

PASSAGE 3 – Questions 21-30

During the heyday of the railroads, when America's rail system provided the bulk of the country's passenger and freight transportation, various types of railroad cars were in service to accomplish the varied tasks handled by the railroads. One type of car that was not available for public use prior to the Civil War, however, was a sleeping car; ideas for sleeping cars abounded at the time, but these ideas were unworkable. It unfortunately took the death of a president to make the sleeping car a viable reality.

Cabinet-maker George M. Pullman had recognized the demand for sleeping cars and had worked on developing experimental models of sleeping cars in the decade leading up to the Civil War. However, in spite of the fact that he had made successful test runs on the Chicago and Alton Railroads with his models, he was unable to sell his idea because his models were too wide and too high for existing train station and bridges. In 1863, after spending time working as a storekeeper in a Colorado mining town, he invested his savings of twenty thousand dollars, a huge fortune at that time and all the money that he had in the world, in a luxurious sleeping car that he named the Pioneer. Pullman and friend Ben Field built the Pioneer on the site of the present-day Chicago Union Station. For two years, however, the Pioneer sat on a railroad siding, useless because it could not fit through train stations and over bridges.

Following President Lincoln's assassination in 1865, the state of Illinois, Lincoln's birthplace, wanted to transport the presidential casket in the finest fashion possible. The Pullman Pioneer was the most elegant car around; in order to make the Pullman part of the presidential funeral train in its run from Springfield to Chicago, the state cut down station platforms and raised bridges in order to accommodate the luxurious railway car. The Pullman car greatly impressed the funeral party, which included Lincoln's successor as president, General Ulysses S. Grant, and Grant later requested the Pioneer for a trip from Detroit to Chicago. To satisfy Grant's request for the Pioneer, the Michigan Central Railroad made improvements on its line to accommodate the wide car, and soon other railroads followed. George Pullman founded the Pullman Palace Car Company in partnership with financier Andrew Carnegie and eventually became a millionaire.

Pullman cars were normally a dark "Pullman green", although some were painted in the host railroad's colors. The cars carried individual names, but usually did not carry visible numbers. In the 1920s, the Pullman Company went through a series of restructuring steps, which in the end resulted in a parent company, Pullman Incorporated, controlling the Pullman Company (which owned and operated sleeping cars) and the Pullman – Standard Car Manufacturing Company.

21. Which of the following best states the main idea of the passage?
- A. America's railroads used to provide much of the country's transportation.
 - B. President Lincoln's assassination in 1865 shocked the nation.
 - C. George Pullman was the only one to come up with the idea for a sleeping car.
 - D. Pullman's idea for a sleeping car became workable after Lincoln's death.
22. A "heyday" in paragraph 1 is most probably a
- A. time for harvest.
 - B. a period with low prices.
 - C. a period of great success.
 - D. a type of railroad schedule.

23. It can be inferred from the passage that before the Civil War, sleeping cars
- A. were used abundantly.
 - B. were thought to be a good idea.
 - C. were only used privately.
 - D. were used by presidents.
24. What is the main idea of paragraph 2?
- A. Pullman had been successful in selling his sleeping cars.
 - B. Though Pullman had been successful in test runs with his sleeping cars model; it could not be suitable with the transportation in Chicago.
 - C. Pullman had recognized the demand for sleeping cars.
 - D. Pullman had invested much money on developing the sleeping cars.
25. What was the initial problem that made Pullman's car unusable?
- A. They were too large.
 - B. They were too expensive.
 - C. They were too slow.
 - D. They were too unusual.
26. What is stated in the passage about George Pullman?
- A. He once had a job in a store.
 - B. He always lived in Chicago.
 - C. He worked in a mine.
 - D. He saved money for his project.
27. What is true about the sleeping cars?
- A. The experimental models of sleeping cars had not been successful until 1863.
 - B. The Pioneer did not cost Pullman a fortune.
 - C. The Pioneer was considered to be the most charming cars in comparison with others.
 - D. The Pullman car was extremely beneficial because of its fitness through train station and bridges.
28. Why did the state of Illinois want to use the Pullman in Lincoln's funeral train?
- A. It was superior to other cars.
 - B. It was the only railroad car that could make it from Springfield to Chicago.
 - C. Ulysses S. Grant requested it.
 - D. The Pullman Palace Car Company was a major Illinois business.
29. It can be inferred from the passage that the Michigan Central Railroad
- A. was owned by George Pullman.
 - B. controlled the railroad tracks between Detroit and Chicago.
 - C. was the only railroad company to accommodate wider cars.
 - D. was the sole manufacturer of the Pioneer.
30. This passage would most likely be assigned in which of the following courses?
- A. Engineering
 - B. Political science
 - C. Finance
 - D. History

PASSAGE 4 – Questions 31-40

Garbage cans are not magical portals. Trash does not disappear when you toss it in a can. Yet, the average American throws away an estimated 1,600 pounds of waste each year. If there are no magic garbage fairies, where does all that trash go? There are four methods to managing waste: recycling, land-filling, composting, and incinerating. Each method has its strengths and weakness. Let's take a quick look at each.

