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Passage

The first known dentures, worn as early as 700 BCE by the Etruscans of central Italy, were composed mainly of animal teeth held together by gold bands. Later, in the 16th century, a denture made of wooden teeth held in place by suctions became popular in Japan. A "natural" look emerged with the dentures of the 18th and 19th centuries, which featured teeth made of ivory or porcelain and mounted on plates of gold or vulcanite, a type of rubber. While some modern dentures still feature porcelain teeth, most dentures today contain teeth made from plastic and mounted on a metal base.

Question 1 of 15

The main idea of the passage is that dentures

✖ Incorrect

You selected answer B, the correct answer was D.

✔ D	have been made from many different materials
✖ B	have traditionally been very expensive to make

Rationale

Choice (D) is correct. The passage discusses the evolution of dentures and the different materials used to make them ("animal teeth held together by gold bands," wood, "ivory or porcelain," and "plastic"). Choice (C) is incorrect: while the passage does state that most dentures today are "made from plastic and mounted on a metal base," this fact is only mentioned in the last sentence of the passage. Choices (A) and (B) are incorrect: the passage does not discuss either the popularity or the cost of dentures.

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Passage

If you are committed to healthy, green living and want to reduce your environmental footprint, you might consider expanding your daily diet to include bugs. Supporters of the edible insect initiative rightfully argue that farming insects has a much lower environmental impact than does raising livestock since bugs are easier to harvest and require a fraction of the water and land space that cattle need. Indeed, the high-protein, low-fat health benefits of bug-eating have long been known. For hundreds of years, crickets, silkworms and even tarantulas have been served roasted, stewed and fried at the dinner tables of many cultures.

Question 2 of 15

The passage is mainly discussing

✔ Correct

✔ B	The environmental and health benefits of eating insects

Rationale

Choice (B) is correct. The passage mainly discusses both the low "environmental impact" and the "high-protein, low-fat health benefits" of eating insects. Choice (A) is incorrect: while the passage mentions that bugs have been served "at the dinner tables of many cultures," the passage is not mainly discussing these cultures. Choices (C) and (D) are incorrect: though the passage mentions the resources and energy conserved by farming insects rather than raising livestock, this point is not the focus of the passage.

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2/18/2015

Swarms of locusts causing deadly plagues are usually thought of as the stuff of myths. However, the desert locust Schistocerca gregaria has been responsible for damage to populations across three continents. The desert locust does its damage by consuming its body weight in food each day, devouring virtually any type of vegetation it encounters. When millions of locusts swarm into an area, their effect on the food supply in that area and surrounding areas can be catastrophic. Fortunately, it takes a big, sustained rainstorm (a rare event in desert areas) to create the conditions in which desert locusts thrive.

Question 3 of 15

The passage is primarily about

You selected answer C, the correct answer was A.

| ✔ A | the damage done by swarms of desert locusts |
| ✖ C | comparing real plagues to mythical ones |

Rationale

Choice (A) is correct. The passage primarily discusses the damage done by swarms of desert locusts and mentions where ("across three continents"), how (by "consuming its body weight in food each day"), and under what conditions ("a big, sustained rainstorm") the locusts cause this damage. Choice (B) is incorrect: though the passage mentions the consumption behavior of the locust ("consuming its body weight in food each day"), this is not the main topic of the passage. Choice (C) is incorrect: while the passage refers to "deadly plagues" caused by locusts as thought of as being "the stuff of myths," the passage does make a comparison between real and mythical plagues. Choice (D) is incorrect: the passage does not mention protecting vulnerable areas from locusts.

Passage

The first known dentures, worn as early as 700 BCE by the Etruscans of central Italy, were composed mainly of animal teeth held together by gold bands. Later, in the 16th century, a denture made of wooden teeth held in place by suctions became popular in Japan. A "natural" look emerged with the dentures of the 18th and 19th centuries, which featured teeth made of ivory or porcelain and mounted on plates of gold or vulcanite, a type of rubber. While some modern dentures still feature porcelain teeth, most dentures today contain teeth made from plastic and mounted on a metal base.

Question 4 of 15

The author uses the term "natural" to indicate that the dentures of the 18th and 19th centuries

✖ Incorrect

You selected answer C, the correct answer was A.

| ✔ A | resembled real human teeth |
| ✖ C | contained animal teeth rather than artificial substances |

Rationale

Choice (A) is correct. The passage states that the dentures of the 18th and 19th centuries, which were made of ivory and porcelain, had a more "natural" look than the previous dentures, which had been made of wood and animal teeth. Teeth made of ivory or porcelain would likely look more "natural"—i.e., more like human teeth—than animal teeth or wooden teeth would. Choices (B) and (C) are incorrect because the passage does not indicate that the dentures of the 18th and 19th centuries contained human teeth or animal teeth. Choice (D) is incorrect because the word "natural" is used by the author to describe the appearance of the dentures, not the materials used to make the dentures.

