich without meat. Let's run," Jenny convinced her friend and gestured her to hurry up. "Let's try to get there while it's still morning."

"Is anyone else coming?" Cathy voiced her concern. "I mean who else is coming?"

"Just Pat," Jenny replied as she motioned Cathy to lock the door. "We can chat in the car. We'll pick him up and leave for the lake."

"Uh ok," Cathy mumbled, unable to back out now. "Fishing is about enjoying silence, right?"

"Why not," Jenny remarked. "Pat is chatty, though!"

"Did you tell him you were going to invite me?" Cathy asked, unable to keep her mind off the topic. "Doesn't he mind?"

"I assumed he'd be okay. He likes my friends. He mentioned you were cool to hang out with," Jenny replied as she started driving. She turned on the radio and sang the opera as she drove. "I am the only one I know who sings an opera in the car, ha!"

After Jenny sang three arias, she arrived at Pat's apartment with Cathy, who refused to get out of the car. She made an inaudible excuse and moved to the back seat of the car. When Jenny returned with Pat, Cathy managed to greet them and stayed quiet. The three of them drove for an hour and arrived at a serene lake. The radio was not on during this trip, and Pat talked about his college plans for the whole hour. He was going to Yale, far away from Purdue, Jenny and Cathy's future academic institution. He was happy about settling down at one place for four years. Once the group reached the lake, Pat kept talking. This time, he went on and on about having moved 300 times around the country and being separated from 300 best friends in each city.

"You are exaggerating," Jenny accused Pat. "Maybe you have moved like 20 times."

"And, I have fallen in love only two times," Pat blurted out. "But, you are the real one, Jenn."

"Who was the other one?" Jenny asked, plainly jealous. "You never told me."

"There was this girl in my grade school in Nebraska. I thought we were soul mates. What do kids know! I am sure she does not even remember my name now," Pat recanted. "That was so long ago. I bet she couldn't recognize me if she saw me. Well, I forgot how she looked as well. Oh well! But, you'll never forget me, right?"

As the couple exchanged their stories from their past, they forgot to notice Cathy who was hiding her Cornhuskers cap in her purse. They did not see the disgusted look on her face when Pat caught a fish and dumped it on the bucket. Cathy closed her eyes, unable to see the trembling fish, and stared at the lake.

1. Which of these can be concluded from the passage?

- A. Pat dislikes getting to settle down in Yale.
- B. Cathy is hesitant to hang out with Pat.
- C. Jenny fears going away to Purdue soon.
- D. Cathy is eager for Pat to remember her.

9. What can be inferred from the following sentence from the passage?

"Uh ok," Cathy mumbled, unable to back out now.

- A. Jenny is attempting to find out if Cathy likes her boyfriend Pat.
 - B. Cathy and Jenny have known each other for a long time.
 - C. Cathy tries hard to make her feelings seem inconspicuous.
 - D. Jenny makes great effort to ask her friend about her interests.
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One, two, three, four, five . . ., Carla repeated over and over again in her head. She was sitting in the driveway holding on to the steering wheel for the past half hour. *You can do this.* She caressed the steering wheel one more time, adjusted the rear view mirror once again, and started counting out loud. "One," she said as she thought about her only best friend, Anyuta, whom she missed a lot. "Two," Carla uttered the number of road trips she took with her family and Anyuta. "Three," she pronounced the number of times Anyuta went back home for the holidays since she had come to her hometown as an exchange student. "Four," Carla said, recalling the number of secrets she had only shared with Anyuta.

Carla tried to remember which foot hits the accelerator and which foot presses on the brakes. She tried to think of all the things Anyuta would have said to encourage her and slowly turned on the ignition. After wiping down a few tears, she checked the manila envelope with information about Mothers Against Drunk Driving to send to Anyuta's mother. Carla tried to forgive herself once again for taking Anyuta to the formal dance in their high school, which she did not want to attend in the first place. But she could never forgive the intoxicated driver who hit the passenger side of her car that night. *One, two, three, four, five . . .*, Carla repeated and slowly drove to her high school where she was going to be speaking at the memorial program. As she watched a bird fly across her windshield, she knew just what she was going to be saying. She was going to ask her peers to respect life in every waking moment—especially behind the wheels. Her grip behind the steering wheel was getting stronger.

2. Based on the evidence in this passage, Carla can be best described as

- A. hasty.
- B. sentimental.
- C. disrespectful.
- D. generous.

Parkour

"Free running" is the English language equivalent for the French sport of *parkour*. The origin of *parkour* comes from the French Army obstacle course, *l'parcours combatant*, used for training. Practitioners of *parkour*, or *traceurs*, use agility and strength to cross an urban landscape using acrobatics. The sport requires as much discipline as a martial art, as much strength as mountain climbing, and as much endurance as long-distance running.

A *traceur* might begin on the roof of a 5-story building then drop to a fire escape two floors below. He might then flip over the edge of the railing, hang, and drop to the railing of the level below. There, he might catch himself on that railing, hang, and then drop two more stories to the street. The idea behind this dangerous maneuver is that through a system of three drops, the *traceur* has reached the street in a matter of seconds. The more traditional method of finding a set of stairs, or waiting on an elevator, might take minutes.

Over the past decade, *parkour* has increased in popularity and has gained a cult following. Action movies have noticed the sport, and some directors include chases between *traceurs* through crowded city streets. Training academies report more young people are signing up to study the art every season. YouTube and other upload sites contain hundreds of links to videos from amateur *traceurs*. It may not be too long before the world gets its first view of *parkour* at the Olympic Games.

3. Which of the following sentences from the passage supports the idea that *parkour* will be a popular sport in the future?

- A. "Practitioners of *parkour*, or *traceurs*, use agility and strength to cross an urban landscape using acrobatics."
- B. "The more traditional method of finding a set of stairs, or waiting on an elevator, might take minutes."
- C. "Action movies have noticed the sport, and some directors include chases between *traceurs* through crowded city streets."
- D. "The origin of *parkour* comes from the French Army obstacle course, *l'parcours combatant*, used for training."

John Deere was born in Rutland, Virginia, on February 7, 1804. At age 17, he became an apprentice blacksmith to Captain Benjamin Lawrence, and he opened his own shop four years later. Trouble with creditors plagued him, however, and he sold his shop and moved to Illinois after only a few years to avoid declaring bankruptcy.

Deere's time in Illinois was to prove life changing. He noticed that the wrought-iron plows used by local farmers were ineffective in the tough Illinois soil. In 1837, he developed and manufactured the first effective cast-steel plow. He sold the first of his plows to a neighbor, and by 1841, he was manufacturing 75-100 plows each year.

By 1868, Deere turned his success with "the plow that broke the plains" into the financially successful Deere & Company. He also focused on civic activities. He served as mayor of Moline, Illinois, and he improved much of the city's infrastructure by installing street lights and fire hydrants and creating a city park. John Deere passed away at his home in 1886, and his company remains one of the foremost manufacturers of agricultural machinery in the world.

4. There is enough evidence in the third paragraph to conclude that

- A. financial problems plagued Deere until his death.
- B. John Deere was active in his community.
- C. Moline, Illinois, named a park after Deere.
- D. John Deere sold Deere & Company in 1868.

Chess is a game of strategy and tactics. A game involves a match between two opponents who combat one another in a contest of judgment and perception. Players must skillfully control their army as they attempt to capture their adversary's king, a game-winning position known as checkmate. Unlike many other games, chance is not a factor in determining the victor. Rather, the outcome depends solely on the decisions made by each player. The complexity of the game lies in these decisions, for they have far-reaching consequences as the game slowly progresses.

The history of chess reaches back at least 1,400 years sometime before 600 A.D. Since then, the game has undergone many changes. Evidence suggests that the game originated in India as a tool for teaching military strategy to royalty. From here, the game spread to Persia (modern day Iran) and then throughout the Muslim world. By 1000 A.D., it had moved into the main commercial centers of Italy and Spain. The game became well established throughout Europe in the second half of the fifteenth century. The historical evolution of the game has resulted in the modern form we know today.

5. Read the sentence from the passage.

A game involves a match between two opponents who combat one another in a contest of judgment and perception.

What does the sentence imply?

- A. The difficulty of chess depends on a person's point of view.
- B. Chess is useful for settling conflicts and disputes in a fair way.
- C. Chess requires thoughtful collaboration and planning.
- D. Success in chess demonstrates intellectual strength.

Happy Happy Smile Smile

by A. Gautam

"Happy happy smile smile!" Julia said to the children as they posed for the picture.

"That is not your line," Steve, 6, attacked. "Daddy, tell her she can't use Mom's words." He got up from the couch and sat on his father's lap.

"Aren't you a little old for that?" Miranda, 13, asked her sulking step-brother. "Mom, would you hurry up, please?"

"Alright—alright—say cheese, please!" Julia asked of the children and her husband and finished her duty of taking the yearly picture. Next, she put the camera on auto mode and got in the picture as well. "There. Thank you, guys.

"Miranda, help Daddy put together Steve's new toy. Stevie, honey, would you like to help me set up the plates for dinner?"

"Sure," Miranda replied and stood next to her step-father, waiting for instructions. "How can I help, George?"

"Please do not address him by his first name. At least call him 'father,' sweetheart!" Julia insisted and waited for Steve with a smile.

"Why me?" Steve asked, still clinging to his father and hoping for an excuse. After receiving a gentle nudge from him, Steve reluctantly moved towards the kitchen. "Okayyyyy! Daddy, why do we take a picture on my birthday every year? Why not on your birthday?"

"Because your Mom used to take a picture of you every year to see how much you have grown. You were the one and only baby for her. Nothing or nobody will ever replace you for your daddy either," Julia responded instead and continued to hand Steve a plate to set on each place mat. "You are a special boy."

"And, Miranda?" Steve asked Julia, without sulking.

"Well, she is my baby girl," Julia replied. "But, Miranda and I love you, too. Your daddy loves her a little, too. Is that okay?"

"And, you?" Steve's voice was softer now.

"Can I love you a little, too?" Julia asked, facing Steve and anticipating a hug.

"Maybe tomorrow," Steve replied. "If I like your gift." After he was done helping Julia, he stood close to her so she could embrace him if she wanted to. When she understood and bent down, Steve ran away to the table where his gifts were being kept. He opened the box that was marked "from Julia" first. When he saw that it was a picture frame with photographs of him and his mother, he screamed with joy. The handmade wooden frame read "happy happy smile smile."

Julia was watching the little boy's face when he opened up the present. She saw a genuine smile in his face. The same smile was apparent in his father's face at the same moment.

6. What can be inferred from the passage?

- A. Julia is succeeding in winning over Steve.
- B. Miranda is failing at assembling the toy.
- C. Steve's love for his mother is starting to fade.
- D. The father is oblivious to the developments.

10. What does the evidence in this passage suggest?

- A. The father is indifferent to Miranda and Julia.
 - B. Miranda has yet to warm up to her step-father.
 - C. Julia and her husband lack an understanding.
 - D. Miranda dislikes helping her mother in the kitchen.
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Most of us cook our food in an oven that requires wood, propane, or electricity. Solar ovens, on the other hand, only require the rays of the sun as an energy source. There are over 60 different types of solar ovens, but most operate according to the same basic principles. Solar cooking is a process that concentrates sunlight on a reflective surface, converts light to heat, and traps heat inside a container. The oven is placed in direct sunlight and left until the food inside is thoroughly cooked. Cooking time varies according to the type of solar oven, the amount of sunlight, and the quantity of food.

Solar ovens are generally cheap to purchase and operate. A simple Internet search can provide many tips on making your own oven from household items. Although solar ovens provide a less fuel-intensive way to cook, they do have some disadvantages. They take longer to heat food than conventional ovens, and they do not work well on cloudy or rainy days. For a growing number of people, the advantages of cooking by the sun's power far outweigh the minor disadvantages. Why not buy or make your own solar oven today?

7. According to the article, what is one downside of cooking with solar ovens?

- A. They can overheat and cause serious burns.
- B. They are complicated to assemble.
- C. They are expensive to buy and maintain.
- D. They are dependent on sunny weather.

The Motion Picture Association of America is an organization of movie studios that censors movies distributed in America. The MPAA is a non-profit, private company with no connection to the United States government. The organization claims this is necessary to ensure the government does not violate the First Amendment rights of American citizens. It further states that because the studios police themselves, the government has no need to do so. While this fact may be true, a large number of past MPAA presidents have been ex-politicians with ties to the United States government.

The focus of the MPAA is censorship of films. The organization rates almost all films produced and distributed by the United States. It then awards those films a rating based on the content. The MPAA does not specifically instruct film studios which scenes they should cut in order to receive a particular rating. It instead releases a general opinion as to why the film will receive the rating. The studio then has the opportunity to cut the film again and resubmit it to the MPAA for another review. If a studio chooses not to comply with the MPAA rating system for a particular film, then that film will not receive an MPAA rating. Without an MPAA rating, theater owners will not book the film in United States theaters.

Most critics understand and support the need to protect children from exposure to inappropriate subject matter. Still, some vocal critics claim that movie studios have made use of the MPAA rating system to promote particular films. These critics say that features released by the major studios receive less censorship than features released by independent film studios. Several documentaries have come out recently that provide evidence to support this argument. The MPAA, on the other hand, defends its methods by saying its employees review a film based on an objective scale.

Critics also complain that some action movie directors purposefully seek an R-rating for a film. They do so to attract larger audiences and increase ticket sales. These critics explain that if an action film has a lot of violence, then more people will go to see it. They further explain that the MPAA does not censor violence as readily as sexual content or harsh language. These critics state that if violence is just as objectionable as other adult subject matter, then the MPAA should censor it just as often. Critics of the MPAA, like film critic Roger Ebert, call for the MPAA to restructure its process to produce ratings that are more accurate.

8. Which sentence from the article does the author use to support the idea that the MPAA needs to restructure its rating system?

- A.** "Critics of the MPAA, like film critic Roger Ebert, call for the MPAA to restructure its process to produce ratings that are more accurate."
- B.** "The organization claims this is necessary to ensure the government does not violate the First Amendment rights of American citizens."
- C.** "The MPAA does not specifically instruct film studios which scenes they should cut in order to receive a particular rating."
- D.** "Most critics understand and support the need to protect children from exposure to inappropriate subject matter."

