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QUESTION 1

Read the text and answer the question.

Blue Crabs Provide Evidence of Oil Tainting Gulf Food

Weeks ago, before engineers pumped in mud and cement to plug the gusher, scientists began finding specks of oil in crab larvae plucked from waters across the Gulf coast.

The government said last week that three-quarters of the spilled oil has been removed or naturally dissipated from the water. But the crab larvae discovery was an ominous sign that crude had already infiltrated the Gulf's vast food web – and

could affect it for years to come.

"It would suggest the oil has reached a position where it can start moving up the food chain instead of just hanging in the water," said Bob Thomas, a biologist at Loyola University in New Orleans.

"Something likely will eat those oiled larvae . . . and then that animal will be eaten by something bigger and so on."

Tiny creatures might take in such low amounts of oil that they could survive, Thomas said. But those at the top of the chain, such as dolphins and tuna, could get fatal "megadoses."

Marine biologists routinely gather shellfish for study. Since the spill began, many of the crab larvae collected have had the distinctive orange oil droplets, said Harriet Perry, a biologist with the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast

Research Laboratory.

"In my 42 years of studying crabs I've never seen this," Perry said.

She wouldn't estimate how much of the crab larvae are contaminated overall, but said about 40 percent of the area they are known to inhabit has been affected by oil from the spill.

While fish can metabolize dispersant and oil, crabs may accumulate the hydrocarbons, which could harm their ability to reproduce, Perry said in an earlier interview with Science magazine.

She told the magazine there are two encouraging signs for the wild larvae – they are alive when collected and may lose oil droplets when they molt.

Tulane University researchers are investigating whether the splotches also contain toxic chemical dispersants that were spread to break up the oil but have reached no conclusions, biologist Caz Taylor said.

If large numbers of blue crab larvae are tainted, their population is virtually certain to take a hit over the next year and perhaps longer, scientists say. The spawning season occurs between April and October, but the peak months are in July

and August.

How large the die-off would be is unclear, Perry said. An estimated 207 million gallons of oil have spewed into the Gulf since an April 20 drilling rig explosion triggered the spill, and thousands of gallons of dispersant chemicals have been dumped.

Scientists will be focusing on crabs because they're a "keystone species" that play a crucial role in the food web as



both predator and prey, Perry said.

Richard Condrey, a Louisiana State University oceanographer, said the crabs are "a living repository of information on the health of the environment."

Named for the light-blue tint of their claws, the crabs have thick shells and 10 legs, allowing them to swim and scuttle across bottomlands. As adults, they live in the Gulf's bays and estuaries amid marshes that offer protection and abundant

food, including snails, tiny shellfish, plants and even smaller crabs. In turn, they provide sustenance for a variety of wildlife, from redfish to raccoons and whooping cranes.

Adults could be harmed by direct contact with oil and from eating polluted food. But scientists are particularly worried about the vulnerable larvae.

That's because females don't lay their eggs in sheltered places, but in areas where estuaries meet the open sea. Condrey discovered several years ago that some even deposit offspring on shoals miles offshore in the Gulf.

The larvae grow as they drift with the currents back toward the estuaries for a month or longer. Many are eaten by predators, and only a handful of the 3 million or so eggs from a single female live to adulthood.

But their survival could drop even lower if the larvae run into oil and dispersants.

"Crabs are very abundant. I don't think we're looking at extinction or anything close to it," said Taylor, one of the researchers who discovered the orange spots.

Still, crabs and other estuary-dependent species such as shrimp and red snapper could feel the effects of remnants of the spill for years, Perry said.

"There could be some mortality, but how much is impossible to say at this point," said Vince Guillory, biologist manager with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Perry, Taylor and Condrey will be among scientists monitoring crabs for negative effects such as population drop-offs and damage to reproductive capabilities and growth rates.

Crabs are big business in the region. In Louisiana alone, some 33 million pounds are harvested annually, generating nearly \$300 million in economic activity, Guillory said.

Blue crabs are harvested year-round, but summer and early fall are peak months for harvesting, Guillory said.

Prices for live blue crab generally have gone up, partly because of the Louisiana catch scaling back due to fishing closures, said Steve Hedlund, editor of SeafoodSource.com, a website that covers the global seafood industry.

Fishers who can make a six-figure income off crabs in a good year now are now idled – and worried about the future.

"If they'd let us go out and fish today, we'd probably catch crabs," said Glen Despaux, 37, who sets his traps in Louisiana's Barataria Bay. "But what's going to happen next year, if this water is polluted and it's killing the eggs and the larvae? I

think it's going to be a long-term problem."

