When we think of volcanoes, eruptions, lava, and smoke-filled air come to mind—all occurring on land. Most people are surprised to learn about the prevalence of underwater volcanoes on our planet. Because the lava and smoke spilling out of an active, underwater volcano is contained by the ocean, people generally do not take note of these eruptions. However, the largest underwater volcanoes are capable of creating huge tidal waves, threatening coastal communities.

**Rationale**

Choice (D) is correct. The main idea of the passage is that underwater volcanoes receive little attention but can be dangerous. The passage explains that while “people generally do not take note” of underwater eruptions because “the lava and smoke...is contained by the ocean,” such eruptions are dangerous because they are “capable of creating huge tidal waves, threatening coastal communities.” Choice (A) is incorrect because the passage highlights differences, not similarities, between traditional and underwater volcanoes. Choice (C) is incorrect: although the passage notes that the lava and smoke from underwater volcanoes is contained by the sea, that fact supports the larger point about what people notice—it is not the main idea. Choice (C) is incorrect because the passage does not indicate that most tidal waves are caused by underwater eruptions.

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**Question 2 of 15**

What is the main idea of this passage?

You selected answer B, the correct answer was C.

**Rationale**

Choice (C) is correct. The passage is concerned with the solving of a mystery. It explains that the 1934 “discovery of the Bornean rainbow toad” by “European explorers” was “thought to be a case of mistaken identity.” However, “scientists recently...[found] three specimens” of the

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http://apchemistry.middlebury.edu/ACCUPLACER/StudyApp-ClickerApp.html

Friday, December 20, 2014 10:09 AM
Billie Jean King, a professional women’s tennis player in the 1960s and 1970s, won 12 Grand Slam titles during her career, but is better known for a non-tournament match she played in 1973. She played against former men’s professional player Bobby Riggs in a “battle of the sexes” tennis match in front of more than 30,000 people and a huge TV audience. King quieted skeptics and scored a well-deserved victory for female athletes around the world, defeating the overconfident Riggs in three straight sets.

**Question 3 of 15**

The main idea of this passage is that Billie Jean King

You selected answer C, the correct answer was D.

- **Corrected**: defeated a male player in a famous match
- **Incorrect**: played better tennis after 1973 than before 1973

**Rationale**

Choice (D) is correct. The author’s main point is that Billie Jean King defeated a male player, Bobby Riggs, in a famous “battle of the sexes” match in 1973. He or she asserts that while King had a very successful career as a tennis player, her most memorable achievement is her “well-deserved victory” in the match with Riggs. The other choices are incorrect although it is clear that many people watched the “battle of the sexes” match on TV, the author does not address King’s general popularity with TV audiences, the author does note that King “won 12 Grand Slam titles,” but this detail is not the main focus of the passage; and the author does not address any change in King’s athletic performance after 1973.

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**Question 4 of 15**

As it is used in the passage, “Tame” is closest in meaning to

You selected answer C, the correct answer was C.

- **Corrected**: Mild

**Rationale**

Choice (C) is correct. The passage indicates that while Edison’s 1910 film version of Frankenstein was “considered shocking” in its time, the film is “tame,” or mild, by today’s standards. Choice (A) is incorrect: there is no indication in the passage that the author considers the film “boring,” or uninteresting. Choice (B) is incorrect: the author uses the word “tame” to refer to the fact that the film is not “shocking” by today’s standards, not to show that the film is familiar. Choice (D) is incorrect: one would likely refer to an animal, and not to a film, as being domesticated.
The main authors of The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution are usually thought of as America’s “Founding Fathers.” Other, less known personages also deserve the title, however, and Noah Webster was one of these. Through his writings, which include the still-influential dictionary that bears his name, Webster sought to legitimize an “American English” that was independent of British spelling and pronunciation. For instance, Webster removed the “ed” from “colour,” creating the distinct American version of the word.