Answers: Textual Evidence

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

Explanations

1. Cathy wants to get out of fishing with Pat and Jenny but she can't. She asks Jenny if Pat feels comfortable hanging out with her. She makes minimal contact and conversation with him. Thus, it can be inferred from the passage that Cathy is hesitant to hang out with Pat.
2. In this passage, Cathy tries hard to make her feelings seem unnoticeable. The reader can understand that the girl Pat talks about as his first love is possibly Cathy. Because Pat does not recognize Cathy, she tries to remain in the background when Jenny and Pat converse.
3. Notice the way Carla remembers Anyuta. She associates numbers with things that remind her of her best friend. The first paragraph shows how sentimental and emotional Carla is. She is deeply affected by the loss of her friend.
4. The sentence, "Action movies have noticed the sport, and some directors include chases between *traceurs* through crowded city streets," suggests that if Hollywood is glamorizing the sport, then young people may soon become interested in it. The next sentences in the passage provide evidence that today's youth have already become attracted to the sport.
5. In the third paragraph, the author states that John Deere "focused on civic activities" and served as mayor of Moline, Illinois. Based on this information, the reader can conclude that Deere was active in his community.
6. The correct answer is "Success in chess demonstrates intellectual strength." By stating that chess is a game of "judgment and perception," the author emphasizes that a person needs to rely on their intellect to do well. Therefore, being successful at chess demonstrates a strong intellect.
7. At the end of the passage, Julia manages to bring out a genuine smile on Steve's face. He likes her gift, which he opens first. The evidence in this passage implies that Julia is gradually succeeding in her attempts to win Steve's heart.

8. Miranda addresses her step-father by his name. This signifies that she has yet to warm up to him. Her mom is trying to help her bond with her step-father.

9. In the second paragraph, the author states that solar ovens "do not work well on cloudy or rainy days." This implies that solar ovens, unlike conventional ovens, are dependent on sunny weather.

10. According to the passage, "Critics of the MPAA, like film critic Roger Ebert, call for the MPAA to restructure its process to produce ratings that are more accurate." The author makes an ethical appeal by stating that respected professionals in the film industry, such as Roger Ebert, think it would be a good idea if the MPAA restructured.

Grade 9 English: Summary

Game shows have been an entertaining way to watch television for years. They can challenge the mind as well as provide slapstick humor. The popularity of game shows owes much to Merv Griffin, who developed many such shows through the decades. He developed two of the most popular syndicated games. He created *Jeopardy!* and *Wheel of Fortune*—they both have lasted decades.

Jeopardy! first appeared in 1964 after Griffin's wife wanted to revive the old question-and-answer game shows that no longer existed. The concept of this game was to give the contestants the answer and have them reply in the form of a question. This gave a twist to the typical question-and-answer game. *Jeopardy!* was first hosted by Art Fleming during its first run on television. After its syndication, Alex Trebek became the show's next and present host.

Griffin's next successful show was *Wheel of Fortune*, which began its run on television in 1975. The game's popularity was due to its similar style to the game of hangman. The contestants were given a word puzzle to solve by guessing one letter at a time to fill in the missing blanks. *Wheel of Fortune* went through a string of hosts before Pat Sajak took over in 1983 along with Vanna White. The show is considered the top-rated game show on television today.

1. Which of these best summarizes the first paragraph?

- A. Among all the game shows, *Jeopardy!* and *Wheel of Fortune* are successfully syndicated programs.
- B. The rise in the popularity of slapstick humor was primarily the result of the work of Merv Griffin.
- C. Merv Griffin helped revive game shows on television with *Jeopardy!* and *Wheel of Fortune*.
- D. Television has used challenging and funny game shows to entertain its audience for many years.

Cell phones have been a part of the American way of life for a long period of time. Cell phones give the convenience of talking someone at that very instant. This makes it especially helpful in emergencies. Now, it's a common way of life because most teenagers have a cell phone in their possession. Therefore, more people are walking around having conversations with people in other places.

Although there are benefits to having a cell phone, talking on one can be disrespectful when there are other people around who can hear the conversation. An exchange on the phone could be loud and disruptive. It is not uncommon for people to have a conversation on the phone when they are physically with another person. This is discourteous to the other person because this causes him or her to feel ignored and unimportant.

Because of this growing trend, many restaurants are stopping a diner from talking on the cell phone. Often, during a meal, phones will ring either with a call or with a text message. This disturbs the meals of other patrons at the restaurant, who also pay for their meals. Therefore, restaurant owners have to make a decision to allow cell phone usage or eliminate it altogether. So, many choose to ask people to limit the use of cell phones while in their establishments.

To avoid poor cell phone etiquette, it's best to set a few rules when using a phone. When a person is in a public area, like a restaurant, it is best to limit conversations because he or she is not the only one there. It helps keep information private as well. In addition, one should show interest in a person who is physically present rather than ignoring him or her by focusing on the cell phone. It helps maintain an amiable relationship.

2. Choose the best summary for the entire passage.

- The use of a cell phone has become more common; however, it may have become too
- A.** commonplace. People are discourteous to friends and other people when they use their phones. Some public places now limit phone usage, which the user should do as well.
 - B.** when they use cell phones improperly. For instance, phone usage should be limited when in a restaurant because it disturbs others. Even restaurants have started to limit this activity.
 - C.** communicate easily with one another. However, there are times when people are rude at restaurants because they disregard others when they have public conversations.
 - D.** happens between friends as well when people choose to ignore friends to talk on the phone. This activity should be limited.

The Little Prince is a renowned novella by the French author Antoine De Saint-Exupery. Although it has been labeled a "children's book," its universal and profound observations about life and nature makes it appealing to readers of all ages. The book also includes Saint-Exupery's illustrations. Since its publication in 1943, the book has been translated into more than 180 languages, has sold more than 80 million copies, and has remained one of the best-selling books ever. In fact, several asteroid discoveries have been named after the book.

Many believe that *The Little Prince* reflects Saint-Exupery's life experiences as an aviator. In the book, the author uses the metaphor of a journey to state the theme. The story begins with the narrator being stranded in the desert and running into the little prince who tells him stories. The little prince is a young boy who is visiting from an asteroid or "planet" called B612. The prince speaks of the rose and the volcanoes on his planets and reminisces about his home.

In the course of the prince's journey to planet Earth, he visits six other planets. The people the prince encounters in each of these planets reveal various shortcomings of "grown-ups." These characters are symbolic of grown-ups who forget that they were once children, as the author states in the preface. For the most part, the author characterizes narrow-mindedness as a trait of adults. By depicting adults as unimaginative, dull, shallow, and stubborn, the author contrasts them with the open-minded, imaginative, and perceptive children.

3. Which of these best summarizes the passage?

- A. *The Little Prince* shows the narrator being stranded in the desert as he encounters the prince from another planet and learns about the rose and the volcanoes the little boy has left behind.
The widely successful book *The Little Prince*, reminds people that grown-ups were also once
- B. children and inspires readers to continue discovering their imaginative, perceptive, and open-minded younger selves.
In *The Little Prince*, Antoine De Saint-Exupery reflects upon his experiences as an aviator and
- C. narrates a fantasy tale of meeting a prince who comes from the asteroid planet also known as B612.
The famous novella *The Little Prince* appeals to readers of all age, likely reflects the author's life
- D. experiences, and uses the theme of journey to contrast narrow-minded adults with perceptive children.

It's hard to imagine football or basketball games without cheerleaders. Their shouts and cheers are common sounds at most sporting events. They encourage the players to play their best with a variety of catchy chants. In addition, cheerleaders can perform difficult gymnastic and balancing techniques. All the while, cheerleaders keep the crowd excited and entertained at the event.

Although cheerleaders are part of the sport landscape, many people question whether cheerleading should be considered a sport. In July 2010, a ruling by a federal judge in Connecticut stated that cheerleading was not a sport because it was not a fully developed activity. There are very few definitive rules for cheerleading, which make it appear disorganized. This ruling came about because Quinnipiac University decided to reduce costs by cutting women's volleyball team, which fought against this decision. The university was going to replace volleyball with a cost-effective cheerleading squad.

Despite this ruling, supporters of cheerleaders viewed it as an opportunity for development. They believed that the ruling would prompt a change within the cheerleading world. Cheerleaders would begin pushing to be called a sport by making new rules and regulations. In effect, they would make their activity a sport as well as design it to be safer for its participants.

Whatever happens to cheerleading in the future, it will still be a part of sports. Cheerleaders still encourage players and entertain people all around the world with their upbeat attitudes.

4. Which of the following best summarizes the third paragraph?

- A. The court ruling could initiate new regulations that might make cheerleading a real sport eventually.
 - B. Some people viewed the court ruling as a chance for the cheerleading world to develop and grow.
 - C. Cheerleading may become a sport over the years if there are rules to make it safer for participants.
 - D. People in cheerleading pushed for new rules and regulations so that they could spark a transformation.
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5. Which of the following best summarizes the second paragraph?

- A. Quinnipiac University tried to replace its women's volleyball team with a cheerleading squad because they wanted to reduce the costs of the sports programs.
- B. A judge's ruling dismissed cheerleading as a sport when Quinnipiac University tried to replace its women's volleyball team with a cheerleading squad.
- C. Because cheerleading has very few authoritative rules, it looks as if it is underdeveloped and disorganized and should be only considered as an activity.
- D. Many people question if cheerleading should be called a sport even though it has been a distinctive part of sporting events for a long time.

For many high school students, the task of choosing a college is inevitable. This becomes a mind-boggling job because it is difficult to figure out which university is best for you. No person is the same as another, and that goes the same for colleges as well. Each university has some aspect in which it excels. Therefore, the choice comes down to the details.

Feeling comfortable in your college is one of the keys to a successful choice. Although you might not know what you want to major in, a college that helps you find your calling is invaluable. Being a good match with your university also means that it should be the right size for you. This means the number of people attending the college does not make it a good college. Rather, it is the type of people. These people should help you grow and develop in your own way.

In addition, the price of college should also be considered. Attending a college can get expensive; however, there are many benefits in going to college. Most often, people do get paid more with a degree. Do not automatically dismiss a college based on price alone. The college tuition could be paid in other ways, such as scholarships, financial aid, or installments.

After all the debate and the research to find a college, the most important thing is what you gain there. In college, a growth occurs in your body and mind. You, of course, mature in age as you attend school. And, the knowledge that you gain from experience and learning can go with you. Thus, choose what school is best for you.

6. Which of the following is the best summary for the entire passage?

- A. The value of the college depends on what the person gains from the experience. In college, a person learns in and out of the classroom. Therefore, it's important for the college of choice to be able to foster the change in the person.
- B. When choosing a college, it is important to see if the school matches with the person's personality. This is done by observing the people who make up the college. In addition, price is another factor because college is not always expensive.
- C. Going to college should not be dependent upon the price of the college because there are a number of ways a person can pay for it. Thus, a person can receive a college degree and benefit from the increase in pay when he or she gets a job.
- D. Choosing a college can be a difficult choice; however, comparing the details can help in the decision. Whether a school is a good match and an affordable price is important, but what a person gains in knowledge is just as significant.

The Dream Fulfilled

Alex couldn't believe that he had finally become a doctor, and not just any doctor, but a cardiologist! He still remembered the day when his grandmother was writhing in pain after a snake bit her, and they weren't able to save her because the only hospital was several miles away from their remote village. It was then that he had felt a strong desire to do something to help the people of his village in times of need. At that time, he was very young and did not know how he could bring about any change. Now, after more than a decade, he knew what must be done.

He had been fortunate to receive an opportunity to perform complicated bypass surgeries under Dr. Adrian D'costa, one of the best cardiologists in the world. Soon, he had performed several surgeries on patients all over the world. One day, after one such case, while relaxing over a cup of coffee, he confided in Dr. D'costa about his dream to build a world-class hospital in his village. The good old doctor promised that he would talk to some of his colleagues and see how they could go about turning Alex's dream into a reality.

With the help of his colleagues and after acquiring a loan from the bank, the construction of the hospital began. After two years, the hospital was finally opened. Alex's parents were proud of him, and the villagers too showered their blessings on him. However, Alex could not help but feel a little sad. He told Dr. D'costa that he wished this hospital had been there earlier, because then his grandmother could have been alive. Dr. D'costa patted him on his back, and said, "Your granny is up there somewhere, feeling proud that you have done such a noble deed. So, smile and continue the good work." Alex nodded, finally feeling happy and content.

7. Select the **best** summary of this passage.

- A. As a child, Alex loses his grandmother because there is no hospital near their village. Later, Alex works hard and becomes a cardiologist and dreams about opening a hospital in his village. With some help from the colleagues of his mentor, Dr. D'costa, Alex finally opens a hospital in his village.
- B. Alex wishes to become a doctor when he grows up. With the guidance of the renowned cardiologist Dr. Adrian D'costa, he practices and performs complicated bypass surgeries on patients from all over the world. With time, Alex becomes one of the most famous cardiologists in the world.
- C. Alex's grandmother falls ill and suffers in pain due to a snakebite. As there is no hospital near their village, Alex is not able to provide help to his grandmother. Feeling a sense of helplessness, Alex decides that when he grows up, he will get trained so that he can treat his villagers professionally.
- D. As a child, Alex wishes to move out of his village and become a doctor. When he grows up, he becomes a famous cardiologist, but he wants to do something to help his village. With the help of his colleagues, he builds a hospital in his village so that he can provide proper medical treatment.

There is something irresistible about the hiss of a soda can being opened and taking the first sip. However, do you ever wonder about how that aluminum can found its way into your hands? Without the can, that bubbly sip would not be as easily accessible as it is today. More importantly, without the can, eating food would not be the same.

Before preservation methods were developed, people had a difficult time saving food. They did not have the modern conveniences of refrigerators or freezers to keep food fresh. Therefore, food had to be eaten right away or wasted. In 1795, during Napoleon Bonaparte's military campaigns, the French government decided to find a way to feed the soldiers so that they would not get sick from spoiled food. It offered a prize of 12,000 francs to the person who could find a method to preserve food.

After 15 years of experimentation, a man named Nicolas Appert came up with a way to keep food fresh by canning food in glass jars. He would put the food in a jar and wire it shut, and then, he would boil the jar until it was sealed tightly. Appert was awarded the monetary prize. Following Appert's discovery, Peter Durand, an Englishman, used tin cans to hold the food. Both men used a similar way for preservation. However, the tin can was more durable than the glass jar.