Excerpt from "Blue Crabs Provide Evidence of Oil Tainting Gulf Food Web" by John Flesher. Copyright © 2010 by The Associated Press. Reprinted by permission of The Associated Press.

What does the conflicting information about the effects of oil on blue crab larvae reveal about the author's point of view?



- A. It reinforces the author's belief that scientists do not yet know how the oil will affect the blue crab population.
- B. It suggests that the author disagrees with scientists who predict long-term damage to the blue crab population.
- C. It reinforces the author's feeling that scientists may never know the true effects of oil on the blue crab population.
- D. It suggests that the author feels scientists have not devoted enough attention to the effects of oil on blue crab larvae.

Correct Answer: A

QUESTION 2

HOTSPOT

Emma is standing 10 feet away from the base of a tree and tries to measure the angle of elevation to the top. She is unable to get an accurate measurement, but determines that the angle of elevation is between 55 degrees and 75 degrees.

Decide whether each value given in the table is a reasonable estimate for the tree height. Choose Reasonable or Not Reasonable for each height.

Hot Area:

	Reasonable	Not Reasonable
4.2 feet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14.7 feet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24.4 feet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
33.9 feet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
39.1 feet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
58.7 feet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Correct Answer:



	Reasonable	Not Reasonable
4.2 feet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
14.7 feet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24.4 feet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
33.9 feet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
39.1 feet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
58.7 feet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

QUESTION 3

Let $f(x) = 3x + 5$. If g is the inverse of f , which of the following must equal g ?

A. $g(x) = -\frac{1}{3}x - \frac{5}{3}$

B. $g(x) = \frac{1}{3}x - \frac{3}{5}$

C. $g(x) = \frac{1}{3}x - \frac{5}{3}$

D. $g(x) = 5x + 3$

A. Option A

B. Option B

C. Option C

D. Option D

Correct Answer: C

QUESTION 4



Which of these is not an example of a conic section?

A. $x^2 = 4y$

B. They are all conic sections

C. $y - 2x^2 = 1$

D. $x^2 + y^2 = 25$

Correct Answer: B

QUESTION 5

FILL BLANK

The basketball team sold t-shirts and hats as a fund-raiser. They sold a total of 23 items and made a profit of \$246. They made a profit of \$10 for every t-shirt they sold and \$12 for every hat they sold.

Determine the number of t-shirts and the number of hats the basketball team sold.

Enter the number of t-shirts in the Part A.

Enter the number of hats in the Part B.

A.

See explanation below.

Correct Answer: A

Part A: 15 Part B: 8

QUESTION 6

The first attachment:

Source 1:

Military Supports Alternative Treatments for Treating Pain in Vets and Troops

The military has long worried that an over-reliance on prescription pain killers for the after-effects of tours of duty was putting both veterans and active-duty troops at risk of dependency, serious adverse reactions to the drugs and accidental

death. The problem was found to be greatest among veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan ?particularly those with post-traumatic stress disorder ?who, according to a recent study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), may have been given "inappropriate prescriptions" for opioids in a misguided attempt to relieve their suffering quickly.

Now, however, change appears to be coming as the military expands its use of alternative treatments such as



chiropractic care.

Dr. Robert D. Kerns, the national program director for pain management at the Department of Veterans Affairs, told the New York Times that the study "encourages" both his department, as well as the Pentagon's health system, "to build on...

existing initiatives."

If done, that would be good news to Congressional committees following up on last year's Veterans Health Administration scandal.

"We have said for a long time that sending a veteran out of the door with a bagful of pills is not a solution," Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., said in investigating allegations that a Tomah, Wisconsin, Veterans Affairs hospital was prescribing "excessive

dosages of opiates."

Even as more research pours in, chiropractic care continues to gain support. A 2013 study published in the journal Spine found that 73 percent of participating active-duty military patients with low back pain receiving a combination of

chiropractic manipulative treatment and standard medical care rated their global improvement as "pain completely gone," "much better," or "moderately better."

In the same study, only 17 percent who received standard medical care alone said likewise.

Source 2:

Relief for Weekend Warriors Comes From Chiropractic Care, Not a Pill Bottle

Sports injuries can happen to anyone, and they may be more likely among amateur athletes than professionals.

Amateur athletes, whether they are weekend warriors or regular fitness buffs, can end up with an injury for a variety of reasons, from wearing the wrong shoes to an incorrect technique in a tennis or golf swing. However, amateurs and pros

alike want relief when they get hurt, and anyone can become addicted to strong, opioid painkillers, according to a recent article in Outside magazine. "The reality is that all athletes are one fall, twist, or tweak away from landing their own opioid

prescription," the article notes.

