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Topic Break Down

Topic	No. of Questions
Topic 1, Reading Comprehension	120
Topic 2, Sentence Correction	157
Topic 3, Math	150
Total	427

QUESTION NO: 1

Always read the meter dials from the right to the left. This procedure is much easier, especially if any of the dial hands are near the zero mark. If the meter has two dials, and one is smaller than the other, it is not imperative to read the smaller dial since it only registers a small amount. Read the dial at the right first. As the dial turns clockwise, always record the figure the pointer has just passed. Read the next dial to the left and record the figure it has just passed. Continue recording the figures on the dials from right to left. When finished, mark off the number of units recorded. Dials on water and gas meters usually indicate the amount each dial records.

As you read the first dial, record the figures

- A. on the smaller dial
- B. the pointer is approaching
- C. the pointer has just passed
- D. at the top
- E. at the bottom

ANSWER: C**QUESTION NO: 2**

Select the answer choice that either contains an error, or select choice E, which is "No error."

Dancing to unanimous (A)acclaim in (B)The United States and (C)Europe, she (D)was known for her interpretation of Stranvinsky's Firebird. (E)No error.

- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D
- E. E

ANSWER: B**Explanation:**

"United States" is capitalized, but the article "the" before it should not be capitalized, as it is not part of the name.

QUESTION NO: 3

Select the answer choice that either contains an error, or select choice E, which is “No error.”

Bolivar, an idol (A)between his (B)contemporaries, (C)has been the inspiration for many modern (D)revolutions. (E)No error.

- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D
- E. E

ANSWER: A**Explanation:**

“Between” only refers to two, e.g. “Between you and me;” when modifying more than two, as here since “his contemporaries” refers to many people, “among” is the correct preposition.

QUESTION NO: 4

The Trojan War is one of the most famous wars in history. It is well known for the ten-year duration, for the heroism of a number of legendary characters, and for the Trojan horse. What may not be familiar, however, is the story of how the war began.

According to Greek myth, the strife between the Trojans and the Greeks started at the wedding of Peleus, King of Thessaly, and Thetis, a sea nymph. All of the gods and goddesses had been invited to the wedding celebration in Troy except Eris, goddesses of discord. She had been omitted from the guest list because her presence always embroiled mortals and immortals alike in conflict.

To take revenge on those who had slighted her, Eris decided to cause a skirmish. Into the middle of the banquet hall, she threw a golden apple marked “for the most beautiful.” All of the goddesses began to haggle over who should possess it. The gods and goddesses reached a stalemate when the choice was narrowed to Hera, Athena, and Aphrodite. Someone was needed to settle the controversy by picking a winner. The job eventually fell to Paris, son of King Priam of Troy, who was said to be a good judge of beauty.

Paris did not have an easy job. Each goddess, eager to win the golden apple, tried aggressively to bribe him.

“I’ll grant you vast kingdoms to rule,” promised Hera. “Vast kingdoms are nothing in comparison with my gift,” contradicted Athena. “Choose me and I’ll see that you win victory and fame in war.” Aphrodite outdid her adversaries, however. She won the golden apple by offering Helen, Zeus’ daughter and the most beautiful mortal, to Paris. Paris, anxious to claim Helen, set off for Sparta in Greece.

Although Paris learned that Helen was married, he accepted the hospitality of her husband, King Menelasu of Sparta, anyway. Therefore, Menelaus was outraged for a number of reasons when Paris departed, taking Helen and much of the king’s wealth back to Troy. Menelaus collected his loyal forces and set sail for Troy to begin the war to reclaim Helen.

Athena ___ Hera, promising Paris victory and fame in war.

- A. denied the statement of

- B. defeated
- C. agreed with
- D. restated the statement
- E. questioned the statement

ANSWER: A

QUESTION NO: 5

Select the answer choice that either contains an error, or select choice E, which is “No error.”

(A)Today the(B)talent committee (C)will audition Joe, Steve, and (D)myself. (E)No error.

- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D
- E. E

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

The correct personal pronoun here should be “me” as a direct object rather than “myself.” The latter is a special object (direct or indirect), used only reflexively, i.e. “I introduced myself to the class.” The committee cannot audition “myself.” Only I can audition myself; you can audition yourself; they can audition themselves, etc.

QUESTION NO: 6

“Old woman,” grumbled the burly white man who had just heard Sojourner Truth speak, “do you think your talk about slavery does any good? I don’t care any more for your talk than I do for the bite of a flea.”

The tall, imposing black woman turned her piercing eyes on him. “Perhaps not,” she answered, “but I’ll keep you scratching.”

The little incident of the 1840s sums up all that Sojourner Truth was: utterly dedicated to spreading her message, afraid of no one, forceful and witty in speech.

Yet forty years earlier, who could have suspected that a spindly slave girl growing up in a damp cellar in upstate New York would become one of the most remarkable women in American history? Her name then was Isabella (many slaves had no last names), and by the time she was fourteen she had seen both parents die of cold and hunger. She herself had been sold several times. By 1827, when New York freed its slaves, she had married and borne five children.

The first hint of Isabella's fighting spirit came soon afterwards, when her youngest son was illegally seized and sold. She marched to the courthouse and badgered officials until her son was returned to her.

In 1843, inspired by religion, she changed her name to Sojourner (meaning "one who stays briefly") Truth, and, with only pennies in her purse, set out to preach against slavery. From New England to Minnesota she trekked, gaining a reputation for her plain but powerful and moving words. Incredibly, despite being black and female (only white males were expected to be public speakers), she drew thousands to town halls, tents, and churches to hear her powerful, deep-voiced pleas on equality for blacks-and for women. Often she had to face threatening hoodlums. Once she stood before armed bullies and sang a hymn to them. Awed by her courage and her commanding presence, they sheepishly retreated.

During the Civil War she cared for homeless ex-slaves in Washington. President Lincoln invited her to the White House to bestow praise on her. Later, she petitioned Congress to help former slaves get land in the West. Even in her old age, she forced the city of Washington to integrate its trolley cars so that black and white could ride together.

Shortly before her death at eighty-six, she was asked what kept her going. "I think of the great things," replied Sojourner.

She preached against

- A. smoking
- B. slavery
- C. alcohol
- D. hoodlums
- E. women having no rights

ANSWER: B

QUESTION NO: 7

Select the answer choice that either contains an error, or select choice E, which is "No error."

Talking with my (A)grandfather about World War II (B)effected me more (C)than I (D)thought it would have. (E)No error.

- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D
- E. E

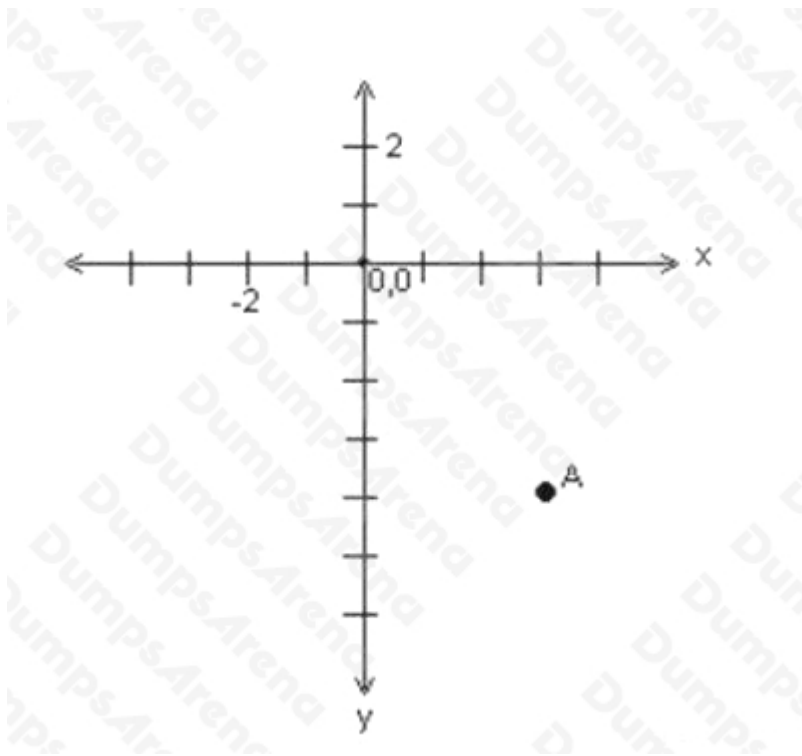
ANSWER: B

Explanation:

The correct spelling is "affected," meaning to influence or have an impact on. "Effected" means caused or accomplished, e.g. "Our conversation effected a change."

