



ASVAB-SECTION-8^{Q&As}

ASVAB Section Eight : Paragraph comprehension

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QUESTION 1

Using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), researchers have identified abnormalities in the brains of children with attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) that may serve as a biomarker for the disorder, according to a study presented November 28 at the annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA). ADHD is one of the most common childhood disorders, affecting an estimated five to eight percent of school-aged children. Symptoms, which may continue into adulthood, include inattention, hyperactivity and impulsivity behaviors that are out of the normal range for a child's age and development.

What is the best title for this passage?

- A. "ADHD Occurrence in Children is Between 5% and 8%"
- B. "MRIs Aid in Earlier ADHD Diagnosis"
- C. "Brain Differences Found in Children with ADHD"
- D. "ADHD Kids Exhibit Abnormal Behavior"

Correct Answer: C

QUESTION 2

The Tao-te-ching (The Way and Its Power) is the basic text of Taoism, a Chinese religion and philosophy. The Tao-te-ching is composed of 81 short chapters or poems that describe a way of life marked by quiet effortlessness and freedom from desire. Taoism teaches that this can be achieved by following the creative, spontaneous life force of the universe, called the Tao. The book is attributed to Lao-tzu, but it was probably written in the third century B.C.

The Tao-te-ching _____.

- A. is the basic text of Chinese poetry
- B. describes a life way marked by quiet freedom
- C. is made up of 81 chapters and a short poem
- D. was probably not written by Lao-tzu, even though it is attributed to him

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

The passage says that the Tao-te-ching "is attributed to Lao-tzu, but it was probably written in the third century b. c."

The use of the word "but" clearly implies that Lao-tzu (who actually lived three centuries earlier, during the sixth century b.c.) did not write the book.



QUESTION 3

To get full value for your energy dollars, first arrange for an energy audit of your home. An audit will reveal such things as energy-sapping drafts, insufficient insulation, improper weather stripping, and a need for storm windows and doors.

Installing storm windows may be energy-saving but should be preceded by _____.

- A. an energy audit
- B. storm doors
- C. insulation
- D. proper weather stripping

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The main idea of the paragraph is that an energy audit should be done as a first step toward saving energy dollars.

The details that follow are some of the items an audit concentrates on.

The question, however, asks you to identify what precedes, or comes before, the installation of an energy-saving device.

QUESTION 4

The traditions of Freemasonry have evolved over many centuries and from many sources. These traditions are a powerful force that cements a Lodge and Freemasons into one sacred band. They can be modified – but only slowly – to fit the needs of the organization. As individual Freemasons become aware of the traditions, they soon learn that they are part of something larger than themselves.

The traditions of Freemasonry teach new members that _____.

- A. They are part of something larger than themselves.
- B. New members can quickly change traditions to meet the organization's needs.
- C. Traditions are never written in cement.
- D. There is only one source for the traditions of Freemasonry.

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The passage states, "As individual Freemasons become aware of the traditions, they soon learn that they are part of something larger than themselves."



QUESTION 5

Regular weight lifting has been shown to improve muscle mass in people of all ages. Even 80-year-old subjects in weight lifting studies show signs of benefits by supplementing their muscle mass.

It can be inferred from the passage that _____.

- A. young people do not benefit from weight lifting
- B. weight lifting even once a week will produce benefits for all ages
- C. older people show the most improvements in muscle mass in weight lifting studies
- D. any able body person can begin weight lifting at any age and see benefits

Correct Answer: D

QUESTION 6

Sometimes a state legislature asks the voters to approve or reject a proposal called a referendum. The proposal may be a constitutional amendment, a plan for long-term borrowing, or a special law affecting a city. In effect, the question is "referred" to the voters. The Constitution of the United States was submitted to state conventions for approvals.

From the definition above, you can say that it was _____.

- A. approved unanimously
- B. approved by a form of referendum
- C. rejected by a majority of the states
- D. referred to the president of the United States

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: According to the paragraph's definition of a referendum, submitting the Constitution of the United States to the state conventions for approvals was a form of referendum.

QUESTION 7

In 1965, a television show aired that would become a Christmas classic for many families. It was called "A Charlie Brown Christmas." This television movie has the distinction of being the cartoon special to run for the longest time in television history and has been shown every year since its debut. This tradition began when an ad agent for Coca-Cola contacted producer, Lee Mendelson. Peanuts had just been featured on a 1965 cover of Time Magazine and the agent told Mendelson about a documentary about Peanuts creator, Charles Schulz. Mendelson was asked if he had ever thought about producing a Peanuts Christmas special. The producer, wanting to appear on top of his game, assured the agent that he had. Hurriedly contacting Schulz, Mendelson met with him the next day and they created the story.

From the above passage, the reader would know that 1965 was an important year because _____.

- A. "A Charlie Brown Christmas" first debuted and the Peanuts characters made the cover of Time Magazine.



- B. The passage does not give a stated reason.
- C. "A Charlie Brown Christmas" first debuted.
- D. The Peanuts characters made the front of Time Magazine.

Correct Answer: A

QUESTION 8

Each of the 94 federal judicial districts handles bankruptcy matters, and in almost all districts, bankruptcy cases are filed in the bankruptcy court. Bankruptcy cases can't be filed in state court. Bankruptcy laws help people who can no longer pay their creditors get a fresh start by liquidating their assets to pay their debts or by creating a repayment plan. Bankruptcy laws also protect troubled businesses and provide for orderly distributions to business creditors through reorganization or liquidation.

Which of the following statements isn't supported by the above passage?

- A. Bankruptcy must be filed in a federal court.
- B. Bankruptcy is designed to help individuals and protect businesses.
- C. Businesses can be reorganized or liquidated through bankruptcy.
- D. Bankruptcy must be filed in the bankruptcy court.