Recycling is the process of turning waste into new materials. For example, used paper can be turned into paperboard, which can be used to make book covers. Recycling can reduce pollution, save materials, and lower energy use. Yet, some argue that recycling wastes energy. They believe that collecting, processing, and converting waste uses more energy than it saves. Still, most people agree that recycling is better for the planet than landfilling.

Land-filling is the oldest method of managing waste. In its simplest form, land-filling is when people bury garbage in a hole. Over time the practice of land-filling has advanced. Garbage is **compacted** before it is thrown into the hole. In this way more garbage can fit in each landfill. Large liners are placed in the bottom of landfills so that toxic garbage juice doesn't get into the ground water. Sadly, these liners don't always work. Landfills may pollute the local water supply. Not to mention that all of that garbage stinks. Nobody wants to live next to a landfill. This makes it hard to find new locations for landfills.

As landfill space increases, interest in composting grows. Composting is when people pile up organic matter, such as food waste, and allows it to decompose. The product of this decomposition is compost. Compost can be added to the soil to make the soil richer and better for growing crops. While composting is easy to do onsite somewhere, like home or school, it's hard to do after the garbage gets all mixed up. This is because plastic and other inorganic materials must be removed from the compost pile or they will pollute the soil. There's a lot of plastic in garbage, which makes it hard to compost on a large scale.

One thing that is easier to do is burning garbage. There are two main ways to incinerate waste. The first is to create or harvest a fuel from the waste, such as methane gas, and burn the fuel. The second is to burn the waste directly. The heat from the **incineration** process can boil water, which can power steam generators. Unfortunately, burning garbage pollutes the air. Also, some critics worry that incinerators destroy valuable resources that could be recycled.

Usually, the community which you live manages waste. Once you put your garbage in that can, what happens to it is beyond your control. But you can make choices while it is still in your possession. You can choose to recycle, you can choose to compost, or you can choose to let someone else deal with it. The choice is yours.

31. Which best explains why the author begins the text by talking about magical garbage fairies?
- A. He is putting a common misconception to rest.
 - B. He is trying to get the reader's attention.
 - C. He is addressing his concern in a serious way.
 - D. He is supporting his argument with evidence.
32. Which best expresses the meaning of the word "**compacted**" as it is used in the third paragraph?
- A. Garbage is burned before it is thrown in a hole.
 - B. Garbage is put in trucks before it is thrown in a hole.
 - C. Garbage is crushed smaller before it is thrown in a hole.
 - D. Garbage is put in a can before it is thrown in a hole.
33. Which was **NOT** cited in the third paragraph as an issue with land-filling?
- A. Landfills are smelly.
 - B. Usable materials are wasted in landfills.
 - C. Landfills may pollute the water supply.
 - D. It is difficult to find locations for landfills.
34. Which best expresses the main idea of the fourth paragraph?
- A. Landfills take up a lot of space.
 - B. Composting is good for the soil but it can be.
 - C. The process of composting is very complicated and scientific.
 - D. There is a lot of plastic garbage in landfills.
35. Which best defines the meaning of **incineration** as it is used in the text?
- A. To bury waste materials in a large hole
 - B. To allow waste products to decompose and become fertilizer
 - C. To burn waste materials and harvest the energy
 - D. To turn waste materials into products like book covers
36. Which conclusion could be supported with text from the passage?
- A. Each method of waste management has its drawbacks.
 - B. Recycling is without a doubt the best way to handle waste.
 - C. Incineration is the best way to process waste.
 - D. All large cities should create massive compost piles.

37. Which best expresses the author's main purpose in writing this?
- A. To convince readers to recycle and compost
 - B. To persuade readers that recycling is a waste of resources
 - C. To compare and contrast recycling and land-filling
 - D. To inform readers of methods of waste management
38. Which is **NOT** included in this text?
- A. A description of how trash is collected
 - B. A description of the uses of compost
 - C. A description of the two methods of incinerating trash
 - D. A description of how landfills have advanced over time
39. Which best explains why composting is not feasible on a large scale?
- A. People wouldn't want to touch all of that gross rotting food.
 - B. It would smell too bad in densely populated cities.
 - C. It would attract rodents that would spread disease.
 - D. Plastic would get into the compost and turn it into a pollutant.
40. Which title best expresses the main idea of this text?
- A. *The Magic of Recycling: Bringing Back What Was Once Lost*
 - B. *Methods of Waste Management: Pros and Cons*
 - C. *Recycling Land-filling or Composting: Which is Best For You?*
 - D. *Do Your Part: How to Save the Earth by Recycling and Composting*