Question 5 of 15

According to the passage, Noah Webster

Our bones grow continuously throughout our lives, with old bone cells dying and being discarded. However, for astronauts who are in space for a prolonged period, a lack of gravitational pull—which has a number of beneficial effects on the body, including supporting new bone growth—results in their bones adding less bone tissue to replace dying tissue. In fact, for every month in space, a person will lose 1.5 to 2% of his or her bone mass, with the hip bone and the lower leg bones most affected.

Question 6 of 15

The human body adds bone mass in order to
The professor stated that students who miss more than four class meetings would fail the course. The course syllabus indicated that a class period missed due to a documented illness would not reflect negatively on a student’s final grade.

Question 7 of 15

What does the second sentence do?

Rationale

Choice (A) is correct. The second sentence offers an exception to the rule stated in the first sentence (an exception is a case in which the rule does not apply). The first sentence states that students “would fail the course” if they “miss more than four class meetings”; however, the second sentence provides an exception to this rule: the fact that “a class period missed due to documented illness” will not affect a student’s grade. The other choices do not express the necessary relationship between the two sentences.

Last year’s increase in tuition and slowdown in building maintenance have negatively affected the university’s reputation. This year has seen an increase in the number of students applying for admission to the university.

Question 8 of 15

What does the second sentence do?

Rationale

Choice (C) is correct. The second sentence states that there has been “an increase in the number of students applying... to the university.” This challenges the claim made in the first sentence that “the university’s reputation” was “negatively affected” by “Last year’s increase in tuition” and the “slowdown in building maintenance”: indeed, if the university’s reputation had been negatively affected by these factors, it is likely that a decline in applicants, and not an increase, would have resulted. Choice (B) logically indicates that the increase in the number of applicants solved a “problem,” when in fact the increase suggests that the so-called problem may never have existed. Choices (A) and (D) improperly suggest a causal relationship between the two sentences.
Many tenants at the monthly meeting voted against the proposal to allocate funds for the renovation of the building's fitness center. According to last year's records, less than five percent of the tenants in the building regularly used the fitness center.

Question 9 of 15

What does the second sentence do?

You selected answer C, the correct answer was B.

- B: It suggests a possible cause for the action described in the first.
- C: It states a fact, while the first offers an opinion.

Rationale

Choice (B) is correct. The second sentence states that "less than five percent of the tenants" used the building's fitness center last year. It makes sense to say, then, that the second sentence offers a possible cause for the action described in the first. Because many tenants have not been regular users of the building's fitness center, those tenants would likely vote against setting aside money to renovate the fitness center. The other choices do not express the necessary relationship between the two sentences.

Friday, December 12, 2014 11:38 AM

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 10 of 15

The passage implies that the Schistocerca gregaria does its greatest damage by

- consuming other species' food supplies

Rationale

Choice (D) is correct. The passage states that the desert locust causes damage by "consuming its body weight in food each day," which can be "catastrophic" to food supplies "when millions of locusts swarm into an area," implying that the locust does its greatest damage by consuming the food supplies of other species (including humans). Choice (A) is incorrect: while the passage mentions locusts destroying vegetation by devouring it, there is no mention of locusts destroying infrastructure. Choices (B) and (C) are incorrect: the passage does not mention locusts either spreading disease or attacking other insects.
Our bones grow continuously throughout our lives, with old bone cells dying and being discarded. However, for astronauts who are in space for a prolonged period, a lack of gravitational pull—which has a number of beneficial effects on the body, including supporting new bone growth—results in their bones adding less bone tissue to replace dying tissue. In fact, for every month in space, a person will lose 1.5 to 2% of his or her bone mass, with the hip bone and the lower leg bones most affected.

**Question 11 of 15**

It can be inferred from the passage that

Rationale

Choice (C) is correct. The passage explains that a lack of gravitational pull causes bone growth to slow down. And notes that the hip bone and the lower leg bones “are most affected.” This suggests that, under normal circumstances, the lower body—the legs and hips—experiences more bone growth than the upper body. Thus, the lower body is most affected by the slowing of bone growth. The other choices are incorrect. There is no

When we think of volcanoes, eruptions, lava, and smoke-filled air coming to mind—all occurring on land. Most people are surprised to learn about the prevalence of underwater volcanoes on our planet. Because the lava and smoke spilling out of an active, underwater volcano is contained by the ocean, people generally do not take note of these eruptions. However, the largest underwater volcanoes are capable of creating huge tidal waves, threatening coastal communities.

