

Tutoring Others

501 Reading Comprehension Questions, 3rd Edition will work well in combination with almost any basic reading or English text. You will probably find it most helpful to give your student(s) a brief lesson on the topic (main idea, fact/detail, inference, etc.), and then have them spend the remainder of the class or session reading the passages and answering the questions. When you finish, take some time for a brief review session.

Stress the importance of learning by doing. Carry a book into class and talk about what you've read so far. Let them know that reading is enjoyable, and they may just use you as a role model!

► Suggested Reading List

This section wouldn't be complete without a list of some great books to read. Reading about reading and answering test questions is fine, but the best way to improve your reading ability is to read. This list is compiled by category. Help yourself. Choose one from the list, pick it up at a local bookstore or library, open the cover, and enjoy.

Autobiography/Memoir

Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt
Autobiography of Malcolm X by Malcolm X
Black Boy by Richard Wright
The Diary of Anne Frank by Anne Frank
Having Our Say by Sarah L. and Elizabeth Delany
The Heroic Slave by Frederick Douglass
I Know Why the Caged Birds Sing by Maya Angelou
Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books
 by Azar Nafisi

Coming of Age

The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger
The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros
A Separate Peace by John Knowles

Detective/Thriller

Agatha Christie's murder mysteries
 The "A is for..." series by Sue Grafton
The Client by John Grisham
Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
The Shining by Stephen King
Watcher by Dean R. Koontz

Fantasy

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien
On a Pale Horse by Piers Anthony
 Any *Harry Potter* book by J.K. Rowling

Historical/Social Issues

The Clan of the Cave Bear by Jean M. Auel
The Color Purple by Alice Walker
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time
 by Mark Haddon
Everything is Illuminated by Jonathan Safran Foer
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
The Lord of the Flies by William Golding
Of Mice and Men and *The Grapes of Wrath*
 by John Steinbeck
Schindler's List by Thomas Keneally
The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd
White Teeth by Zadie Smith

Inspirational/Spiritual

Care of the Soul by Thomas Moore
The Five People You Meet in Heaven
 by Mitch Albom
The Purpose-Driven Life: What on Earth Am
I Here For by Rick Warren
A Simple Path by Mother Theresa
The Tao of Pooh and *The Te of Piglet*
 by Benjamin Hoff
The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying
 by Sogyal Rinpoche

- 10.** Charles, aware of his susceptibility to gum disease, is *diligent* about flossing.
- uncomfortable
 - excited
 - thorough
 - ambivalent
- 11.** Even though she'd read her supervisor's memo four or five times, she still found his rambling message *ambiguous*.
- profound
 - inspiring
 - ridiculous
 - unclear
- 12.** Excited about winning the award, Marcia walked up to the podium and delivered an *animated* acceptance speech.
- abbreviated
 - courteous
 - reserved
 - lively
- 13.** The *intermittent* rain soaked the garden many different times during the day.
- protracted
 - periodic
 - incredulous
 - light
- 14.** In order to get their votes in the next election, the senator responded to all the complaints of her constituents in a *diplomatic* manner.
- tactful
 - dismissive
 - delaying
 - elaborate
- 15.** After several small brushfires at the campground, officials felt the need to *augment* the rules pertaining to campfires.
- criticize
 - retract
 - consider
 - expand
- 16.** As soon as the details of the election were released to the media, the newspaper was *inundated* with calls—far too many to be handled effectively.
- provided
 - bothered
 - rewarded
 - flooded
- 17.** The Marion Police Department's policy of aggressively recruiting women officers is *unmatched*, *unique* in every way.
- rigorous
 - admirable
 - unparalleled
 - remarkable
- 18.** When people heard that timid Bob had taken up skydiving, they were *incredulous*.
- fearful
 - outraged
 - convinced
 - disbelieving
- 19.** The technical department enthusiastically hired Ms. Long because she was *proficient* in the use of computers.
- sincere
 - adequate
 - competent
 - skilled

SECTION

4



Topic Sentences

In the last section, you learned what a main idea is. Often, writers express their main idea in a clearly defined sentence known as a *topic sentence*. Topic sentences are usually found at the beginning of a paragraph in order to immediately establish the main idea. But this is not always the case—topic sentences can be found anywhere in a paragraph, and sometimes the author chooses not to use one at all. Still, looking for the topic sentence is a good skill to have when figuring out the meaning of a reading passage.

113. Gary is a distinguished looking man with a touch of gray at the temples. Even in his early 50s, he still turns heads. He enjoys spending most of his time admiring his profile in the mirror. In fact, he considers his good looks to be his second-most important asset. The first, however, is money. He is lucky in this area, too, having been born into a wealthy family.

_____. He loves the power his wealth has given him. He could buy whatever he desires, whether that be people, places, or things. Gary checks that mirror often and feels great delight with what he sees.

- a. Gary's gray hair is his worst characteristic.
- b. Conceit is the beginning and the end of Gary's character; conceit of person and situation.
- c. Gary feels blessed to be wealthy and the joy consumes his every thought.
- d. The only objects of Gary's respect are others who hold positions in society above him.

For the following questions, a topic sentence is given. Try choosing the sentence that best develops or supports it.

114. Life on Earth is ancient and, even at its first appearance, unimaginably complex.

- a. Scientists place its beginnings at some three billion years ago, when they hypothesize that the first molecule floated up out of the ooze with the unique ability to replicate itself.
- b. The most complex life form is, of course, the mammal—and the most complex mammal is humankind.
- c. It is unknown exactly where life started, where the first molecule was “born” that had the ability to replicate itself.
- d. Darwin's theory of evolution was one attempt to explain what essentially remains a great mystery.

