## Passage 1

NASA, the US space agency, announced plans to return to the Moon within the next 15 years and this time the plan is to stay. It was 1972 when the last people stepped onto the moon. The next time an astronaut walks there he or she is most likely to visit the polar region rather than the equatorial zone, the site of all previous missions. The poles are the preferred location because they experience more moderate temperatures and are bathed in almost continuous sunlight, which will allow a permanent research station to rely on solar power. Another benefit of the poles regions is that they are believed to hold mineral deposits from which oxygen and hydrogen can be extracted. After a number of robotic scouting missions there would then occur a great many short-duration manned transportation missions. Once operational the station would be permanently occupied with astronauts undertaking six monthly tours of duty. They would undertake a wide range of scientific tasks perhaps the most ambitious of which will be to prepare for a journey to the planet Mars.

1. Incredibly, or more likely unintentionally, the passage states that the next astronaut will have to walk to the moon!

   True  False  Cannot tell

   Answer

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2. The moon station will operate as a science laboratory and its principal objective will be preparing for a manned mission to Mars.

True False Cannot tell

Answer

3. The conclusion that the polar region of the moon is the preferred location for the station is wholly dependent on the assumption that the oxygen and hydrogen extracted there could be used by the astronauts.

True False Cannot tell

Answer

## Passage 2

Outside the cities, people have no alternative but to drive their cars to get their children to school, get to hospitals and to go shopping. They already pay among the highest petrol duties in the world and an annual road tax that raises far more than is spent on the national infrastructure. Now they face, within a decade, the introduction of road charging, an additional tax that will be charged for each mile travelled. The aim of these additional taxes is to free the roads of traffic, so speeding up businesses and improving the nation's productivity and efficiency. Then the well off will be able to drive along unencumbered by the mass of ordinary drivers, and the congestion of the rush hour will be a thing of the past.

4. A significant flaw in the case made in the passage would emerge if there were an affordable public transport system serving rural locations.

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True False Cannot tell

Answer

5. People living outside the cities already pay a higher rate of duty on petrol than those living in the city.

True False Cannot tell

Answer

6. The rich will be able to drive along unencumbered by the mass of ordinary drivers only if the charges are so high that the majority of road users are priced off the roads.

True False Cannot tell

Answer

## Passage 3

Cholera, typhoid, diphtheria and tuberculosis cause huge numbers of deaths. Drinking water has always been the world's greatest single vector of sickness. Disease is transmitted when sewage and drinking water come into contact. Children are particularly vulnerable. In the 19th century half of all children died before the age of 5. In some of the poorest countries the infant mortality rate still stands as high as one in eight. This compares with a rate of 1 in 100 in countries where drinking water is safe. The separation of sewage and the supply of clean drinking water are the domain of civil engineers, and their work makes a significant contribution to public health. That contribution was at last recognized when public sanitation was voted the greatest medical breakthrough, beating discoveries including antibiotics, vaccines and anaesthesia in a poll organized by the *British Medical Journal*.

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7. The passage states that cholera is a water-borne disease.

True False Cannot tell

Answer

8. The safe disposal of sewage and the supply of clean drinking water are not medical advances.

True False Cannot tell

Answer

9. The first two sentences are sufficient to draw the conclusion that water-borne disease is still the greatest transmitter of sickness.

True False Cannot tell

Answer

## Passage 4

'End the external consultant's gravy train' was the message from the cross-party accounts committee of the Houses of Parliament. The use of consultants in the public sector has soared over the past three years to the point where members of the committee considered it to have reached an expensive, unproductive dependency. The evidence they heard left them unable to establish the benefit of the practice, and they voiced deep concerns about the lack of performance reviews in most contracts. They were also critical of the failure of management to support in-house tenders submitted by departments' own teams. The view of the committee was that these bids represented far greater value for money when compared to the companies that were awarded the work and who charged rates as high as £2,000 a day. It was also

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felt that savings could be made if, instead of payment on the time taken, consultants were engaged on price paid for the work done.

10. A gravy train is a situation where someone can easily make a lot of money.

    True  False  Cannot tell

    Answer

11. The passage states findings of an investigation by the committee into the benefits of using consultants in the private sector.

    True  False  Cannot tell

    Answer

12. Billions have been wasted on consultants over the three years.

    True  False  Cannot tell

    Answer

## Passage 5

People should buy more fresh food to use in preparing proper meals. What is more, they should whenever possible buy locally produced food from local shops. Instead, we treat food like fuel: we seek out the cheapest and most convenient, which is often processed industrially and supplied by multinationals, which has consequences for both public health and the environment. We eat it in a hurry and on the move rather than eating together around a table. Many meals contain too much fat and sugar, giving rise to obesity and high blood pressure; pre-packed meals are expensive

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and wasteful because of all the packaging and distribution involved. People just do not respect food enough and largely lack the skills and knowledge needed to turn back to good food.

13. The author's attitude towards junk food is ambivalent.

True False Cannot tell

Answer

14. It can be inferred from the passage that pre-packed meals are cheaper than fresh food.

True False Cannot tell

Answer

15. The author would probably consider the fact that people do not have time to appreciate food, buy it locally, prepare and cook it themselves and eat it together, as illustrative of his argument.

True False Cannot tell

Answer

## Passage 6

Road signs and traffic lights at junctions and busy crossing points may be removed in order to improve road safety. The idea may seem contradictory and goes against the decades-long trend of separating and controlling traffic and pedestrians. The idea is to create anxiety, principally in the mind of the driver, so that he or she slows down and pays greater attention. Current demarcations between pavement and road will be made indistinct by removing railings and kerbs, resurfacing both in the same material, and

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re-laying them so that they are on the same level. Neither drivers nor pedestrians will then feel they have right of way and both, as a consequence, will behave more cautiously. When a driver reaches a junction at which there are no traffic lights he or she must take responsibility for deciding when it is safe to cross. Previously the driver relied on the traffic lights to decide his or her action and this created a dangerous state of denial of accountability. Incredibly, the initiative is claimed to not only make the streets safer but also to reduce congestion.

16. An explanation of the ultimate sentence in the passage would be 'Traffic moves more naturally and there are no more unnecessary delays at red lights when no other vehicle is in the vicinity.'

    True False Cannot tell

    Answer

17. If you observe a junction where the lights are out there is rarely congestion.

    True False Cannot tell

    Answer

18. The principal case made in the passage can be summed up as 'Removing lights removes barriers to traffic flow and improves behaviour.'

    True False Cannot tell

    Answer

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# Passage 7

Particles were collected in blocks of a silicon-type material called Aerogel as a space probe passed through the tail of a comet at the very edge of our solar system. Incredibly the probe then returned to Earth and scientists were able to use spectrometers and electron microscopes to identify the mineral and chemical compositions of the particles. The probe travelled almost 3 billion miles and passed within 150 miles of the comet at great speed. At that point the Aerogel was exposed and particles from the comet's tail that struck it were slowed down and stopped by the gel-like material, trapping them. The Aerogel and its unique cargo then began the three-year journey back to Earth. Some of the particles are believed to pre-date the sun and to have remained unchanged in very cold deep space for all of their existence. Importantly, the sample was considered free of contaminants derived from the great planets of our solar system and the asteroid belt.

19. Among the finds were particles that pre-dated our solar system that had not changed since their creation.

    True  False  Cannot tell

    Answer

20. According to the passage, the findings have startled scientists.

    True  False  Cannot tell

    Answer

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21. The claim that the particles were too small to reveal their mineral content can be rebutted by the content of the passage.

True False Cannot tell

Answer

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