Appert's and Durand's methods of preserving food helped people waste less food. However, Durand's tin can was tougher than glass. It made food more transportable because there wasn't the fear of breaking of jars. Later on, aluminum cans were developed because they did not rust and were lighter. They, now, popularly hold beverages.

8. Choose the best summary for the entire passage.

- A. Glass jars and tin cans were used as containers to preserve food. The jars were used by Nicolas Appert while the cans were employed by Peter Durand. Both men placed partially cooked food in the containers, covered them tightly, and boiled them to seal them tightly. This later helped in developing aluminum cans.
- B. Beverages and food are more available today because of the development of preservation techniques. Before preservation in glass jars and tin cans, people had no way to keep things cold, like in a refrigerator or a freezer. Therefore, food would spoil and rot, and people would waste food or become sick from it.
- C. Nicolas Appert and Peter Durand were leaders in preservation. When the French government offered 12,000 francs in order to find a way to feed its soldiers, Appert solved the problem by preserving food in glass jars. Soon after this, Durand followed with his work with tin cans, which were more durable than glass.
- D. Before beverage and food cans, food was being wasted because there was no means of keeping them fresh, so the French government enlisted the help of its people. Nicolas Appert developed preservation in glass jars while Peter Durand worked with tin cans. Their work led to the development of aluminum cans.

The Missing Pencil

Maddie worked up her courage and strode into the classroom, head held high as she searched for an empty seat. Finding a desk at the back of the room, Maddie slid into the seat, her face burning red at the attention of the other students.

Maddie hated the fact that she didn't know anyone, so she resolved not to look up to meet their interested stares. She let a curtain of hair fall down to hide her face as she reached into her backpack, pulling out a notebook. As the teacher started class, asking students to take careful notes, Maddie began to root more desperately through her backpack in search of a pencil.

With a groan, Maddie realized she had left her pencils sitting on the counter next to the back door. Sighing and shaking her head at her own forgetfulness, she put away her backpack. A pencil on her desk caught her eye, and Maddie looked up, startled. The girl next to her smiled and gave her a small thumbs up. Maddie smiled before looking around the room, suddenly realizing the interest of other students was far more friendly than she had at first thought.

9. Select the **best** summary of this passage.

- Maddie sits down and takes out her notebook before searching for a pencil to use. Her teacher is
- A. starting class and Maddie cannot take notes because she left her pencils at home. She is relieved when her classmate allows her to borrow a pencil.
- Maddie walks into the classroom of her new school, feeling embarrassed that other students are
- B. looking at her. When class begins, she discovers she has left her pencils at home. Another student gives her a pencil, and Maddie realizes her new classmates are friendly.
- Maddie has to find her courage before she comes into a new class. She is embarrassed because
- C. she does not know anyone in the class. When someone leaves a pencil on her desk, Maddie looks around and finds that her classmates are actually friendly.
- Maddie walks into a classroom and sits in the back of the room. She takes out her notebook and
- D. tries to find a pencil before remembering she left her pencils on the counter by the door at home. Someone in her class lets Maddie borrow a pencil.

In baseball history, one of the most famous games took place between the Brooklyn Dodgers and the New York Giants. It was a game to decide which team would win the National League pennant in 1951. Throughout the season, both teams had impressive winning records. However, by the end of the season, the two teams had tied and had to play each other in a deciding three-game playoff.

On October 3, 1951, the Dodgers and the Giants played game 3. On that day, America witnessed the homerun that would become known as "The Shot Heard 'Round the World." The homerun was hit by Giants' Bobby Thomson. It was a three-run drive that would eventually lead to a Giants' victory over the Dodgers. The final score was 5-4.

The game was a defining moment for baseball because it was between rivals from across the town. It was also an amazingly well played game. Most importantly, the game determined who would play in the World Series. The Giants ended up losing the series to the Yankees. Even so, the Giants win over the Dodgers overshadowed the World Series that year.

10. Which of the following best summarizes the second paragraph?

- A. Bobby Thomson became known for his homerun that was a three-run home drive for a final score of 5-4.
- B. America witnessed Bobby Thomson hit a homerun that led the New York Giants to victory over the Brooklyn Dodgers.
- C. On October 3, 1951, Bobby Thomson hit a homerun that was "The Shot Heard 'Round the World," which won the game.
- D. In game 3 between the Dodgers and the Giants, Bobby Thomson hit his famous homerun, which gave victory to the Giants.

Answers: Summary

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

Explanations

1. The best summary not only restates the main idea in a precise form but also includes important details. The correct answer choice mentions that Merv Griffin helped create game shows and that he developed the two most popular programs of all time.
2. The best summary restates the main idea and relevant details in the most precise way possible. In this passage, the author discusses how cell phone use has spread and how it has changed phone etiquette. Restaurants have to regulate use because it disturbs other patrons. Therefore, the user should also set some limits for himself or herself.
3. The best summary captures the essence of a passage. This passage mentions the success of *The Little Prince* while reflecting on its inspiration, theme, and plot.
4. The best summary not only restates the main idea in a precise form but also includes important details. The correct answer choice mentions how the court ruling prompts new rules and regulation that would lead to eventual conversion of cheerleading into a sport.
5. The best summary not only restates the main idea in a precise form but also includes important details. The correct answer choice mentions that cheerleading was ruled as not an actual sport and the reason it was put to question.
6. The best summary restates the main idea and relevant details in the most precise way possible. In this passage, the difficulty of choosing a college is established. It also reveals what factors should be sought out, and it mentions that the knowledge gained from attending college would be invaluable.
7. The best summary restates the main idea and relevant details in the most precise way possible. In this passage, (1) as a child, Alex loses his grandmother because there is no hospital near their village, (2) later, Alex works hard and becomes a cardiologist and dreams about opening a hospital in his village, and (3) with some help from the colleagues of his mentor, Dr. D'costa, Alex finally opens a hospital in his village.
8. The best summary restates the main idea and relevant details in the most precise way possible. In this passage, the main topic is about the development of preservation. It began with the call for help by the

French government, which was answered by Nicolas Appert's glass jar method. Following that, the passage mentions how Peter Durand developed the tin-can technique. This, then, influences the usage of aluminum cans.

9. A strong summary includes all of the important information in a shortened form and is well organized. The important information in this story is (1) Maddie feels embarrassed when she comes into a new classroom, (2) Maddie realizes she has left her pencil at home, and (3) When Maddie's classmate gives her a pencil to use, Maddie realizes her classmates are friendly. Therefore, the correct answer is **Maddie walks into the classroom of her new school, feeling embarrassed that other students are looking at her. When class begins, she discovers she has left her pencil at home. Another student gives her a pencil, and Maddie realizes her new classmates are friendly.**

10. The best summary not only restates the main idea in a precise form but also includes important details. The correct answer choice mentions Bobby Thomson's historic homerun as well as what it did for the New York Giants.

Grade 9 English: Figurative Meanings

Ricky hugged to the rock wall with every fiber of his being. He could not believe he let Carl talk him into rock-climbing lessons at the local gym. Ricky had absolutely no interest in hanging off the side of a cliff with only a thread to keep him from falling. And now he was stuck.

"Ricky, don't look down! You're practically at the top already!" Carl called from safety of the floor. Ricky clung to the roof like a baby to its mother. He wanted to yell at Carl, but his voice didn't seem to work. Ricky just stared down, hypnotized by the distance between him and the floor, wishing it was all a bad dream.

1. Based on the context, what does the word "hypnotized" tell the reader about what is happening?

- A. Carl helped Ricky stare down.
 - B. Ricky cannot stop looking down.
 - C. Ricky wants to stare at Carl.
 - D. Carl is making Ricky look at him.
-

2. I was really sad all weekend because I was let go from my part-time job on Friday.

What is the **best** meaning for the euphemism "let go"?

- A. fired
 - B. injured
 - C. promoted
 - D. quit
-

3. Based on the context, what does the phrase "with only a thread" tell the reader about how Ricky feels about rock-climbing?

- A. He thinks that thread is surprisingly strong.
- B. He wishes he could use more than thread.
- C. He does not think the thin ropes are safe.
- D. He wants to be the one holding the ropes.

Carnivorous Plants

Most plants are gifted with the ability of making their own food. Through the process of photosynthesis, leaves prepare food in the presence of sunlight and carbon dioxide. However, certain plants depend on other sources for their nutrition. Such plants are called carnivorous plants. These plants attract, catch, digest, and absorb body juices of other animals. They eat small insects and animals. Their beautiful color and sweet-smelling nectar serve as a bait to attract insects.

Many of these plants today have been identified and classified into different species. Scientists are believed to have an accurate estimate of 450 different species of carnivorous plants from across the world.

4. Read the sentence from the passage.

Most plants are gifted with the ability of making their own food.

How does the phrase are gifted with add to the meaning of the passage?

- A. It shows that plants are exceptionally talented.
 - B. It shows that plants come by the skill naturally.
 - C. It shows that plants are endowed with skills from other species.
 - D. It shows that plants pass along skills to other species.
-

5.

Synthetic Gemstones

Gemstones that are created artificially in a laboratory to resemble all properties of an original gemstone are called synthetic gemstones. The basic difference between natural gemstones and synthetic ones are that original gemstones may have some impurity in them, but synthetic ones have none. Synthetic stones are created under similar conditions that occur in nature, but inside a lab. Some synthetic gemstones that are available in the market are moissanite, diamond, emerald, ruby, sapphire, cubic zirconia, and alexandrite. These stones are considered genuine imitations.

Identify the figure of speech used in the last sentence of the passage.

- A. oxymoron
- B. euphemism
- C. hyperbole
- D. metaphor

As the sky darkened ominously above him, Freddy struggle to light the fire he had built over the last hour. Camping alone had its drawbacks, but Freddy preferred it to the last day of school chaos that was camping with others. He enjoyed his vacation from the world of technology and immersed himself in the kind, gentle music that nature provided.

This time, however, Freddy wished he had brought his quick-starter fire kit with him. The steel-gray clouds crowded together in the sky, pushing and shoving into each other. Freddy's hands shook as he desperately tried for one measly spark to start his fire. He thought that if he could get it started, he could stave off the cold rain for a just a bit longer. "Come on!" Freddy said, just as his fire ignited. Freddy basked in flames like a starving man gorged himself on food. Then, the sky opened up, dumping buckets of stinging, cold rain onto Freddy. The fire hissed and sputtered angrily as it went out, and Freddy raced into his truck, grateful he would have somewhere warm to sleep for the night.

6. What is the meaning of the phrase "crowded together in the sky, pushing and shoving into each other"?

- A. The storm was starting to thin the clouds.
 - B. Clouds were getting closer to the trees.
 - C. There was not a single cloud in the sky.
 - D. More clouds were building up in the sky.
-

7. Helen was obviously a young person of italics, a human exclamation point, enthusiastic, irrepressible. She sat fidgeting in her chair, trying her best to convince the detective that she was a grown woman.

Using clues from the passage above, what can the reader infer from "a young person of italics, a human exclamation point"?

- A. Helen can speak fluently in Italian and English.
- B. Helen absolutely detests getting attention.
- C. Helen uses dramatic emphasis when speaking.
- D. Helen is enthusiastic about English punctuation.

8. Here and there Marla remembered patches, sensations, pictures, and scents: mother holding baby sister up for her to kiss; the fragrance of the baby powder; the pine trees near the house chanting loudly in an autumn wind; her father's alert face, intent on the toy water-wheel he was setting up for her in the little creek; the beautiful sheen of the pink silk dress Aunt Victoria had sent her; the look of her mother's steady, grave eyes when she was sick; the leathery smell of the books in the University Library one day when she followed her father there; the sound of the rain pattering on the low, slanting roof of her bedroom.

What do the words "chanting loudly in an autumn wind" describe?

- A. the sound of the trees swaying in the wind
 - B. the character's favorite autumn activity
 - C. the words that the trees repeat in the wind
 - D. the melody made by the wind in autumn
-

9. Read the following sentence.

Despite the long campaign with many debates and town halls, some voters remained on the fence until election day.

What does on the fence mean as it is used in the sentence?

- A. unaware
 - B. elevated
 - C. undecided
 - D. refreshed
-

10.

Some music artists can compose **painfully beautiful** ballads about lost love. Those artists can express moments of love and heartache so well that listeners can feel the artists' pain.

Based on the context of the sentence, the oxymoron "painfully beautiful" means that

- A. something is so exquisite that it may hurt someone to experience it.
 - B. public appeal can be attained by experiencing extreme discomfort.
 - C. some things can be exceedingly difficult to accomplish.
 - D. emotional situations can be the most destructive.
-

Answers: Figurative Meanings

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

Explanations

1. At the end of this passage, the author says that Ricky was "hypnotized by the distance between him and the floor." The author is using the word "hypnotized" to tell the reader that Ricky could not stop looking down. Ricky could not even move because he was so busy looking at the distance between himself and the floor. He was acting as if a person had hypnotized him, but it was actually his fear that was keeping him from moving or speaking.

2. It is very difficult for some people to talk about getting fired. A job can be a source of pride and self-worth. Often, people will say they have been "let go" because it sounds less painful than getting "fired." For the same reason, it is also common for bosses to tell the people they are firing that they are "letting them go."

3. In the passage, the author exaggerates Ricky's feelings about rock-climbing and being high in the air. When the author says "with only a thread," he or she is saying that the thin ropes do not seem very safe to Ricky. The author is showing that Ricky is skeptical about how strong these ropes really are. By using figurative language, the author can help the reader feel what the characters feel and make a situation come to life for the reader.

4. In this sentence, the phrase "are gifted with" means that it shows that plants come by the skill naturally.

5. An oxymoron is used when two contradictory qualities or words are presented together. In the last sentence the word "genuine" means true or pure, while "imitation" means a copy or replica. So, the phrase "genuine imitation" is an oxymoron.

6. In this passage, a storm is coming while Freddy tries to light a fire. More and more clouds are gathering and getting close together in the sky. The author is giving the reader an image of clouds shoving and pushing to show how quickly the clouds are coming close together and how thick the clouds in the sky are getting.