QUESTION NO: 8

What are the coordinates of point A on the following graph?



- A. (-3, -4)
- B. (-4, 3)
- C. (3, -4)
- D. (-4, -3)
- E. (3, 4)

ANSWER: C

QUESTION NO: 9

Every year since 1986, some of the world's most daring runners have gathered in the desert of Morocco. They are there to take part in one of the most difficult races in the world. The Marathon of the Sands, as it is called, covers over 125 miles of desert and mountain wilderness. The runners complete the course in fewer than seven days, and they run with their food, clothing, and sleeping bags on their backs.

The Marathon of the Sands was founded in 1986 by Patrick Bauer. His idea was to give the runners, who come from all over the world, a special kind of adventure. Most of the runners in this race have found that they form deep friendships with the other runners during their days and nights in the desert. Facing terrible heat and complete exhaustion, they learn much about themselves and each other.

For most of the runners, though, the challenge of the race is the main reason for coming. On the first day, for example, they run fifteen miles across a desert of sand, rocks, and thorny bushes. Few runners finish the day without blistered and raw feet. They also suffer from a lack of water. (They are allowed less than nine quarts of water during each day of the race.) Most of all, they are exhausted when they arrive at the campsite for the night.

The second day, the runners are up at 6:00

A. M. Within a few hours, it is 100 degrees F, but the runners do not hesitate. They must cover eighteen miles that day. That night, they rest. They must be ready for the next day's run.

On the third day, the runners must climb giant sand dunes- the first they have faced. Dust and sand mix with the runners' sweat. Soon their faces are caked with mud. After fifteen miles of these conditions, the runners finally reach their next camp. The race continues like this for four more days. The fourth and fifth days are the worst. On the fourth day, the runners pass through a level stretch and a beautiful, tree-filled oasis, but then, on this and on the next day, they cross more than twenty-one miles of rocks and sand dunes. The temperature soars to 125 degrees F, and many runners cannot make it. Helicopters rush fallen runners to medical help. Runners who make it to the end of the fifth day know that the worst is over.

On the sixth day, heat and rocks punish the racers terribly. In the Valley of Dra, the wind picks up and, as the desert heat is thrust against them with great force, they grow more and more exhausted.

The seventh day is the last, with only twelve miles to be covered. The dusty, tired, blistered runners set out at daybreak.

Near the finish line, children race along with the runners, for everybody has caught the excitement. The ones who have run the whole marathon know they have accomplished what most people could not even dream of. "During the hard moments," says one contestant who has raced here twice, "I'd think, 'Why am I here?' Then I'd realize I was there to find my limits."

What is the main idea of this passage?

The Marathon of the Sands race tests the limits of human endurance.

- B. The runners run at their own pace.
- C. The race causes the strong to stumble and the weak to not finish.
- D. The seventh day is the hardest day of the race.
- E. Every runner runs the race to find their human limits.

ANSWER: A

QUESTION NO: 10

Read the following sentence and select the choice that best replaces the underlined section.

Still, the fact that a planet exists outside our solar system encourages hope that other solar systems exist, and in them, perhaps, a planet that does support life.

