Finding Main Idea

Directions: Choose the best Main Idea of each paragraph.

1. A neurosurgeon, a doctor specializing in the nervous system, in Toronto, Canada, has warned that playfully tossing an infant up in the air may cause brain damage if done repeatedly. He said many parents do not know excessive shaking could be dangerous to a baby's soft skull, undeveloped brain and weak neck muscles.

   a) The nervous system.

   b) How to play with an infant.

   c) The danger of shaking babies.

   d) How to keep the babies healthy.

2. Some big factories pour toxic waste into water, killing fish and endangering the water for drinking. Off-shore oil drilling is harming life in the sea. Careless people who drop litter make public parks into dumps. Burning garbage turns the air foul for miles around. Junkyards, full of used, useless cars, can be found in large numbers throughout the countryside. Yes, signs of destruction of living space can be found everywhere.

   a) Big factories pour toxic waste into water.

   b) Off-shore oil drilling endangers life in the sea.

   c) Burning garbage turns the air foul for miles around.

   d) Signs of destruction of living space can be found everywhere.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3. Africa, not Asia, can be considered to be the world's most serious population problem now. The continent contains 472 million people, of which some 150 million are facing extreme food shortages. One nation, Kenya, now has the world's highest rate of national increase (birth minus deaths) at 3.9 a year. At the rate, population doubles in 18 years.

a) Africa now is the world's most serious population problem.

b) Kenya has the world's highest rate of population increase now.

c) Asia is facing maximum food shortages.

d) Population of Kenya doubles in 18 years.

4. An earlier theory said that the dinosaurs died because the earth had become colder. The dinosaurs could not eat enough to keep their bodies warm and had no fur or feathers to keep the heat in. There were both dinosaurs which were plant-eaters and meat-eaters. When the plant-eaters died out, the meat-eaters grew short of food and died.

a) The dinosaurs died because of the cold weather.

b) There are two kinds of dinosaurs, plant-eaters and meat-eaters.

c) The dinosaurs had no fur to cover their bodies.

d) The dinosaurs could not keep their bodies warm.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5. Pregnant women who smoke cigarettes or drink lots of coffee give birth to smaller babies, according to a report shown in Bonn. The study also showed that drinking too much alcohol tends to shorten the pregnancy term and that there is a greater danger of deformed children if the father is a chain smoker.

a) Drunk women give birth to smaller babies.

b) Danger of deformed children caused by smoking fathers.

c) Drinking too much alcohol shortens the pregnancy term.

d) Smoking and drinking endanger pregnancy.

6. The Sahara Desert is located in the northern part of Africa. It stretches from the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea, covering one fourth of the continent. If you wanted to hide the entire continental United States, you could bury it under the Sahara. Only a small part of the Florida Peninsula or the southern tip of Texas would stick out. Should you decide to walk the length of Sahara at a rate of eight kilometers a day, it would take you almost two and a half years!

a) The Sahara Desert is longer than it is wide.

b) The Sahara Desert is extremely large.

c) The Sahara Desert is a good hiding place.

d) The Sahara Desert is in Africa.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

7. Fins are a great help in swimming. A fish pushes itself forward by moving its tail and tail fin from side to side. Its other fins help it keep its balance. They also help guide it.

a) Fins help to guide fish in water.

b) A fish moves itself forward by moving its tail and tail fin.

c) Fins help a fish to keep its balance.

d) Fins are a great help in swimming.

8. Kota Bharu has numerous modern hotels most of which are situated right in the heart of town. Hotel rates vary, depending on the hotel you choose, but the average range of charges is from M$5(US$2) to M$40(US$16). Some hotels provide TV sets in their rooms apart from other conveniences.

a) Kota Bharu has numerous modern hotels in the centre of the town.

b) Hotels are situated in the heart of the town.

c) Hotel rates vary, depending on the hotel you choose.

d) Some hotels provide TV sets in their rooms apart from

LIVEWORKSHEETS

9. The largest telescope is at the Mt. Palomer Observatory in California. It uses a mirror that is 200 inches in a diameter. The glass mirror in this telescope gathers as much light as 250 million eyes can. This telescope is used to photograph stars a million times dimmer than the ones we can see with our eyes. It can see things in space that are two or three billion light years away.

a) The telescope is used to photograph stars a million times dimmer than the ones we can see with our eyes.

b) A telescope can see things in the space that are two or three billion light years away.

c) A telescope uses a mirror that is 200 inches in diameter.

d) The largest telescope is at the Mt. Palomer Observatory in California.

10. People used to think daisies were magic in many other ways, too. Some thought it was lucky to step on the first daisy they saw in the spring. (It wasn't lucky for the daisy!) Other believed that if daisies were floated in milk given to a puppy, the puppy would grow into a small, not a large, dog!

a) Daisies were magic in many ways.

b) People used to think daisies were magic in many ways.

c) Some people thought that it was lucky to step on the first daisy they saw in the spring.

d) Some people believed that if daisies were floated in milk given to a puppy, the puppy would grow into a small dog.

LIVEWORKSHEETS