PASSAGE 1 – Questions 1-10

It takes a long time to raise a family of owlets, so the great horned owl begins early in the year. In January and February, or as late as March in the North, the male calls to the female with **a resonant hoot.** The female is larger than the male. She sometimes reaches a body length of twenty-two to twenty-four inches, with a wingspread up to fifty inches. To impress her, the male does a strange courtship dance. He bobs. He bows. He ruffles his feathers and hops around with an important air. He flutters from limb to limb and makes flying sorties into the air. Sometimes he returns with an offering of food. They share the repast, after which she joins the dance, hopping and bobbing about as though keeping time to the beat of an inner drum.

Owls are poor home builders. They prefer to nest in a large hollow in a tree or even to occupy the deserted nest of a hawk or crow. These structures are large and rough, built of sticks and bark and lined with leaves and feathers. Sometimes owls nest on a rocky ledge, or even on the bare ground.

The mother lays two or three round, dull white eggs. Then she stoically settles herself on the nest and spreads her feather skirts about her to protect her **precious charges** from snow and cold. It is five weeks before the first downy white owlet pecks its way out of the shell. As the young birds feather out, **they** look like wise old men with their wide eyes and quizzical expressions. They clamor for food and keep the parents busy supplying mice, squirrels, rabbits, crayfish, and beetles. Later in the season baby crows are taken. Migrating songsters, waterfowl, and game birds all fall prey to the hungry family. It is nearly ten weeks before fledglings leave the nest to search for their own food. The parent birds **weary of** family life by November and drive the young owls away to establish hunting ranges of their own.

1. What is the topic of this passage?
A. Raising a family of great horned owls
B. Mating rituals of great horned owls
C. Nest building of great horned owls
D. Habits of young great horned owls

2. The phrase "a resonant hoot" in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
A. an instrument B. a sound
C. a movement D. an offering of food

3. It can be inferred from the passage that the courtship of great horned owls _____.
A. takes place on the ground
B. is an active process
C. happens in the fall
D. involves the male alone

4. According to the passage, great horned owls _____.
A. are discriminate nest builders
B. need big nests for their numerous eggs
C. may inhabit a previously used nest
D. build nests on tree limbs

5. According to the passage, which of the following is the mother owl's job?
A. To initiate the courtship ritual
B. To feed the young
C. To sit on the nest
D. To build the nest

6. The phrase "precious charges" in paragraph 3 refers to _____.
A. the eggs B. the nest
C. the hawks and crows D. other nesting owls

7. According to the passage, young owlets eat everything EXCEPT
A. other small birds B. insects
C. small mammals D. nuts and seeds

8. The word "they" in the passage refers to _____.
A. the wise old men B. the adult birds
C. the young birds D. the prey

9. What can be inferred from the passage about the adult parents of the young great horned owls?
A. They are sorry to see their young leave home.
B. They are lazy and careless about feeding the small owlets.
C. They probably don't see their young after November.
D. They don't eat while they are feeding their young.

10. The phrase "weary of" in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
A. tire of B. become sad about
C. support D. are attracted to

LIVEWORKSHEETS

PASSAGE 2 – Questions 11-20

Until recently, most American entrepreneurs were men. Discrimination against women in business, the demands of caring for families, and lack of business training had kept the number of women entrepreneurs small. Now, however, businesses owned by women account for more than $40 billion in annual revenues, and this figure is likely to continue rising throughout the 1990s. As Carolyn Doppelt Gray, an official of the Small Business Administration, has noted, "The 1970s was the decade of women entering management, and the 1980s turned out to be the decade of the woman entrepreneur."

What are some of the factors behind this trend? For one thing, as more women earn advanced degrees in business and enter the corporate world, they are finding obstacles. Women are still **excluded** from most executive suites. Charlotte Taylor, a management consultant, had noted, "In the 1970s women believed if they got an MBA and worked hard they could become chairman of the board. Now they've found out **that** isn't going to happen, so they go out on their own".

In the past, most women entrepreneurs worked in "women's" fields cosmetics and clothing, for example. But **this** is changing. Consider ASK Computer Systems, a $22-million-a-year computer software business. It was founded in 1973 by Sandra Kurtzig, who was then a housewife with degrees in math and engineering. When Kurtzig founded the business, her first product was software that let weekly newspapers **keep tabs on** their newspaper carriers and her office was a bedroom at home, with a **shoebox under the bed** to hold the company's cash. After she succeeded with the newspaper software system, she hired several bright computer-science graduates to develop additional programs. When these were marketed and sold, ASK began to grow. It now has 200 employees, and Sandra Kurtzig owns $66.9 million of stock.

11. What is the main idea of this passage?

A. Women today are better educated than in the past, making them more attractive to the business world.
B. The computer is especially lucrative for women today.
C. Women are better at small businesses than men are.
D. Women today are opening more businesses of their own.

12. The word "excluded" in the passage is closest in meaning to_____.

A. not permitted in
B. often invited to
C. decorators of
D. charged admission to

13. All of the following were mentioned in the passage as detriments to women in the business world EXCEPT _____.

A. women were required to stay at home with their families
B. women lacked ability to work in business
C. women faced discrimination in business
D. women were not trained in business

14. The word "that" in the passage refers to _____.

A. a woman becomes chairman of the board
B. women working hard
C. women achieving advanced degrees
D. women believing that business is a place for them

15. According to the passage, Charlotte Taylor believes that **women in the 1970s _____.**

A. were unrealistic about their opportunities in business management
B. were still more interested in education than business opportunities
C. had fewer obstacles in business than they do today
D. were unable to work hard enough to succeed in business

16. The author mentions the "shoebox under the bed" in the third paragraph in order to _____.

A. show the frugality of women in business
B. show the resourcefulness of Sandra Kurtzig
C. point out that initially the financial resources of Sandra Kurtzig's business were limited
D. suggest that the company needed to expand

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Of course, many women who start their own businesses fail, just as men often do. They still face hurdles in the business world, especially problems in raising money; the banking and finance world is still dominated by men, and old attitudes die hard. Most businesses owned by women are still quite small. But the situation is changing; there are likely to be many more Sandra Kurtzigs in the years ahead.

17. The word "this" in the passage refers to _____.

A. women becoming entrepreneurs
B. women buying cosmetics and clothing
C. women working in "women's fields"
D. women staying at home

18. The expression "keep tabs on" in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.

A. recognize title appearance of
B. keep records of
C. provide transportation for
D. pay the salaries of

19. It can be inferred from the passage that the author believes that businesses operated by women are small because_____.

A. women prefer a small intimate setting
B. women can't deal with money
C. women are not able to borrow money easily
D. many women fail at large businesses

20. The author's attitude about the future of women in business is_____.

A. skeptical B. optimistic
C. frustrated D. negative

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