**Question 12 of 15**

The passage implies that most people

Rationale

Choice (B) is correct. The passage points out that people generally do not take note of underwater eruptions, even though some underwater volcanoes are capable of... threatening coastal communities. Taken together, these points imply that people generally are not sufficiently aware of the existence and activity of underwater volcanoes. The other choices are incorrect: there is no indication that people do not want to learn about underwater volcanoes, or that most people do not live in coastal areas. Also, although the passage suggests that most people know what a traditional volcano’s eruption looks like, there is no suggestion that most people have or have not seen such an eruption first-hand.
The main authors of The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution are usually thought of as America’s “Founding Fathers.” Other, less known personages also deserve the title, however, and Noah Webster was one of these. Through his writings, which include the still-influential dictionary that bears his name, Webster sought to legitimize an “American English” that was independent of British spelling and pronunciation. For instance, Webster removed the “u” from “colour,” creating the distinct American version of the word.

Question 13 of 15

What is the main purpose of this passage?

You selected answer C, the correct answer was B.

✓ B To present information about an important American

✗ C To define and explain “American English”

Rationale

Choice (B) is correct. The passage mainly discusses Noah Webster and why Webster deserves the title of “Founding Father,” citing Webster’s dictionary and his attempt to “legitimize an ‘American English.’” Choice (B) is incorrect: though the passage mentions the title “Founding Father” and discusses a person deserving of that title, the passage offers no specific praise of the Founding Fathers. Choices (C) and (D) are incorrect: while the passage mentions Webster’s attempt “to legitimize an ‘American English’” and to create an American English dictionary, neither of these points is the main focus of the passage.

Billie Jean King, a professional women’s tennis player in the 1960s and 1970s, won 12 Grand Slam titles during her career, but is better known for a non-tournament match she played in 1973. She played against former men’s professional player Bobby Riggs in a “battle of the sexes” tennis match in front of more than 30,000 people and a huge TV audience. King quieted skeptics and scored a well-deserved victory for female athletes around the world, defeating the overconfident Riggs in three straight sets.

Question 14 of 15

Which word best describes the author’s attitude towards King’s victory over Riggs?

You selected answer D, the correct answer was A.

✓ A Admiring

✗ D Awed

Rationale

Choice (A) is correct. The author’s attitude is best described as admiring. He or she notes that Billie Jean King, a talented professional women’s tennis player, is best known for her match with Bobby Riggs, and describes her success as “a well-deserved victory for female athletes around the world.” Clearly, the author admires and approves of King’s victory over Riggs. The other choices are incorrect: the author certainly is not disbelieving, or doubtful, nor is he or she indifferent, or uninterested. Also, although the author thinks highly of King’s victory, he or she does not seem to be awed, or filled with wonder and reverence.
Pearl S. Buck, the Nobel- and Pulitzer Prize-winning author, achieved such fame that she was memorialized by the United States Postal Service with a postage stamp bearing her image. But Buck was by no means a traditional American writer; in fact, she lived over half of her life in China and wrote primarily about Chinese life in her works of fiction. Her best-known work, *The Good Earth*, published in 1931, is about a Chinese peasant family.

You selected answer A, the correct answer was D.

- **D** To discuss a famous American writer’s accomplishments
- **A** To analyze fiction written by Americans living overseas

**Rationale**

Choice (D) is correct. The main purpose of the passage is to discuss the accomplishments of Pearl S. Buck, a famous American writer. The passage explains that Buck wrote fiction, mostly “about Chinese life,” and earned fame and awards (such as the Nobel Prize and Pulitzer Prize) for her work. The other choices are incorrect: the author does not analyze fiction by multiple writers or inform Americans about life in China. And although the author notes that *The Good Earth* “is about a Chinese peasant family,” he or she does not summarize the plot of the work.