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. In line 3, the phrase "a resonant hoot" 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 lines 16–17 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. In line 19, the word "they" 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 line 24 is closest in meaning to
    (A) tire of
    (B) become sad about
    (C) support
    (D) are attracted to

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Questions 11–19

There are many theories of aging, but virtually all fall into the category of being hypotheses with a minimum of supporting evidence. One viewpoint is that aging occurs as the body's organ systems become less efficient. Thus failures in the immune system, hormonal system, and nervous system could all produce characteristics that we associate with aging. Following a different vein, many current researchers are looking for evidence at the cellular and subcellular level. It has been shown that cells such as human fibroblasts (generalized tissue cells) grown in culture divide only a limited number of times and then die. (Only cancer cells seem immortal in this respect.) Fibroblast cells from an embryo divide more times than those taken from an adult. Thus some researchers believe that aging occurs at the cellular level and is part of the cell's genetic makeup. Any event that disturbs the cell's genetic machinery such as mutation, damaging chemicals in the cell's environment, or loss of genetic material, could cause cells to lose their ability to divide and thus bring on aging. Other theories of aging look at different processes.

Chronological aging refers to the passage of time since birth and is usually measured in years. While chronological age can be useful in estimating the average status of a large group of people, it is a poor indicator of an individual person's status because there is a tremendous amount of variation from one individual to the next in regard to the rate at which biological age changes occur. For example, on the average, aging results in people losing much of their ability to perform strenuous activities, yet some elderly individuals are excellent marathon runners.

Another type of aging is cosmetic aging, which consists of changes in outward appearance with advancing age. This includes changes in the body and changes in other aspects of a person's appearance, such as the style of hair and clothing, the type of eyeglasses, and the use of a hearing aid. Like chronological aging, it is frequently used to estimate the degree to which other types of aging have occurred. However, it is an inaccurate indicator for either purpose because of variation among individuals and because a person's appearance is affected by many factors that are not part of aging, including illness, poor nutrition, and exposure to sunlight.

11. The author believes the theories of aging are
    (A) well-supported hypotheses
    (B) poorly supported hypotheses
    (C) proven theories
    (D) interesting ideas

12. In line 6, the word "evidence" refers to
    (A) evidence of aging
    (B) evidence of cancer
    (C) evidence of human fibroblasts
    (D) evidence of cell division

13. The word "vein" in line 5 is closest in meaning to
    (A) part of the body
    (B) point of view
    (C) blood vessel
    (D) cellular level

14. The author of the article points out that cancer cells
    (A) divide infinitely
    (B) divide and then die
    (C) divide more in adults than in embryos
    (D) bring on aging

15. The word "culture" in line 7 is closest in meaning to
    (A) libraries
    (B) a special environment
    (C) a society's traditions and values
    (D) a toxic substance

16. It can be inferred from the passage that fibroblast cells
    (A) divide fewer times at later stages in human life
    (B) are not a focus in cellular research on aging
    (C) are similar to cancer cells in rate of division
    (D) disfunction in the aging process of the body's immune system

17. As explained in this passage, the theory of aging which examines the cellular level would NOT assign which of the following as a cause of aging?
    (A) Mutation
    (B) Failure of the body's organ system
    (C) Loss of genetic material
    (D) Chemical damage from the environment

18. According to the passage, chronological aging is not a good indicator of an individual's status regarding aging because
    (A) elderly people are often athletic
    (B) there is individual variation in the rate of biological aging
    (C) strenuous activities are not good measures of age
    (D) it is difficult to get accurate records of birth dates

19. The author implies all of the following about cosmetic aging EXCEPT
    (A) It does not occur at the same rate for all people
    (B) It is a poor indicator of chronological age
    (C) Illness, poor nutrition, and exposure to sunlight cause aging to occur
    (D) It is described by changes in outward appearance

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Questions 20–31

In the early 1800s, to reach the jump-off point for the West, a family from the East of the United States could either buy steamboat passage to Missouri for themselves, their wagons, and their livestock or—as happened more often—simply pile
Line everything into a wagon, hitch up a team, and begin their overland trek right in
(5) their front yard.

Along the macadamized roads and turnpikes east of the Missouri River, travel was comparatively fast, camping easy, and supplies plentiful. Then, in one river town or another, the neophyte emigrants would pause to lay in provisions. For outfitting purposes, the town of Independence had been preeminent ever since 1827,
(10) but the rising momentum of pioneer emigration had produced some rival jump-off points. Westport and Fort Leavenworth flourished a few miles upriver. St. Joseph had sprung up 55 miles to the northwest; in fact, emigrants who went to Missouri by riverboat could save four days on the trail by staying on the paddle-wheelers to St. Joe before striking overland.

