EXERCISE 1A: Practice Skimming for General Information

Skim the passage in 30 seconds. DO NOT spend more than this amount of time on your first reading of the passage. Then, read each question, and circle the correct answer.

> Sometimes called puma, panther, or mountain lion, the agile cougar has a greater natural range than any other mammal in the Western Hemisphere except humans. However, long viewed as a threat to livestock, it has been intensively hunted since the arrival of European colonists to the Americas and was almost extinct by the early twentieth century. While protective measures have been implemented in the United States, humans continue to destroy the cougar's habitat, further endangering this solitary cat.

1. This passage is about
   (A) a person
   (B) a place
   (C) an animal
   (D) a time

2. This passage discusses
   (A) a problem
   (B) a solution
   (C) an opinion
   (D) a policy

3. The author of this passage expresses
   (A) love
   (B) concern
   (C) joy
   (D) anger

EXERCISE 1B: Practice Scanning for Details

Allow yourself one minute to do this exercise. Read the questions below about the passage in Exercise 1A. Then, using the related words in bold print below, QUICKLY scan the passage to find the answer to each question. Circle the answer when you find it in the passage.

1. The cougar is known by how many other names?

2. In what part of the world does the cougar live?

3. At what point in time did the cougar face extinction?

4. What country has measures to protect the cougar?

EXERCISE 1C: **More Practice Skimming**

Skim this passage in 45 seconds. DO NOT spend more than this amount of time on your first reading of the passage. Then, read each question, and circle the correct answer.

In marine habitats, a number of small creatures are involved in a "cleaning symbiosis." At least six species of small shrimp, frequently brightly colored, crawl over fish, picking off parasites and cleaning injured areas. This is not an accidental occurrence, because fish are observed to congregate around these shrimp and stay motionless while being inspected. Several species of small fish (wrasses) are also cleaners, nearly all of them having appropriate adaptations such as long snouts, tweezer-like teeth, and bright coloration. Conspicuous coloration probably communicates that these animals are not prey.

1. This passage is mainly about
   (A) a process of marine life
   (B) a place in the sea
   (C) a species of marine life
   (D) a mystery of marine life

2. The habitat described in this passage is
   (A) an aquarium
   (B) an island
   (C) the ocean
   (D) a laboratory

3. The "cleaning symbiosis" discussed in the passage is
   (A) unimportant
   (B) harmful
   (C) predatory
   (D) beneficial

EXERCISE 1D: More Practice Scanning

Allow yourself two minutes to do this exercise. Read the questions below about the passage in Exercise 1C. Then, using the related words in bold print below, scan the passage to answer each question. Circle the answer when you find it in the passage.

1. What two types of marine life are involved in "cleaning symbiosis"?

2. What two jobs are accomplished in this activity?

3. What type of fish are "cleaners"?

4. How are fish that act as "cleaners" especially equipped to do this job?

5. What protects these fish from being eaten by other fish?

EXERCISE 1E: More Practice Skimming

Skim this passage in 60 seconds. Do not spend more than this amount of time on the first reading of the passage. Then, read each question, and circle the correct answer.

The northern lights, or the aurora borealis, is one of nature's most dazzling spectacles. When it appears, there is often a crackling sound coming from the sky. A huge, luminous arc lights up the night, and this arc *Line* is constantly in motion. Sometimes, the brilliant rays of light spread (5) upward in the shape of a fan. At other times, they flash here and there like giant searchlights, or move up and down so suddenly that they have been called "the merry dancers." Farther north the aurora frequently looks like fiery draperies which hang from the sky and sway to and fro while flames of red, orange, green, and blue play up and down the moving folds. *(10)* According to scientific measurements, this discharge of light takes place from 50 to 100 miles above the earth. But it doesn't reach its greatest brilliance at the North Pole. It is seen at its best around the Hudson Bay region in Canada, in northern Scotland, and in southern Norway and Sweden. It may sometimes be seen even in the United States as it flashes (15) across the northern sky.

Science is still not certain regarding exactly what these lights are and what causes them. But it is believed that the rays are due to discharges of electricity in the rare upper atmosphere. **The** displays seem to center about the earth's magnetic poles, and electrical and magnetic disturbances often *(20)* occur when the lights are especially brilliant

1. This passage is about
   (A) a scientific phenomenon
   (B) a natural disaster
   (C) an architectural monument
   (D) a natural landform

2. This passage discusses the findings of
   (A) teachers
   (B) scientists
   (C) northerners
   (D) artists

3. In which part of the passage does the author discuss what the aurora borealis looks like?
   (A) Paragraph 1
   (B) Paragraph 2
   (C) Paragraph 3
   (D) Whole passage

4. Paragraph 2 mainly discusses northern lights in relation to their
   (A) size
   (B) colors
   (C) location
   (D) cause

5. From Paragraph 3 we learn that the cause of northern lights is
   (A) uncertain
   (B) beyond belief
   (C) uninvestigated
   (D) well established

EXERCISE 1F: More Practice Scanning

Allow yourself up to one minute to do this exercise. Read the questions below about the passage in Exercise 1E. Then, using the related words in bold print below, scan the passage to answer each question. Circle the answer when you find it in the passage.

1. Why have the northern lights been called "the merty dancers"?

2. How many miles above the earth does the aurora borealis take place?

3. In what part of Canada can the northern lights best be seen?

4. What do scientists believe is **discharged in the earth's atmosphere** to cause the aurora borealis?

EXERCISE 2B: Practice Selecting Vocabulary for Short Passages

Read the following passages and fill in the blank spaces with the appropriate words from the answer choices provided. Use context cues, textual cues, and logical reasoning to choose the most appropriate words.

1. Even before metals were available in (a)_____quantity to provide a crude monetary system, primitive man found it necessary and desirable to have money of sorts. Each primitive group's (b)_____money often depended upon the nature of its livelihood. (c)_____commodities common to a particular culture were often used; for example, a hunting society would use the skins of wild animals for money. A pastoral culture often used livestock, whereas agricultural communities often used grain and (d)_____Almost every useful commodity was probably used by some group somewhere as money. These early moneys are not completely forgotten, as evidenced by the fact that a number of modern money terms (e)_____some of the ancient forms of money. For example, the modern word *pecuniary* comes from the Latin *pecus* for cattle. Similarly, *salary* derives from the Latin word for salt, *solarium*. Both salt and cattle were used as money at different times in (f)_____Rome.

1.(a) metallic
slight
sufficient
brittle

1.(b) residual
specific
colorful
collective

1.(c) Strange
Useful
Heavy
Ancient

1.(d) automobiles
seashells
foodstuffs
merchandise

1.(e) derive from
administer to
resemble
deliver

1.(f) modern
ancient
beautiful
beleaguered