7. Italics and exclamation points give emphasis to what is written. The description infers that Helen expresses herself with dramatic flourish, like an exclamation point.

8. A chant is a simple melody or a "monotonous rhythmic voice." Since trees and the wind cannot actually sing, this figurative phrase implies that the trees make a distinctive song-like sound as it sways in the wind.

9. The correct answer is "undecided." When someone is "on the fence" about something, that person cannot make up his or her mind, as is the case with someone who waits until the last minute to make a decision about which candidate to choose despite having the necessary information.

10. An oxymoron is a figure of speech that pairs together seemingly contradictory terms. The word "painfully" can refer to something that causes pain. In contrast, the word "beautiful" can refer to something that is pleasing to the senses. When the two words are combined, they help express how a ballad makes a person feel. A ballad that is painfully beautiful can remind a person of a wonderful, yet painful, time in his or her life.

Grade 9 English: Central Ideas

The Orion Nebula is a diffuse nebula situated below Orion's Belt. It is one of the brightest nebulae and is visible to the naked eye in the night sky. It is located at a distance of about 1,500 light years away. The nebula is the closest region of star formation to Earth. It is estimated to be 30 light years across.

The Orion Nebula is considered to be one of the most scrutinized and photographed objects in the night sky. It is among the most studied celestial features. The nebula has revealed much about the process of how stars and planetary systems are formed from collapsing clouds of gas and dust. Astronomers have directly observed protoplanetary discs, brown dwarfs, intense and turbulent motions of the gas, and the photo-ionizing effects of massive nearby stars in the nebula.

1. What is the central idea of the passage?

- A. how far the Orion Nebula is to Earth and its impact on star formation
 - B. that the Orion Nebula is located below Orion's Belt 1,500 light years away
 - C. astronomers and their discovery of the Orion Nebula, a bright nebulae
 - D. the Orion Nebula and how it is one of the most studied celestial features
-

2. No one should go through life wasting the Earth's resources, and one important resource is fresh water. Fresh water comes into our homes, and we use it to drink, cook, wash, and water plants. Everyone should be careful to not waste water. First, take shorter showers to keep less water from pouring down the drain. Also, wash only full loads of laundry and dishes. Washing machines and dishwashers use many gallons of water even when washing a small load. In addition, be careful when watering your lawn. Do not forget to turn off the sprinklers or leave them on too long. If everyone would follow these suggestions, we could save more water and be sure we have plenty of water for everyone.

What is this paragraph mainly about?

- A. the places to find water
- B. finding natural resources
- C. how dishwashers work
- D. how to conserve water

(1) Known to the world as Mark Twain, Samuel Langhorne Clemens was born on November 30, 1835, in Florida, Missouri. Twain is considered one of the premier writers in American history, as well as one of the most influential writers to have ever lived. Twain's manner of wit and humor characterized all of his writing. Equally impressive was his keen sense of human nature.

(2) Satire and humor typify much of Twain's writings. His work includes many different styles, including essays, novels, short stories, and literary criticism. Works for which Twain is best known draw from his boyhood world on the Mississippi River. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, published in 1876, and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, published in 1884, are two enduring classics of American literature. Twain also wrote popular travelogues, including *The Innocents Abroad*. This particular work told of his travels to Europe and the Holy Land.

(3) Twain's later writings were darker and more satirical. As he aged, he became more critical of politics, society, and people in general. Of these, *Pudd'nhead Wilson*, *The Mysterious Stranger*, and *Letters from the Earth* are exceptionally fault-finding. Some attribute his sarcastic and scolding manner in these works to the personal tragedies and financial failure he suffered during his later life.

(4) Scholars and readers alike will continue to find pleasure in Twain's work. His influence on American literature is enormous and continues to this day. Perhaps William Faulkner placed upon him the greatest honor by calling him the "father of American literature."

3. The central idea of paragraph 4 deals primarily with which of the following?

- A.** William Faulkner
- B.** Twain's legacy
- C.** scholarly interpretation
- D.** American literature

Dear Mayor Applebee,

I have been a proud citizen of the town of Fairview all of my life, and I currently attend Fairview North High School. My family has owned land in this area for generations, and we have always taken pride in being active in the local community. I felt compelled to write a letter to you about an issue that should concern all citizens of our lovely town. On March 31st, the Department of Transportation plans to tear down the lovely Willshire Estate to make way for highway expansion. The Willshires were among the first families to settle in Fairview, and their home has been the site of many historic events. In fact, the signing of our town charter was conducted in their parlor. The destruction of this historic landmark should not be allowed—especially when there are so many wonderful things that could be done with the estate.

I would like for you to prevent the destruction of the Willshire Estate. Instead of becoming a meaningless addition to the highway, this lovely piece of property could be turned into a museum. The Willshires were always concerned with advancing the rights of African Americans, and I believe they would be delighted to see their home turned into a museum that honors a little-known African American inventor. Madam C.J. Walker was the first woman to become a millionaire through her own business. She was born into a poor family in 1867, and early in her life she worked as a laundress and earned less than a dollar a day. In 1905, she created and marketed a hair care line exclusively for African American women. Her money often went to support educational and charitable organizations such as the NAACP. I believe that Madame Walker's amazing life and legacy make her an excellent source for inspiring the next generation of Fairview youth. Please consider my proposal as an alternative to destroying one of our town's finest landmarks.

Sincerely,
Rosita Sanderson

4. Which sentence best describes the main idea of the passage?

- A. "She was born into a poor family in 1867, and early in her life she worked as a laundress and earned less than a dollar a day."
- B. "Instead of becoming a meaningless addition to the highway, this lovely piece of property could be turned into a museum."
- C. "The Willshires were among the first families to settle in Fairview, and their home has been the site of many historic events."
- D. "My family has owned land in this area for generations, and we have always taken pride in being active in the local community."

Musical Culture
by R.H. Conwell
adapted from Increasing Personal Efficiency

(1) Of all the arts, none is more difficult to define than music. No two persons seem to agree as to what it is, and a harsh sound to one is often sweet music to another. When music is controlled by those who use carefully their powers of observation, it will be vastly more useful to mankind. The need of music in the advancement of humanity is too apparent to admit of discussion. From the Greek instrument with one string down to the wonderful pipe-organ, music has been intensely attractive and marvelously helpful, and for the good of the human family.

(2) No art or science needs more to be developed to-day than that of music. Its influence on soul and body has been noticed and advanced by some of the greatest thinkers of ancient and modern times, therefore it is not necessary to discuss the supreme need for real music to bring into harmony motives and movements for good.

(3) The art of music needs philosophic study, and it should be begun with a far better understanding of the many causes, which contribute to its composition. The singing of birds is literally one of the most discordant expressions of sound. Indeed, the tones of the nightingale and the meadow-lark are only shrill whistles when they are considered with reference only to the tones of their voice, yet they furnish the ideal of some of the richest music to which the ear has ever listened, being one part of the delicate orchestra of nature.

5. This passage is **mainly** about

- A. the need to study and develop the art of music.
- B. the different opinions people have about music.
- C. the unpleasant and shrill music of bird songs.
- D. the musical instruments used over the years.

With its wide variety of styles and tastes, pasta is considered one of America's favorite foods. In the year 2000 alone, Americans consumed 1.3 million pounds of pasta. That's enough to wrap the world in pasta 9 times! A trip to the grocery store will reveal the amazing variety that pasta offers.

Pasta comes in many different shapes and sizes. Some are string shaped like spaghetti and vermicelli. Others are ribbon shaped like fettuccine and linguine. There are short tubes like elbow macaroni and penne, but there are also unique shapes like farfalle and rotelle. Other types include large sheets like lasagna and stuffed pasta like ravioli, manicotti, and tortellini.

The shape and characteristics of each variety's surface makes it better suited for certain kinds of sauce. Fettuccine goes best with alfredo sauce, and spaghetti goes best with tomato sauce. Lasagna wouldn't be lasagna without those characteristically large sheets, and macaroni is a must in macaroni and cheese.

6. Which sentence **best** shows the central idea of the second paragraph of the passage?

- A. "Pasta comes in many different shapes and sizes."
- B. "Other types include large sheets like lasagna and stuffed pasta like ravioli, manicotti, and tortellini."
- C. "Some are string shaped like spaghetti and vermicelli."
- D. "Others are ribbon shaped like fettuccine and linguine."

Aimee Mullins

by J. Robbins

Model, actress, and athlete Aimee Mullins was born with a condition called fibular hemimelia. The condition, which caused her to be born without shin (fibula) bones, required her to undergo an amputation of both legs below the knees at the age of one. Aimee, wearing artificial legs, participated in athletics against her non-disabled peers, and it wasn't until high school that she entered her first track meet for people with physical disabilities. At her first track event, she not only beat the other runners, most of whom had less severe amputations, but she also set a national record.

Aimee continued to compete in athletics as she graduated high school and entered Georgetown University. While attending college, she became the first athlete with a disability to enter NCAA Division I track and field events. Her next challenge was the Paralympic Games, an athletic competition that allows people with disabilities to compete in events similar to those in the Olympic Games. In 1996, Aimee accomplished her goal of setting records in the 100 and 200-meter dash and in the long jump at the Paralympic Games in Georgia.

Athletics is not the only area in which Aimee Mullins excels. She earned an internship with the prestigious Georgetown University Foreign Affairs program. After graduating with degrees in both history and diplomacy, Aimee starred in several television programs, movies, and runway fashion shows. She is also a motivational speaker who donates her time and efforts to helping people with disabilities participate fully in life.

7. What is the main idea of paragraph 2?

- A. Aimee Mullins participated in long jump events while at college.
- B. Aimee Mullins set new records at the 1996 Paralympic Games.
- C. College is the best place to compete in athletic competitions.
- D. Track and field events should be open to disabled athletes.



The Treaty of Waitangi was signed in New Zealand on February 6, 1840. The purpose of the treaty was to facilitate peaceful relations between white British settlers and the native Māori people of New Zealand. Due to many differences between the English and Māori translations of the treaty, there was confusion as to the exact details of the treaty. Māori tribal leaders believed that they would regain land that had been lost to the settlers and be treated as equal citizens of their homeland. The British view held that the treaty guaranteed England's sovereignty over New Zealand, established a British governor in the country, and gave British citizenship to the Māori people. The Treaty of Waitangi was not ratified by the New Zealand Parliament and has limited influence on the country's laws today.

Despite the debate over the Treaty of Waitangi, a public holiday was created in 1960 to celebrate its signing. Waitangi Day, which is celebrated each year on February 6th, is a national holiday in New Zealand. It is also celebrated among the large Māori population in England and in Māori communities around the world. Although Waitangi Day events are sometimes met with protests by Māori activists, the day is most often marked by a celebration of Māori culture. This holiday often involves public concerts, festivals, cultural demonstrations, and educational events for children. For many, Waitangi Day is a time to put aside controversy and celebrate the founding of New Zealand.

8. What is the main idea of paragraph 2?

- A. Waitangi Day is still celebrated in spite of controversy.
 - B. There was some confusion about the Treaty of Waitangi.
 - C. Waitangi Day is always celebrated with public concerts.
 - D. There are many Māori people living in England today.
-

9. Which sentence best supports the main idea below?

Children's birthday parties today are quite different from those of the past.

- A. I remember my favorite birthday party because all of my relatives attended and sang to me.
 - B. Many people today choose to have their birthday parties at a place other than their homes.
 - C. One of the first difficulties is preparing the list of invited guests. Family and friends must be considered.
 - D. Birthdays are important occasions and worth the effort involved in planning a celebration party.
-

10. What sentence best supports the main idea below?

Summer is a time when Americans relax and enjoy themselves.

- A. Summer weather in the East is often characterized by hot and humid conditions, while summer in the West is mostly dry.
- B. Americans have a more relaxed lifestyle at this time of year and find many ways to involve themselves in recreational activities.
- C. On a summer evening, the nation's highways often resemble parking lots, which try the patience of the calmest people.
- D. An increasing number of school districts around the United States have converted to year-round school scheduling.

Answers: Central Ideas

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

Explanations

1. The central idea is the idea that the passage is mostly about. This passage is mostly about the Orion Nebula and how it is one of the most studied celestial features. The first paragraph introduces the topic of the Orion Nebula by defining it. The second paragraph goes on to give details about it and illustrates its importance to science.
2. The paragraph says that no one should waste resources, including water. Then, it gives three examples of how someone could save water. This paragraph is mainly about how to conserve water.
3. The final paragraph of the passage primarily deals with Twain's legacy and reputation as an author. The paragraph states that Twain's writings continue to interest "[s]cholars and readers alike." The final sentence also contributes to Twain's lasting impact by illustrating the praise that Faulkner, another famous American author, had for Twain.
4. The author of this letter is writing to the mayor to request that a historic piece of property be saved and turned into a museum. The sentence, "Instead of becoming a meaningless addition to the highway, this lovely piece of property could be used as a museum," best expresses the main idea of the letter.
5. Mr. R. H. Conwell suggests that music's positive influence on humanity has been widely acknowledged and accepted. Since music is a complicated art that is understood differently by different people, it needs to be developed and studied further.
6. The second paragraph of this passage focuses mainly on the different types of pasta. The sentence "Pasta comes in many different shapes and sizes" best expresses the central idea of this paragraph. The other sentences in the paragraph provide details to support this central idea.
7. The second paragraph of this passage is mainly about the new records Aimee Mullins set at the 1996 Paralympic Games in Georgia.
8. The main idea of paragraph 2 is stated in the first sentence: "Despite the debate over the Treaty of Waitangi, a public holiday was created in 1960 to celebrate its signing." The second paragraph tells the reader that Waitangi Day is a holiday celebrated in spite of controversy.

9. The correct answer should offer details about today's options for children's birthday parties. The incorrect answers get off topic with details about the writer's favorite birthday party and birthday party planning.

10. The correct answer should elaborate on the summer activities of Americans. The incorrect answers discuss year-round school, parking lots, and summer *weather*—not summer vacations.

Grade 9 English: Author's Point of View

June 21 is officially the First Day of Summer, which is entirely bogus and artificial. By June 21, we already have our first sunburn, our first dire warning about sunscreen, and our first electric bill for cooling instead of heating.

By then, the city swimming pools are already open. The amusement park has been serving funnel cakes for more than a month.