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Passage

In 2008, members of the "Public Space Movement," a worldwide effort to foster community enjoyment of public spaces, planned a day of "public pillow fights." These pillow fights were organized to occur worldwide, in civic centers, town squares, playgrounds, and other public spaces. New York City's 2008 pillow fight was the largest that year, with over 5,000 participants. The tradition has continued, and on April 2, 2011, citizens of more than 130 cities and towns around the world participated in what is now known as International Pillow Fight Day.

Question 5 of 15

According to the passage, the 2011 pillow fights

✖ Incorrect

You selected answer D, the correct answer was A.

✔ A	took place on the same day
✖ D	happened on every continent

Rationale

Choice (A) is correct. According to the passage, the 2011 pillow fights all took place on the same day, April 2nd, "now known as 'International Pillow Fight Day.'" Choice (B) is incorrect because the passage mentions only the date of the pillow fights, not the duration of them. Choice (C) is incorrect because the fights happened only in the month of April: "once a month" implies once each month. Choice (D) is incorrect: there is no specific indication in the passage that the pillow fights occurred on every continent.

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Passage

The first coin-operated vending machines in the United States were installed on the elevated platforms of the New York City railway system in 1888. These machines sold a chewing gum called "Tutti-Frutti," which was manufactured by the Thomas Adams Gum Company. The machines were eventually updated to feature animated figures that would dance each time a gum purchase was made.

Question 6 of 15

All of the following statements about the vending machines are true EXCEPT

✖ Incorrect

You selected answer C, the correct answer was D.

✔ D	They were originally designed to entertain customers.
✖ C	They were utilized by train passengers.

Rationale

Choice (D) is correct. The vending machines were NOT originally designed to entertain customers. The passage states that the vending machines were "eventually updated to feature animated figures that would dance," presumably to entertain customers, but the passage does not state that the machines were originally designed for entertainment purposes. Choices (A), (B) and (C) are all true according to the passage and, therefore, incorrect.

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Wednesday, December 10, 2014   8:48 AM

Passage

The food sold in the office cafeteria lacks both taste and freshness. According to a recent study, less than 15% of company employees have purchased food in our office cafeteria.

Question 7 of 15

Which statement best describes the two sentences?

✔ Correct

✔ A | The second states a fact while the first offers an opinion.

Rationale

Choice (A) is correct. The second sentence is objective: it relates the results of a "recent study" (the fact that "less than 15% of company employees" utilize the office cafeteria). The first sentence is subjective: it expresses the opinion that the cafeteria food "lacks both taste and freshness." Choices (B), (C) and (D) improperly suggest a contrast and/or conflict between the information expressed in the first sentence and the information expressed in the second sentence.

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Passage

A number of factors, including melting ice caps and climate change, have contributed to rising sea levels which, in turn, are causing significant beach erosion. Some parts of coastal Louisiana are losing up to fifty feet of beach every year.

Question 8 of 15

How are the two sentences related?

✖ Incorrect

You selected answer A, the correct answer was C.

✔ C | The first describes a phenomenon, while the second provides a specific example of that phenomenon.

✖ A | The second provides background information that helps explain the data given in the first.

Rationale

Choice (C) is correct. The first sentence describes the phenomenon of "beach erosion" and the factors contributing to it. The second sentence provides a specific example of a place ("coastal Louisiana") that has been affected by the phenomenon of beach erosion. Choice (A) illogically suggests that the specific example in the second sentence provides "background information" for the more general statement in the first sentence, while choice (D) incorrectly suggests that the example in the second sentence preceded the occurrence of the phenomenon described in the first. Choice (B) improperly suggests a contradictory relationship between the two sentences.

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Wednesday, December 10, 2014   8:50 AM

Passage

A recent study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA links childhood self-control to health and well-being in adulthood. The study claims that children with less self-control are more likely than other children to be unemployed and to engage in unhealthy behaviors as adults.

Question 9 of 15

How are the two sentences related?

✔ Correct

✔ **D**   The second expands on information given in the first.

Rationale

Choice (D) is correct. The second sentence expands on the information in the first sentence by stating the specific claims of the study mentioned in the first sentence ("that children with less self-control are more likely…to be unemployed and to engage in unhealthy behaviors…") It does not contradict or refute the information in the first sentence, or use a different source than was used in the first sentence.

Finish this test later

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Reading Comp

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Passage

In 2008, members of the "Public Space Movement," a worldwide effort to foster community enjoyment of public spaces, planned a day of "public pillow fights." These pillow fights were organized to occur worldwide, in civic centers, town squares, playgrounds, and other public spaces. New York City's 2008 pillow fight was the largest that year, with over 5,000 participants. The tradition has continued, and on April 2, 2011, citizens of more than 130 cities and towns around the world participated in what is now known as International Pillow Fight Day.

Question 10 of 15

The passage suggests that the main goal of the pillow fights was to encourage people to

✖ Incorrect

You selected answer D, the correct answer was C.

✔ **C**   make greater use of public areas

✖ **D**   get to know their neighbors

Rationale

Choice (C) is correct. The passage states that the public pillow fights were planned by an organization whose goal is "to foster community enjoyment of public spaces." It makes sense to say, then, that the organization probably planned the pillow fights as a way to "encourage people to make greater use of public areas." Choices (A), (B) and (D) are incorrect because they do not relate to the enjoyment of public spaces (the goal of the "Public Space Movement").