In the wake of a directive from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to cut down on painkiller prescriptions, doctors and patients are seeking drug-free alternatives, and chiropractic care is one of them.

In fact, chiropractic care can provide not only short-term pain relief but long-term prevention of future pain by helping to address structural imbalances in the body that might be contributing to the problem.

Medications (including ibuprofen and other over-the-counter drugs as well as prescription drugs) can mask the pain from an injury but fail to address the cause. Doctors of chiropractic (DCs) use hands-on techniques to manipulate the joints

and soft tissues of the body to address where pain syndromes may originate. DCs receive a minimum of seven years of higher education and are skilled in the diagnosis and art of spinal manipulation.

In addition, according to Dr. Sherry McAllister of the Foundation for Chiropractic Progress, most insurance and health plans cover chiropractic care.

The second attachment.



Paraphrase A:

An increased reliance on opioid painkillers to alleviate the pain of injured military personnel is a concern for the medical community.

Paraphrase B:

The military has been troubled by an increasing over-reliance on prescription pain killers for the after-effects of tours of duty that they feel puts both veterans and active duty troops at risk of dependency, serious adverse reactions to the drugs

and accidental death. Studies suggest the problem is greatest among veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan particularly those with post-traumatic stress disorder who may have been given "inappropriate prescriptions" for opioids in

an erroneous attempt to relieve their suffering quickly.

Paraphrase C:

There is a concern about the rising rates of dependency on prescription painkillers for troops returning from active duty. Using prescribed opioid painkillers puts both veterans and active-duty military personnel at increased risk of negative

reactions to the drugs and accidental death. Veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, who often return suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, are often given quick and fast-acting painkiller prescriptions as well-intentioned doctors

try to help alleviate their patients' physical pain as swiftly as possible. But those prescriptions may not always be the best medicine.

Paraphrase D:

A rise in the number of "inappropriate prescriptions" being given by doctors and medical professionals to military personnel returning from active-duty or veterans who served in the past is alarming. These prescriptions include orders for

opioid painkillers. Opioids have become an epidemic in this nation and the rates of addiction and premature death from these drugs is rising. To stop the increase in opioid dependency, a different approach to pain management must be

introduced to the troops who return with battle scars both physical and mental.

The student really likes the first paragraph from source 1, as reproduced here, but he wants to paraphrase it. Look at the second attachment to this question. Which of the choices in that document is the best paraphrase of the paragraph?

"The military has long worried that an over-reliance on prescription pain killers for the after-effects of tours of duty was putting both veterans and active-duty troops at risk of dependency, serious adverse reactions to the drugs and accidental death. The problem was found to be greatest among veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan particularly those with post-traumatic stress disorder who, according to a recent study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), may have been given "inappropriate prescriptions" for opioids in a misguided attempt to relieve their suffering quickly."

A. paraphrase C

B. paraphrase A

C. paraphrase B



D. paraphrase D

Correct Answer: A

QUESTION 7

Read the text attached.

"Declaration of Conscience" by Margaret Chase Smith June 1, 1950

Mr. President, I would like to speak briefly and simply about a serious national condition. It is a national feeling of fear and frustration that could result in national suicide and the end of everything that we Americans hold dear. It is a condition

that comes from the lack of effective leadership either in the legislative branch or the executive branch of our government...

...I speak as a Republican. I speak as a woman. I speak as a United States senator. I speak as an American...

...I think that it is high time for the United States Senate and its members to do some real soul searching and to weigh our consciences as to the manner in which we are performing our duty to the people of America and the manner in which

we are using or abusing our individual powers and privileges.

I think that it is high time that we remembered that we have sworn to uphold and defend the Constitution. I think that it is high time that we remembered that the Constitution, as amended, speaks not only of the freedom of speech, but also of

trial by jury instead of trial by accusation.

Whether it is a criminal prosecution in court or a character prosecution in the Senate, there is little practical distinction when the life of a person has been ruined.

"The Basic Principles of Americanism"

Those of use who shout the loudest about Americanism in making character assassinations are all too frequently those who, by our own words and acts, ignore some of the basic principles of Americanism ?

The right to criticize.

The right to hold unpopular beliefs.

The right to protest.

The right of independent thought.

The exercise of these rights should not cost one single American citizen his reputation or his right to a livelihood nor should he be in danger of losing his reputation or livelihood merely because he happens to know someone who holds

unpopular beliefs. Who of us does not? Otherwise none of us could call our souls our own. Otherwise thought control would have set in.