115. Cosmetic plastic surgery is one of the fastest-growing segments of U.S. medicine.

- a. Cosmetic plastic surgery can have dangerous side effects, some of which can be fatal.
- b. Americans are eager to make their bodies as perfect as possible and to minimize the visible signs of aging.
- c. The price of cosmetic plastic surgery is also on the rise.
- d. This increase in cosmetic plastic surgery says something quite disturbing about our culture.

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SECTION

5



Short Passages

In this section, you will find short (one and two paragraph) passages, accompanied by questions that ask you to identify explicit information, analyze and interpret what is written. This is your first chance to use everything you've learned so far. Pay special attention to the details and the facts, and make a habit of trying to identify the author's main idea; also, try to think of the author's motive for writing the passage. As newspaper reporters do, ask the questions, "Who? What? When? Where? How? and Why?" Is the author's purpose to inform you of facts, persuade you of something, or simply to entertain you?

As you read, try marking up the passages or taking notes. The more active a reader you are, the more likely that you will understand and fully enjoy what you read.

Sushi, the thousand-year-old Japanese delicacy, started small in the United States, in a handful of restaurants in big cities. Today, sushi consumption in America is 50% greater than it was ten years ago and not just in restaurants. Sushi is also sold at concession stands in sports stadiums, university dining halls, and in supermarkets throughout the country.

- 138.** This paragraph best supports the statement that
- a. sushi is now a fast food as popular as hot dogs, burgers, and fries.
 - b. more sushi is sold in restaurants than in supermarkets.
 - c. Americans are more adventurous eaters than they were in the past.
 - d. sushi wasn't always widely available in the United States.

Today's shopping mall has as its antecedents historical marketplaces, such as Greek *agoras*, European *piazzas*, and Islamic *bazaars*. The purpose of these sites, as with the shopping malls, is both economic and social. People not only go to buy and sell wares, but also to be seen, catch up on news, and be part of the human drama.

- 139.** The paragraph best supports the statement that
- a. modern Americans spend an average of 15 hours a month in shopping malls.
 - b. shopping malls serve an important purpose in our culture.
 - c. shopping malls have a social as well as commercial function.
 - d. there are historical antecedents for almost everything in contemporary society.

Daffodil bulbs require well-drained soil and a sunny planting location. They should be planted in holes that are 3–6 inches deep and there should be 2–4 inches between bulbs. The bulb should be placed in the hole, pointed side up, root side down. Once the bulb is planted, water the area thoroughly.

- 140.** According to the above directions, when planting daffodil bulbs, which of the following conditions is not necessary?
- a. a sunny location
 - b. well-drained soil
 - c. proper placement of bulbs in soil
 - d. proper fertilization
- 141.** According to the above directions, which of the following is true?
- a. Daffodils do best in sandy soil.
 - b. Daffodil bulbs should be planted in autumn for spring blooming.
 - c. It is possible to plant daffodil bulbs upside down.
 - d. Daffodil bulbs require daily watering.

Many cities have distributed standardized recycling containers to all households with directions that read: "We would prefer that you use this new container as your primary recycling container as this will expedite pick-up of recyclables. Additional recycling containers may be purchased from the City."

- 142.** According to the directions, each household
- a. may only use one recycling container.
 - b. must use the new recycling container.
 - c. should use the new recycling container.
 - d. must buy a new recycling container.

- 189.** Darwin's explanation that the young of any species compete for food and survival, and those that survive are strong and pass their traits on to their young was called which of the following?
- belief in creationism
 - the catastrophic theory
 - theory of natural selection and survival of the fittest
 - the study of anthropology
- 190.** According to the passage, how was Darwin's book, *On the Origin of the Species*, received?
- Scientists gave their immediate approval of Darwin's book.
 - Religious opponents condemned Darwin's book.
 - The world ignored Darwin's book.
 - Darwin's book became an immediate bestseller.

The crystal clear, blue water and the magnificent sun make the Caribbean island of Saint Maarten a favorite vacation spot, one that is popular with North Americans during their winter holidays from December through March, as well as with South Americans and Europeans from April through August. The French and Dutch settled on the island in the 1600s, and to this day, the island is divided between the two of them. The French capital is Marigot; the Dutch capital is Philipsburg.

Tourists soon discover that St. Maarten has an intriguing history. Ancient artifacts found on the island date back to the Stone Age, 6,000 years ago! Tourists also learn that 1,200 years ago the Arawak Indians inhabited all the islands of the West Indies and were a peaceful people living under the guidance of their chiefs. Three hundred years after the Arawaks first arrived on St.

Maarten, in the 1300s, they were defeated and forced to abandon the island by a hostile tribe of Indians originating in South America. This new tribe was called the Carib. The Caribbean Sea was named after them. Unlike the Arawaks, they had no permanent chiefs or leaders, except in times of strife. And they were extremely warlike. Worse, they were cannibalistic, eating the enemy warriors they captured. In fact, the very word *cannibal* comes from the Spanish name for the Carib Indians. The Spanish arrived in the fifteenth century and, unfortunately, they carried diseases to which the Indians had no immunity. Many Indians succumbed to common European illnesses; others died from the hard labor forced upon them.

- 191.** One can infer from the passage that the Stone Age people lived on St. Maarten around the _____ year.
- 6000 B.C.
 - 4000 B.C.
 - 800 A.D.
 - 1300 A.D.
- 192.** Which of the following is NOT true about the Carib Indians?
- The sea was named after them.
 - They were peaceful fishermen, hunters, and farmers.
 - They ate human flesh.
 - They settled after defeating the Arawak Indians.
- 193.** According to the passage, the Carib Indians were finally defeated by
- sickness and forced labor.
 - the more aggressive Arawak tribe.
 - the Dutch West India Company.
 - the French explorers.

