



ASVAB-SECTION-8^{Q&As}

ASVAB Section Eight : Paragraph comprehension

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**QUESTION 1**

Many Americans do not exercise at all and this lack of movement may be caused by lack of accurate information. There are those who think that they must be active for a long period of time each day. While more exercise is better, the minimum recommendation is only 30 minutes per day and you can split that into several shorter periods. Others think that they need a gym membership to get "proper" exercise. Actually, various activities can provide the needed movement, including gardening, walking, and dancing, if you move enough while doing them. There is a great deal of misinformation about exercise in magazines and on TV. Even friends can misrepresent what is actually needed to stay in shape.

The author of the above passage would agree that _____.

- A. the cost of gym membership does not matter to most people
- B. Americans may be inactive because they are bored
- C. Americans are not influenced by infomercials, magazines, or videos
- D. Americans may be more likely to exercise 30 minutes a day if they broke it up into several intervals

Correct Answer: D

QUESTION 2

Comparable to the decline of the great Mayan culture, the fall of the ancient Indus Valley people yields interesting information about their daily lives. It seems that this civilization is the oldest recorded civilization in India, yet many of their practices seem advanced. For example, there is evidence of careful and creative design of bathroom facilities, including sewage disposal. What is evident in other ancient societies seems to be missing from the Indus Valley one, namely social conflict, slavery, armed forces, and various vices. The cause of their sudden demise is a mystery.

According to the above passage, what is the oldest known civilization of India?

- A. Mayan people
- B. Afghanistan people
- C. Indus Valley people
- D. Aztec people

Correct Answer: C

QUESTION 3

The saying, "It's not over until it's over" certainly applies to football. In spite of a significant lead, a team cannot count on a win until the last whistle sounds. Any team, no matter how skilled, must maintain a sense of purpose throughout all four quarters and should not relax if they want to guarantee a mark in the win column. Double-digit leads have been



magically erased during small time spans late in a game. It can happen when an opposing player intercepts the ball and makes a break for the goal line, scoring the decisive points.

Which of these words most nearly means decisive as it is used in the above passage?

- A. earnest
- B. certain
- C. critical
- D. determined

Correct Answer: C

QUESTION 4

The fierce and warlike tribe, called the Huns, who'd driven the Goths to seek new homes, came from Asia into Southeastern Europe and took possession of a large territory lying north of the River Danube. During the first half of the fifth century, the Huns had a famous king named Attila. He was only 21 years old when he became their king. But although he was young, he was very brave and ambitious, and he wanted to be a great and powerful king. As soon as his army was ready, he marched with it into countries, which belonged to Rome. He defeated the Romans in several great battles and captured many of their cities. The Roman Emperor Theodosius had to ask for terms of peace. Attila agreed that there should be peace, but soon afterwards he found out that Theodosius had formed a plot to murder him. He was so enraged at this that he again began war. He plundered and burned cities wherever he went, and at last the emperor had to give him a large sum of money and a portion of the country south of the Danube.

After terms of peace were offered, Attila resumed the war against Rome because _____.

- A. he discovered the Emperor wanted to assassinate him
- B. he wanted to further expand his kingdom
- C. the Emperor of Rome offered too little money in the peace terms
- D. Danube, his second-in-charge, advised him not to accept the peace terms

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Attila agreed to peace but soon after discovered that the Roman Emperor had launched a plot to kill him.

QUESTION 5

You can put up to \$3,000 a year into an individual retirement account (IRA) on a tax deductible basis if your spouse isn't covered by a retirement plan at work or as long as your combined incomes aren't too high. You also can put the same amount tax-deferred into an IRA for a nonworking spouse if you file your income tax return jointly.

The maximum amount that a married couple could possibly save in a tax-deferred IRA during a year is _____.



- A. \$3,000
- B. \$6,000
- C. \$9,000
- D. The question can't be answered based on the information contained in the passage.

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The paragraph states that the maximum amount one can place into a tax-deferred IRA is \$3,000, plus an additional \$3,000 if the spouse isn't employed.

QUESTION 6

A hungry fox saw some fine bunches of grapes hanging from a vine that was trained along a high trellis, and did his best to reach them by jumping as high as he could into the air. But it was all in vain, for they were just out of reach, so he gave up trying and walked away with an air of dignity and unconcern, remarking, "I thought those grapes were ripe, but I see now they are quite sour."

Aesop's Fable "The Fox and the Grapes". William Caxton, 1484.

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

- A. a vessel in your body that carries blood
- B. a hopeless situation
- C. a weather device placed on top of a house that shows wind directions
- D. being arrogant and excessively proud

Correct Answer: B

QUESTION 7

Captain Agnew had located the Italian naval convoy by means of radar, and then brought his Force K into the most favorable attacking position. To the Italians, who possessed no such technology, the darkness remained impenetrable, and their surprise was consequently complete.

What happened to the Italian convoy?

- A. It used radar to locate Captain Agnew's Force K.
- B. It was surprised by a nighttime attack.
- C. It surprised the Force K nighttime convoy.



D. It got lost in the impenetrable darkness.

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The Italian convoy did not have radar or anything like it, so they could not see Captain Agnew's Force K in the darkness and Force K surprised them with an attack.