- A. that a planet exists outside our solar system encourages hope that other solar systems exist, and
- B. that a Planet exists out side our solar system encourages hope that other solar systems exist and
- C. could be that a planet exists outside our solar system encourages hope that other solar systems exist, and
- D. that a planet exist outside our solar systems encourage hope that other solar systems exist, and
- E. that a planet does exists out side our solar system encourages hope that other solar systems exist, and

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

“A planet” is not a name, hence not capitalized; a comma should separate the independent clause from the following phrase; “outside” is one word. Adding “could be” changes the meaning and is also ungrammatical, creating two unconnected predicates “...the fact could be...encourages...” requiring “, which” before “encourages” or changing “encourages” to “, encouraging...” “Fact” and “planet” are both singular nouns; “exist” and “encourage” belong with plural nouns. The words “...does exists...” should be “...does exist”.

QUESTION NO: 11

Of the many kinds of vegetables grown all over the world, which remains the favorite of young and old alike? Why, the potato, of course.

Perhaps you know them as “taters,” “spuds,” or “Kennebees,” or as “chips,” “Idahoese,” or even “shoestrings.” No matter, a potato by any other name is still a potato- the world’s most widely grown vegetable. As a matter of fact, if you are an average potato eater, you will put away at least a hundred pounds of them each year.

That’s only a tiny portion of the amount grown every year, however. Worldwide, the annual potato harvest is over six billion bags- each bag containing a hundred pounds of spuds, some of them as large as four pounds each. Here in the United States, farmers fill about four hundred million bags a year. That may seem like a lot of “taters,” but it leaves us a distant third among world potato growers. Polish farmers dig up just over 800 million bags a year, while the Russians lead the world with nearly 1.5 billion bags.

The first potatoes were grown by the Incas of South America, more than four hundred years ago. Their descendants in Ecuador and Chile continue to grow the vegetable as high as fourteen thousand feet up in the Andes Mountains. (That’s higher than any other food will grow.) Early Spanish and English explorers shipped potatoes to Europe, and they found their way to North America in the early 1600s.

People eat potatoes in many ways-baked, mashed, and roasted, to name just three. However, in the United States most potatoes are devoured in the form of French fries. One fast-food chain alone sells more than \$1 billion worth of fries each year. No wonder, then, that the company pays particular attention to the way its fries are prepared.

Before any fry makes it to the people who eat at these popular restaurants, it must pass many separate tests. Fail any one and the spud is rejected. To start with, only russet Burbank potatoes are used. These Idaho potatoes have less water content than other kinds, which can have as much as eighty percent water. Once cut into “shoestrings” shapes, the potatoes are partly fried in a secret blend of oils, sprayed with liquid sugar to brown them, steam dried at high heat, then flash frozen for shipment to individual restaurants.

Before shipping, though, every shoestring is measured. Forty percent of a batch must be between two and three inches long. Another forty percent has to be over three inches. What about the twenty percent that are left in the batch? Well, a few short fries in a bag are okay, it seems.

So, now that you realize the enormous size and value of the potato crop, you can understand why most people agree that this part of the food industry is no “small potatoes.”

What is the main idea of this passage?

- A. Potatoes from Ireland started the Potato Revolution.
- B. The average American eats 50 lbs of potatoes a year.
- C. French fries are made from potatoes.
- D. Potatoes are a key vegetable in America.

E. The various terms for potatoes have a long history.

ANSWER: D

QUESTION NO: 12

Select the answer choice that either contains an error, or select choice E, which is "No error."

Needing a (A)sustained wind for (B)flight, the albatross (C)rarely crosses the (D)equator. (E)No error.

- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D
- E. E

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

"Equator" is a name, i.e. a proper noun, and therefore, it should be capitalized.

QUESTION NO: 13

When using a metal file, always remember to bear down on the forward stroke only. On the return stroke, lift the file clear of the surface to avoid dulling the instrument's teeth. Only when working on very soft metals is it advisable to drag the file's teeth slightly on the return stroke. This helps clear out metal pieces from between the teeth.

It is best to bear down just hard enough to keep the file cutting at all times. Too little pressure uses only the tips of the teeth; too much pressure can chip the teeth. Move the file in straight lines across the surface. Use a vice to grip the work so that your hands are free to hold the file. Protect your hands by equipping the file with a handle. Buy a wooden handle and install it by inserting the pointed end of the file into the handle hole.