- 198.** According to the passage, thorns
- protect the rose from harm.
 - reduce the ability to love another.
 - add a new element to the image of love.
 - are just more images to compare to a rose.
- 199.** It can be inferred that the true meaning of the *love is a rose* metaphor is that
- love is a true joy.
 - love comes only once in a lifetime.
 - love is never permanent.
 - love is a combination of good and bad experiences.
- 200.** According to the passage, the poet's intention is
- to release anger.
 - to announce heartache.
 - to enable you to experience the poet's point of view.
 - to reward the senses.

The composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's remarkable musical talent was apparent even before most children can sing a simple nursery rhyme. Wolfgang's older sister Maria Anna (who the family called Nannerl) was learning the clavier, an early keyboard instrument, when her three-year-old brother took an interest in playing. As Nannerl later recalled, Wolfgang "often spent much time at the clavier picking out thirds, which he was always striking, and his pleasure showed that it sounded good." Their father Leopold, an assistant concertmaster at

the Salzburg Court, recognized his children's unique gifts and soon devoted himself to their musical education.

Born in Salzburg, Austria, on January 27, 1756, Wolfgang had composed his first original work by age five. Leopold planned to take Nannerl and Wolfgang on tour to play before the European courts. Their first venture was to nearby Munich where the children played for Maximilian III Joseph, elector of Bavaria. Leopold soon set his sights on the capital of the Hapsburg Empire, Vienna. On their way to Vienna, the family stopped in Linz, where Wolfgang gave his first public concert. By this time, Wolfgang was not only a virtuoso harpsichord player, but he had also mastered the violin. The audience at Linz was stunned by the six-year-old, and word of his genius soon traveled to Vienna. In an anticipated concert, the Mozart children appeared at the Schonbrunn Palace on October 13, 1762. They utterly charmed the emperor and empress.

Following this success, Leopold was inundated with invitations for the children to play, for a fee. Leopold seized the opportunity and booked as many concerts as possible at courts throughout Europe. A concert could last three hours, and the children played at least two per a day. Today, Leopold might be considered the worst kind of stage parent, but at the time, it was not uncommon for prodigies to make extensive concert tours. Even so, it was an exhausting schedule for a child who was just past the age of needing an afternoon nap.

SECTION

7



Reading Charts and Graphs, Understanding Directions

This is a section with questions that can be applied to situations you find in everyday life. On the job, in your school, at the train station, in the grocery store, or in many other ordinary situations, you might find yourself trying to access information from a graph, chart, or table. You may even find situations where you have to listen or react upon written or verbal directions.

Unlike other sections in this book, the questions you answer in this section are based on concrete information, rather than hidden or implied material within the text. So, the most important thing is to pay attention to every detail. Read every set of directions as many times as necessary. Also, read the title and footnotes carefully.

The ability to completely understand directions, graphs, charts, and tables is vital in today's Information Age, but as you may know, it is not always easy. With a little practice, these types of questions can be the easiest. This section gives you ample opportunity to hone your skills.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TABLE TENNIS, SUMMER OLYMPICS 2004				
COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
China	3	1	2	6
Korea	1	1	1	3
Denmark	0	0	1	1

WOMEN'S TABLE TENNIS, SUMMER OLYMPICS 2004				
COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
China	2	0	1	3
Korea	0	1	1	2
Hong Kong	0	0	0	0

MEN'S TABLE TENNIS, SUMMER OLYMPICS 2004				
COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
China	1	1	1	3
Denmark	0	0	1	1
Hong Kong	0	1	0	1

- 297.** According to the Men's and Women's Table Tennis chart, which country received the most medals for both men and women in table tennis?
- China
 - Korea
 - Denmark
 - Hong Kong
- 298.** In the Men's Table Tennis competition, which country only won a bronze medal?
- China
 - Hong Kong
 - Denmark
 - Korea
- 299.** In which competition did Korea win an equal number of gold, silver, and bronze medals?
- the Men's competition
 - the Women's competition
 - no equal amounts
 - the combined Men's and Women's competition
- 300.** Which of the following countries won one bronze medal and no other medals?
- Korea
 - Denmark
 - China
 - Hong Kong

MOUNT WASHINGTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE WEATHER DATA ELEVATION: 6,288 FEET LATITUDE: 44 16N LONGITUDE: 071 18W				
YEARLY	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
Average Temperature				
27° (Fahrenheit)	6°	6°	13°	23°
Average Precipitation				
90.7 inches	7.1 inches	7.4 inches	7.9 inches	7.2 inches
Average Snowfall				
41 inches	40 inches	40.8 inches	42.5 inches	31.3 inches

- 301.** What is the average snowfall for the month of February?
- 7.4 inches
 - 13 inches
 - 40 inches
 - 40.8 inches
- 302.** What is the average temperature for the month of April?
- 6°
 - 13°
 - 23°
 - 31.3°
- 303.** What is the average snowfall for the year?
- 41 inches
 - 40 inches
 - 42.5 inches
 - 31.3 inches
- 304.** What is the average precipitation for the month of March?
- 90.7 inches
 - 7.4 inches
 - 7.9 inches
 - 7.2 inches

Important Warning

Only certain people are qualified to handle hazardous waste. Hazardous waste is defined as any waste designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as hazardous. If you are unclear whether a particular item is hazardous, you should not handle the item but should instead notify a supervisor of the Sanitation Department.

