
Read the statement or passage and then choose the best answer to the question. Answer the question based on what is stated or implied in the statement or 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 suction 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.

1. The author uses the term “natural” to indicate that the dentures of the 18th and 19th centuries
 - A. resembled real human teeth
 - B. included some real human teeth
 - C. contained animal teeth rather than artificial substances
 - D. were made of materials found in nature
2. The main idea of the passage is that dentures
 - A. are popular in many cultures around the world
 - B. have traditionally been very expensive to make
 - C. are now composed primarily of plastic and metal
 - D. have been made from many different materials

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.

3. The author’s tone can best be described as
 - A. Insistent
 - B. Informative
 - C. Disdainful
 - D. Amused

4. All of the following statements about the vending machines are true EXCEPT
- A. They dispensed chewing gum in exchange for coins.
 - B. They were the first of their kind in the country.
 - C. They were utilized by train passengers.
 - D. They were originally designed to entertain customers.

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.”

5. “Kissed and made up” is an example of
- A. Understatement
 - B. Figurative language
 - C. Personification
 - D. Direct Address
6. In sentence 3, the phrase “associated with” most nearly means
- A. Attached to
 - B. Combined with
 - C. Familiar with
 - D. Connected to

Passage 1

As computer programs and online services continue to advance, paperless offices are growing in popularity. Going paperless is certainly a more environmentally friendly option than using reams of paper. A paperless office may also save on various overhead expenses. However, it may be expensive in the long run to go paperless, depending on the size and needs of your company. Another option might be using less paper instead of attempting a completely paperless office. This way, your company can enjoy some advantages of a paperless system while avoiding some of the disadvantages.

Passage 2

Many companies today are choosing not to go paperless because of the high costs of doing so. Despite the “green” advantages, going paperless requires companies to maintain up-to-date hardware and software, and upgrades often come at a steep cost. Businesses may need to hire an IT person to monitor their systems, train new users and perform regular backups of information. Ensuring online security is also vital, and the more people a company has using a system, the closer the system must be monitored for privacy issues and viruses. It takes a lot of time and money to go paperless, and for many small businesses, it’s just not worth the expense.

7. The author of Passage 1 would most likely criticize the author of Passage 2 for
- A. overemphasizing the significance of a company’s size
 - B. overlooking the environmental benefits of going paperless
 - C. failing to consider an alternative to eliminating all paper
 - D. underestimating the consequences of technological issues
8. Both authors would probably agree that, for some companies, going paperless is
- A. Profitable
 - B. Impractical
 - C. Necessary
 - D. Outdated

Passage 1

Are people who work from home slackers? Recent research suggests just the opposite. One study examined the habits and concerns of both in-office and off-site employees over the course of two years. The researchers learned that those who worked at home were 13% more productive and worked longer hours on average than those who worked in the office. Interestingly, the telecommuters took far less time off than their in-office counterparts. The researchers also found that the rate of at-home workers who quit their jobs was far lower than it was for employees who worked in the office. Without stressful commutes, worries about having to take sick days, and various distractions in the office, the telecommuters reported being much happier with their positions.

Passage 2

After working from home for the past year, I was relieved to get back into the office. The office environment has provided me with a much-needed, set schedule—I work for eight hours, and then I go home to a relaxed and work-free environment. When I worked at home, my “office” was always accessible, and my work hours bled into my leisure time so that I was never fully free of my job. Even when spending time with my family after dinner, I’d be checking emails and thinking about projects. Today, my former home office is a family room, and when I spend time relaxing there, work never crosses my mind. Well, almost never.

9. What would the author of Passage 2 most likely say is the cause of the “longer hours” (Passage 1, sentence 4) telecommuters work?
- A. The interruptions caused by other family members in the home.
 - B. The difficulty of completing projects without office equipment.
 - C. The temptation to relax instead of doing work in a home office.
 - D. The lack of distinction between work time and non-work time.
10. The authors of both passages probably would characterize telecommuters as being generally
- A. Unproductive
 - B. Stressed
 - C. Hardworking
 - D. Satisfied

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.

11. Which word best describes the author’s attitude towards King’s victory over Riggs?
- A. Admiring
 - B. Disbelieving
 - C. Indifferent
 - D. Awed

- 12.** The main idea of this passage is that Billie Jean King
- A. was popular with TV audiences
 - B. won 12 Grand Slam titles
 - C. played better tennis after 1973 than before 1973
 - D. defeated a male player in a famous match

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.