On the first official day of summer, the Northern Hemisphere receives its maximum amount of solar radiation for the entire year. That can't be cause for celebration, can it? That sounds more like Suspicious Mole Day.

The way you feel when you get up for work and it's already light and it's still light when you come home at night—now that's worth celebrating.

This comes our way before June 21. And so do ice cream trucks, by the way.

1. Which of these best expresses the author's attitude toward summer?

- A. The author wishes summer would start sooner.
- B. The author is concerned that her electric bills are too high.
- C. The author enjoys the summer's longer periods of daylight.
- D. The author is worried about getting sunburned.

Alaska's vast Denali National Park is divided into designated tracts of wilderness, some as big as whole counties. Snowfields and glaciers on the northern face of the Alaska Range mountains feed wide-braided rivers that cut valleys through tundra. The landscape is treeless and trail-less as far as you can see, and far beyond. There are no markers or signposts to designate where one tract ends and another begins. They appear only on maps for the purpose of allotting back-country hiking permits.

A portion of one of the tracts is even more special. It's off-limits. It's called Sable Pass, 60 or so square miles of lumpy tundra protected against human intrusion, except for scientists who have carved themselves an exemption. The purpose is to give wildlife one true sanctuary from people. Sable Pass is in my thoughts because the last of the nation's public lands are in political play these days, and too often we limit the discussion to how these lands should be "used." Backpackers versus Jeeps. Oil drilling versus caribou. Tree cutters versus tree huggers. Jobs versus recreation.

I would feel better about the future if our political debate about public lands accounted for the intangible, but vital, need for wilderness. Not just for nature's sake but for the sake of our souls. Can elk live on pastures with cows? Yes. Can caribou co-exist with oil rigs? They do. Grizzly bears can live in garbage dumps too.

But wilderness, true wilderness, does not exist with cow pastures and oil rigs and garbage dumps. Wilderness is not defined by how it can be used. Like Sable Pass, wilderness is about not using it at all. Except to preserve our diminishing sense of wonder.

2. What is the author's purpose in writing this selection?

- A. to inform readers of the huge environmental crisis that looms ahead
 - B. to persuade readers that wilderness is best left totally alone
 - C. to persuade political leaders to use caution when developing wilderness land
 - D. to convince readers to go hiking in the Denali National Park
-

3. Martial arts fantasy films from Hong Kong traditionally squeeze poor acting, slapstick humor, and silly story lines between elaborate fight scenes in which characters can literally fly. *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* has no shortage of breathtaking battles, but it also has the dramatic soul of a Greek tragedy and the sweep of an epic romance. This is the work of director Ang Lee, who fell in love with movies while watching martial arts fantasy films as a youngster and made *Crouching Tiger* as a tribute to the form.

What can readers tell about the author's attitude in this passage?

- A. The author thinks *Crouching Tiger* is a good movie.
- B. The author thinks *Crouching Tiger* has no battle scenes.
- C. The author thinks the acting in *Crouching Tiger* is poor.
- D. The author thinks *Crouching Tiger* was a boring movie.

Merchants of Cool, a PBS Frontline documentary, shows how companies exploit the youth culture. The documentary talks about how advertisers market products to teenagers by studying their hopes and desires. They then sell these hopes and desires back to teens in a diabolical feedback loop.

The film describes how marketers study teens to figure out what's "cool." Information on what is "cool" is used to create products that reflect exactly what teens want. For example, Sprite wanted to increase its market share in the soft-drinks category; therefore, it launched teen-targeted ad campaigns. The company featured hip hop artists, baggy jeans, and sneakers in its ads. Teens were able to connect with this culture, and this boosted Sprite sales.

This documentary should be shown at every junior and senior school. By watching this film, teenagers will realize how advertisers are manipulating them.

4. Which of the following sentences best reveals the author's attitude toward *Merchants of Cool*?

- A. "This documentary should be shown at every junior and senior school."
 - B. "The company featured hip hop artists, baggy jeans, and sneakers in its ads."
 - C. "The film describes how marketers study teens to figure out what's 'cool.' "
 - D. "Teens were able to connect with this culture, and this boosted Sprite sales."
-

5. What is the author's purpose in writing this selection?

- A. to emphasize the importance of documentaries
 - B. to get more teenagers to watch *Merchants of Cool*
 - C. to tell the story of clever advertising companies
 - D. to criticize all TV advertisers for exploiting teenagers
-

6. As an engineer, I can say without question that I have not seen this level of professional engineering anywhere in the county and maybe in all of the state since I moved here some 12 years ago. For years, the runoff in this area from previous construction has been damaging homes and property. Not only has the county addressed a long-standing problem, but it has also finished the project and dressed the edges of the road properly. All this in about one month, which shows it can be done. If this is any indication of what we may come to expect from our new county staff, we are very grateful.

What opinion is the author expressing in this selection?

- A. The county staff finished the project and dressed the edges of the road properly.
 - B. Runoff from construction has been damaging homes and property.
 - C. The county addressed a long-standing problem.
 - D. The new county staff is doing a good job.
-

7. A short walk on a trail, a quick swim in a lake, even a brief moment of repose looking at a scenic vista can reinvigorate you and recharge your "life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness." Take advantage of public recreation sites, and spend time maintaining your physical as well as psychological health. Get active—it can help reduce feelings of depression and anxiety, and help maintain your appropriate body weight. Parks, bikeways, trails . . . they are "re-creation" sites for mind, body, and spirit.

Which word describes the author's attitude toward recreational parks?

- A. harmful
 - B. detrimental
 - C. affirmative
 - D. unfavorable
-

8. The following is from a product review of a Toyota car:

I have not driven many cars, so I won't compare the Toyota Avalon with other cars. But let me tell you one thing: I had an accident at 85 mph, and this car saved my and my wife's life. There was not much damage to the car because the frontal safety features took all the blow. Only a few parts had to be changed after the accident. The radiator was gone, of course. I have seen cars getting totaled at 45 mph accident but not this Avalon.

Which word describes the author's attitude toward the Toyota Avalon?

- A. obnoxious
 - B. unsure
 - C. afraid
 - D. favorable
-

9. The author of this selection feels

- A. that documentary viewing should be mandatory.
- B. advertisers should better understand teenagers.
- C. companies run advertisements to help kids learn.
- D. that companies take unfair advantage of teens.

10. Totch Brown's memoirs of vanished days in the Ten Thousand Islands and the Everglades are invaluable as well as vivid and entertaining. Totch is a natural-born storyteller. His accounts of fishing and gator-hunting, as well as his life beyond the law as gator poacher and drug runner, are evocative and colorful, fresh and exciting.

What is the author's purpose in writing this selection?

- A.** to persuade the readers to read Totch Brown's memoirs
- B.** to entertain the readers with stories of his own travels
- C.** to inform the reader that the U.S. has the best wilderness
- D.** to encourage the readers to visit the Ten Thousand Islands

Answers: Author's Point of View

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

Explanations

1. She says that the extended daylight hours are "worth celebrating."
2. The author wants readers to think like he does—that developing the wilderness would be a huge mistake.
3. The author says that *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* offers much more than most martial arts fantasy films that *squeeze poor acting, slapstick humor, and silly story lines between elaborate fight scenes*. He or she also compares the movie to a Greek tragedy.
4. The first sentence in the last paragraph shows that the author supports the documentary's message. He or she wants schools to show the documentary so that students can see how they are being manipulated.
5. In the last paragraph, the author says that *Merchants of Cool* should be shown in schools because this will help teenagers "realize how advertisers are manipulating them." This clearly shows that the author's purpose is to get more teenagers to watch the film.
6. The author says he has not seen this level of professional engineering anywhere in the county and maybe in all of the state. He also says "If this is any indication of what we may come to expect from our new county staff, we are grateful." He is expressing gratitude for the good job the staff is doing.
7. In the passage the author says, "Parks, bikeways, trails . . . they are 're-creation' sites for mind, body, and spirit." The author also says even looking at a scenic vista can "reinvigorate" you. These are all positive and favorable comments about parks and recreation areas.
8. The author has a very favorable impression of the Toyota Avalon because he feels that it is a very safe car.
9. The first sentence says, "*Merchants of Cool*, a PBS Frontline documentary, shows how companies exploit the youth culture." Based on the word "exploit," a reader can tell that the author is against

advertising that targets teenagers. The author also wants teenagers to watch the documentary so that they "will realize how advertisers are manipulating them."

10. In the passage, the author describes the memoirs as "evocative and colorful, fresh, and exciting." He also says that Totch is a natural-born storyteller. One can assume that he describes the memoir in such positive terms in order to encourage the audience to read it, especially if the article appears in a book review section of a newspaper or magazine.

Grade 9 English: Organizing Ideas

Say Yes to the SAT

(1) Some people are afraid of the SAT because of what it measures: general intelligence. **(2)** There is no need for fear, however, because as this essay will show, the SAT is a good general intelligence test. **(3)** Researchers at the University of Minnesota found that the SAT is not only an accurate predictor of how a student will fare during his or her first year of college but also a reliable predictor of how a student will do during all four years of college.

(4) There is no denying that sometimes the SAT does not do its job. **(5)** Occasionally, a student who earns a high SAT score ends up flunking out of college. **(6)** Occasionally, a student who earns a low SAT score ends up in Phi Beta Kappa (a collegiate academic honor society) and graduates with highest honors. **(7)** The SAT is not perfect, but that is not a reason to get rid of it.

(8) Like it or not, the general intelligence for which the SAT tests is what will separate students who will do well and fit in at schools such as Harvard and Princeton from students who will be better off attending community college first. **(9)** Unfortunately, hard work is not always enough, and that is why the SAT is here to stay.

(10) Naysayers do not like the idea of a test that cannot be mastered with old-fashioned hard work. **(11)** In school, a student who devotes hours and hours of time to studying for a course can typically raise his or her grade. **(12)** If the same student devotes just as much time to studying for the SAT, his or her score will not increase significantly.

1. Which sentence could be added to the end of the fourth paragraph (sentences 10-12) to support the ideas in that paragraph?

- A. The best way for a student to study for the SAT is simply to study and do well in school.
 - B. SAT preparatory classes and tutoring increase a student's score by a trivial 20 points.
 - C. The best way for a student to study for the SAT is to buy a test preparation book to learn tricks and tips.
 - D. SAT preparatory classes and tutoring are included on the college application to show the student's work ethic.
-

2. What is the most effective way to improve the organization of this passage?

- A. Switch the second paragraph (sentences 4-7) with the fourth paragraph (sentences 10-12).
- B. Switch the fourth paragraph (sentences 10-12) with the first paragraph (sentences 1-3).
- C. Switch the third paragraph (sentences 8-9) with the fourth paragraph (sentences 10-12).
- D. Switch the second paragraph (sentences 4-7) with the first paragraph (sentences 1-3).

3. Which sentence could be added to the end of the second paragraph (sentences 4-7) to support the ideas in that paragraph?

- A. The SAT test is only one of the many factors that influence an admissions decision because colleges want well-rounded students.
- B. The SAT, despite what colleges say to the press, is not something college admissions officers even look at.
- C. The makers of the SAT will eventually find a way to perfect the test, which will make the college admissions process easier.
- D. Colleges believe that a student's SAT score is far more important than his or her letters of recommendation.

Taking Your Pet to the Vet

(1) Taking your pet to the vet for his or her yearly exam requires some preparation on your part. **(2)** You'll have only so much time with the vet, so you want to make sure you know what questions to ask.

(3) First of all, ask about your pet's diet. **(4)** Make sure you are feeding your pet the food that is healthiest for him or her. **(5)** Giving your pet unhealthy food that he or she loves the most might win you favor, but unhealthy foods won't help your pet out in the long run. **(6)** Your vet can make sure your pet is on a proper diet.

(7) Finally, make sure you remember to ask about any oddities in your pet's behavior. **(8)** Even if you think it may be a silly question, ask it—you could save your pet's life. **(9)** For example, if your pet starts barking or meowing more than usual, and/or jumping into the shower or sink a lot, an underlying illness may be to blame.

(10) Next, ask about your pet's exercise regime. **(11)** Even if your pet is at a healthy weight, he or she may not be getting the kind and amount of exercise he or she needs to have the best quality of life possible.

4. What is the most effective way to improve the organization of this passage?

- A. Switch the third paragraph (sentences 7-9) and the fourth paragraph (sentences 10-11).
- B. No changes are needed.
- C. Switch the first paragraph (sentences 1-2) and the third paragraph (sentences 7-9).
- D. Switch the second paragraph (sentences 3-6) and the fourth paragraph (sentences 10-11).

A Cup of Coffee

(1) This plan had seemed brilliant a week ago: meet over a cup of coffee. **(2)** But now, I just wasn't sure. **(3)** I turned to look at my parents, who were sitting at the table right behind me in the café. **(4)** I was going to do this on my own, but it was good to know my backup team was a mere table away.

(5) Today, I was going to meet my birth mother for the first time. **(6)** On my eighteenth birthday, my parents told me I was adopted, and I was shocked. **(7)** My friends had thrown a birthday party for me the night before, and I was tired. **(8)** Growing up, I was always told that I looked so much like both of my parents. **(9)** I thought adoption was something that happened to other kids, not a normal, boring girl like me.

(10) "Mary, I'm your birth mother," said a tall, brown-haired woman with a small smile on her face.

(11) At first, I hadn't wanted to know anything about my birth mother. **(12)** When I told my parents I wanted more information, they gave me a file and said I should read it if I wanted to know what they knew. **(13)** My parents didn't push me. **(14)** They told me to let them know if I changed my mind. **(15)** I did. **(16)** I changed my mind.

(17) And now here I was in a café staring down every woman who walked through the doors. **(18)** I kept wondering, "Is she my mother?" **(19)** I closed my eyes for a second, trying to calm myself down.

5. Which sentence should be removed from the second paragraph (sentences 5-9) to improve the flow of the paragraph?

- A. sentence 9
 - B. sentence 8
 - C. sentence 7
 - D. sentence 6
-

6. What is the most effective way to improve the organization of the fourth paragraph (sentences 11-16)?

- A. Move sentence 15 before sentence 13.
- B. Move sentence 11 after sentence 15.
- C. Move sentence 16 to the beginning of the paragraph.
- D. Move sentence 12 to the end of the paragraph.