- 317.** Hazardous waste is defined as
- anything too dangerous to handle.
 - waste picked up by special sanitation trucks.
 - anything so designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
 - waste not allowed to be placed alongside regular residential garbage.
- 318.** Sanitation Worker Harris comes upon a container of cleaning solvent along with the regular garbage in front of a residence. The container does not list the contents of the cleaner. Therefore, according to the directions, Harris should
- assume the solvent is safe and deposit it in the sanitation truck.
 - leave a note for the residents, asking them to list the contents of the solvent.
 - simply leave the container on the curb.
 - contact the supervisor for directions.

Notice of Mandatory Refresher Training Course

During the next ten months, all bus operators with two or more years of service will be required to have completed 20 hours of refresher training on one of the Vehicle Maneuvering Training Buses.

Instructors who have used this new technology report that trainees develop skills more quickly than with traditional training methods. In refresher training, this new system reinforces defensive driving skills and safe driving habits. Drivers can also check their reaction times and hand-eye coordination.

As an added benefit, the city expects to save money with the simulators, because the new system reduces the amount of training time in an actual bus—saving on parts, fuel, and other operating expenses.

- 319.** All bus operators are required to do which of the following?
- Receive training in defensive driving and operating a computer.
 - Complete ten months of refresher driver training.
 - Train new drivers on how to operate a simulator.
 - Complete 20 hours of training on a simulator.
- 320.** The main purpose of the refresher training course on the simulator is to
- make sure that all bus operators are maintaining proper driving habits.
 - give experienced bus operators an opportunity to learn new driving techniques.
 - help all bus operators to develop hand-eye coordination.
 - reduce the city's operating budget.

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This next poem is by William Shakespeare.

The Seven Ages of Man

All the world's a stage,
 And all the men and women merely players;
 They have their exits and their entrances;
 And one man in his time plays many parts.
 His acts being seven ages. At first the infant,
 Mewling . . . in the nurse's arms.
 And then the whining schoolboy, with his satchel
 And shining morning face . . . And then the lover,
 Sighing like a furnace . . . Then a soldier
 Full of strange oaths . . . Jealous of honor,
 Sudden and quick in quarrel . . . And then the
 justice . . .
 Full of wise saws and modern instances;
 And so he plays his part. The sixth age shifts
 Into the lean and slippered pantaloon.
 With spectacles on nose and pouch on side.
 . . . and his big manly voice, Turning again toward
 Childish treble, pipes and whistle, noddies and sounds.
 Last scene of all
 That ends this strange eventful history,
 Is second childishness, and mere oblivion,
 Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything.

344. What attitude does the speaker reveal by using the word *merely* in the second line?

- a. sorrow
- b. anger
- c. amusement
- d. indifference

345. What characterizes the period of life represented by the soldier?

- a. brash behavior
- b. his sense of honor
- c. his dedication to duty
- d. his fear of cowardice

346. What is the main idea of this poem?

- a. Life is a misery that never gets any better at any time.
- b. Life is what each of us makes of it during our journey down the river of eternity.
- c. Life is a play and it follows a specific script, none of which should cause anguish or sorrow.
- d. Life is a comedy, and we are all buffoons in pantaloons no matter what we do.

347. What is the theme of the poem?

- a. Death is to be feared.
- b. Life is a circle that brings us back to the beginning.
- c. The male of the species is the only true measure of the stages of life.
- d. The stages of life are unrelated and can be ignored by each individual's free will.

348. The poet uses the words *merely* (line 2) and *mere* (line 20)

- a. to soften the effect of the strong images he presents to us in those lines.
- b. to tie together his theme of the cycle of life.
- c. convey his tone to the reader.
- d. all of the above.

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- 351.** Which sentence, if inserted in the blank space on the previous page, would make the best sense in the context of the passage?
- a. The director, Peter Hall, had to beg the theater management not to close the play immediately but to wait for the Sunday reviews.
 - b. Despite the audience reaction, the cast and director believed in the play.
 - c. It looked as if *Waiting for Godot* was beginning a long run as the most controversial play of London's 1955 season.
 - d. *Waiting for Godot* was in danger of closing the first week of its run and of becoming nothing more than a footnote in the annals of the English stage.
- 352.** Judging from the information provided in the paragraph, which of the following statements is accurate?
- a. The 1955 production of *Waiting for Godot* was the play's first performance.
 - b. *Waiting for Godot* was written by Peter Hall.
 - c. The sets and characters in *Waiting for Godot* were typical of London stage productions in the 1950s.
 - d. *Waiting for Godot* was not first performed in English.
- 353.** Which of the following provides the best definition of the term *avant-garde* as the author intends it in the passage?
- a. innovative
 - b. unintelligible
 - c. foreign
 - d. high-brow
- 354.** Which of the following best describes the attitude of the author of the passage toward the play *Waiting for Godot*?
- a. It was a curiosity in theater history.
 - b. It is the most important play of the twentieth century.
 - c. It is too repetitious.
 - d. It represents a turning point in stage history.

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SECTION

10



Longer Passages

T

he passages in this section are the final test of your reading comprehension skills. They test your ability to read large blocks of text, define words in context, and respond to questions about content.

You'll find that the longer passages in this section are the most difficult of all the ones you have read in this book so far, but at this point, *you are more than ready* for them. Some of the passages are about new research, geology, history, and even Greek mythology. Some of the passages contain technical and scientific information, much of it related to medicine. If the material looks daunting because of unfamiliar vocabulary, read the passage in a relaxed manner to get a sense of its overall meaning and organizational pattern. After that, go back and read the passage one paragraph at a time. The material will seem less overwhelming if you consider it in smaller chunks. Notes or outlines may also help clarify the material for you.

Remember that the reading process is the same whether the text is long or short, complex or simple, and the way to respond to the questions correctly is to read closely and carefully.

The answers to this section begin on page 150.

