EXERCISES: READING COMPREHENSION SKILLS

Directions: The passages are followed by questions based on their content. Answer the questions on the basis of what is *stated* or *implied* in the passages.

QUESTIONS 1–5 ARE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE.

The business of tennis clothes has grown astoundingly in the past few years. Over $250 million is spent annually on the trappings of tennis. Apparently everyone wants to look like a pro, even though 20% of the clientele has never even played the game.

Manufacturers pay the stars lucrative fees for wearing their brands of clothes and wielding their racquets on center court. Chris Evert-Lloyd, for example, was rumored to have signed a five-year contract for $5 million with Ellesse, a producer of fancy, expensive tennis wear. John McEnroe received a reported $600,000 for playing with a Dunlop racquet, $330,000 for sporting Tacchini clothes, and $100,000 for tying his Nike tennis shoes. Obviously, in a bad year, these stars would have made more as fashion models than as athletes.

Not only tennis players get free clothing, but also all the people involved in the game—the referees, linespeople, ball boys and girls—are living advertisments for tennis wear producers. Where, traditionally, conservative white clothing was required for the entire tennis coterie, changing times have seen a new vogue in tennis outfits. Flamboyant colors, designers' nameplates, geometric figures, and bold lines distinguish the new tennis togs from their predecessors.

1. It can be inferred from the passage that
   - **(A)** tennis clothing appeals to the wealthy
   - **(B)** tennis stars get huge sums for endorsements
   - **(C)** the price of tennis racquets has remained stable
   - **(D)** bright colors entice people to buy tennis wear

2. The author's intention is to
   - **(A)** explain why the cost of tennis clothes has risen
   - **(B)** defend tennis wear manufacturers from complaints about their high prices
   - **(C)** describe the means of advertising expensive tennis clothes
   - **(D)** describe the new tennis clothing

3. A good title for this passage would be
   - **(A)** The Stars at Play
   - **(B)** Big Business in Tennis Wear
   - **(C)** The High Cost of Playing Tennis
   - **(D)** Tennis Stars' Flamboyant Clothes

4. It is stated that John McEnroe
   - **(A)** wore flamboyant clothing on the court
   - **(B)** must have earned over $1 million for endorsing tennis products
   - **(C)** was a fashion model more than he was a tennis player
   - **(D)** had had a bad year in tennis competition

5. It is implied that
   - **(A)** tennis clothing is bought by the well-to-do
   - **(B)** everyone who wears expensive tennis wear plays tennis
   - **(C)** tennis officials would prefer to wear traditional white clothing
   - **(D)** fashion models wear tennis clothing

LIVEWORKSHEETS

QUESTIONS 6–13 ARE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE WRITTEN IN THE 1980S.

The oil embargoes of 1973–1975 caused vast chagrin among the manufacturers of automobiles around the world. In particular, American companies were obliged to create innovations in producing small cars that would compete in the market with those flowing into the American market from Japan and Europe. No longer could Americans afford ostentatious, gas-guzzling vehicles.

Of paramount importance to today's car owner is the cost of gasoline. American manufacturers have collaborated to supply their clientele with small cars that provide the amenities of the stereotyped large American car, yet get better mileage than any other car in the history of American car production. It has become a question of ardently competing with foreign car manufacturers or succumbing to the intense competition and losing a lucrative business through apathy. The American car industry has been rejuvenated. The fuel consumption of the new cars has decreased by 49% since 1977; mileage has risen from an average 17.2 miles per gallon to 25.6 miles per gallon. These figures are indicative of a major turnaround in engineering, manufacturing, and design. The industry has made pertinent use of the computer by installing a microprocessor, a thin piece of silicon about the size of an aspirin, in new cars. This miniature computer measures engine speed, engine load, and other functions, and sends messages to the fuel system and other parts of the car's mechanism, thus producing lower gas consumption and cleaner exhaust.

By designing sleek, roomy, beautiful, sporty models, the automobile industry has enticed both the average-income and the affluent car buyer into purchasing small cars. In addition to saving on gas, today's car is built to save on maintenance and repair expenses. Furthermore, the manufacturer is including the costs of maintenance inthe buyer's purchase price. New car advertisers now claim that all the buyer has to pay for is gas. To fight corrosion, new coatings have been developed that protect against the havoc caused by road salts, gravel, and other materials. Hence, when car owners are ready to turn in last year's car for a new one, they will find that their well-preserved used cars will have an unusually high trade-in value.

Fuel efficient, safe, emission free, economical, and beautiful, today's cars are better bargains than any ever produced before.

6. What significance did oil embargoes have in the automobile industry?
   - **(A)** Car manufacturers worldwide had to produce fuel-efficient automobiles.
   - **(B)** Automobile manufacturers had to make smaller cars.
   - **(C)** The Japanese exported cars to America.
   - **(D)** Americans continued to drive American cars.

7. In the second paragraph, there is a statement that implies that
   - **(A)** Americans love large cars
   - **(B)** American auto manufacturers had been indifferent to the need for smaller cars
   - **(C)** Americans will not buy uncomfortable small cars
   - **(D)** All of the above.

8. The microprocessor is
   - **(A)** responsible for the American car industry's rejuvenation
   - **(B)** a major turnaround in American car manufacturing
   - **(C)** a computer that saves gas and helps create cleaner emission
   - **(D)** a pertinent use of fuel consumption

LIVEWORKSHEETS

9. According to the passage, small American cars are being bought
   (A) by middle-class and rich clientele
   (B) because they save fuel
   (C) because of inflation
   (D) by Americans who want to help American business

10. According to the passage, new cars are a better bargain than those manufactured in years past because they
   (A) cost less to run and are built to last longer
   (B) have a built-in computer
   (C) save fuel, have more safety features, cost less to maintain, and have a higher trade-in value
   (D) are a lot smaller and don't rust because of better coatings

11. From the information given in the reading, you can infer that anticorrosive coatings will not only protect a new car's body, but also
   (A) make the car run better
   (B) increase the trade-in value of the car
   (C) increase the car's mileage
   (D) make the car safer to drive

12. From the passage you can infer that
   (A) new cars are fuel efficient, sleek, and beautiful
   (B) Americans want their cars to be both beautiful and practical in terms of comfort and cost
   (C) Americans will continue to buy European and Japanese cars because they are cheaper
   (D) if oil becomes plentiful and cheap again, Americans will not return to buying large cars

13. Another inference from the article is that
   (A) the most important consideration in buying a car is the cost of gas
   (B) gas shortages caused American manufacturers to change their production methods
   (C) today's cars are more sensible buys than those in the past
   (D) large cars are more comfortable than small cars

LIVEWORKSHEETS