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ASVAB Section 8: Paragraph comprehension



Question: 143

Due process, the guarantee of fairness in the administration of justice, is part of the 5th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The 14th Amendment further requires states to abide by due process. After this amendment was enacted, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down many state laws that infringed on the civil rights guaranteed to citizens in the Bill of Rights.

According to the above passage, it's reasonable to assume that the 5th Amendment _____.

- A. is about taxes**
- B. guarantees due process in all criminal and civil cases**
- C. guarantees due process in federal law**
- D. should never have become part of the Bill of Rights**

Answer: C

Because the 14th Amendment guarantees due process in states' laws, the 5th Amendment must guarantee due process only in federal law. Nothing in the passage implies that the 5th Amendment is about taxes, so Choice "is about taxes" is wrong.

Because the passage states that the 14th Amendment had to be enacted to require states to abide by due process, Choice "guarantees due process in all criminal and civil cases" is incorrect. Choice "should never have become part of the Bill of Rights" is neither stated nor implied in the passage.

Question: 144

High-school and college graduates attempting to find jobs should participate in mock job interviews. These mock interviews help students prepare for the types of questions they'll be asked, make them more comfortable with common interview formats, and help them critique their performance before facing a real interviewer. Because they're such a valuable aid, schools should organize mock job interviews for all of their graduating students.

The above passage states that mock job interviews _____.

- A. frighten students**
- B. should be offered to the best students**
- C. help prepare students for real job interviews**
- D. should be organized by students**

Answer: C

The passage doesn't say anything about mock job interviews being frightening, so Choice "frighten students" is wrong.

The passage says that mock job interviews should be available to all students, so Choice "should be offered to the best students" is wrong. The passage says that schools, not students, should organize mock interviews, so Choice "should be organized by students" is incorrect.

Question: 145

High-school and college graduates attempting to find jobs should participate in mock job interviews. These mock interviews help students prepare for the types of questions they'll be asked, make them more comfortable with common interview formats, and help them critique their performance before facing a real interviewer. Because they're such a valuable aid, schools should organize mock job interviews for all of their graduating students.

From the above passage, it is reasonable to assume that _____.

- A. mock interviews can increase a student's confidence when he or she goes into a real job interview**
- B. mock interviews are expensive to organize**
- C. few students are interested in mock interviews**
- D. students don't need job interview preparation**

Answer: A

Choices "mock interviews are expensive to organize", "few students are interested in mock interviews", "students don't need job interview preparation" are the opposite of what the paragraph states and implies.

Question: 146

I returned from the City about three o'clock on that May afternoon pretty well disgusted with life. I had been three months in the Old Country and was fed up with it. If people had told me a year ago that I would've been feeling like that I should've laughed at them; but there was the fact. The weather made me liverish, the talk of the ordinary Englishman made me sick, I couldn't get enough exercise, and the amusements of London seemed as flat as soda water that had been standing in the sun.

The author is speaking of his travels in _____.

A. Spain

B. Great Britain

C. Germany

D. Scotland

Answer: B

The words *London* and *Englishmen* make it clear that the author is speaking of his travels in England (Great Britain).

Question: 147

Surveys show that the average child under the age of 18 watches four hours of television per day. Although some of the programming may be educational, most isn't. Spending this much time watching television interferes with a child's ability to pursue other interests, such as reading, participating in sports, and playing with friends.

The author of this passage would agree that _____.

A. television viewing should be restricted

B. parents who let their children watch this much television is neglectful

C. reading, participating in sports, playing with friends, and watching television should all be given equal time

D. adults over 18 can watch as much television as they want

Answer: A

The author makes no reference to parents in the passage, so Choice "parents who let their children watch this much television is neglectful" is incorrect.

The author doesn't imply anything about all these interests requiring equal time, so Choice "reading, participating in sports, playing with friends, and watching television should all be given equal time" is incorrect. The passage is about children under 18; no conclusion can be drawn about what the author thinks people over 18 should do, so Choice "adults over 18 can watch as much television as they want" is incorrect.

Question: 148

To write or not to write – that is the question. If assigned a writing task, there's no option. However, if someone is looking for a specific answer, find out if they need a short answer or a detailed one. Can the requirement be met with a telephone call, e-mail, or short note, or is something more necessary? A former CEO of a major corporation once commented that he had looked at 13,000 pieces of paper in a 5-day period. Think how much easier and more economical it would be if people would use the telephone, send an e-mail, or write a short note.

The main point of this passage is _____.

A. Written records are important as they provide detailed documentation.

B. More business people should invest time and energy improving their writing skills.

- C. Writing may not be the best way to communicate information.**
D. It's pointless for business people to spend time improving their writing skills.

Answer: C

Choices "Written records are important as they provide detailed documentation." and "More business people should invest time and energy improving their writing skills." may be true in certain situations, but they're not the point of this particular paragraph.

The passage doesn't say anything about working to improve writing skills being a waste of time, so Choice "It's pointless for business people to spend time improving their writing skills" is incorrect. The main point of the paragraph is that writing may not be the most efficient way of communicating, depending on the situation.

Question: 149

The transistor, a small, solid-state device that can amplify sound, was invented in 1947. At first, it was too expensive and too difficult to produce to be used in cheap, mass-market products. By 1954, though, these cost and production problems had been overcome, and the first transistor radio was put on the market.

According to this passage, _____.