The coast of the state of Maine is one of the most irregular in the world. A straight line running from the southernmost coastal city to the northernmost coastal city would measure about 225 miles. If you followed the coastline between these points, you would travel more than ten times as far. This irregularity is the result of what is called a drowned coastline. The term comes from the glacial activity of the ice age. At that time, the whole area that is now Maine was part of a mountain range that towered above the sea. As the glacier descended, however, it expended enormous force on those mountains, and they sank into the sea.

As the mountains sank, ocean water charged over the lowest parts of the remaining land, forming a series of twisting inlets and lagoons of contorted grottos and nooks. The highest parts of the former mountain range, nearest the shore, remained as islands. Mt. Desert Island is one of the most famous of all the islands left behind by the glacier. Marine fossils found here were 25 feet above sea level, indicating the level of the shoreline prior to the glacier.

The 2,500-mile-long rocky and jagged coastline of Maine keeps watch over nearly two thousand islands. Many of these islands are tiny and uninhabited, but many are home to thriving communities. Mt. Desert Island is one of the largest, most beautiful of the Maine coast islands. Measuring 16 miles by 12 miles, Mt. Desert was essentially formed as two distinct islands. It is split almost in half by Somes Sound, a deep and narrow stretch of water, seven miles long.

For years, Mt. Desert Island, particularly its major settlement, Bar Harbor, afforded summer homes for the wealthy. Recently though, Bar Harbor has become a burgeoning arts community as well. But, the best part of the island is the unspoiled forest land known as Acadia National Park. Because the island sits on the boundary line between the temperate and sub-Arctic zones, the island supports the flora and fauna of both zones as well as beach, inland, and alpine plants. It also lies in a major bird migration lane and is a resting spot for many birds. The establishment of Acadia National Park in 1916 means that this natural reserve will be perpetually available to all people, not just the wealthy. Visitors to Acadia may receive nature instruction from the park naturalists as well as enjoy camping, hiking, cycling, and boating. Or they may choose to spend time at the archeological museum, learning about the Stone Age inhabitants of the island.

The best view on Mt. Desert Island is from the top of Cadillac Mountain. This mountain rises 1,532 feet, making it the highest mountain on the Atlantic seaboard. From the summit, you can gaze back toward the mainland or out over the Atlantic Ocean and contemplate the beauty created by a retreating glacier.

Today, bicycles are elegantly simple machines that are common around the world. Many people ride bicycles for recreation, whereas others use them as a means of transportation. The first bicycle, called a *draisienne*, was invented in Germany in 1818 by Baron Karl de Drais de Sauerbrun. Because it was made of wood, the *draisienne* wasn't very durable nor did it have pedals. Riders moved it by pushing their feet against the ground.

In 1839, Kirkpatrick Macmillan, a Scottish blacksmith, invented a much better bicycle. Macmillan's machine had tires with iron rims to keep them from getting worn down. He also used foot-operated cranks, similar to pedals, so his bicycle could be ridden at a quick pace. It didn't look much like the modern bicycle, though, because its back wheel was substantially larger than its front wheel. Although Macmillan's bicycles could be ridden easily, they were never produced in large numbers.

In 1861, Frenchman Pierre Michaux and his brother Ernest invented a bicycle with an improved crank mechanism. They called their bicycle a *vélocipède*, but most people called it a "bone shaker" because of the jarring effect of the wood and iron frame. Despite the unflattering nickname, the *vélocipède* was a hit. After a few years, the Michaux family was making hundreds of the machines annually, mostly for fun-seeking young people.

Ten years later, James Starley, an English inventor, made several innovations that revolutionized bicycle design. He made the front wheel many times larger than the back wheel, put a gear on the pedals to make the bicycle more efficient, and lightened the wheels by using wire spokes. Although this bicycle was much lighter and less tiring to ride, it was still clumsy, extremely top-heavy, and ridden mostly for entertainment.

It wasn't until 1874 that the first truly modern bicycle appeared on the scene. Invented by another Englishman, H.J. Lawson, the safety bicycle would look familiar to today's cyclists. The safety bicycle had equal-sized wheels, which made it much less prone to toppling over. Lawson also attached a chain to the pedals to drive the rear wheel. By 1893, the safety bicycle had been further improved with air-filled rubber tires, a diamond-shaped frame, and easy braking. With the improvements provided by Lawson, bicycles became extremely popular and useful for transportation. Today, they are built, used, and enjoyed all over the world.

- 370.** There is enough information in this passage to show that
- a. several people contributed to the development of the modern bicycle.
 - b. only a few *vélocipèdes* built by the Michaux family are still in existence.
 - c. for most of the nineteenth century, few people rode bicycles just for fun.
 - d. bicycles with wheels of different sizes cannot be ridden easily.

One of the most hazardous conditions a firefighter will ever encounter is a backdraft (also known as a smoke explosion). A backdraft can occur in the hot-smoldering phase of a fire when burning is incomplete and there is not enough oxygen to sustain the fire. Unburned carbon particles and other flammable products, combined with the intense heat, may cause instantaneous combustion if more oxygen reaches the fire.

Firefighters should be aware of the conditions that indicate the possibility for a backdraft to occur. When there is a lack of oxygen during a fire, the smoke becomes filled with carbon dioxide or carbon monoxide and turns dense gray or black. Other warning signs of a potential backdraft are little or no visible flame, excessive heat, smoke leaving the building in puffs, muffled sounds, and smoke-stained windows.

Proper ventilation will make a backdraft less likely. Opening a room or building at the highest point allows heated gases and smoke to be released gradually. However, suddenly breaking a window or opening a door is a mistake, because it allows oxygen to rush in, causing an explosion.