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

The first sentence states that bankruptcy is usually (not always) filed in bankruptcy court, making Choice

"Bankruptcy must be filed in the bankruptcy court" an incorrect statement.

QUESTION 9

Ergonomics is the science of designing and arranging workspaces so that people and objects interact efficiently and safely. Lack of attention to ergonomics causes thousands of workers to suffer repetitive stress injury, eye fatigue, muscle soreness, and many other medical problems each year. Adequate lighting, well-designed chairs, and clutter-free work areas contribute to effective ergonomic design. The opportunity to take short breaks every hour or two, especially for deskbound workers, is also helpful. It's also important for workers to avoid performing the same movements over and over for hours at a time. Variety in the type of work being done can decrease the chance of injury.

According to this passage, _____.

- A. ergonomics can cause injuries
- B. ergonomics is about designing and arranging workspaces efficiently and safely
- C. ergonomics is expensive and time consuming



D. few people experience problems due to poor ergonomics

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Lack of attention to ergonomics, not ergonomics itself, can cause injury, so Choice "ergonomics can cause injuries" is incorrect.

The passage doesn't support Choice "ergonomics is expensive and time consuming."

The passage states that many people suffer injuries when sufficient attention isn't paid to ergonomics, so

Choice "few people experience problems due to poor ergonomics" is incorrect.

QUESTION 10

Although carjacking has become more common in the past 10 years, there are several preventative measures that drivers can take. The first way to prevent carjacking is to never walk alone to your car at night. Another means of prevention is always driving with the windows rolled up and the doors locked. Also, driving on well-lit and often traveled roads is another preventative measure that drivers can take to ensure their safety from carjacking.

Which of the following is not mentioned as a preventative measure against carjacking?

A. Driving with windows rolled up.

B. Never walking to your car alone at night.

C. Carrying pepper spray.

D. Driving on well-lit roads.

Correct Answer: C

QUESTION 11

It is not surprising that John Fitzgerald Kennedy entered public service. He came from a family that valued such commitment, including his father, Joseph P. Kennedy. The elder Kennedy served as ambassador to Great Britain from 1937 to 1940. John served his country in the U.S. Navy after he graduated from Harvard University. During that time, Kennedy escaped death while serving as skipper of a PT boat in the Pacific. He even rescued another Navy man by swimming, with him in tow, to the shore of a safe island.

The word ambassador, as used in the above passage, most nearly means _____.

A. messenger

B. diplomat

C. dispatcher



D. courier

Correct Answer: B

QUESTION 12

Due process, the guarantee of fairness in the administration of justice, is part of the 5th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The 14th Amendment further requires states to abide by due process. After this amendment was enacted, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down many state laws that infringed on the civil rights guaranteed to citizens in the Bill of Rights.

The author of the above passage would agree that _____.

- A. without the passage of the 14th Amendment, many laws restricting civil rights would still exist in various states
- B. the Supreme Court overstepped its jurisdiction when it struck down laws infringing on citizens' civil rights
- C. the Supreme Court had every right to strike down state laws before the passage of the 14th Amendment
- D. the 14th Amendment was opposed by all states

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Because the Supreme Court struck down many state laws after the 14th Amendment was enacted, it's probably true that these laws would still exist if there had been no 14th Amendment. The passage doesn't support Choices "the Supreme Court overstepped its jurisdiction when it struck down laws infringing on citizens' civil rights", "the Supreme Court had every right to strike down state laws before the passage of the 14th Amendment" or "the Supreme Court had every right to strike down state laws before the passage of the 14th Amendment."

QUESTION 13

In the military, as in all professions, the issue of competence is directly relevant to professional integrity. Because human life, national security, and expenditures from the national treasury are so frequently at issue when the military acts, the obligation to be competent isn't merely prudential. That obligation is a moral one, and culpable incompetence here is clearly a violation of professional integrity. Part of the social aspect of professional integrity involves the joint responsibility for conduct and competence shared by all members of the profession. Only fellow professionals are capable of evaluating competence in some instances; hence, fellow professionals must accept the responsibility of upholding the standards of the profession. Fellow military members can spot derelictions of duty, failures of leadership, failures of competence, and the venalities of conduct that interfere with the goals of the military mission. Often, the obligations of professional integrity may be pitted against personal loyalties or friendships; and, where the stakes for society are so high, professional integrity should win out.

One word that best describes the primary theme of the above passage would be _____.

- A. proficiency
- B. equality
- C. evaluations
- D. relationships



Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The primary theme of the passage is stated in the first sentence.

Proficiency is closest in meaning to the word competence, which is the primary theme of the passage.

QUESTION 14

I returned from the City about three o'clock on that May afternoon pretty well disgusted with life. I had been three months in the Old Country and was fed up with it. If people had told me a year ago that I would've been feeling like that I should've laughed at them; but there was the fact. The weather made me liverish, the talk of the ordinary Englishman made me sick, I couldn't get enough exercise, and the amusements of London seemed as flat as soda water that had been standing in the sun.

The author is speaking of his travels in _____.

- A. Spain
- B. Great Britain
- C. Germany
- D. Scotland

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The words London and Englishmen make it clear that the author is speaking of his travels in England

(Great Britain).

QUESTION 15

Extreme care must be exercised to ensure proper handling and cleaning of soiled U.S. flags. A torn flag may be professionally mended, but a badly torn or tattered flag should be destroyed. When the flag is in such a condition that it's no longer a fitting emblem for display, destroy it in a dignified manner, preferably by burning.

According to this passage, torn flags should be _____.

- A. mended
- B. burned
- C. destroyed
- D. all of the above

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:



According to the passage a torn U.S. Flag can be professionally mended, but a severely torn flag should be destroyed. The preferred method of destruction is by burning.

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