

# ASVAB-SECTION-8<sup>Q&As</sup>

ASVAB Section Eight : Paragraph comprehension

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**QUESTION 1**

It is not surprising that John Fitzgerald Kennedy entered public service. He came from a family that valued such commitment, including his father, Joseph P. Kennedy. The elder Kennedy served as ambassador to Great Britain from 1937 to 1940. John served his country in the U.S. Navy after he graduated from Harvard University. During that time, Kennedy escaped death while serving as skipper of a PT boat in the Pacific. He even rescued another Navy man by swimming, with him in tow, to the shore of a safe island.

The word ambassador, as used in the above passage, most nearly means \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. messenger
- B. diplomat
- C. dispatcher
- D. courier

Correct Answer: B

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**QUESTION 2**

Ergonomics is the science of designing and arranging workspaces so that people and objects interact efficiently and safely. Lack of attention to ergonomics causes thousands of workers to suffer repetitive stress injury, eye fatigue, muscle soreness, and many other medical problems each year. Adequate lighting, well-designed chairs, and clutter-free work areas contribute to effective ergonomic design. The opportunity to take short breaks every hour or two, especially for deskbound workers, is also helpful. It's also important for workers to avoid performing the same movements over and over for hours at a time. Variety in the type of work being done can decrease the chance of injury.

According to this passage, \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. ergonomics can cause injuries
- B. ergonomics is about designing and arranging workspaces efficiently and safely
- C. ergonomics is expensive and time consuming
- D. few people experience problems due to poor ergonomics

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Lack of attention to ergonomics, not ergonomics itself, can cause injury, so Choice "ergonomics can cause injuries" is incorrect.

The passage doesn't support Choice "ergonomics is expensive and time consuming."

The passage states that many people suffer injuries when sufficient attention isn't paid to ergonomics, so

Choice "few people experience problems due to poor ergonomics" is incorrect.

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**QUESTION 3**

Simple machines are devices that make our lives easier. They increase the magnitude or change the direction of a force. Using simple machines makes it easier to do many kinds of work. For example, when trying to get a refrigerator onto the back of a truck, a worker will use a ramp or inclined plane. Instead of lifting something heavy a short distance, we can more easily push it over a longer distance but to the same height. The term inclined plane can be used to describe an escalator, staircase, or slide.

Many shoppers use an inclined plane to get to the second level in a mall. According to the above passage, this would mean that they are most likely traveling by \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. access doors on upper parking lots
- B. escalator
- C. tunnel
- D. elevator

Correct Answer: B

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**QUESTION 4**

Extreme care must be exercised to ensure proper handling and cleaning of soiled U.S. flags. A torn flag may be professionally mended, but a badly torn or tattered flag should be destroyed. When the flag is in such a condition that it's no longer a fitting emblem for display, destroy it in a dignified manner, preferably by burning.

According to this passage, torn flags should be \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. mended
- B. burned
- C. destroyed
- D. all of the above

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

According to the passage a torn U.S. Flag can be professionally mended, but a severely torn flag should be destroyed. The preferred method of destruction is by burning.

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**QUESTION 5**

In 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution entitled the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This resolution stresses personal, civil, political, social, cultural, and economic rights of people.

In so doing, the article promotes \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. financial well-being only
- B. fundamental freedoms
- C. social unrest
- D. only one political party

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Answer "fundamental freedoms". Fundamental freedoms, summarizes all the rights listed in the paragraph.

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#### QUESTION 6

After a series of well-publicized failures by various inventors, Orville and Wilbur Wright succeeded in flying and controlling a heavier than-air craft on December 17, 1903. The War Department, stung by its investment in a failed effort by Samuel Langley and compounded by the Wright's own secretiveness, initially rejected the brothers' overtures toward the government to buy the aircraft. Prevailing sentiments held that the immediate future still belonged to the balloon. In August 1908, the two brothers delivered the first Army aircraft to the U.S. Government. That the U.S. government managed to purchase an airplane was a minor miracle. For more than four years after the Wright brothers' successful flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, the government refused to accept the fact that man had flown in a heavier than air machine.

Which of the following statements is not supported by the above passage?

- A. The U.S. Government felt that balloons were more practical than airplanes.
- B. The Wright Brother's own secretiveness contributed to their problems in getting the government interested in their aircraft.
- C. The historic flight took place on the East Coast.
- D. It took more than six years for the Wright Brothers to interest the U.S. Government in their airplane.

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

According to the passage it took over four years for the Government to believe that anyone had flown a heavier-than-air craft.

The historic flight was in December 1903, and the Wright Brothers delivered the first aircraft to the government in August 1908, 4½ years later.

All of the other statements are supported by the passage.