- 13.** What is the main purpose of this passage?
- A. To analyze fiction written by Americans living overseas
 - B. To summarize the plot of *The Good Earth*
 - C. To inform Americans about life in China
 - D. To discuss a famous American writer's accomplishments
- 14.** According to the passage, Pearl S. Buck
- A. wrote only about Chinese topics
 - B. had her picture appear on a U.S. stamp
 - C. eventually became a Chinese citizen
 - D. won the Nobel Prize for *The Good Earth*

Plywood, while not the most pleasing wood to look at, has become an incredibly important building material in house construction. It is flexible, inexpensive, and strong. Its strength is due to layers of thin wood glued on top of each other with the grain of each layer making a right angle with the grain of the layer below it. This way of layering the sheets of wood makes plywood difficult to break.

- 15.** Which word best describes the author's attitude towards plywood's qualities?
- A. Ecstatic
 - B. Surprised
 - C. Impressed
 - D. Dismissive

*This is an excerpt from the short story **The Lottery** by Shirley Jackson.*

The children assembled first, of course. School was recently over for the summer, and the feeling of liberty sat uneasily on most of them; they tended to gather together quietly for a while before they broke into boisterous play, and their talk was still of the classroom and the teacher, of books and reprimands.

16. The author’s use of the word “uneasily” most certainly refers to the idea that
- A. The children feel uncomfortable about the beginning of summer and having no school
 - B. The children are excited about the summer and having no school
 - C. The children are unhappy about not going to school
 - D. The children are confused about the summer and having no school
17. After reading the passage, one can infer that the word “boisterous” most nearly means
- A. Rowdy
 - B. Solemn
 - C. Quiet
 - D. Energetic
18. Which of the following words can replace the word “reprimands” in the passage?
- A. Detention
 - B. Lessons
 - C. Admonition
 - D. Praise

Aerobic exercises, which include biking and running, offer several benefits, including better cardiovascular health. Those who regularly walk or do other forms of aerobic exercise typically have a lower resting heart rate and suffer fewer heart problems.

19. What does the second sentence do?
- A. It presents an example.
 - B. It offers a solution.
 - C. It expands on the information in the first.
 - D. It contradicts the information in the first.

Despite advancements in contraceptive technologies, teen pregnancy is still a huge problem in the United States. Many schools are choosing not to teach students about contraception, and that means many may not be aware of how to obtain effective contraceptives.

- 20.** What does the second sentence do?
- A.** It expands on the information in the first.
 - B.** It provides an explanation.
 - C.** It offers a solution.
 - D.** It restates the information in the first.

Answer Key

- Choice (A) is correct.** The author 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”—that is, more like human teeth—than animal teeth or wooden teeth would. Choices (A) and (B) are incorrect because the passage does not indicate that the dentures of the 18th and 19th centuries contained real human teeth or animal teeth. Choice (D) is incorrect because the author uses the word “natural” to describe the appearance of the dentures, not the materials used to make the dentures.
- Choice (D) is correct.** The author of 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; although the author 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 because the author does not discuss either the popularity or the cost of dentures.
- 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. The tone of the passage cannot be described as insistent, because the author is neither proving a point nor persuading the reader of anything; therefore, choice (A) is incorrect. Choices (C) and (D) are incorrect because there is no indication that the author is disdainful of or amused by the topic of the passage. Rather, the author’s tone is neutral and informative.
- Choice (D) is correct.** The vending machines were NOT originally designed to entertain customers. The author of 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.
- Choice (B) is correct.** The phrase “kissed and made up” is an example of figurative language. The author of the passage is not suggesting that Oprah Winfrey and Jonathan Franzen literally kissed; rather, the phrase “kissed and made up” is a figurative, or non-literal, way of saying that Winfrey and Franzen reconciled after their “nine-year feud.” Choice (A) is incorrect. The phrase “kissed and made up” is not an example of understatement; the author is not suggesting that Winfrey and Franzen did *more* than reconcile. Choice (C) is incorrect because the phrase “kissed and made up” is being used to describe the actions of

two people, not to attribute human-like qualities to an inanimate object. And choice (D) is incorrect because the author is not addressing anyone directly in using the phrase “kissed and made up.”