376. A backdraft is a dangerous condition for firefighters mainly because

- a. there is not enough oxygen for breathing.
- b. the heat is extremely intense.
- c. the smoke is dangerously thick.
- d. an explosion occurs.

377. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a potential backdraft warning sign?

- a. windows stained with smoke
- b. flames shooting up from the building
- c. puffs of smoke leaving the building
- d. more intense heat than usual

378. To prevent the possibility of a backdraft, a firefighter should

- a. carry an oxygen tank.
- b. open a door to allow gases to escape.
- c. make an opening at the top of the building.
- d. break a window to release carbon particles.

379. When compared with a hot, smoldering fire, a fire with visible, high-reaching flames

- a. has more oxygen available for combustion.
- b. has more carbon dioxide available for consumption.
- c. produces more dense gray smoke.
- d. is more likely to cause a backdraft.

Arteries of the heart blocked by plaque can reduce the flow of blood to the heart possibly resulting in heart attack or death. Plaque is actually fat and cholesterol that accumulates on the inside of the arteries. The arteries of the heart are small and can be blocked by such accumulations. There is a medical procedure that creates more space in the blocked artery by inserting and inflating a tiny balloon into the blood vessel. It is called coronary balloon angioplasty. *Angioplasty* means “blood vessel repair.” When the balloon is inflated, it compresses the plaque against the wall of the artery, creating more space and improving the flow of blood.

Many doctors choose this technique, because it is less invasive than bypass surgery. Yes, both involve entering the body cavity, but in bypass surgery, the chest must be opened, the ribs must be cut, and the section of diseased artery must be removed and replaced. To replace it, the patient’s body is opened once again, to acquire a healthy section of artery. Usually, this blood vessel is removed from an artery located in the calf of the leg. This means the patient now has two painful incisions that must heal at the same time. There is far more risk in such bypass surgery than in angioplasty, which involves threading a thin tube, called a catheter, into the circulatory system and working it to the damaged artery.

Angioplasty may take between 30 minutes to 3 hours to complete. It begins with a distinctive dye that is injected into the bloodstream. A thin catheter is then inserted into the femoral artery of the leg, near the groin. The doctor monitors the path of the dye using x-rays. He moves the tube

through the heart and into the plaque-filled artery. He inflates the balloon, creating more space, deflates the balloon, and removes the tube. It is important to note that the plaque has not been removed; it has just been compressed against the sides of the artery. Sometimes, a *stent* may be implanted, a tiny tube of stainless steel that is expandable when necessary. Its function is to keep the artery open.

There is good news and there is bad news. The good news is that the statistics compiled are superb. Ninety percent of all angioplasty procedures are successful. The risk of dying during an operation of this type is less than 2%. The risk of heart attack is also small: 3–5%. Yet heart surgeons do not take any risk lightly; therefore, a team of surgeons stands ready to perform bypass surgery if needed. The length of hospitalization is only three days. The bad news is twofold. First, this procedure treats the condition but does not eradicate the cause. In 20% of the cases, there is a recurrence of plaque. Second, angioplasty is not recommended for all patients. The surgeons must consider the patient’s age, physical history, how severe the blockage is, and, finally, the degree of damage to the artery before they make their determination.

- 420.** When coronary arteries are blocked by plaque, one of the results could be
- stroke.
 - heart attack.
 - hospitalization.
 - femoral artery deterioration.

- 439.** Which of the following best expresses the main idea of the passage?
- a. Microprobes require further technological advances before they can be used in humans.
 - b. Wire electrodes are antiquated as a means for delivering neuroactive compounds to the brain.
 - c. Microprobes have great potential to help counteract neural damage.
 - d. Technology now exists that may enable repair of the nervous system.
- 440.** All of the following are mentioned in the passage as potential uses for prostheses EXCEPT
- a. transportation of medication.
 - b. induction of physical movement.
 - c. transportation of growth factor.
 - d. removal of biochemicals from the cortex.
- 441.** The initial function of microprobe channels is to
- a. create pathways.
 - b. disrupt neurons.
 - c. replace ribbon cables.
 - d. study the brain.

(1) Medical waste has been a growing concern because of recent incidents of public exposure to discarded blood vials, needles (sharps), empty prescription bottles, and syringes. Medical waste can typically include general refuse, human blood and blood products, cultures and stocks of infectious agents, laboratory animal carcasses, contaminated bedding material, and pathological wastes.

(2) Wastes are generally collected by gravity chutes, carts, or pneumatic tubes, each of which has its own advantages and disadvantages. Chutes are limited to vertical transport, and there is some risk of exhausting contaminants into hallways if a door is left open during use. Another disadvantage of gravity chutes is that the waste container may get jammed while dropping, or it may be broken upon hitting the bottom. Carts are primarily for horizontal transport of bagged or containerized wastes. The main risk here is that bags may be broken or torn during transport, potentially exposing the worker to the wastes. Using automated carts can reduce the potential for exposure. Pneumatic tubes offer the best performance for waste transport in a large facility. Advantages include high-speed movement, movement in any direction, and minimal intermediate storage of untreated wastes. However, some objects cannot be conveyed pneumatically.

