

High School AHSGE-Reading

Alabama High School Reading Exit Examination

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Question: 1

(1) Most professionals will tell you that five steps do not even come close to explaining the entire troubleshooting process, and they are (mostly) right. (2) But I am not teaching you how to troubleshoot computers on a professional level, rather I am showing you how the troubleshooting process works so as you learn, you can develop your own troubleshooting method. (3)

First, identify the Problem.

(4) Now you might think that this is an obvious step but sometimes it is overlooked or not done properly.

(5) First off, you break the problem into one of two categories, either Hardware or Software. (6) This is done by eliminating all possible causes of one section then the other or simply figuring out what an error message says. (7) So an error message with a path to a program file is probably a software problem, while numerous beeps emitting from your computer during the POST is probably a hardware problem. (8)

Note: if the error message gives you some sort of code, copy that down then google it, or put it in a post on a forum asking for help.

After reading the "Identify the Problem" section, one might feel what?

- A. He/she should call a repairperson.
- B. This problem is going to be expensive to repair.
- C. This is a serious problem.
- D. Troubleshooting is a good idea.
- E. Buying a new computer would be a good idea.

Answer: D

Explanation:

Troubleshooting is a good idea is correct because the author gives the reader ways to determine how serious the problem is. The expense is incorrect because the reader has nothing to base this on at this stage of investigation. Being a serious issue is not a good answer choice because the investigation phase is too early to make this determination. Buying a new computer is probably a premature reaction in the troubleshooting phase.

Question: 2

(1) The contrast between then and now is astonishing. (2) They were on the verge of starvation; we are fighting an epidemic of obesity. (3) They might have to subsist for months on potatoes or stale bread; we have a glut of food options at our instant disposal. (4) They had shortened life spans and were highly vulnerable to injury and disease. (5) We live longer but suffer cruel lingering degenerative conditions. (6) It is clear from a realistic view of times gone by that it was not the advent of modern medicine that brought relief, it was, as I mentioned in a previous article on SARS, the plumber bringing public utilities and with that the possibility of hygiene and the trucker distributing food supplies that brought us our present long lives.

All of the following contrasts between then and now are either implied or stated in the passage EXCEPT:

- A. too few choices vs. too many choices
- B. starvation vs. gluttony
- C. clean air vs. polluted air
- D. shorter life spans vs. longer life spans
- E. filthy and harsh living conditions vs. clean and comfortable accommodations

Answer: C

Explanation:

"Too few choices vs. too many choices" is found in sentence 3. "Starvation vs. gluttony" is found in sentence 2. "Shorter life spans vs. longer life spans" is found in sentence 5. "Filthy and harsh living conditions vs. clean and comfortable accommodations" is found in sentence 6. There is no reference to the air.

Question: 3

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With which of the following statements would the author most likely agree?

- A. Every aspect of our lives today reflects a higher quality of life than that of society in the year 1000.
- B. The shift from want to abundance may actually lead to our demise.
- C. People back then would have lived much longer if they had had the miracles of modern medicine available to them.
- D. People today are guaranteed to live a long life with full use of their mental and physical capacities.
- E. The problems of early people resulted from their underdeveloped intellects.

Answer: B

Explanation:

The author does not view our lives today as necessarily ones of high quality, eliminating the first choice. He mentions "obesity" and "lingering degenerative conditions." The author specifically states that "it was not the advent of modern medicine that brought relief," so Choice (C) is not correct. Choices (D) and (E) are not correct, because there is no discussion of intellect. The author does indicate that so much abundance and so many choices (the first paragraph) are creating an "epidemic of obesity" leading to degenerative conditions.

Question: 4

(1) This is a history of fireworks, but not the big picture of who invented them. (2) This is a small, personal slice out of that big picture. (3) It is an event, which occurred within the history of fireworks. (4) In the late 1800's there was a very famous fireworks company in Edinburgh, Scotland. (5) This was Hammond Fireworks, owned by Thomas Hammond, pyrotechnic artist, and the company was in business from around the late 1850's to early 1900's. (6)

Coming from Edinburgh, I had heard of Hammond fireworks, but I never realized the fascinating history behind it all. (7) I discovered this history when I agreed to research a friend's family history. (8) Thomas Hammond was born in 1835, in the City of Birmingham, England. (9) He was the son of Thomas and Sarah Hammond, and was apprenticed as a glassblower, but some time during the 1850's he decided on a career change. (10) He moved to Edinburgh, with his wife Mary, and son John, and became a fireworks manufacturer. (11)

His daughter Sarah was born in 1859, in Edinburgh, by which time he had become an established pyrotechnic artist. (12) He is listed as such in an advertisement in the Scotsman newspaper, dated the 4th of August 1860. A magnificent display was organized by Thomas, at the Royal Zoological Gardens in Edinburgh, in honor of the 'Grand volunteer review' for the 7th of August 1860.

Choose from the following word or phrases the closest in meaning to the phrase in the second sentence that says, "This is a small, personal slice out of that big picture..."

- A. This is the most important part of the story
- B. This is a short biography within the main story
- C. This is an unimportant detail in the story
- D. This is an obscure story
- E. This is an intimate, detailed account of the story

Answer: B

Explanation:

"This is the most important part of the story" is incorrect as it does not convey the idea of it being a "slice" of the big picture. C and D are incorrect because the author has created the story to be somewhat important and interesting. E is incorrect because the phrase does not hint at it being intimate or detailed, only a personal account.