- 6. Choice (D) is correct.** After stating that Franzen “was unhappy about the book’s being chosen for the Oprah Book Club,” the author explains that “Franzen said he didn’t want to be associated with the Club.” In this context, “associated with” most nearly means “connected to.” The author is indicating that Franzen did not want his book to be connected to the Oprah Book Club. It is illogical to suggest that a book to be “attached to,” or fastened to or emotionally connected to, a book club; therefore, choice (A) is incorrect. Choice (B) is incorrect because it is illogical to suggest that a book could be “combined with,” or mixed together with, a book club. And choice (C) is incorrect because a book cannot be “familiar with” a book club; a book cannot know or be familiar with anything.
- 7. Choice (C) is correct.** The author of Passage 2 discusses the high costs of “going paperless” and concludes that “for many small businesses, it’s just not worth the expense.” The author of Passage 1 acknowledges the costs of going paperless (“it may be expensive in the long run”), but he or she proposes another option: using *less* paper. The author of Passage 1 would most likely criticize the author of Passage 2 for failing to consider the option of reducing, but not completely eliminating, paper in an office. Choice (A) is incorrect because the author of Passage 2 does not place much emphasis on the size of a company. Choice (B) is incorrect because the author of Passage 2 does note “the ‘green’ advantages” of going paperless. And choice (D) is incorrect because the author of Passage 2 speaks of technological considerations throughout the passage.
- 8. Choice (B) is correct.** The author of Passage 1 indicates that, “depending on the size and needs of your company,” going paperless might be “expensive in the long run.” The author of Passage 2 points out that for many companies, going paperless is “just not worth the expense.” Clearly, both authors feel that, for some companies, going paperless would be an impractical, or unrealistic, choice. Choice (A) is incorrect because both authors touch on the expenses, not the profits, involved in going paperless. Choice (C) is incorrect because neither author suggests that going paperless is necessary, or required. And choice (D) is incorrect because both authors suggest that companies currently are deciding to go paperless.
- 9. Choice (D) is correct.** The author of Passage 1 states that, according to one study, “those who worked at home . . . worked longer hours on average than those who worked in the office.” The author of Passage 2 remarks, “When I worked at home, my ‘office’ was always accessible, and my work hours bled into my leisure time so that I was never fully free of my job.” In other words, the author of Passage 2 feels that working from home created a lack of

distinction, or separation, between work time and leisure time, and he or she wound up working during non-work hours. The author of Passage 2 would likely say that this lack of distinction is the cause of the longer hours telecommuters work. The author of Passage 2 does not mention family interruptions or a lack of office equipment, so choices (A) and (B) are incorrect. And choice (C) is incorrect because the author of Passage 2 suggests that he or she worked during non-work hours, not that he or she relaxed instead of working during work hours.

- 10. Choice (C) is correct.** The author of Passage 1 refers to a study that shows that telecommuters “worked longer hours on average” and “took far less time off” than those who worked in an office. The author of Passage 2 indicates that when he or she worked from home, he or she “was never fully free” of his or her job, “checking emails and thinking about projects” while spending time with family. Therefore, it is very likely that both authors would characterize telecommuters as hardworking. Choice (A) is incorrect because both authors suggest that telecommuters are productive. Choice (B) is incorrect because the author of Passage 1 cites research findings that show that people actually are “happier with their positions” when they telecommute. And choice (D) is incorrect because it is clear that the author of Passage 2 was not satisfied when working from home.
- 11. Choice (A) is correct.** The author’s attitude is best described as admiring. The author 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.
- 12. 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. The author 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. Choices (A), (B), and (C) 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.
- 13. Choice (D) is correct.** The main purpose of the passage is to discuss the accomplishments of Pearl S. Buck, a famous American writer. The author of 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. Choices (A) and (C) are incorrect because the author

does not analyze fiction by multiple writers or give any information 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; therefore, choice (B) is incorrect.

- 14. Choice (B) is correct.** In the first sentence, the author of the passage indicates that Pearl S. Buck “achieved such fame that she was memorialized by the United States Postal Service with a postage stamp bearing her image.” In other words, Buck’s picture appeared on a U.S. stamp. Although the author states that Buck “wrote primarily about Chinese life,” he or she does not indicate that Buck wrote *only* about Chinese topics and does not assert that Buck eventually became a Chinese citizen; therefore, choices (A) and (C) are incorrect. Likewise, although the author states that Buck won the Nobel Prize and that her “best-known work” is *The Good Earth*, he or she does not indicate that Buck won the Nobel Prize for *The Good Earth*; therefore, choice (D) is incorrect.
- 15. Choice (C) is correct.** The author is impressed by plywood’s qualities; he or she seems to admire the flexibility, low cost, and strength that make plywood “an incredibly important building material in house construction.” Choice (A) is incorrect because the author does admire plywood’s qualities but does not seem ecstatic, or overjoyed. Although the author notes that plywood has become important despite not being aesthetically pleasing, there is no indication that the author is surprised by plywood’s qualities; therefore, choice (B) is incorrect. Finally, choice (D) is incorrect because the author certainly is not dismissive of plywood’s qualities; he or she admires them rather than dismissing or rejecting them.
- 16. Choice (A) is correct.**
- 17. Choice (A) is correct.**
- 18. Choice (C) is correct.**
- 19. Choice (C) is correct.**
- 20. Choice (B) is correct.**