Sample Reading Passage 7

Q. My engine cranks all right. But why won't it start up?

A. Think twice. Are you following the exact starting procedure given in your owner's manual? Next, pin down the trouble area by checking these possibilities: (1) gasoline, (2) spark, and (3) air-gasoline ratio.

1. First make sure you have gasoline in the tank. If that's not the problem, maybe you have flooded the engine. Hold the gas pedal to the floor for 10 seconds (do not pump it) as you crank the engine.

Still no start? Maybe the problem is a stuck needle valve. Tap the carburetor bowl lightly near the gas line, using pliers or a screwdriver handle. This should free the valve so you can start. But if nothing has done the trick so far, move to the next step.

2. Check to see if the engine is getting the spark it needs to start. First look for loose or broken spark plug wires. Fix what you can.

If the wires look all right, make a detailed check for a spark. Twist one spark plug boot away from its plug. Push an insulated screwdriver into the boot. Hold the shank of the screwdriver about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch away from a metal engine part. Have someone crank the engine. (Be sure you keep your hands away from the screwdriver shank and the wire to avoid shock.) You'll see a small spark if the ignition system is working. No spark? Get help. (Caution: If there is any gasoline *on* the engine, be sure you let it evaporate before you try this test.) If you see a spark, you have eliminated that as a possibility. Move on to the next step.

3. Finally, find out if the carburetor is feeding sufficient air and gasoline to the engine. Remove the top of the air cleaner so you can see the choke plate. If the plate is stuck open, push it shut (only if the engine is cold) and try to start again.

Still no start? Hold the choke wide open and peer deep inside as someone else pumps the gas pedal. (Make sure he doesn't crank the engine.) If you can't see gas squirting, you need professional help.

1. This type of passage can be described as

(A) scientific reading

(B) a "how-to" article

(C) editorial writing

(D) automobile advertising

2. The author's intent in this article is to

(A) explain why cars break down

(B) warn you about the dangers involved in do-it-yourself car repairs

(C) describe the method of checking spark plugs

(D) instruct you how to deal with a car problem

3. From the context of the word *crank* (line 16) it must mean
   (A) complain
   (B) start
   (C) turn around
   (D) shut off

4. List briefly the steps involved in checking the starting mechanism.
   (A) _____
   (B) _____
   (C) _____
   (D) _____

5. If you check for a spark and don't get one, what should you do?
   (A) Check the carburetor next.
   (B) Get an auto mechanic.
   (C) Clean the gas off the motor.
   (D) Get a shock.

6. What is the first thing to do when your car doesn't start?
   (A) Check your gas.
   (B) Flood the engine.
   (C) Contact your automobile salesperson.
   (D) Be sure you're following the rules for starting the car.

7. If you are testing for a spark, gas on the engine is dangerous
   (A) because it might start the car
   (B) when it has evaporated
   (C) after it leaks out of the carburetor
   (D) because the spark might ignite the gas

8. You should use an insulated screwdriver to
   (A) protect the engine
   (B) avoid scratching the metal
   (C) avoid getting a shock
   (D) twist the spark plug boot

9. You can unstick a valve by
   (A) taking it out
   (B) hitting it
   (C) loosening it
   (D) twisting it

10. You have to hold the screwdriver shank away from metal to
   (A) prevent fire
   (B) avoid cutting yourself
   (C) avoid getting a shock
   (D) check for a bad spark plug

11. Presumably a spark plug *boot* (line 14) is a
   (A) covering
   (B) shoe
   (C) trunk
   (D) plug

12. It can be inferred that a carburetor
   (A) is connected to the spark plugs
   (B) cranks the engine
   (C) regulates gas and air flow
   (D) has an open plate

13. If the engine is cold, it is all right to
   (A) try to start the car
   (B) close the choke plate
   (C) take off the air cleaner
   (D) pump the gas pedal

14. The choke plate is
   (A) next to the gas tank
   (B) above the air cleaner
   (C) beneath the air cleaner
   (D) inside the spark plugs

15. Do you think a person with no understanding of the mechanism of a car could follow these instructions?

   Why or why not? _____

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