The American people are sick and tired of being afraid to speak their minds lest they be politically smeared as "Communists" or "Fascists" by their opponents. Freedom of speech is not what it used to be in America. It has been so abused by



some that it is not exercised by others.

The American people are sick and tired of seeing innocent people smeared and guilty people whitewashed. But there have been enough proved cases...to cause nationwide distrust and strong suspicion that there may be something to the unproved, sensational accusations.

A Challenge to the Republican Party

As a Republican, I say to my colleagues on this side of the aisle that the Republican party faces a challenge today that is not unlike the challenge that it faced back in Lincoln's day. The Republican Party so successfully met that challenge that

it emerged from the Civil War as the champion of a united nation - in addition to being a party that unrelentingly fought loose spending and loose programs....

The Democratic administration has greatly lost the confidence of the American people by its complacency to the threat of communism here at home and the leak of vital secrets to Russia through key officials of the Democratic administration.

There are enough proved cases to make this point without diluting our criticism with unproved charges.

Surely these are sufficient reasons to make it clear to the American people that it is time for a change and that a Republican victory is necessary to the security of this country.... Yet to displace it with a Republican regime embracing a

philosophy that lacks political integrity or intellectual honesty would prove equally disastrous to this Nation. The nation sorely needs a Republican victory. But I do not want to see the Republican party ride to political victory... [using] fear,

ignorance, bigotry, and smear... I do not want to see the Republican party win that way. While it might be a fleeting victory for the Republican party, it would be a more lasting defeat for the American people. Surely it would ultimately be

suicide for the Republican party and the two-party system that has protected our American liberties from the dictatorship of a one-party system.

As members of the minority party, we do not have the primary authority to formulate the policy of our government. But we do have the responsibility of rendering constructive criticism, of clarifying issues, of allaying fears by acting as

responsible citizens.

As a woman, I wonder how the mothers, wives, sisters, and daughters feel about the way in which members of their families have been politically mangled in Senate debate - and I use the word "debate" advisedly...

I do not like the way the Senate has been made a rendezvous for vilification, for selfish political gain at the sacrifice of individual reputations and national unity. I am not proud of the way we smear outsiders from the floor of the Senate and

hide behind the cloak of congressional immunity and still place ourselves beyond criticism on the floor of the Senate.

As an American, I am shocked at the way Republicans and Democrats alike are playing directly into the Communist design of "confuse, divide, and conquer." As an American, I don't want a Democratic administration "whitewash" or "coverup" any more than I want a Republican smear or witch hunt.

As an American, I condemn a Republican Fascist just as much as I condemn a Democrat Communist. I condemn a Democrat Fascist just as much as I condemn a Republican Communist. They are equally dangerous to you and me and to

our country. As an American, I want to see our nation recapture the strength and unity it once had when we fought the



enemy instead of ourselves.

It is with these thoughts that I have drafted what I call a Declaration of Conscience. I am gratified that the senator from New Hampshire, the senator from Vermont, the senator from Oregon, the senator from New York, the senator from

Minnesota and the senator from New Jersey have concurred in that declaration and have authorized me to announce their concurrence.

What inference can be made about the author of the attached text and her position?

- A. She feels this speech won't be listened to or taken seriously because she is a woman.
- B. She is passionate about Americans' rights, including the right to be wrong.
- C. She really has no rational, reasonable evidence to support her concerns and is quick to jump to conclusions that may not be accurate.
- D. She does not really believe these concerns are a serious problem.

Correct Answer: B

QUESTION 8

Which set of symbols and numbers completes the equation of a circle whose center is shifted 3 units to the left and 2 units upward from the origin and has a radius of 4 units?