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Choose from the following the correct profession he had before becoming a pyrotechnic artist.

- A. Window maker
- B. Window cleaner
- C. Glassblower
- D. Salesman
- E. Fireman

Answer: C

Explanation:

The passage clearly states that Mr. Hammond was apprenticed as a glassblower. Window maker and window cleaner include working with glass, but are incorrect. Salesman is not mentioned at all and is incorrect. Fireman alludes to fire, as in fireworks, but is also incorrect.

Question: 6

(1) Now if the USPS simply invests that \$5808 at 8%, in 64 years it will be worth big bucks! (2) The mind boggles with possibilities. (3) It's like buying futures when you can actually see into the future. (4) It's so good it ought to be illegal. (5)

The mind also boggles with possibilities of what will happen to our planet if more of us don't recycle, conserve water and use less energy. (6) \$4 a gallon for gas is just the tip of the iceberg. (7) Oh yes, and the real icebergs-and the polar bears, walruses and seals who depend on them-will soon be just a bittersweet memory, relegated to the History Channel. (8)

So consider this stamp a winning trifect

a. (9) Save the planet, just a bit, save some \$\$ in the bargain, and maybe most important of all, get ego-boosting "I told you so" points for reminding your less-than-aware friends about the importance of conserving our natural resources. (10)

Way to go, Post Office!

What clue tells the reader what the meaning of trifecta is?

- A. He mentions three ways in which buying the stamps is a winning proposition in the next sentence.
- B. He gives a horse racing clue.

- C. He puts the sentence at the last of the passage.
- D. He defines the word.
- E. He uses humor.

Answer: A

Explanation:

The author gives a good context clue by enumerating the three ways in the sentence which follows the use of the word. "He gives a horse racing clue" is not correct because not everyone knows horse racing terms. The placement of the sentence would not be enough to decipher the word in this case and the author does not define the word. Finally, the author's humor does not help the reader figure out the meaning of the word.

Question: 7

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What does the phrase "\$4 a gallon for gas is just the tip of the iceberg" refer to?

- A. Gas prices will go up.
- B. Travel will be curtailed.
- C. Hybrid cars will be in demand.
- D. The problems with the economy and the planet are going to worsen.
- E. Smaller vehicles will be a good idea.

Answer: D

Explanation:

The price of gas is an indicator in the article of broader problems. A is not correct because the reference is not just to gas prices. B is not correct because there is nothing mentioned about travel curtailment in the passage. C is not a good answer choice because hybrid cars are not discussed in the passage. E is not correct because though small vehicles are a good idea this is not brought up in the article.

Question: 8

(1) Now if the USPS simply invests that \$5808 at 8%, in 64 years it will be worth big bucks! (2) The mind boggles with possibilities. (3) It's like buying futures when you can actually see into the future. (4) It's so good it ought to be illegal. (5)

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Way to go, Post Office!

What does the author mean by the statement "the real icebergs--and the polar bears, walruses and seals who depend on them-- will soon be just a bittersweet memory, relegated to the History Channel."?

A. He won't be able to remember them.

B. The polar caps will melt and destroy the habitat of polar bears, walruses and seals.

C. Global warming is not a fact.

D. Polar bears, walruses and seals will have a new home.

E. Polar bears, walruses and seals will be put in zoos.

Answer: B

Explanation:

The author is referring to global warming. A is not a correct choice because it refers to what the author will be able to remember. C is incorrect because global warming is reputed to be a real concern. D is not a good answer choice because it is not known whether the polar bears, walruses and seals will have a new home or not. E is incorrect because it is unknown whether all polar bears, walruses and seals could be put in zoos.

Question: 9

(1) Every form of government, every social institution, every undertaking, however great, however small, every symbol of enlightenment or degradation, each and all have sprung and are still springing from the life of the people, and have ever formed and are now as surely forming images of their thought. (2) Slowly by centuries, generations, years, days, hours, the thought of the people has changed; so with precision have their acts responsively changed; thus thoughts and acts have flowed and are flowing ever onward, unceasingly onward, involved within the impelling power of Life. (3)

Throughout this stream of human life, and thought, and activity, men have ever felt the need to build; and from the need arose the power to build. (4) So, as they thought, they built; for, strange as it may seem, they could build in no other way. (5) As they built, they made, used, and left behind them records of their thinking. (6) Then, as through the years new men came with changed thoughts, so arose new buildings in consonance with the change of thought--the building always the expression of the thinking. (7) Whatever the character of the thinking, just so was the character of the building.

This passage could best be used as an introduction to the study of

A. science

B. geography

- C. politics
- D. psychology
- E. architecture

Answer: E

Explanation:

The passage begins by introducing the concept that as people change so do their thoughts and actions and then he applies this to how buildings of different eras express different thoughts and actions as people change. So it is best used as an introduction to the study of architecture. It has no relationship to any of the other fields of study.

Question: 10

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The passage suggests that people of any era

- A. can only think according to how they build
- B. can only build according to their thoughts
- C. can only build with what they physically possess
- D. like to tear down the buildings of previous eras to accommodate their own needs
- E. need to build better buildings than earlier people

Answer: B

Explanation:

The passage clearly states that: "... as they thought, they built; for, strange as it may seem, they could build in no other way." The opposite is not true nor does the author of the passage suggest in any way that the other statements offered are true. The entire gist of the passage is that people change and so their thoughts and actions change so that when they build they do so according to their current way of thinking.

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