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Passage

In 2010, talk show host Oprah Winfrey and novelist Jonathan Franzen kissed and made up after a nine-year feud. In 2001, Franzen was disinvited from appearing on Winfrey's TV show to pitch his novel The Corrections after he made it clear that he was unhappy about the book's being chosen for the Oprah Book Club. Describing his work as "in the high-art literary tradition," Franzen said he didn't want to be associated with the Club, which he accused of occasionally choosing "schmaltzy, one-dimensional" novels. But Winfrey is apparently able to forgive and forget: she chose Franzen's next novel, Freedom, for her book club and said of it, "Now you haven't heard me say this word often, but this book is a masterpiece."

Question 11 of 15

The passages implies that Franzen's criticism of the Oprah Book Club was motivated primarily by

You selected answer B, the correct answer was A.

✔	A	pride
✖	B	anger

Rationale

Choice (A) is correct. Franzen refers to his own work as belonging to a "high-art literary tradition" and to Oprah's book club choices as being "schmaltzy," or overly sentimental, and "one-dimensional." These details suggest that Franzen's criticism of the Oprah Book Club was motivated by his pride—his high opinion of the quality of his book compared to other books chosen for the book club. Choices (B) and (C) are incorrect: there is no indication in the passage that Franzen felt anger or insensitivity; rather, the passage suggests he was motivated by his sense of self-importance, or pride. Choice (D) is incorrect because the passage does not indicate that Franzen's comments about Oprah's choices were ignorant or uninformed.

Passage

Thomas Edison is not primarily known as a film producer, but his 1910 Frankenstein is the earliest known film version of Mary Shelley's novel. Tame by today's standards, the film was considered shocking in 1910: it did not receive wide circulation in theaters, and only a small number of prints were struck for sale. It was considered "lost" for decades, but one surviving print was discovered in the 1970's in the private collection of Wisconsin collector Alois Detlaff.

Question 12 of 15

The passage implies that Mary Shelley's novel Frankenstein

✖ Incorrect

You selected answer A, the correct answer was D.

✔	D	has been repeatedly adapted for the screen
✖	A	has been very sought after by collectors

Rationale

Choice (D) is correct. The passage states that Thomas Edison's 1910 film version of Frankenstein is the "earliest known film version" of the novel. It makes sense to say, then, that other screen adaptations of the film were made after Edison's 1910 version. Choice (A) is incorrect: though the passage does mention one collector of the 1910 film version of Frankenstein, the passage does not suggest that Frankenstein the novel has been sought after by collectors. Choices (B) and (C) are incorrect: the passage indicates that the 1910 film version of Frankenstein, not Mary Shelley's novel, was "'lost' for decades" and "shocking" to viewers when it was first released.

Passage

If you are committed to healthy, green living and want to reduce your environmental footprint, you might consider expanding your daily diet to include bugs. Supporters of the edible insect initiative rightfully argue that farming insects has a much lower environmental impact than does raising livestock since bugs are easier to harvest and require a fraction of the water and land space that cattle need. Indeed, the high-protein, low-fat health benefits of bug-eating have long been known. For hundreds of years, crickets, silkworms and even tarantulas have been served roasted, stewed and fried at the dinner tables of many cultures.

Question 13 of 15

Which words best describe the author's attitude toward the "edible insect initiative"?

✔ Correct

✔ B   interest and support

Rationale

Choice (B) is correct. The author of the passage is interested in and supportive of the edible insect initiative. He or she addresses the reader directly and urges the reader to consider "expanding your daily diet to include bugs." The author also shows support for the edible insect movement by stating that advocates of the movement "rightfully" argue that "farming insects has a much lower environmental impact than does raising livestock." Choice (A) is incorrect: while the author expresses support for the edible insect initiative, there is no indication that he or she feels awe or amazement towards the movement. Choices (C) and (D) are incorrect because the author is positive about the movement, showing interest and support rather than fear or disgust.

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Passage

The first coin-operated vending machines in the United States were installed on the elevated platforms of the New York City railway system in 1888. These machines sold a chewing gum called "Tutti-Frutti," which was manufactured by the Thomas Adams Gum Company. The machines were eventually updated to feature animated figures that would dance each time a gum purchase was made.

Question 14 of 15

The author's tone can best be described as

✖ Incorrect

You selected answer A, the correct answer was B.

✔ B   informative

✖ A   insistent

Rationale

Choice (B) is correct. Throughout the passage, the author provides details about the first vending machines (where and when they were installed, what they sold, etc.) in order to inform the reader about these machines. Choice (A) is incorrect: the tone of the passage cannot be described as insistent, because the author is neither proving a point nor persuading the reader of anything. Choices (C) and (D) are incorrect: there is no indication that the author is disdainful of or amused by the topic of the passage. Rather, his or her tone is neutral and informative.

15. The answer is 'B.'