$$(x - 3)^2 + (y - _)^2 = _$$

- A. +, 2, 16
- B. -, 3, 4
- C. +, 9, 16
- D. -, 4, 9

Correct Answer: A

QUESTION 9

Solve this equation, leaving the answer in *log* form: $10^{2x} = 34$

- A. \log_{17}
- B. $x = \frac{\log 34}{2}$
- C. \log_{34}
- D. $\log_{3.4}$



- A. Option A
- B. Option B
- C. Option C
- D. Option D

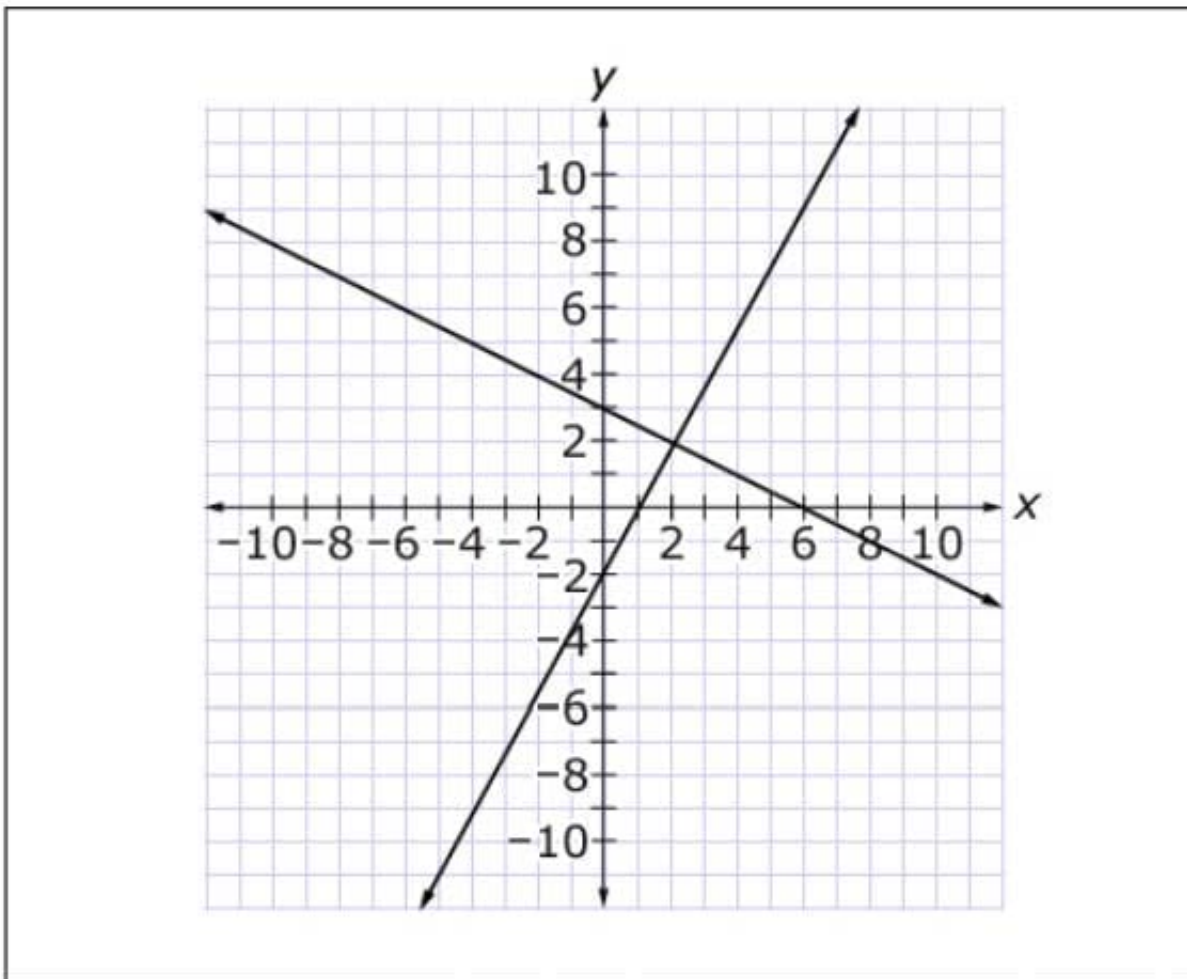
Correct Answer: B

QUESTION 10

FILL BLANK

Click on the region of the graph that contains the solution set of the system of linear inequalities.