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**QUESTION 7**

Military customs and courtesies are proven traditions that explain what should and shouldn't be done in many situations. They are acts of respect and courtesy when dealing with other people and have evolved as a result of the need for order, as well as the mutual respect and sense of fraternity that exists among military personnel. Military customs and courtesies go beyond basic politeness; they play an extremely important role in building morale, esprit de corps, discipline, and mission effectiveness. Customs and courtesies ensure proper respect for the chain of command and build the foundation for self-discipline.

According to this passage, \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. military customs and courtesies are enforced by regulation
- B. military customs and courtesies are nothing more than basic politeness
- C. military customs and courtesies are the building blocks to self-discipline
- D. military customs and courtesies aren't applicable to the Coast Guard

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The passage makes no reference about the enforceability of customs and courtesies, so Choice "military customs and courtesies are enforced by regulation" would be incorrect.

According to the passage, military customs and courtesies go beyond basic politeness, making Choice "military customs and courtesies are nothing more than basic politeness" incorrect.

Choice "military customs and courtesies aren't applicable to the Coast Guard" is incorrect because the passage doesn't reference any individual military service.

The last sentence of the passage contains the correct answer.

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**QUESTION 8**

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency announced that federal disaster aid has been made available to the State of Alaska to supplement state, tribal, and local recovery efforts in the area affected by a severe storm on August 27, 2015. The President's action makes federal funding available to state, tribal and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by a severe storm in the North Slope Borough.

Based on the above passage, which of these statements is true?

- A. States may not receive this aid.
- B. Aid recipients do not have to pay anything to receive funds.
- C. The funding for this aid will come from the states.

D. A Native American tribal council may receive this aid.

Correct Answer: D

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**QUESTION 9**

Regular weight lifting has been shown to improve muscle mass in people of all ages. Even 80-year-old subjects in weight lifting studies show signs of benefits by supplementing their muscle mass.

It can be inferred from the passage that \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. young people do not benefit from weight lifting
- B. weight lifting even once a week will produce benefits for all ages
- C. older people show the most improvements in muscle mass in weight lifting studies
- D. any able body person can begin weight lifting at any age and see benefits

Correct Answer: D

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**QUESTION 10**

We think of chitchat and small talk as the things people say to pass the time or kill an awkward silence. But new research suggests these idle conversations could be a social-bonding tool passed down from our ape-like ancestors. Scientists with Princeton University studied ring tailed lemurs, animals that are considered among the more ancestral forms of primates – the evolutionary lineage that includes humans, apes and monkeys. The study concludes that lemurs call to each other essentially as a replacement for mutual grooming, or cleaning each other's fur, a widespread social-bonding behavior among non-human primates.

From the above passage, the reader can conclude that \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. chatting cannot be used to pass time
- B. lemurs would rather groom each other than call out to each other
- C. lemurs are more like monkeys than apes
- D. some human behaviors may have evolved from those of our primate ancestors

Correct Answer: D

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**QUESTION 11**

When is a book unreadable? Well, when nobody knows the language in which it is written, this might be the case. In

1912, the Voynich Manuscript was found at a library in Rome. Among the 240 pages were pictures, accompanied by text written in an unknown language. Efforts by the most noted language experts failed and some people wrote off the 500-year-old manuscript as a hoax. As our methods of language analysis have improved, however, it has been determined that the mystery language does indeed have a working language pattern and structure. Various experts are now claiming to be able to decode a few words within this mysterious text.

From the above passage, the reader can infer that the Voynich Manuscript is believed to have originated around \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. 1812
- B. 1912
- C. 1412
- D. 500

Correct Answer: C

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#### QUESTION 12

Leukemia is a blood disease in which white blood cells in the blood or bone marrow reproduce rapidly, interfering with the body's ability to produce red blood cells. Red blood cells are needed to perform vital bodily functions.

According to this passage, \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. white blood cells perform no vital function in the body
- B. no treatment for leukemia exists
- C. leukemia makes it hard for the body to produce red blood cells
- D. white blood cells are found only in the blood

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The passage doesn't support Choices "white blood cells perform no vital function in the body" or "no treatment for leukemia exists."

The passage states that white blood cells are found in blood and bone marrow, so Choice "white blood cells are found only in the blood" is wrong.

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#### QUESTION 13

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: 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.

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#### QUESTION 14

Some pollutants that render air unsafe to breathe cannot be seen or smelted. Nitric oxide, carbon monoxide, and radon gas are examples. Other pollutants, such as formaldehyde, can be smelted at high levels only but are still unsafe to breathe even at lower levels.

You can conclude from the paragraph that formaldehyde \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. is safer to breathe than nitric oxide
- B. can never be seen or smelted
- C. cannot be smelted at lower levels
- D. is not one of the pollutants that renders air unsafe to breathe

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The paragraph states that unlike the other pollutants mentioned, formaldehyde can be smelted only at high levels. You can conclude that it cannot be smelted at lower levels.

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#### QUESTION 15

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

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.

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