(15) At whatever jump-off point they chose, the emigrants studied guidebooks and directions, asked questions of others as green as themselves, and made their final decisions about outfitting. They had various, sometimes conflicting, options. For example, either pack animals or two-wheel carts or wagons could be used for the overland crossing. A family man usually chose the wagon. It was the costliest and
(20) slowest of the three, but it provided space and shelter for children and for a wife who likely as not was pregnant. Everybody knew that a top-heavy covered wagon might blow over in a prairie wind or be overturned by mountain rocks, that it might mire in river mud or sink to its hubs in desert sand—but maybe if those things happened on this trip, they would happen to someone else. Anyway, most pioneers,
(25) with their farm background, were used to wagons.

20. What is the topic of this passage?
    (A) Important river towns
    (B) Getting started on the trip west
    (C) The advantages of traveling by wagon
    (D) Choosing a point of departure

21. All of the following can be inferred from the passage about travel east of the Missouri EXCEPT that it
    (A) was faster than in the West
    (B) was easier than in the West
    (C) took place on good roads
    (D) was usually by steamboat

22. The phrase "jump-off point" in lines 1, 10–11 and 15 is closest in meaning to
    (A) a bridge across a river
    (B) a point of departure
    (C) a gathering place
    (D) a trading post

23. Which of the cities that served as a jump-off point can be inferred from the passage to be farthest west?
    (A) Independence
    (B) St. Joseph
    (C) Westport
    (D) Fort Leavenworth

24. The word "preeminent" in line 9 is closest in meaning to
    (A) oldest
    (B) superior
    (C) most easily reached
    (D) closest

25. The author implies in the passage that the early emigrants
    (A) knew a lot about travel
    (B) were well stocked with provisions when they left their homes
    (C) left from the same place in Missouri
    (D) preferred wagon travel to other types of travel

26. The word "neophyte" in line 8 is closest in meaning to
    (A) eager
    (B) courageous
    (C) prosperous
    (D) inexperienced

27. All of the following were mentioned in the passage as options for modes of transportation from the Missouri River to the West EXCEPT
    (A) a wagon
    (B) a riverboat
    (C) a pack animal
    (D) a two-wheel cart

28. In line 14, the word "striking" is closest in meaning to
    (A) hitting
    (B) orienting
    (C) departing
    (D) marking

29. The expression "green" in line 16 is closest in meaning to
    (A) frightened
    (B) optimistic
    (C) inexperienced
    (D) weary

LIVEWORKSHEETS

30. All of the following features of the covered wagon made it unattractive to the emigrants EXCEPT
(A) the speed at which it could travel
(B) its bulk
(C) its familiarity and size
(D) its cost

31. In line 23, the phrase "those things" refers to
(A) the types of transportation
(B) the belongings of the pioneers
(C) the problems of wagon travel
(D) the overland routes

Questions 32–40

"The economic history of the United States," one scholar has written, "is the history of the rise and development of the capitalistic system." The colonists of the eighteenth century pushed forward what those of the seventeenth century had
Line begun: the expansion and elaboration of an economy born in the great age of
(5) capitalist expansion.

Our excellent natural resources paved the way for the development of abundant capital to increase our growth. Capital includes the tools—such as machines, vehicles, and buildings—that make the outputs of labor and resources more valuable. But it also includes the funds necessary to buy those tools. If a society
(10) had to consume everything it produced just to stay alive, nothing could be put aside to increase future productions. But if a farmer can grow more corn than his family needs to eat, he can use the surplus as seed to increase the next crop, or to feed workers who build tractors. This process of capital accumulation was aided in the American economy by our cultural heritage. Saving played an important
(15) role in the European tradition; it contributed to Americans' motivation to put something aside today for the tools to buy tomorrow.

The great bulk of the accumulated wealth of America, as distinguished from that which was consumed, was derived either directly or indirectly from trade. Though some manufacturing existed, its role in the accumulation of capital was negligible.
(20) A merchant class of opulent proportions was already visible in the seaboard cities, its wealth the obvious consequence of shrewd and resourceful management of the carrying trade. Even the rich planters of tidewater Virginia and the rice coast of South Carolina finally depended for their genteel way of life upon the ships and merchants who sold their tobacco and rice in the markets of Europe. As colonial
(25) production rose and trade expanded, a business community emerged in the colonies, linking the provinces by lines of trade and identity of interest.