Emotional Intelligence and the Importance of Positive Emotions

(1) Emotional intelligence is defined as the ability to understand and control our emotions according to situations and people. (2) It is a delicate combination of self-awareness and awareness of other people's emotions and feelings. (3) Most psychologists measure the emotional quotient or EQ of people on two scales: interpersonal and intrapersonal. (4) Intrapersonal elements include factors such as self-awareness and self-motivation whereas interpersonal elements include social awareness and social competence. (5) The right balance of these elements helps an individual cultivate high emotional intelligence. (6) People who have high emotional intelligence are able to foster positive emotions in themselves and others.

(7) Intelligence manifests in human beings in multiple forms. (8) In the field of psychology, initial research on human intelligence focused only on the intelligence quotient or IQ, which tested individuals on their ability to adapt to the environment, respond to stimuli, and learn things. (9) However, over a period of time, psychologists gradually came to recognize the value of managing emotions and its impact on the well-being of humans.

(10) Positive emotions have a great impact on health and various studies have shown that emotions such as hope, optimism, and gratitude give humans a sense of well-being and fulfillment. (11) People with high emotional intelligence are extremely perceptive as they are able to understand their own emotions and can successfully manage their negative thoughts and emotions in a way that does not affect them. (12) Such people are likely to find positive meaning even in difficult circumstances and make the most of the situation. (13) They work well in teams as they are able to negotiate and interact positively with people around them. (14) Research shows that these qualities enhance individuals' sense of worth and self-esteem, which allows people to experience a sense of purpose in life.

(15) On the contrary, people who have pessimistic and negative thought patterns are often stressed out. The ill-effects of stress on the mind and the body have been studied widely. (16) Stress is not only known to cause burn out in everyday activities, but also affects the functioning of the immune system. (17) It has negative consequences on our health. (18) Therefore, it is important that we develop stress-resistant attitudes and strategies, which can be possible if we cultivate our emotional intelligence. (19) If we invest our time in understanding our own emotions and being aware of how other people feel and function, then we would be able to handle stressful situations in a better and calmer way. (20) Therefore, emotional intelligence is extremely important in nurturing good health and a sense of well-being.

7. What is the **most** effective way to improve the organization of this passage?

- A. Switch the first paragraph (sentences 1-6) with the second paragraph (sentences 7-9).
- B. Switch the second paragraph (sentences 7-9) with the last paragraph (sentences 15-20).
- C. Switch the last paragraph (sentences 15-20) with the first paragraph (sentences 1-6).
- D. Switch the third paragraph (sentences 10-14) with the first paragraph (sentences 1-6).

8. Which of the following sentences could be added after sentence 11 to support the ideas of the third paragraph?

- A. They are very good at managing people and should be given positions as team leaders.
- B. Therefore, they are able to function and perform well, especially when it comes to teamwork.
- C. They have both the interpersonal and intrapersonal elements of emotional intelligence.
- D. They are easily able to replace negative thoughts with positive ones and control their emotional experience in various situations.

Chloe Finds a New Friend

(1) As soon as Chloe entered the office, Valerie, her colleague, walked up to her with a worried look on her face. (2) On inquiring, Chloe found out that on her way to work, Valerie had spotted a little puppy outside their office building. (3) The puppy could barely see or walk and appeared to be just a few days old. (4) Chloe, an animal lover, immediately rushed out with Valerie to see the puppy.

(5) Chloe chose to live on her own because she liked the freedom of being by herself. (6) She had often thought of having someone share her apartment, but the very thought of someone constantly chattering put her off, and she would quickly dismiss those thoughts. (7) Today, however, as she packed her lunch and hurriedly made her way to the office, she wished there was someone at home as it could sometimes get very lonely.

(8) They found the puppy huddled in a corner under a tree, trembling with fear and looking scared. (9) One look at the puppy and Chloe was in love with it. (10) She looked around for the pup's mother and litter but could see no sign of them. (11) The little pup seemed to have been abandoned. (12) Chloe and her friend found an empty cardboard box and put the puppy inside to keep it warm and safe. (13) They fed the puppy some milk and returned to their office and Chloe began her work, but with half a mind on the feeble puppy.

(14) Throughout the day, Chloe found it difficult to concentrate on her work and her mind kept wandering to the puppy.

(15) It was late in the evening when Chloe finally finished her tasks and began preparing to leave as soon as possible. (16) The first thing she did was rush out to see the puppy. (17) The moment she saw the puppy fast asleep in the box, a strange sensation spread within her. (18) In an instant she made up her mind to take the puppy home, and gently picked up the little bundle of joy, who woke up and quietly snuggled up to her. (19) All the way back to her apartment, Chloe felt happy at the thought that she would finally have some company at home.

9. What is the **most** effective way to improve the organization of this passage?

- A. Switch the third paragraph (sentences 8-13) with the first paragraph (sentences 1-4).
- B. Switch the fifth paragraph (sentences 15-19) with the second paragraph (sentences 5-7).
- C. Switch the second paragraph (sentences 5-7) with the first paragraph (sentences 1-4).
- D. Switch the first paragraph (sentences 1-4) with the third paragraph (sentences 8-13).

How to Deal

(1) Brittney was extremely sad and had no energy to get out of bed. **(2)** She knew she was supposed to be at her mall job in an hour, but who cared about selling candy when one's cat had just passed away?

(3) Brittney was five years old when she got her cat Molly for Christmas. **(4)** Brittney's parents had rescued Molly from the pound—she was five, like Brittney, but acted like a kitten. **(5)** From that day forward, Brittney and Molly were the best of friends and approached all things in life with the motto "Full speed ahead!"

(6) The change in Molly's health had happened suddenly. **(7)** It was Christmas again, 10 years after the first one with Molly, when she suddenly started throwing up a lot. **(8)** She barely ate, she refused to drink water, and she just didn't seem to have the same energy for which she was famous. **(9)** At the vet's office, Molly tried to crawl under one of the chairs and hide.

(10) Brittney's parents decided to take Molly to the vet. **(11)** Brittney insisted that she come, too. **(12)** Brittney knew something was terribly wrong.

(13) The vet did some blood work and called a few days later to say that Molly's kidneys were failing. **(14)** There wasn't anything the vet could do. **(15)** Brittney talked with her parents, and they decided that Molly would be put to sleep. **(16)** That way, she wouldn't have to suffer anymore.

(17) "Brittney!" her mom yelled. **(18)** "You need to be ready to leave for work in five minutes. **(19)** Get up."

(20) "Mom, I just can't," Brittney cried. **(21)** "I miss Molly."

(22) "I know you do," said Brittney's mom. **(23)** "But you have to honor your commitment to this job. **(24)** Besides, Molly would want you to continue on, full speed ahead, don't you think?"

(25) Brittney nodded her head. **(26)** She got up and went to work, full speed ahead, knowing that she could return to the comforts of her bed when she got back home. **(27)** She could figure out how to deal with life without Molly later; for now, she had candy to sell.

10. If the writer were to present the story in chronological order, what change would be necessary?

- A.** Place the first paragraph (sentences 1-2) after the fifth paragraph (sentences 13-16).
- B.** Place the fourth paragraph (sentences 10-12) after the second paragraph (sentences 3-5).
- C.** Place the fourth paragraph (sentences 10-12) after the sixth paragraph (sentences 17-19).
- D.** Place the first paragraph (sentences 1-2) after the second paragraph (sentences 3-5).

Answers: Organizing Ideas

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

Explanations

1. The sentence "SAT preparatory classes and tutoring only increase a student's score by a trivial 20 points" could be added to the end of the fourth paragraph. This sentence adds factual evidence to the argument made in this paragraph—that studying hard for the SAT does not impact a student's test scores.
2. Switching the third paragraph (sentences 8-9) with the fourth paragraph (sentences 10-12) will best improve the organization of the passage. The third paragraph three is intended to serve as a concluding paragraph for the entire passage.
3. The sentence "The SAT test is only one of the many factors that influence an admissions decision because colleges want well-rounded students" could be added to the end of the second paragraph to support the ideas in the paragraph. The sentence emphasizes the point that the SAT is not the only factor determining whether a student will do well in college.
4. Switching the fourth and fifth paragraphs would be the most effective way to improve the organization of the passage. The use of the word "finally" at the start of the third paragraph indicates the paragraph is intended to come last.
5. Sentence 7 should be removed from the second paragraph to improve the flow of the paragraph. The second paragraph discusses how the narrator never had any suspicion that she had been adopted; a sentence about the narrator's eighteenth birthday party is off topic.
6. Moving sentence 12 to the end of the fourth paragraph would best improve the organization. Because the paragraph is organized in chronological order, the information in sentence 12 should be the concluding sentence.
7. The first paragraph is a general description of intelligence and functions as an introductory paragraph. Additionally, the third paragraph transitions logically from the first paragraph because it mentions how emotional intelligence helps in developing positive emotions.

8. Sentence 11 makes a statement about how people with high emotional intelligence are able to manage their negative thoughts. The correct answer choice logically follows this sentence and explains that they are able to replace negative thoughts with positive ones and control their emotional experience in various situations. Therefore, even their experience of negative situations is healthy. The other answer choices are unrelated in this context.

9. The first paragraph talks about Chloe's friend spotting the abandoned puppy and Chloe feeling sorry for the weak and helpless little puppy. But the second paragraph switches to talking about Chloe arriving late to work due to household chores. Thus, to improve the passage's organization and make it chronologically correct, the second paragraph should be switched with the first paragraph.

10. Placing the first paragraph after the fifth paragraph effectively presents the story in chronological order. The first paragraph contains information that could be placed in the middle of the story instead of at the beginning.

Grade 9 English: Editing

The Aurora Borealis

(1) Aurora is the common name given to the bands of colored lights seen in the Antarctic and Arctic (or Polar) regions of the earth. (2) The aurora borealis (northern lights) can be seen in the sky at night around the North Pole and in some regions of the northern-most countries of the world. (3) It is a beautiful show of nature. (4) The most common colors of light are red, pale greenish-yellow bluish-purple light blue and pink. (5) These light bands are actually created by collisions between gaseous particles in the earth's atmosphere and charged solar particles from the sun's atmosphere. (6) Since the temperature above the surface of the sun is extremely hot, collisions between gas molecules are very frequent. (7) The variety of color are due to the different gas particles that come together. (8) The pale greenish-yellow color comes from oxygen particles colliding 60 miles above the atmosphere of the earth. (9) The purplish-red color comes from nitrogen particles colliding at a height of 200 miles above the earth's atmosphere.

(10) Researchers try to view the lights during the winter season in the North Pole, because the night skies are clear at this time, giving them the opportunity to observe the lights better. (11) In North America the ideal places to watch the lights are the northwestern parts of Canada and Alaska. (12) In the arid, desert-type regions of Antarctica or the south pole, auroras are not seen very often.

(13) During the early mornings, the aurora takes on a cloud-like appearance and then disappears as the sun rises. (14) In the polar regions, the aurora is visible for at least six months in a year. (15) The aurora extends toward the equator when the weather activity in space increases and there are more storms and sub-storms. (16) If the activity in space is intense, the aurora can be seen even from Asia and Europe. (17) However, the sky must be clear and free from clouds to watch this event from so far away.

(18) Many legends and superstitions came to exist because of these lights. (19) During medieval times, people thought that the lights from the aurora brought bad luck. (20) The Maori of New Zealand believed that they were lights from torches.

1. How should sentence 7 be edited?

- A. change **particles** to **particle**
 - B. change **are** to **were**
 - C. change **are** to **is**
 - D. change **come** to **comes**
-

2. What is the **best** way to revise sentence 4?

- A. Sentence 4 is correctly written.
 - B. The most common colors of light are red, pale greenish-yellow, bluish-purple, light blue and pink.
 - C. The most common colors of light are red, pale greenish-yellow, bluish-purple, light blue, and pink.
 - D. The most common colors of light are red, pale greenish-yellow, bluish-purple, light blue, and, pink.
-

3. How should sentence 11 be changed to correct the punctuation error?

- A. add a comma after **Canada**
- B. add a comma after **places**
- C. change the period to a **question mark**
- D. add a comma after **North America**

The university Maria wants to attend has requested a letter of recommendation. Maria has asked her high school principal to write this letter. Please read the following letter, and then answer the questions on editing.

(1) January 27, 2009

(2) Ms. Delia Henson

(3) Director of Admissions

(4) University of Texas at Austin

(5) Office of Admissions

(6) P.O. Box 8058

(7) Austin, Texas 78713

(8) Dear Ms. Henson

(9) I am Mr. Carter, the principal of Keller High School. **(10)** I have known Maria Hinojosa for almost four years. **(11)** She has attend my high school since she was a freshman. **(12)** Maria has been an outstanding student throughout her high school career.

(13) Maria Hinojosa has excellent leadership abilities. **(14)** She has been the president of the future teachers of america organization (FTAO) for the past two years. **(15)** She has started a mentor program for students to receive guidance from teachers across the district. **(16)** The FTAO's membership has grown from fifteen members to fifty members over the past two years, thanks to Maria's strong leadership.

(17) Perseverance is another one of Miss Hinojosa's greatest strengths. **(18)** Maria has overcome some difficult challenges. **(19)** Maria was diagnosed with a learning disability when she was in the second grade. **(20)** In spite of her dyslexia, Maria, with the help of specialists has learned to read and write above her grade level. **(21)** Because she studies very hard and never gives up Maria has maintained a grade point average of 3.0 or higher throughout high school.

(22) Maria's mentor, Mrs. Hampton, and I highly recommends that you accept Maria Hinojosa into the University of Texas at Austin. **(23)** Any school would be fortunate to have Maria Hinojosa as a student. **(24)** She always works hard to achieve her goals and she will continue to set a good example for those around her. **(25)** If you would like any more information regarding Maria Hinojosa, please contact me at 817-413-9090 x123.

(26) sincerely,

(27) Dr. Sam Carter

(28) Principal

(29) Keller High School

(30) 2100 Keller Parkway

(31) Keller Texas 76248

(32) 817-413-9090 x123

4. What change, if any should be made to sentence 14?

(14) She has been the president of the future teachers of america organization (FTAO) for the past two years.