$$y \leq -\frac{1}{2}x + 3$$
$$y \geq 2x - 2$$

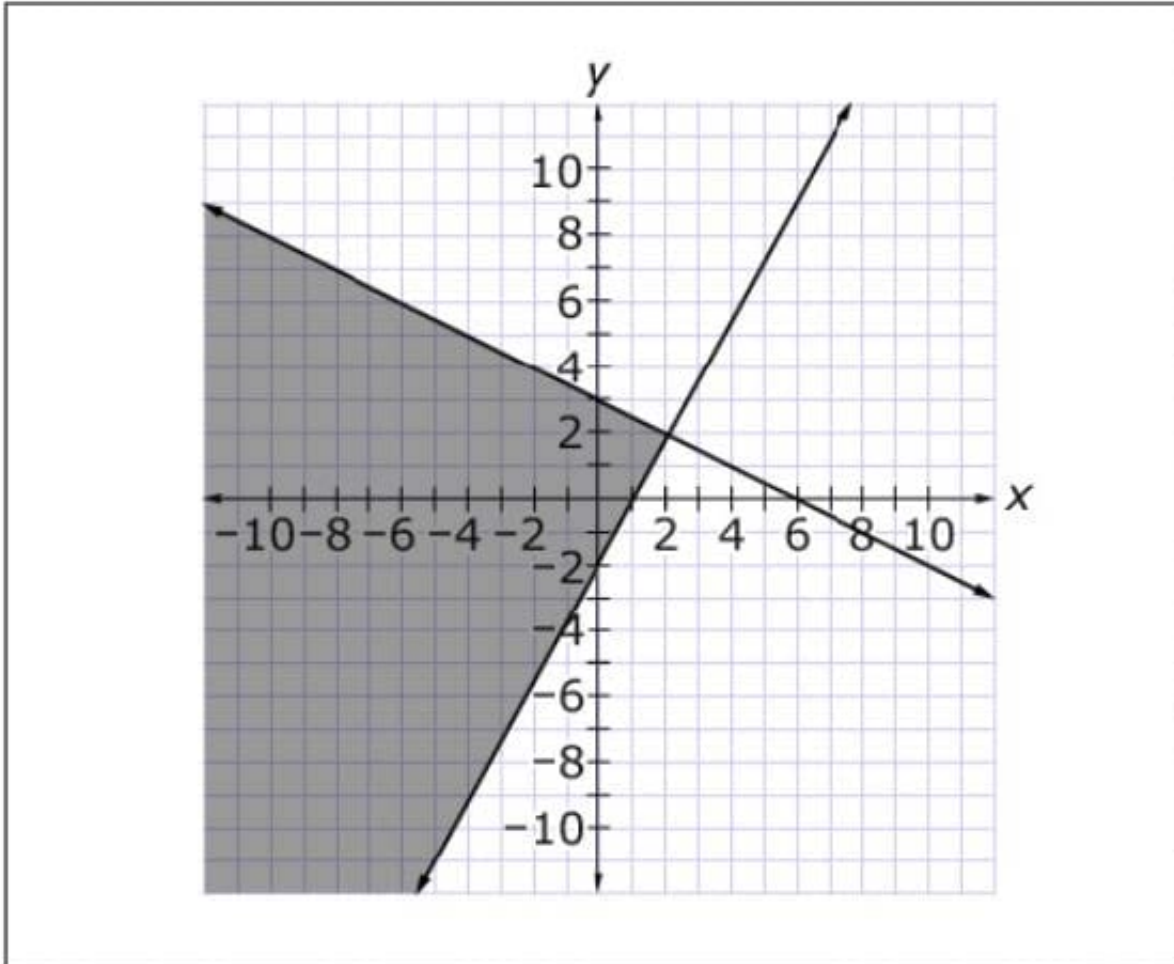




A.

See explanation below.

Correct Answer: A



QUESTION 11

Read the text attached

Source 1: a newspaper article about the increasing teen crime rates in suburban neighborhoods

Source 2: a YouTube video about how to successfully do a kick flip with a skateboard

Source 3: an article from a skateboarding magazine about the positive impact opening a skate park had on one small town that had seen a rise in adolescent arrest rates before the park opened

Source 4: an interview with an ER doctor who has dealt with multiple injuries of children and teens who have been hit by cars while riding their skateboards

Source 5: a study that shows the positive impact on mood and mental health for people who spend time outdoors in



parks or nature areas

Source 6: a biography written about Tony Hawk, a famous skateboarder, and his experiences as a teenage skater

Your Performance Task prompt requires you to write a persuasive essay to the local city council about the need for a dedicated skateboarding park in your town. Choose the two best sources from the attached text that would likely offer authoritative information you can use.

- A. sources 3 and 4
- B. sources 1 and 5
- C. sources 5 and 6
- D. sources 2 and 6

Correct Answer: A

QUESTION 12

Given $h(g) = 2g(g^2 - 18)$, which of these are true?

- a) $h(3) < 0$
- b) $h(4) > h(2)$
- c) $h(2) - 40 = h(4)$
- d) $h(5) > 0$
- e) $h(2) > h(3)$

- A. b, c, d
- B. b, d
- C. a, b, and d
- D. a, b, d, e

- A. Option
- B. Option
- C. Option
- D. Option

Correct Answer: C

QUESTION 13

The writer wants to create a more formal tone in this paragraph. Which collection of words from the paragraph has the most informal language and should definitely be replaced to make the tone more formal?



The school board met to talk about funding for after-school programs next year for kids in the district. They determined that, with the current budget, only some of the stuff could be funded. While trying to figure out what to cut, they asked for the students' input. The students didn't want to see any of their programs cut, so it's gonna be a tough fight.

