Sunshine

PASSAGES

Read the passages and choose the correct answers.

Traditionally, mental tests have been divided into two types. Achievement tests are designed to measure acquired skills and knowledge, particularly those that have been explicitly taught. The proficiency exams required by some states for high school graduation are achievement tests. Aptitude tests are designed to measure a person's ability to acquire new skills or knowledge. For example, vocational aptitude tests can help you decide whether you would do better as a mechanic or musician. However, all mental tests are in some sense achievement tests because they assume some sort of past learning or experience with certain objects, words, or situations. The difference between achievement and aptitude tests is one of degree and intended use.

1. The author's main purpose in the passage is to _____.
   A. the importance of testing
   B. relate a story about aptitude and achievement tests
   C. compare and contrast achievement and aptitude tests
   D. criticize the use of testing to measure a person's ability
2. This passage would most likely appear in _____.
   A. an art journal
   B. a novel
   C. a psychology book
   D. a medical journal

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3. Which of the following conclusions can be drawn from this passage?
   A. Aptitude and achievement tests are interchangeable.
   B. An aptitude test might be helpful to a person contemplating a career movie.
   C. All high school students should take proficiency exams.
   D. Tests are a means of acquiring skills and knowledge.
4. The paragraph preceding this one most likely deals with _____.
   A. other types of psychological testing
   B. the relation between education and achievement
   C. career choices
   D. the requirements for high school graduation
5. The author's attitude toward the subject of testing is _____.
   A. indifferent
   B. critical
   C. objective
   D. emotional

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One step beyond automated machines is the industrial robot, the heart and brain of which is the microcomputer. Unlike most automated machines, industrial robots can be programmed to do a variety of tasks that are usually accomplished by human factory workers. Like their human counterparts, industrial robots can be switched from one job to another and can be programmed to handle new tasks. Thus far, robots have found their greatest use in assembling mechanical components. However, they are swiftly branching from basic assembly operations to construction and mining, and their most glamorous use of all, the exploration of oceans and outer space.

6. The author's main purpose in writing this passage is to _____.
   A. describe the industrial robot and its use
   B. narrate a story about the industrial robot
   C. compare the industrial robot to human factory workers
   D. argue the advantages of the industrial robot

7. The author's reaction to an innovative form of transportation, such as the electric car, would most likely be _____.
   A. positive
   B. negative
   C. confusion
   D. surprise

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8. The paragraph following this passage would most likely be about _____.
   A. types and uses of automated machines
   B. how industrial robots are used in exploration
   C. the uses of the microcomputer
   D. how robots assemble mechanical components
9. This passage would most likely be found in _____.
   A. an entertainment magazine
   B. a medical journal
   C. a book of short stories
   D. a popular science journal
10. It can be concluded from the passage that _____.
   A. robots will never replace human factory workers
   B. industrial robots are not as versatile as automated machines
   C. the microcomputer will soon be used in automated machines
   D. additional uses will be found for the industrial robot

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