- A. She has been the President of the future teachers of america organization (FTAO) for the past two years.
use a capital *P* in **president**
 - B. She has been the president of the Future Teachers of America Organization for the past two years.
use a capital *F, T, A,* and second *O* in **future teachers of america organization**
 - C. she has been the president of the future teachers of america organization (FTAO) for the past two years.
use a lowercase *s* in **She**
 - D. She has been the president of the future teachers of america organization (ftao) for the past two years.
use a lowercase *f, t, a,* and *o* in the parentheses
-

5. How is sentence 22 correctly written?

(22) Maria's mentor, Mrs. Hampton, and I highly recommends that you accept Maria Hinojosa into the University of Texas at Austin.

- A. change **recommends** to **recommend**
 - B. change **Maria's mentor, Mrs. Hampton, and I** to **We**
 - C. Sentence 22 is written correctly.
 - D. change **accept** to **accepts**
-

6. How are the sentences below **best** written?

We saw the lone figure of the old man on the deserted road. He told us I am tired and I want a lift to the nearest town.

- A. We saw the lone figure of the old man on the deserted road. He told us, "I am tired and I want a lift to the nearest town."
 - B. We saw the lone figure of the old man on the deserted road. He told us I am tired and want a lift to the nearest town?
 - C. We saw the lone figure of the old man on the deserted road. He requested of us, I am tired and want a lift to the nearest town!
 - D. We saw the lone figure of the old man on the deserted road. He told us. I am tired and I want a lift to the nearest town!
-

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(26) sincerely,

(27) Dr. Sam Carter

(28) Principal

(29) Keller High School

(30) 2100 Keller Parkway

(31) Keller Texas 76248

(32) 817-413-9090 x123

7. How is line 26 correctly written?

(26) sincerely,

- A. remove the comma after **sincerely**
 - B. change the comma to a period
 - C. use a capital S in **sincerely**
 - D. Line 26 is correctly written.
-

8. Which of these sentences is correctly written?

- A. Lincoln and Andrew were feeling nervous about going on a date with her and I.
 - B. Lincoln and Andrew were feeling nervous about going on a date with her and me.
 - C. Lincoln and Andrew were feeling nervous about going on a date with she and me.
 - D. Lincoln and Andrew were feeling nervous about going on a date with she and I.
-

9. In sentence 17, what change should be made to correct the spelling error?

(17) Perseverence is another one of Miss Hinojosa's greatest strengths.

- A. change **greatest** to **gratest**
 - B. change **Perseverence** to **Perseverance**
 - C. change **another** to **anuther**
 - D. change **strengths** to **strengets**
-

10. Which of these sentences is correctly written?

- A. The rest of the class looked at us cheerfully as Grace and me came forward to collect the award for the "Best Class."
- B. The rest of the class looked at us cheerfully as me and Grace came forward to collect the award for the "Best Class."
- C. The rest of the class looked at us cheerfully as Grace and I came forward to collect the award for the "Best Class."
- D. The rest of the class looked at us cheerfully as I and Grace came forward to collect the award for the "Best Class."

Answers: Editing

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

Explanations

1. The subject "variety of color" is singular and requires the singular verb "is." The sentence is in the present tense, so the past form "were" is incorrect. The subject "different" is plural and so "particle" and "comes" are incorrect. Hence, the correct answer is "change **are** to **is**."

2. Commas are used to separate items in a series of three or more. In addition, a comma is always used before the word "and" in a list. In the correct answer choice, commas are used to separate the items "red, pale greenish-yellow, bluish-purple, light blue, and pink." Hence, the correct answer is "The most common colors of light are red, pale greenish-yellow, bluish-purple, light blue, and pink."

3. Commas should be used to set off introductory subordinate clauses. "In North America" is a phrase that begins a sentence and is followed by the independent clause "the ideal places to watch the lights are the northwestern parts of Canada and Alaska." Hence, the correct answer is "add a comma after North America."

4. The name "Future Teachers of America Organization" is a proper noun and should always be capitalized.

The word "president" does not need to be capitalized, unless it is used in a title with a person's name. Abbreviations of specific names need to be capitalized. The beginning of every sentence needs to be capitalized.

5. When using two or more subjects, use a plural verb.

6. Words that are spoken require quotation marks. *I am tired and I want a lift to the nearest town* are words spoken by the old man.

7. The complimentary close in a letter should always be capitalized. "Sincerely" is the complimentary close in this letter and requires a capital s.

8. In the correct answer, "her" and "me" are object pronouns.

Object pronouns do not do the action in the sentence.

Object pronouns are me, you, him, her, it, us, and them.

9. Perseverance is a tricky word to spell. The root word is "persevere." The suffix "-ance" is used in the word "perseverance."

The other words in the sentence are spelled correctly.

10. In the correct answer, "Grace" and "I" are subject pronouns. Subject pronouns do the action, or rename the subject in a sentence. Subject pronouns are I, you, he, she, it, we, and they. If a sentence has more than one subject pronoun, then the subject pronoun "I" is always placed at the end.

Grade 9 English: Adjectives and Adverbs

(1) "Order up!" called Mae as she slapped a piping hot plate onto the counter of Diamond Lil's Diner. (2) Her best friend Sergei hurried over and handed her another order.

(3) "Why are Fridays always the busier days of the week?" Sergei complained. (4) "I was hoping to leave early today to study for my math test." (5) Mae sighed and nodded.

(6) "Busy doesn't begin to describe it," she said. (7) "We've had more than fifty customers in here since we opened. (8) I hope Mr. Onegin hires another cook before I leave for college."

(9) "Mr. Onegin knows that he will never find anyone to replace you," replied Sergei. (10) "You are the better short order cook in town. (11) The *Newport Gazette* even wrote a feature article about you called 'Local Chef Mae West Serves Lunch with a Smile!'"

(12) "The *Newport Gazette* isn't the impressivest news source," Mae laughed. (13) "When I have my picture in the *New York Times*, then we can celebrate."

(14) "I hope you're still planning to help me study this afternoon," Sergei reminded her. (15) "Advanced calculus is more hard than geometry. (16) I'm not sure I was ready for this course."

(17) "You'll do a great job," Mae assured him. (18) "But if we don't get these orders served quick, then we'll both be unemployed."

(19) "Good point!" Sergei agreed and rushed away from the counter.

1. What is the correct way to write sentence 12?

- A. "The *Newport Gazette* isn't the most impressive news source," Mae laughed.
- B. "The *Newport Gazette* isn't the more impressive news source," Mae laughed.
- C. "The *Newport Gazette* isn't the impressive news source," Mae laughed.
- D. "The *Newport Gazette* isn't the impressiver news source," Mae laughed.

2. Which of the following sentences uses adjectives correctly?

- A. Picking out activities favorite to participate in is for some students more difficult.
- B. The young woman worked an outrageous amount of hours at her part-time job.
- C. Gray and dark make people most feel like it is going to be a long, sad, and busy.
- D. Dresses purple were much popular among the girls young at the special dance.

3. What change, if any, should be made to solidly in this sentence?

Julian was a running back on the football team, which made him a solidly sprinter for the track team during the spring.

- A. solid
- B. solidify
- C. solidity
- D. no change

4. How should sentence 18 be rewritten?

- A. "But if we don't get these orders served quicker, then we'll both be unemployed."
 - B. "But if we don't get these orders served quickly, then we'll both be unemployed."
 - C. "But if we don't get these orders served quickest, then we'll both be unemployed."
 - D. "But if we don't get these orders served more quick, then we'll both be unemployed."
-

5. Choose the adverb that **best** fills in the blank in the sentence below.

"That group of kids," Principal Patil said, "are so eager to help the school that they are _____ here as late as I am."

- A. often
 - B. oftenly
 - C. seldomly
 - D. seldomer
-

6.

The weather almanac predicts that this summer will be the most hot and humidest on record.

What change, if any, should be made to the underlined part of this sentence?

- A. hottest and most humid
- B. no change
- C. hottest and humidest
- D. hotter and more humid

7.

Phineas' little brother Nugget is one of the noisiest babies in the daycare center.

In this sentence, noisiest is a/an

- A. positive form.
 - B. comparative.
 - C. adverb.
 - D. superlative.
-

8.

Rob's cat Bucky is belligerenter than his dog Satchel when it is time to visit the veterinarian.

Choose the most effective substitute for the underlined part of the sentence. If no substitution is necessary, choose "correct as is."

- A. more belligerent
 - B. most belligerent
 - C. correct as is
 - D. belligerentest
-

9.

After one last _____ flash, the lightning seemed to stop and the storm passed.

Which word **best** belongs in the blank above?

- A. brightly
 - B. brighten
 - C. bright
 - D. brightness
-

10. Which sentence uses the comparative form correctly?

- A. The local market has the fresher produce of any small grocery store in town.
- B. QuickKleen is cheaper than ShineOn! because it does not clean as effectively.
- C. Habakkuk works more hard than his brother Leo, but they are still good friends.
- D. Last weekend, Maybellene's pickup truck was the dirtier I had ever seen it.

Answers: Adjectives & Adverbs

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

Explanations

1. In this sentence, Mae compares the *Newport Gazette* to all other news sources, so the superlative form is correct. The superlative form of "impressive" is "most impressive."
2. Adjectives are words that describe nouns. They can describe how something feels, tastes, smells, looks, or sounds. The correct sentence uses the adjectives "young," "outrageous," and "part-time" correctly to describe the woman, amount of hours, and job. The incorrect answers have the adjectives in the wrong places, use them as adverbs or verbs, or do not have nouns for the adjectives to describe.
3. In the sentence, the adverbial form of the word "solid" is used incorrectly. "Solidly" should instead be the adjective "solid" because it modifies "sprinter" in the sentence. Adjectives are used to modify nouns, not adverbs. The corrected sentence reads: Julian was a running back on the football team, which made him a solid sprinter for the track team during the spring.
4. Adjectives are used to modify nouns, while adverbs are used to modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs. In sentence 18, the word "quick" is used to modify a verb, so the adverb form "quickly" should be used.
5. The question asks you to choose an adverb to fill in the blank. An adverb is a word that modifies a noun, adjective, or other adverb. Most adverbs end in "-ly," but not all of them do. The best choice to fill in the blank is "often" because it is an adverb that describes how frequently those kids are at the school late. The completed sentence reads: "That group of kids," Principal Patil said, "are so eager to help the school that they are often here as late as I am."
6. Adjectives with one syllable use **-est** endings to form the superlative, so "hottest" is the proper form for this sentence. Adjectives with two or more syllables use **most** placed before the adjective to form the superlative; therefore, "most humid" is the correct choice.
7. "Noisiest" is the superlative form of "noisy." Two-syllable adjectives ending in **-y** drop the **-y** from the ending and add **-iest** to form the superlative.

8. This sentence compares two pets, so the comparative form is appropriate. Adjectives with two or more syllables use **more** placed before the adjective to form the comparative, so "more belligerent" is the correct form.

9. Adjectives are used to modify nouns, while adverbs are used to modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs. The word in the blank has to modify the noun "flash," so the word should be an adjective. The word "bright" is an adjective and should be used to modify "flash." The completed sentence reads: After one last bright flash, the lightning seemed to stop and the storm passed.

10. The comparative form shows the difference between two things. The sentence "QuickKleen is cheaper than ShineOn! because it does not clean as effectively" is the best answer choice because it correctly uses the comparative form to show the difference between two cleaning products.

Grade 9 English: Context Clues

(1) In dealing with the State we ought to remember that its institutions are not aboriginal, though they existed before we were born; that they are not superior to the citizen; that every one of them was once the act of a single man; every law and usage was at man's expedient to meet a particular case; that they all are imitable, all alterable; we may make them better. (2) But politics rests on necessary foundations and cannot be treated with levity. (3) Republics abound in young civilians who believe that the laws make the city; that commerce, education, and religion may be voted in or out; and that any measure, though it were absurd, may be imposed on a people if only you can get sufficient voices to make it a law. (4) The law is only a memorandum. (5) We are superstitious and esteem the statute somewhat. (6) The statute stands there to say, "Yesterday we agreed so and so, but how feel ye this article today?" (7) Our statute is a coin which we stamp with our own portrait; it soon becomes unrecognizable and in process of time will return to the mint. (8) Nature is not democratic, nor limited-monarchical, but despotic and will not be fooled or abated of any jot of her authority by the protest of her sons; as fast as the public mind is opened to more intelligence, the code is seen to be brute and stammering. (9) It speaks not articulately and must be made to. (10) Meantime the education of the general mind never stops. (11) The reveries of the true and simple are prophetic. (12) What the tender poetic youth dreams, prays, and paints today, but shuns the ridicule of saying aloud, shall presently be the resolutions of public bodies. (13) The history of the State sketches in coarse outline the progress of thought and follows at a distance the delicacy of culture and aspiration.

adapted from Politics by Ralph Waldo Emerson

1. In the first sentence of this passage, the reader is urged to remember that institutions are not aboriginal. What is the definition of aboriginal?

- A. alterable
 - B. counterfeit
 - C. abnormal
 - D. native
-

2. Sentence number 4 states the law is only a memorandum. What is a memorandum?

- A. a specific means to an end
- B. a guide for human behavior
- C. a legislative meeting
- D. a short reminder notice

Thelonious Monk: Jazz Giant

Thelonious Monk was an innovative jazz pianist and composer. Some regard him as the founder of bebop, which is a style of jazz music that features a fast tempo, instrumental virtuosity, and improvisation. Playing bebop requires many years of practice and detailed knowledge of one's chosen instrument.

What made Monk unique was his unorthodox approach to the piano. Unlike many other musicians at the time, Monk's playing included many strange rhythms and dramatic silences. Another unconventional aspect of his playing is seen in his use of dissonant harmonies. It is this harshness that causes some listeners to believe that Monk is actually playing "wrong" notes. In fact these notes are intentional and contribute a creative spontaneity to his playing.

Monk was not only an odd musician; he was also an idiosyncratic man. Friends and fellow musicians reported that he sometimes refused to speak for days at a time. Other times, in the middle of a performance, he would stop, stand up from the keyboard, and dance for a few moments before returning to the piano. One of his regular dances consisted of continuously turning counterclockwise.

Monk's songs were incredibly difficult to play. Even Miles Davis, another jazz legend, once complained that it was too difficult to improvise over Monk's strange piano melodies. One of Monk's early recordings, a song called "Brilliant Corners," was so exigent that the final version had to be edited together from multiple takes.