(3) Off-site disposal of regulated medical wastes remains a viable option for smaller hospitals (those with less than 150 beds). Some preliminary on-site processing, such as compaction or hydropulping, may be necessary prior to sending the waste off site. Compaction reduces the total volume of solid wastes, often reducing trans-

- 464.** Based on the passage, which of the following is directly responsible for all temperature changes on Earth?
- variations in the strength of solar radiation
 - variations in the amount of ultraviolet light
 - variation of biologic processes in the biosphere
 - variation in global warming
- 465.** The first paragraph of the passage deals mainly with which of the following effects of the atmosphere on the earth?
- its sheltering effect
 - its reviving effect
 - its invigorating effect
 - its cleansing effect

(1) There are two types of diabetes, *insulin-dependent* and *non-insulin-dependent*. Between 90–95% of the estimated 13–14 million people in the United States with diabetes have non-insulin-dependent, or Type II, diabetes. Because this form of diabetes usually begins in adults over the age of 40 and is most common after the age of 55, it used to be called adult-onset diabetes. Its symptoms often develop gradually and are hard to identify at first; therefore, nearly half of all people with diabetes do not know they have it. For instance, someone who has developed Type II diabetes may feel tired or ill without knowing why. This can be particularly dangerous because untreated diabetes can cause damage to the heart, blood vessels, eyes, kidneys, and nerves. While the causes, short-term effects, and treatments of the two types of diabetes differ, both types can cause the same long-term health problems.

(2) Most importantly, both types affect the body's ability to use digested food for energy. Diabetes does not interfere with digestion, but it does prevent the body from using an important product of digestion, *glucose* (commonly known as sugar), for energy. After a meal, the normal digestive system breaks some food down into glucose. The blood carries the glucose or sugar throughout the body, causing blood glucose levels to rise. In response to this rise, the hormone insulin is released into the bloodstream and signals the body tissues to metabolize or burn the glucose for fuel, which causes blood glucose levels to return to normal. The glucose that the body does not use right away is stored in the liver, muscle, or fat.

(3) In both types of diabetes, however, this normal process malfunctions. A gland called the *pancreas*, found just behind the stomach, makes *insulin*. In people with insulin-dependent diabetes, the pancreas does not produce insulin at all. This condition usually begins in childhood and is known as Type I (formerly called juvenile-onset) diabetes. These patients must have daily insulin injections to survive. People with non-insulin-dependent diabetes usually produce some insulin in their pancreas, but their bodies' tissues do not respond well to the insulin signal and, therefore, do not metabolize the glucose properly, a condition known as insulin resistance.

(4) Insulin resistance is an important factor in non-insulin-dependent diabetes, and scientists are searching for the causes of insulin resistance. They have identified two possibilities. The first is that there could be a defect in the insulin receptors on cells. Like an appliance that needs to be plugged into an electrical outlet, insulin has to

- 477.** The immune cells and other cells in the body coexist peaceably in a state known as
- equilibrium.
 - self-tolerance.
 - harmony.
 - tolerance.
- 478.** What is the specific term for the substance capable of triggering an inappropriate or harmful immune response to a harmless substance such as ragweed pollen?
- antigen
 - microbe
 - allergen
 - autoimmune disease
- 479.** How do the cells in the immune system recognize an antigen as foreign or non-self?
- through an allergic response
 - through blood type
 - through fine hairs protruding from the antigen surface
 - through characteristic shapes on the antigen surface
- 480.** After you have had the chicken pox, your immune system will be able to do all of the following EXCEPT
- prevent your offspring from infection by the chicken pox virus.
 - distinguish between your body cells and that of the chicken pox virus.
 - remember previous experiences with the chicken pox virus.
 - match up and counteract non-self molecules in the form of the chicken pox virus.
- 481.** Which of the following best expresses the main idea of this passage?
- An antigen is any substance that triggers an immune response.
 - The basic function of the immune system is to distinguish between self and non-self.
 - One of the immune system's primary functions is the allergic response.
 - The human body presents an opportune habitat for microbes.
- 482.** Why would tissue transplanted from father to daughter have a greater risk of being detected as foreign than a tissue transplanted between identical twins?
- The age of the twins' tissue would be the same and, therefore, less likely to be rejected.
 - The identical twin's tissue would carry the same self-markers and would, therefore, be less likely to be rejected.
 - The difference in the sex of the father and daughter would cause the tissue to be rejected by the daughter's immune system.
 - The twins' immune systems would remember the same encounters with childhood illnesses.
- 483.** What is the meaning of the underlined word *intricacies* as it is used in the first sentence of the passage?
- elaborate interconnections
 - confusion of pathways
 - inherent perplexity
 - comprehensive coverage

the question, since officials are responding to several fires that have already occurred, it is more likely that they will do something more pronounced and definitive than just considering the existing rules.

- 16. d.** To be *inundated* is to be overwhelmed or *flooded*.
- 17. c.** To be *unique* is to be one of a kind or *unparalleled*.
- 18. d.** When one is *incredulous*, one is skeptical or *disbelieving*.
- 19. d.** When one is *proficient* at something, one is an expert or is *skilled* at it.
- 20. a.** When something is *tentative*, it is of an uncertain or *provisional* nature.
- 21. b.** When a group's opinion is *unanimous*, it is in accord or *uniform*.
- 22. a.** To *alleviate* something is to make it more bearable or to *ease* it.
- 23. c.** To be *indispensable* is to be necessary or *essential*.
- 24. a.** To *expedite* a process is to hurry it up or *accelerate* it.
- 25. b.** If something is plausible, it is believable or *credible*.
- 26. c.** To *infer* something is to *surmise* it or deduce it from the evidence.
- 27. d.** An *ultimatum* is a final statement of terms or *non-negotiable demand*.
- 28. b.** To be *meticulous* is to be extremely careful or *painstaking*.
- 29. b.** To be *apathetic* is to show little or no interest or to be *indifferent*.
- 30. a.** To be *fortified* is to be strengthened or *reinforced*.
- 31. d.** To *delegate* a task is to *assign* it or to appoint another to do it.
- 32. c.** To *arouse* someone is to stir up or *provoke* that person.
- 33. d.** To *articulate* something is to give words to it or *express* it.