- A. there was no market for transistors before 1954**
B. when transistors could be produced cheaply and easily, the transistor radio was put on the market
C. transistors were invented in 1947 by order of the Department of Defense
D. transistors are still expensive to produce

Answer: B

Products with transistors weren't widely sold before 1954 because of the expense and difficulty of production, not because markets didn't exist; so Choice "there was no market for transistors before 1954" is incorrect. Choices "transistors were invented in 1947 by order of the Department of Defense" and "transistors are still expensive to produce" aren't supported in the passage. The passage states that the problem of transistors being expensive and difficult to produce was solved by 1954.

Question: 150

The success or failure of a conference lies largely with its leader. A leader's zest and enthusiasm must be real, apparent, and contagious. The leader is responsible for getting the ball rolling and making the attendees feel as if the meeting is theirs and its success depends on their participation. A good, thorough introduction helps establish the right climate.

A good title to this paragraph would be _____.

- A. Lead by Example**
B. The Importance of Proper Introductions
C. Leading a Successful Conference
D. Conference Participation Basics

Answer: C

Choice "Lead by Example" is always a good philosophy but isn't pertinent to the main point of the passage. Choices "The Importance of Proper Introductions" and "Conference Participation Basics" are subpoints, which support the main point of the passage, which is how to lead a successful conference.

Question: 151

Cloud seeding is accomplished by dropping particles of dry ice (solid carbon dioxide) from a plane onto super-cooled clouds. This process encourages condensation of water droplets in the clouds, which usually, but not always, results in rain or snow.

From this passage, it's reasonable to assume that _____.

- A. cloud seeding could be used to end a drought**
- B. cloud seeding is prohibitively expensive**
- C. cloud seeding is rarely used**
- D. cloud seeding can be accomplished by using regular ice**

Answer: A

One can assume that causing rain or snow would end a drought. Nothing in the passage has to do with expense, so Choice "cloud seeding is prohibitively expensive" is incorrect.

The passage says nothing about how frequently the process is used, so Choice "cloud seeding is rarely used" is incorrect.

The passage specifies that dry ice (solid carbon dioxide) is used; solid water (regular ice) is a different chemical, so Choice "cloud seeding can be accomplished by using regular ice" is wrong.

Question: 152

Indo-European languages consist of those languages spoken by most of Europe and in those parts of the world that Europeans have colonized since the 16th century (such as the United States). Indo-European languages are also spoken in India, Iran, parts of western Afghanistan, and in some areas of Asia. The author of this passage would agree that _____.

- A. Indo-European languages are spoken in areas all over the world**
- B. Indo-European languages include all the languages spoken in the world**
- C. only Europeans speak Indo-European languages**
- D. Indo-European language speakers can easily understand one another**

Answer: A

Many languages are excluded from the Indo-European language group, so Choice "Indo-European languages include all the languages spoken in the world" is incorrect.

Indians, Iranians, Asians, and Afghans aren't Europeans, so Choice "only Europeans speak Indo-European languages" is incorrect.

The passage gives no evidence to support Choice "Indo-European language speakers can easily understand one another", which isn't true.

Question: 153

In privatization, the government relies on the private sector to provide a service. However, the government divests itself of the entire process, including all assets. With privatized functions, the government may specify quality, quantity, and timeliness requirements, but it has no control over the operations of the activity. Also, the government may not be the only customer. Whoever the government chooses to provide the services would likely provide the same services to others.

This paragraph best supports the statement that _____.

- A. the government must closely supervise privatized functions**
- B. privatized functions consist of a mixture of government employees, military personnel, and private contractors**
- C. privatized functions are those institutions that provide services only to a government agency**
- D. privatized functions provide essential services to the government**

Answer: D

Privatized functions operate independently of the government, making Choices "the government must closely supervise privatized functions" and "privatized functions consist of a mixture of government employees, military personnel, and private contractors" incorrect.

The passage states that privatized functions may sell goods and services to other customers as well as the

government, so Choice "privatized functions are those institutions that provide services only to a government agency" is also incorrect.

Choice "privatized functions provide essential services to the government" is the correct answer, as privatized functions do perform essential services to government agencies.

Question: 154

An important stage of personal time management is to take control of appointments. Determined by external obligation, appointments constitute interaction with other people and an agreed-on interface between your activities and those of others. Start with a simple appointment diary. List all appointments including regular and recurring ones. Now, be ruthless and eliminate the unnecessary. There may be committees where you can't productively contribute or where a subordinate may be able to participate. Eliminate the waste of your time.

Effectively managing your appointments allows you to _____.

- A. spend more time with your subordinates**
- B. delegate responsibility to subordinates**
- C. make more efficient use of your time**
- D. attend only the most important meetings**

Answer: C

Effective appointment management eliminates the waste of your time, as explained in the last sentence of the passage.

Question: 155

The U.S. Congress consists of 100 senators and 435 representatives. Two senators are elected from each state. The number of representatives from each state is based on population, although each state has at least one representative. Senators serve six-year terms and representatives serve two-year terms.

According to this passage, _____.

- A. there are an equal number of senators and representatives**
- B. the number of representatives from each state is decided by a lottery**
- C. it's possible for a state to have no representatives**
- D. senators and representatives have different term lengths**

Answer: D

The passage gives the numbers of senators and representatives, so Choice "there are an equal number of senators and representatives" is incorrect.

The passage states that each state's population determines the number of representatives a state has, so Choice "the number of representatives from each state is decided by a lottery" is incorrect. As stated in the passage, each state has at least one representative, so Choice "it's possible for a state to have no representatives" is incorrect.



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