A. Collection 4: stuff, talk, it's, gonna

B. Collection 3: met, kids, current, see

C. Collection 1: determined, some, input, fight

D. Collection 2: programs, asked, didn't, cut

Correct Answer: A

QUESTION 14

Read the text and answer the question.

Blue Crabs Provide Evidence of Oil Tainting Gulf Food

Weeks ago, before engineers pumped in mud and cement to plug the gusher, scientists began finding specks of oil in crab larvae plucked from waters across the Gulf coast.

The government said last week that three-quarters of the spilled oil has been removed or naturally dissipated from the water. But the crab larvae discovery was an ominous sign that crude had already infiltrated the Gulf's vast food web – and

could affect it for years to come.

"It would suggest the oil has reached a position where it can start moving up the food chain instead of just hanging in the water," said Bob Thomas, a biologist at Loyola University in New Orleans.

"Something likely will eat those oiled larvae . . . and then that animal will be eaten by something bigger and so on."

Tiny creatures might take in such low amounts of oil that they could survive, Thomas said. But those at the top of the chain, such as dolphins and tuna, could get fatal "megadoses."

Marine biologists routinely gather shellfish for study. Since the spill began, many of the crab larvae collected have had the distinctive orange oil droplets, said Harriet Perry, a biologist with the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast

Research Laboratory.

"In my 42 years of studying crabs I've never seen this," Perry said.

She wouldn't estimate how much of the crab larvae are contaminated overall, but said about 40 percent of the area they are known to inhabit has been affected by oil from the spill.

While fish can metabolize dispersant and oil, crabs may accumulate the hydrocarbons, which could harm their ability to reproduce, Perry said in an earlier interview with Science magazine.

She told the magazine there are two encouraging signs for the wild larvae – they are alive when collected and may lose oil droplets when they molt.

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spread to break up the oil but have reached no conclusions, biologist Caz Taylor said.

If large numbers of blue crab larvae are tainted, their population is virtually certain to take a hit over the next year and perhaps longer, scientists say. The spawning season occurs between April and October, but the peak months are in July

and August.

How large the die-off would be is unclear, Perry said. An estimated 207 million gallons of oil have spewed into the Gulf since an April 20 drilling rig explosion triggered the spill, and thousands of gallons of dispersant chemicals have been dumped.

Scientists will be focusing on crabs because they're a "keystone species" that play a crucial role in the food web as both predator and prey, Perry said.

Richard Condrey, a Louisiana State University oceanographer, said the crabs are "a living repository of information on the health of the environment."

Named for the light-blue tint of their claws, the crabs have thick shells and 10 legs, allowing them to swim and scuttle across bottomlands. As adults, they live in the Gulf's bays and estuaries amid marshes that offer protection and abundant

food, including snails, tiny shellfish, plants and even smaller crabs. In turn, they provide sustenance for a variety of wildlife, from redfish to raccoons and whooping cranes.

Adults could be harmed by direct contact with oil and from eating polluted food. But scientists are particularly worried about the vulnerable larvae.

That's because females don't lay their eggs in sheltered places, but in areas where estuaries meet the open sea. Condrey discovered several years ago that some even deposit offspring on shoals miles offshore in the Gulf.

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But their survival could drop even lower if the larvae run into oil and dispersants.

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"There could be some mortality, but how much is impossible to say at this point," said Vince Guillory, biologist manager with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

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Prices for live blue crab generally have gone up, partly because of the Louisiana catch scaling back due to fishing closures, said Steve Hedlund, editor of SeafoodSource.com, a website that covers the global seafood industry.



Fishers who can make a six-figure income off crabs in a good year now are now idled – and worried about the future.

"If they'd let us go out and fish today, we'd probably catch crabs," said Glen Despaux, 37, who sets his traps in Louisiana's Barataria Bay. "But what's going to happen next year, if this water is polluted and it's killing the eggs and the larvae? I

think it's going to be a long-term problem."

Excerpt from "Blue Crabs Provide Evidence of Oil Tainting Gulf Food Web" by John Flesher. Copyright © 2010 by The Associated Press. Reprinted by permission of The Associated Press.

How does the last paragraph affect the presentation of information? (Choose three.)

- A. It illustrates the possible economic effects of the Gulf oil spill.
- B. It makes the report more personal by showing its effects on one individual.
- C. It provides a contrasting point of view to those expressed earlier in the text.
- D. It reinforces the idea that the oil contamination in the Gulf will have long-lasting effects.
- E. It summarizes the main types of damage scientists have identified in the Gulf ecosystem.
- F. It provides predictions about the length of time scientists expect the effects of the oil spill to last.