QUESTION 8

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.

Professional competence is _____.

- A. a moral obligation
- B. directly relevant to professional integrity
- C. essential because military operations impact human life, national security, and use of taxpayer funds
- D. all of the above

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

All of the statements are directly supported by the passage.

QUESTION 9

Cloud seeding is accomplished by dropping particles of dry ice (solid carbon dioxide) from a plane onto super-cooled clouds. This process encourages condensation of water droplets in the clouds, which usually, but not always, results in rain or snow.

From this passage, it's reasonable to assume that _____.

- A. cloud seeding could be used to end a drought
- B. cloud seeding is prohibitively expensive
- C. cloud seeding is rarely used



D. cloud seeding can be accomplished by using regular ice

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

One can assume that causing rain or snow would end a drought. Nothing in the passage has to do with expense, so Choice "cloud seeding is prohibitively expensive" is incorrect.

The passage says nothing about how frequently the process is used, so Choice "cloud seeding is rarely used" is incorrect.

The passage specifies that dry ice (solid carbon dioxide) is used; solid water (regular ice) is a different chemical, so Choice "cloud seeding can be accomplished by using regular ice" is wrong.

QUESTION 10

We think of chitchat and small talk as the things people say to pass the time or kill an awkward silence. But new research suggests these idle conversations could be a social-bonding tool passed down from our ape-like ancestors. Scientists with Princeton University studied ring tailed lemurs, animals that are considered among the more ancestral forms of primates – the evolutionary lineage that includes humans, apes and monkeys. The study concludes that lemurs call to each other essentially as a replacement for mutual grooming, or cleaning each other's fur, a widespread social-bonding behavior among non-human primates.

From the above passage, the reader can conclude that _____.

- A. chatting cannot be used to pass time
- B. lemurs would rather groom each other than call out to each other
- C. lemurs are more like monkeys than apes
- D. some human behaviors may have evolved from those of our primate ancestors

Correct Answer: D

QUESTION 11

Travelers should check passport and visa requirements with consular officials of the countries to be visited well in advance of their departure date. Application for a passport may be made at a passport agency, many federal and state courts, probate courts, some county and municipal offices, and some post offices. The 14 major cities with U.S. passport agencies are Boston, Chicago, Denver, Honolulu, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, New York, Norwalk, Connecticut, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington DC. Text quoted from: Passport: US Passport. (n.d.).

Text quoted from: Passport: US Passport. (n.d.).

According to the above passage, which of these offices is the least likely to issue a passport?



- A. your post office
- B. your public library
- C. your municipal offices
- D. your federal or state court

Correct Answer: B

QUESTION 12

The transistor, a small, solid-state device that can amplify sound, was invented in 1947. At first, it was too expensive and too difficult to produce to be used in cheap, mass-market products. By 1954, though, these cost and production problems had been overcome, and the first transistor radio was put on the market.

According to this passage, _____.

- A. there was no market for transistors before 1954
- B. when transistors could be produced cheaply and easily, the transistor radio was put on the market
- C. transistors were invented in 1947 by order of the Department of Defense
- D. transistors are still expensive to produce

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Products with transistors weren't widely sold before 1954 because of the expense and difficulty of production, not because markets didn't exist; so Choice "there was no market for transistors before 1954" is incorrect.

Choices "transistors were invented in 1947 by order of the Department of Defense" and "transistors are still expensive to produce" aren't supported in the passage.

The passage states that the problem of transistors being expensive and difficult to produce was solved by 1954.

QUESTION 13

Railroads originating on both coasts of the United States were joined on May 10, 1869, when a golden spike was driven to join the last rail at Promontory Point, Utah. Great numbers of immigrants moved west to take up free homestead land or purchase tracts at low prices.

According to the passage, the settling of the American West _____.



- A. made immigrants very wealthy from land ownership
- B. followed the completion of the railroad
- C. made it impossible for anyone to purchase land
- D. was finished before the summer of 1869

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

According to the passage, the settling of the American West took place after both coasts were joined by completion of the railroad.

QUESTION 14

Medieval guilds were similar to modern-day labor unions. These groups of merchants or craftspeople set rules regarding economic activity in order to protect themselves. Some guilds held considerable economic power, but even small guilds protected members. Guilds also served a social purpose.

According to this passage, guilds _____.

- A. had only one purpose
- B. had little in common with modern labor unions
- C. exploited workers
- D. held considerable economic power

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

The passage states that guilds had economic and social purposes, so Choice "had only one purpose" is incorrect.

The passage states that guilds were similar to labor unions, so Choice "had little in common with modern labor unions" is incorrect.

The passage states that guilds protected merchants and craftspeople; it says nothing about exploiting workers, so Choice "exploited workers" is incorrect.

QUESTION 15

In Africa, there lives an interesting tribe of people: the Pygmies. They make their home in what used to be called Zaire, but is now the Democratic Republic of Congo. Pygmies are nomadic, wandering around, hunting, and procuring their own food. They have light-colored skin of a yellowish-brown shade and can also be found in rain forests of the



Philippines and India.

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

- A. aggressive
- B. uneducated
- C. wandering
- D. barbarian

Correct Answer: C

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