Protect your hands by

- A. dulling the teeth
- B. dragging the teeth on the backstroke
- C. using a vise
- D. installing a handle
- E. wearing safety gloves

ANSWER: D**QUESTION NO: 14**

Read the following sentence and select the choice that best replaces the underlined section.

The book lay open at page 77.

- A. lay open
- B. laid open
- C. lied open
- D. lain open
- E. was laid open

ANSWER: A**Explanation:**

“Lay” is past tense of intransitive “lie”, meaning rested/was situated. “Laid” is only transitive, e.g. “I laid the book open.” “Lied” is only past tense of “lie,” meaning deceive/prevaricate/fib. The book could have “lied” by containing false information, but not “lied open.” Past perfect “lain” would only be correct with an auxiliary verb, e.g. “The book has lain open all day.” Passive voice “was laid” changes the meaning.

QUESTION NO: 15

In the sixteenth century, an age of great marine and terrestrial exploration, Ferdinand Magellan led the first expedition to sail around the world. As a young Portuguese noble, he served the king of Portugal, but he became involved in the quagmire of political intrigue at court and lost the king's favor. After he was dismissed from service to the king of Portugal, he offered to serve the future Emperor Charles V of Spain.

A papal decree of 1493 had assigned all land in the New World west of 50 degrees W longitude to Spain and all the land east of that line to Portugal. Magellan offered to prove that the East Indies fell under Spanish authority. On September 20, 1519, Magellan set sail from Spain with five ships. More than a year later, one of these ships was exploring the topography of South America in search of a water route across the continent. This ship sank, but the remaining four ships searched along the southern peninsula of South America. Finally they found the passage they sought near a latitude of 50 degrees S. Magellan named this passage the Strait of All Saints, but today we know it as the Strait of Magellan.

One ship deserted while in this passage and returned to Spain, so fewer sailors were privileged to gaze at that first panorama of the Pacific Ocean. Those who remained crossed the meridian we now call the International Date Line in the early spring of 1521 after ninety-eight days on the Pacific Ocean. During those long days at sea, many of Magellan's men died of starvation and disease.

Later Magellan became involved in an insular conflict in the Philippines and was killed in a tribal battle. Only one ship and seventeen sailors under the command of the Basque navigator Elcano survived to complete the westward journey to Spain and thus prove once and for all that the world is round, with no precipice at the edge.

Four of the ships sought a passage along a southern ____.

- A. coast
- B. inland
- C. body of land with water on three sides
- D. border
- E. answer not available

ANSWER: C

QUESTION NO: 16

Mount Vesuvius, a volcano located between the ancient Italian cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum, has received much attention because of its frequent and destructive eruptions. The most famous of these eruptions occurred in

- A.
- D. 79.

The volcano had been inactive for centuries. There was little warning of the coming eruption, although one account unearthed by archaeologists says that a hard rain and a strong wind had disturbed the celestial calm during the preceding night. Early the next morning, the volcano poured a huge river of molten rock down upon Herculaneum, completely burying the city and filling in the harbor with coagulated lava.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the mountain, cinders, stone and ash rained down on Pompeii. Sparks from the burning ash ignited the combustible rooftops quickly. Large portions of the city were destroyed in the conflagration. Fire, however, was not the only cause of destruction. Poisonous sulphuric gases saturated the air. These heavy gases were not buoyant in the atmosphere and therefore sank toward the earth and suffocated people.

Over the years, excavations of Pompeii and Herculaneum have revealed a great deal about the behavior of the volcano. By analyzing data, much as a zoologist dissects a specimen animal, scientist have concluded that the eruption changed large portions of the area's geography. For instance, it turned the Sarno River from its course and raised the level of the beach along the Bay of Naples. Meteorologists studying these events have also concluded that Vesuvius caused a huge tidal wave that affected the world's climate.

In addition to making these investigations, archaeologists have been able to study the skeletons of victims by using distilled water to wash away the volcanic ash. By strengthening the brittle bones with acrylic paint, scientists have been able to examine the skeletons and draw conclusions about the diet and habits of the residents. Finally, the excavations at both Pompeii and Herculaneum have yielded many examples of classical art, such as jewelry made of bronze, which is an alloy of copper and tin.