- 34. c.** If something is *expansive*, it is broad, open, or *spacious*.
- 35. b.** If a thing is *detrimental*, it is injurious or *harmful*.
- 36. b.** *Crooning* and *bellowing* both mean singing.
- 37. d.** *Fallout* is a side effect that occurs as a result of some incident, action, or happening—that is, it's a *consequence of something*. It is the most logical word to describe something that affects a victim for years.
- 38. b.** *Humid* and *damp* both mean the same thing in this context.
- 39. b.** A *sphere* is a *globular (globe)* object.
- 40. d.** To *decontaminate* and to *purify* both mean to remove impurities.
- 41. c.** To be *tailored* and to be *altered* both mean to be made to fit.
- 42. a.** *Dormant* and *inactive* both mean not active, *asleep* (the root meaning of *dormant*).
- 43. c.** To be *banished* and to be *exiled* both mean to be forced to leave.
- 44. b.** *Yielded* and *relinquished* both mean given up.
- 45. c.** A *journal* and a *diary* are both records of daily happenings.
- 46. b.** To be *jostled* is to be *bumped*.
- 47. a.** A *hostel* and an *inn* are both lodging places for travelers.
- 48. a.** *Philosophy* means a system of motivating *principles*.
- 49. b.** The key here is the phrase, *We had no idea who the special guest speaker would be*. This implies there is something hidden or secret. The other choices are unrelated to not knowing who the speaker would be.
- 50. c.** To consider is to think about. The other choices make no sense in the context of the sentence.
- 51. a.** An *opportunity* is a chance. The other choices make no sense in the context of this sentence.

with one of Gary's physical characteristics. Choice **c** deals only with his vanity of position. Choice **d** is not supported in the passage.

- 114. a.** This choice refers both to age and complexity; **b** and **c** refer only to complexity. Answer **d** is less relevant to the topic sentence (which doesn't mention Darwin or theories) than the other choices.
- 115. b.** This choice is the only one that supports and develops the topic sentence. The other choices all say something about cosmetic plastic surgery, but they do not support the topic sentence, which states that cosmetic plastic surgery is one of the fastest-growing segments of U.S. medicine.
- 116. c.** The topic sentence speaks of the big-bang theory being much misunderstood, and **c** addresses this, whereas the other choices do not.
- 117. d.** Only this choice deals with learning how to accept oneself and then relates it to another person. Choices **a** and **c** are both irrelevant to the topic sentence. Choice **b** states the exact opposite of the topic sentence.
- 118. c.** Choice **c** is the only entry that presents the similar traits of both the hero and the superstar. Choice **a** only defines a superstar. Choice **b** defines the hero. Choice **d** introduces irrelevant material—the sports arena, with no mention of the superstar.
- 119. a.** This choice is a comparison between man and bird. Neither one needs instruction to do what is important to its life. Choices **b**, **c**, and **d** do not support this topic sentence.
- 120. b.** This choice is the only one that talks about how parents make a difference in their children's academic success. The other choices don't mention parents at all.
- 121. c.** The main idea is that the United States limits immigration numbers. Choices **a**, **b**, and **d** show the effects and statistics that result from this action but do not support the topic sentence.

122. d. The topic sentence refers to punishment used in early America. Choice **a** gives a reason for the use of punishment in early America. Choices **b** and **c** state why we don't have such punishment today and compares historical punishment with today's sensibility.

123. d. Choice **d** gives us a reason why more people are eating organic, so it supports the statement made in the topic sentence. Choices **a** and **b** are about organic products, but they don't provide logical reasons for the increasing popularity of organic foods. Choice **c** is about another topic completely.

124. c. This choice introduces the idea that some laws are strange. Choices **a**, **b**, and **d** are examples of strange laws.

125. a. This topic sentence states the importance of a cat's whiskers. Choices **b**, **c**, and **d** give other details but do not directly support the topic sentence.

126. c. This choice states the popularity of the game. Choices **a** and **b** state the game's origin. Choice **d** explains how its popularity spread.

127. c. This sentence gives a reason for longevity that was introduced in the topic sentence. Choices **a**, **b**, and **d** are about longevity but do not give any reasons.

128. a. Choice **a** pronounces an end to 16 years of violence. Choice **b**, **c** and **d** are facts about James's life.

129. c. Great wealth is not an indicator of honor. Each of the other choices describes the honor that is received. Choice **a** says, greatly respected, choice **b**—a revered poet, and choice **d**—long-lasting reputation.

130. b. The topic sentence presents the idea that all the men are connected by whale lines, each man relies on the others for his safety. Choice **a** states this idea explicitly: Each man "had to depend on the others to stay alive." Choice **c** presents the idea as metaphorical, each man is

- 491. a.** This passage states that although most glaciers are in remote regions, some are nearby. The reader needs to understand that the transitional word *however* indicates that the word *remote* means the opposite of *near*.
- 492. c.** The passage states that glaciers can be found on nearly every continent.
- 493. b.** This is the only choice reflected in the passage.
- 494. b.** This choice is the only one that can be concluded from the passage.
- 495. a.** Many examples in the last paragraph suggest the large potential of untapped electrical power that may be harnessed from glacial water in the future with further research.
- 496. b.** Although all choices are true statements, only **b** states the main idea.
- 497. d.** Statements **a**, **b**, and **c** appear in the passage; this statement does not.
- 498. b.** The passage only gives evidence that supports this answer.
- 499. d.** This is the best definition that describes Anthony's efforts.
- 500. c.** Although each statement is true, her greatest and lasting achievement was that her efforts led to the establishment of the nineteenth amendment.
- 501. b.** This is the only choice that the passage supports.

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