32. With what subject is this passage mainly concerned?
(A) Geography
(B) Finance
(C) Economics
(D) Culture

33. The phrase "paved the way for" in line 6 is closest in meaning to
(A) paid for
(B) supported
(C) accumulated
(D) resembled

34. In line 9 the word "it" refers to
(A) growth
(B) resources
(C) labor
(D) capital

35. According to the passage, capital includes all of the following EXCEPT
(A) factories
(B) tractors
(C) money
(D) workers

36. In line 9, the word "funds" is closest in meaning to
(A) money
(B) resources
(C) output
(D) support

37. The phrase "put aside" in lines 10–11 is closest in meaning to
(A) hidden
(B) saved
(C) reviewed
(D) consumed

38. According to the passage, which of the following would lead to accumulating capital?
(A) Training workers who produce goods
(B) Studying the cultural history of the country
(C) Consuming what is produced
(D) Planting more of a crop than is needed

39. It can be inferred from the passage that the European ancestors of early Americans
(A) sent many tools to America
(B) taught their skills to their offspring
(C) were accustomed to saving
(D) were good farmers

40. According to the passage, the emergence of a business community in the colonies was a result of
(A) efficient saving
(B) the immigration of wealthy bankers
(C) the success of production and trade
(D) the existence of manufacturing

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Questions 41–50

Scientists do not yet thoroughly understand just how the body of an individual becomes sensitive to a substance that is harmless or even wholesome for the average person. Milk, wheat, and egg, for example, rank among the most healthful and widely used foods. Yet these foods can cause persons sensitive to them to suffer greatly. At first, the body of the individual is not harmed by coming into contact with the substance. After a varying interval of time, usually longer than a few weeks, the body becomes sensitive to it, and an allergy has begun to develop.

Sometimes it's hard to figure out if you have a food allergy, since it can show up so many different ways. Your symptoms could be caused by many other problems. You may have rashes, hives, joint pains mimicking arthritis, headaches, irritability, or depression. The most common food allergies are to milk, eggs, seafood, wheat, nuts, seeds, chocolate, oranges, and tomatoes. Many of these allergies will not develop if these foods are not fed to an infant until her or his intestines mature at around seven months. Breast milk also tends to be protective. Migraines can be set off by foods containing tyramine, phenathylamine, monosodium glutamate, or sodium nitrate. Common foods which contain these are chocolate, aged cheeses, sour cream, red wine, pickled herring, chicken livers, avocados, ripe bananas, cured meats, many Oriental and prepared foods (read the labels!). Some people have been successful in treating their migraines with supplements of B-vitamins, particularly B6 and niacin. Children who are hyperactive may benefit from eliminating food additives, especially colorings, and foods high in salicylates from their diets. A few of these are almonds, green peppers, peaches, tea, grapes. This is the diet made popular by Benjamin Feingold, who has written the book *Why your Child is Hyperactive*. Other researchers have had mixed results when testing whether the diet is effective.

41. The topic of this passage is
    (A) reactions to foods
    (B) food and nutrition
    (C) infants and allergies
    (D) a good diet

42. According to the passage, the difficulty in diagnosing allergies to foods is due to
    (A) the vast number of different foods we eat
    (B) lack of a proper treatment plan
    (C) the similarity of symptoms of the allergy to other problems
    (D) the use of prepared formula to feed babies

43. The word "symptoms" in line 9 is closest in meaning to
    (A) indications
    (B) diet
    (C) diagnosis
    (D) prescriptions

44. The phrase "set off" in lines 14–15 is closest in meaning to
    (A) relieved
    (B) identified
    (C) avoided
    (D) triggered

45. What can be inferred about babies from this passage?
    (A) They can eat almost anything.
    (B) They should have a carefully restricted diet as infants.
    (C) They gain little benefit from being breast fed.
    (D) They may become hyperactive if fed solid food too early.

46. The word "hyperactive" in line 20 is closest in meaning to
    (A) overly active
    (B) unusually low activity
    (C) excited
    (D) inquisitive

47. The author states that the reason that infants need to avoid certain foods related to allergies has to do with the infant's
    (A) lack of teeth
    (B) poor metabolism
    (C) underdeveloped intestinal tract
    (D) inability to swallow solid foods

48. The word "these" in line 22 refers to
    (A) food additives
    (B) food colorings
    (C) unnutritious foods
    (D) foods high in salicylates

49. Which of the following was a suggested treatment for migraines in the passage?
    (A) Eating more ripe bananas
    (B) Avoiding all Oriental foods
    (C) Getting plenty of sodium nitrate
    (D) Using Vitamin B in addition to a good diet

50. According to the article the Feingold diet is NOT
    (A) verified by researchers as being consistently effective
    (B) available in book form
    (C) beneficial for hyperactive children
    (D) designed to eliminate foods containing certain food additives

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