Monk died in 1982, but he has not been forgotten. In fact, in 1993, he received a posthumous Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.

3. Read the sentence from the passage.

"What made Monk unique was his unorthodox approach to the piano."

What does the word unorthodox most likely mean?

- A. stylish
 - B. untalented
 - C. original
 - D. absent-minded
-

4. In the fourth paragraph, Monk's song "Brilliant Corners" is described as exigent. Which of these words best defines the meaning of exigent?

- A. eligible
- B. strange
- C. demanding
- D. unpopular

5. What does idiosyncratic mean as it is used in the passage?

- A. predictable
- B. talented
- C. peculiar
- D. intelligent

Driftwood

Maribel knew that her little brother Marco was prone to exaggeration. So she took his description of the so-called "Ocean Man" with a grain of salt.

"He's ten feet tall," Marco said. "And his hair is long and green and full of seaweed."

The story was ludicrous, but Maribel had to admit that it was also sort of creepy. With the dark waves crashing against the rocks, and the cold waters reaching up to her ankles, the thought of a strange man emerging from the turbulent waters was ominous.

It was then that she noticed a strange piece of driftwood that had washed ashore. Maribel was attracted to its curved, crescent shape.

"It looks like a moon," she observed.

"No," Marco said excitedly. "It's a boomerang! Give it to me!"

Marco reached for the driftwood, but Maribel was too quick for him. She grabbed it and dangled it high over Marco's head, where he couldn't reach it. His attempts to take it from her were futile.

All of a sudden, something else caught Marco's attention. He pointed past Maribel in the direction of the lighthouse on the beach.

Maribel turned to see a tall man with long, unkempt hair. He was walking toward them.

"The Ocean Man!" Marco shouted. Then he took off running along the beach in the opposite direction.

Meanwhile, the tall man with the long hair was calling out to Maribel. "What have you got there?" he asked. "May I see it?"

Maribel handed the piece of driftwood to the man. "I think it looks like the moon," she said, "but my idiot brother thinks it's a boomerang."

The man laughed. "This piece of wood represents different things to different people. It also supports the insect and plant life here on the beach, thanks to the time it spent in the ocean, absorbing nutrients."

"I didn't know that," Maribel said. She turned to see what had become of her brother. He hadn't stopped running, and was by now no more than a diminutive speck on the beach.

"So what do you think?" the man asked her. "Is it a moon or a boomerang, or both?"

"I think it's just going to be driftwood," she said.

The man smiled. Then he put the driftwood back on the beach where it belonged.

6. What does futile mean as it is used in the passage?

- A. impressive
 - B. hopeless
 - C. angry
 - D. certain
-

7. What does ludicrous mean as it is used in the passage?

- A. cruel
 - B. unhelpful
 - C. honest
 - D. absurd
-

8. The word diminutive as it is used in the passage means

- A. impressive.
 - B. lanky.
 - C. miniature.
 - D. courageous.
-

Local Woman's Generosity Inspires Others

Seamstress Alma Dunderfluke never earned more than \$16,000 a year, but at her death last week, it was discovered that her will stipulated a gift of \$300,000 to a local school. Family members say that Dunderfluke was well known for her kindness and thrifty ways.

"She could stretch a dollar until it screamed," said daughter Rita Satajay. "However, she always made sure we had everything we needed and wanted. Education was close to her heart."

Dunderfluke's generous legacy to the Northshore Learning Academy was a secret from everyone but her lawyer. Her children, who each received a portion of their mother's estate, were unaware of their mother's riches.

"We knew she worked hard her entire life," admitted Satajay. "But we never knew the exact amount." All three of Dunderfluke's children have decided to carry on the family tradition of charity by donating their time and money to local schools.

"This gift will change many lives and give children hope," said Houston LeFanu, director of Northshore Learning Academy. "We are forever in debt to our benefactor, Mrs. Dunderfluke."

9. What is the meaning of the word legacy as it is used in the third paragraph?

- A. a document containing important historical information
- B. a gift of money or personal property donated by a will
- C. a way for people to influence local educational policies
- D. a memorial commemorating a person after his/her death

Galvanization

Hot-dip galvanizing is a process in which part of a product is submerged in a bath of molten zinc to produce corrosion-resistant metal. The impact of this reaction helps to produce long-lasting and corrosion-free goods. The process is extremely simple and has an advantage over other corrosion protection measures.

The process of galvanizing was invented in India in as early as the 4th century. Corrosion is a natural process where metals gradually degrade when they react with an oxidant such as oxygen or sulphur. This rusting process is one form of oxide corrosion where the original metal undergoes damage and discoloration. Apart from galvanizing, other treatments such as surface coatings, anodization, biofilm coatings, and many other methods can be used to prevent materials from corroding.

10. Define impact as it is used in the passage.

- A. to have a strong effect on
 - B. to fix firmly
 - C. to come into forcible contact with
 - D. to hit with great force
-

Answers: Context Clues

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

Explanations

1. According to the *American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, **aboriginal** is an adjective that has the following definitions: "1. Native, indigenous; 2. Of or pertaining to aborigines." We can infer from the word's use in context that institutions are not native, even though "they existed before we were born."

2. The *American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language* lists five definitions: "memorandum, n. 1. a short note written as a reminder. 2. A written record or communication, as in a business office. 3. Law. A transaction, or contract. 4. A business statement made by a consignor about a shipment of goods that may be returned. 5. A brief, unsigned diplomatic communication." Emerson's use of the word "only" reminds the reader that while the law is important, it should be subject to change, which he goes on to explain in sentences 5, 6, and 7.

3. The author provides several clues that help the reader to infer the meaning of unorthodox. First, the author states that Monk's unorthodox approach made him "unique." Second, the sentence that follows the appearance of unorthodox states that Monk was "Unlike many other musicians at the time. . . ." So the reader can infer that unorthodox means different, or original.

4. The word exigent means either demanding or requiring immediate action. In this case, the author says that Monk's songs were "incredibly difficult to play." So, the reader can assume that the song "Brilliant Corners" is demanding.

5. After stating that Monk was an idiosyncratic man, the author gives several examples of unusual behaviors that made Monk different from most people. These behaviors offer a clue to what the word means. In this passage, idiosyncratic means unusual or peculiar.

6. Since the author says that Maribel holds the piece of driftwood high where Marco cannot reach it, the reader can guess that Marco's attempts to take it from her are hopeless, or futile.

7. Look closely at the sentence that ludicrous appears in. The use of the conjunction, "but," tells the reader that the two adjectives, "ludicrous" and "creepy," have contrasting or different meanings. Next, re-

read Marco's brief story about the Ocean Man. It contains exaggerated details that are absurd, or ludicrous.

8. The author says that Marco runs away from the spot where his sister is standing on the beach. From Maribel's perspective, he is a "speck" on the beach. This helps the reader guess that diminutive means "tiny or miniature."

9. The passage describes the gift of money donated to a local school through Mrs. Dunderfluke's will. This gift is described as a "generous legacy." Therefore, the reader can conclude that the word "legacy" is used in this context to mean "a gift of money or personal property donated by a will."

10. The passage describes the process of galvanization where metals like iron are galvanized to prevent rusting. The word "impact" as used in the sentence "The impact of this reaction helps to produce long-lasting and corrosion-free goods for a long period of time" in the first paragraph can be defined as "to have a strong effect on."

Grade 9 English: Multiple Meaning Words

1. converse (kən-'vərs) *v.* [Latin] **1.** to have a conversation
converse ('kän-,vərs) *n.* **2.** a conversation **3.** the opposite or reverse of something
converse (kən-'vərs) *adj.* **4.** opposite or reverse in direction

What is the meaning of the word converse in the sentence below?

All trained astronauts are space travelers, but the converse, that all space travelers are trained astronauts, is not true.

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



Angie is spending a summer at her aunt and uncle's Tennessee farm so that she can experience something different from her urban life. The first chore her aunt assigns to her is to diffuse organic grains in front of the chicken coop at 6 A.M. every morning. This provides forage for the chickens. It doesn't take Angie long to learn that it is best to diffuse the grains quickly and get out of the way, unless she wants the chickens to come pecking her way.

2. The author says that Angie's first chore is "to diffuse organic grains in front of the chicken coop. . . ." What does diffuse mean?

- A. ill organized
- B. unconcentrated
- C. to water down
- D. spread out

The second day of the *Coach vs. Fearon* trial, the defense attorneys decided to cite prosecutor Charlene Svaloski as a witness. Ms. Svaloski took the stand and after being sworn in, admitted to driving to the crash site at night, ignoring the yellow barricade, and searching the hulk for incriminating evidence. She had not obtained a search warrant prior to this activity. Upon hearing this, the judge dismissed the items she had confiscated as evidence. Since she had not received the proper authorization, the crash site and items from the site were outside her jurisdiction.

3. Based on the passage, what does jurisdiction mean?

- A. a place where jurors are allowed to rest
 - B. authority of a sovereign power to govern
 - C. an area where justice can take place
 - D. the power or right to exercise authority
-

4.



Jeremy left the office at noon intending to drive to Barnes Restaurant for lunch. He was shocked to discover his car was missing. A boy who had been sitting at a nearby bus stop told him that the car had been towed. Jeremy had parked the car legally so he could not imagine why this happened. The thought of lunch left his mind as he called his wife. He explained the situation to Susan and then she reminded him that they had received a letter two weeks earlier from the bank. The letter stated they were default on the auto loan because of several months of non-payment. The car had probably been towed for repossession.

The author mentions that Jeremy is default on his loan. Based on the passage, what does default mean?

- A. a value used when none has been given
 - B. in good standing with a company
 - C. loss incurred by failing to compete
 - D. condition of failing to meet an obligation
-

5. Based on the passage, what does cite mean?

- A. to refer to someone else's work
 - B. to quote by way of example
 - C. to call upon officially to appear
 - D. to see someone somewhere
-

6. pique ('pēk) n. [French] **1.** a feeling of hurt, vexation, or resentment, awakened by a social slight or injury. **2.** a remark, usually witty, made in a social situation and intended to slight someone else. **3.** a cotton fabric, figured in the loom. **4.** keenly felt desire; a longing.

What is the meaning of the word pique as it used in the sentence below?

"Beth needed something cool to wear to the carnival, so she bought a pique tee from Cruzers' department store."

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

7. The *Epic of Gilgamesh* is a 3,200-year-old account of the mythological hero-king Gilgamesh's exploits. It is one of the oldest works of literature in the world. The first modern translation of Gilgamesh's impressive adventures was made in the 1880s by George Smith.

In the context of this passage, what is the meaning of the word exploits?

- A. extraordinary deeds
 - B. to take advantage of
 - C. abusive undertakings
 - D. English translations
-

8. Wendy won an award for her painting of the mountains. The critics praised her work mainly because of the choice of shades she had used. They loved the unusual blend of the earthy shades of brown and green.

As it is used in the passage, the word earthy **most nearly** means

- A. related to earth or soil in color, texture, or odor
- B. plain and simple in style
- C. not polite and refined, crude
- D. practical, direct, or straightforward

9. monitor (mä-nə-tər) *n.* **1.** a raised central portion of a roof with low windows **2.** a student appointed to help a teacher **3.** a device used to check or keep track of something **4.** a small, modern warship

What is the meaning of the word monitor in the sentence below?

After my brother was born, mom could barely sleep. Then, on her friend's advice, she placed a monitor in my brother's crib. Now, she feels well-rested and relaxed.

- A.** definition 3
 - B.** definition 2
 - C.** definition 1
 - D.** definition 4
-

10. ground (graúnd) *n.* **1.** the surface of the earth **2.** an object that makes an electrical connection with the earth **3.** the basis or reason for some action
ground (graúnd) *v.* **4.** to prohibit someone from taking part in common or daily activities

What is the meaning of the word ground in the sentence below?

Everyone in the office knew Simone was lazy. Elena, her boss, had given her many warnings, but Simone always found a reason for not submitting her work on time. Now, Elena had sufficient ground to build a case against Simone and take a firm action.

- A.** definition 2
- B.** definition 3
- C.** definition 1
- D.** definition 4

Answers: Multiple Meaning Words

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

Explanations

1. The sentence compares trained astronauts and space travelers. The only definition that makes sense is definition 3, which shows that the opposite, or reverse, of the first half of the statement is not true.

2. The word diffuse has more than one meaning. It can be used as an adjective or a verb. As an adjective, diffuse can mean "not concentrated" and "ill organized." As a verb, diffuse can mean "to pour out" and "to spread out." Since Angie's first chore involves feeding the chickens grain, diffuse must mean "to spread out."

3. The word jurisdiction has more than one meaning, so we must consider the context in which it appears. Since the evidence Ms. Svaloski took was disregarded because she had not obtained the authorization to get them, we can conclude that jurisdiction must mean "the power or right to exercise authority."

4. The word default has several meanings: "condition of failing to meet an obligation," "a value used when none has been given," and "loss incurred by failing to compete." Based on the passage, we can see that the correct meaning of default in this context is "condition of failing to meet an obligation." Jeremy and Susan failed to pay on their auto loan, and the result was their car was repossessed.

5. The word cite has several possible meanings. The reader must look at the context of the passage to determine the meaning. The passage says that Ms. Svaloski, a prosecuting attorney, was brought up and sworn in as a witness for the defense. In this context, cite must mean to summon or "to call upon officially to appear."

6. The author says that Beth purchased a pique tee. Read the definitions. Based on the context of the sentence, definition 3 is the only option that makes sense because it is the only definition that describes cloth.

7. The word exploit has several meanings: "a heroic or extraordinary deed," "an achievement," and "to take advantage of." Based on the passage, we can see that the correct meaning of exploits in this context is "extraordinary deeds."

8. The word earthy has several meanings. As an adjective, it means "practical, direct, or straightforward," "plain and simple in style," "not polite and refined, crude," and "related to earth or soil in color, texture, or odor." In the sentence "They were an unusual blend of the earthy shades of brown and green," earthy shades means that it is related to earth or soil in color.

9. Read the passage again and replace monitor with the different definitions. Using the context of the passage, the appropriate definition of monitor is "a device used to check or keep track of something."

10. Read the passage again and replace ground with the different definitions. Using the context of the passage, the appropriate definition of ground is "a basis or reason for some action."