The eruption of Mount Vesuvius and its tragic consequences have provided us with a wealth of data about the effects that volcanoes can have on the surrounding area. Today volcanologists can locate and predict eruptions, saving lives and preventing the destruction of cities and cultures.

Herculaneum and its harbor were buried under ____ lava.

- A. liquid
- B. solid
- C. flowing

D. 79.

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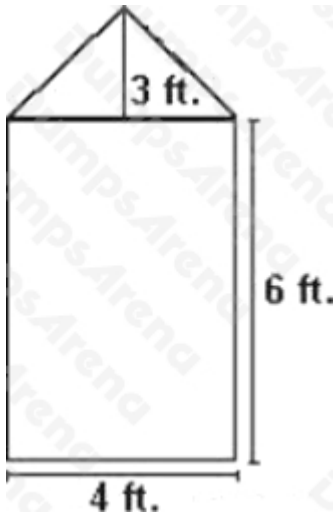
Herculaneum and its harbor were buried under ___ lava.
gas

E. answer not available

ANSWER: B

QUESTION NO: 17

Use the diagram below to answer the question that follows.



A window is rectangular with a triangular top section. What is the total area of glass needed for the window?

- A. 24 square feet
- B. 30 square feet
- C. 36 square feet
- D. 48 square feet

ANSWER: B

QUESTION NO: 18

Marie Curie was one of the most accomplished scientists in history. Together with her husband, Pierre, she discovered radium, an element widely used for treating cancer, and studied uranium and other radioactive substances. Pierre and Marie's amicable collaboration later helped to unlock the secrets of the atom.

Marie was born in 1867 in Warsaw, Poland, where her father was a professor of physics. At the early age, she displayed a brilliant mind and a blithe personality. Her great exuberance for learning prompted her to continue with her studies after high school. She became disgruntled, however, when she learned that the university in Warsaw was closed to women. Determined to receive a higher education, she defiantly left Poland and in 1891 entered the Sorbonne, a French university, where she earned her master's degree and doctorate in physics.

Marie was fortunate to have studied at the Sorbonne with some of the greatest scientists of her day, one of whom was Pierre Curie. Marie and Pierre were married in 1895 and spent many productive years working together in the physics laboratory. A short time after they discovered radium, Pierre was killed by a horse-drawn wagon in 1906. Marie was stunned by this horrible misfortune and endured heartbreaking anguish. Despondently she recalled their close relationship and the joy that they had shared in scientific research. The fact that she had two young daughters to raise by herself greatly increased her distress.

Curie's feeling of desolation finally began to fade when she was asked to succeed her husband as a physics professor at the Sorbonne. She was the first woman to be given a professorship at the worldfamous university. In 1911 she received the Nobel Prize in chemistry for isolating radium. Although Marie Curie eventually suffered a fatal illness from her long exposure to radium, she never became disillusioned about her work. Regardless of the consequences, she had dedicated herself to science and to revealing the mysteries of the physical world.

Marie ___ by leaving Poland and traveling to France to enter the Sorbonne.

- A. challenged authority
- B. showed intelligence
- C. behaved
- D. was distressed
- E. answer not available in article

ANSWER: A

QUESTION NO: 19

Select the answer choice that either contains an error, or select choice E, which is "No error." (A)Put the ingredients (B)altogether in a bowl (C)when you (D)make the cake. (E)No error.

- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D
- E. E

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

The correct adverb to modify the verb "put" here is "together." "Altogether" has a different meaning, i.e. entirely, totally, or on the whole, e.g. "I am altogether disgusted with your terrible grammar" or

"Altogether, it was a pleasant day." The sentence given could sound correct when spoken, but it would have to be spelled as two separate words: "Put the ingredients ALL TOGETHER."

QUESTION NO: 20

Add $0.98 + 45.102 + 32.3333 + 31 + 0.00009$

- A. 368.573
- B. 210.536299
- C. 109.41539
- D. 99.9975
- E. 80.8769543

ANSWER: C