Correct Answer: ABD

QUESTION 15

Read the text and answer the question.

Moving to the Back of Beyond

When my parents said the three of us were moving out to California, to a place just north of Los Angeles, my mind immediately went to thoughts of Disneyland and Hollywood, glitz and glamour. I imagined a Rodeo Drive shopping spree to

pick out a bikini for the endless days I would be spending on the beach. However, I'd forgotten about my parents' penchant for the unconventional; they're definitely "the road less traveled" kind of people. Mom had a gopher snake for a pet

when she was younger, and Dad was never happier than when he was climbing near-vertical cliffs that only mountain goats could love. These are not city folk.

They had chosen to buy a 900-square-foot cabin under a 250-year-old oak tree in the high chaparral forest out in the back of beyond – so far away from Los Angeles that you couldn't even see the glow of the lights at night. When I first saw

where we were going to live, I vacillated between feeling terrified and excited. This would be an adventure, for sure. But this was no camping trip where you could go home to civilization after a few days of roughing it; this was home, and

roughing it was the new normal.



On move-in day, we drove fifteen miles out from Antelope Valley – where the nearest grocery store was located – on a two-lane road past llamas, cattle, and horses. Up and up we went, until finally we turned down a dirt road and headed into

a canyon full of towering Coulter pines, blue-green sagebrush, and ancient canyon live oaks. I didn't know the names of these plants then, of course; I learned them later. That first day all I saw then was a million shades of green.

We parked under an oak tree that shaded our cabin and a front yard of rock, sand, and sagebrush twice as large as the cabin itself. On the stone staircase that led to the front door, black lizards interrupted their push-ups to twist their heads

and eye us as we passed. Scrub jays squawked and hummingbirds zoomed past the eaves, scolding us with their territorial calls.

No cars roared past. No radios blared from a neighbor's house. There were no neighbors – no human neighbors, anyway.

Our new home consisted of one bedroom, one bathroom, and one big room for everything else. A fireplace in the corner of the big room would be our sole source of heat in the winter. A swamp box (cooler) would blow a breeze over a big

damp pad to keep us cool all summer, or so my father said. But it was early autumn that day, and the temperature was perfect in the shade of the oak tree. Our oak tree, I thought; I was settling in.

Mom wiped a layer of grime off the kitchen counter and muttered about getting a bottle of bleach on our next trip into town. That was the beginning of an important lesson about living in the back of beyond: you don't just zip over to the local

convenience store anytime you need something out here. You have to make a careful list and check it twice so that you don't forget anything, because anywhere is a long way from here.

On my first walk around the property, I saw two horned toads, a red-tailed hawk, and some deer tracks. I wondered what else I might find deeper and higher in the canyon. Dad told me the real estate agent had mentioned that coyotes,

bobcats, mountain lions, rattlesnakes, and even bears roamed these hills. To my surprise, I found I couldn't wait to see them. All of them. I felt my feet taking root in the earth, claiming this place as home.

With no street lamps timed to turn on at sunset, when night came it was darker than anything I had ever experienced. Mom and I went out to look at the stars while Dad tried to unplug the ancient toilet. In the city, or even in the suburbs where

I had lived before, you could see only the brightest stars in the sky. But out here, it was like being in a planetarium, except there were no labels typed onto our sky. The sheer number and spread of stars was awe-inspiring.

That first night, we slept on air mattresses on the living room floor because the movers had not yet arrived. There were no curtains on the windows, so when the moon rose, it shone in as if moonbeams were an integral part of the cabin.

Eventually, I moved into the bedroom and Mom and Dad got a foldout bed for the living room. Over the next few months, I began to count the passage of time in full moons rather than by the pages of a calendar, and for the first time I really

noticed the days growing shorter in winter and longer in summer.

It's hard to believe, but we've been here for six years now. I've been going to school in the valley, but I feel most at home up here with my wild fellow canyon dwellers. Soon, I will have to leave home for college, and I'm a little afraid of the

culture shock I'm sure I will feel when I move back to civilization. Soon I'll be walking on pavement and well-mowed grass again, rooming with strangers, and eating meals in a cafeteria crowded with more people than live within twenty



miles

of this house. But I know I will come back. The back of beyond is home now.

1. chaparral: a dense thicket of shrubs and small trees

The following question is divided into two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A

Which statement best expresses the theme of the text?

- A. Home may be found in an expected place.
- B. Nature is the best educator of young children.
- C. Turning your back on civilization is the only way to live.
- D. You must leave your past behind in order to find yourself.

Correct Answer: A

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