

Term 1

Main and Supporting Ideas Challenge Session

All the best!

+ * +

Read each
paragraph.

Choose the best
answer.

You probably know that guide dogs are used to lead blind people. Did you know that a few blind people have guide horses? These are miniature horses trained much as guide dogs are. The small horses respond to more than 25 commands. They can see well in the dark. They are also trained to tap with a hoof on the door if they need to go out. One man has even taken his guide horse on an airplane!

The main idea of this paragraph is

- a. How guide dogs are trained.
- b. A guide horse on an airplane.
- c. The use of small horses as guides.
- d. Why blind people like animals.

A supporting detail is

- a. Guide dogs lead blind people.
- b. The horses respond to 25 commands.
- c. Miniature means small.
- d. Airlines welcome guide horses.

Dictionary writers are always busy. That's because the English language keeps changing. People stop using some words, and new words keep popping up. Where do new words come from? Many recent words are from technology. For example, *snailmail* came into use after people started using the much faster e-mail. Other new words come from books, television, movies, and fads. Do you know what a wannabe is? If not, you can look it up in a recently published dictionary.

The main idea of this paragraph is

A supporting detail is

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|---|--|
| a. Dictionaries show changes in English. | a. Snails help to deliver the mail. |
| b. How television affects English. | b. Many words come from technology. |
| c. Why dictionary writers are so tired. | c. Old dictionaries are not useful. |
| d. How to find new words in a dictionary. | d. The English language never changes. |

Have you ever carried a stone around in your pocket? According to a tradition of the Seneca, a favorite stone can tell something about you. If your stone is smooth, it means you are gentle. A rough stone means that you follow creative ideas. Gray stones suggest that you are friendly, while brown ones mean you love nature. The shape of your stone has meaning too. A round stone says you are flexible. Is your stone oval? You are seeking a better life.

The main idea of this paragraph is

- a. It's good to carry stones in your pocket.
- b. Stones are precious possessions.
- c. Rough stones mean creativity.
- d. Stones have meaning to the Seneca.

A supporting detail is

- a. Everyone should carry a stone.
- b. Brown stones mean you love nature.
- c. Stones are found in many colors.
- d. A stone's shape is not important.

Lions live together in social groups called prides. Most of the lions in a pride are females and their cubs. The lionesses share the work of hunting and raising the cubs. By hunting in a pack, lions can take down animals far larger than themselves. Much of the food killed by a pride is taken by the males. In return, they provide protection from other males. A pride has a well-defined territory, which is marked by the males. When lions in a pride meet, they greet one another by head rubbing, licking, and grooming.

The main idea of this paragraph is

- a. Males eat most of a pride's food.
- b. Lions live in groups called prides.
- c. Lions hunt together in a pack.
- d. Lionesses share the work of a pride.

A supporting detail is

- a. The males mark a pride's territory.
- b. Cubs are helpless when they're born.
- c. The pride is a lion's family group.
- d. Lions are solitary hunters.

Happy New Year! People say this all over the world; however, not everyone celebrates this day in the same way. In Iceland, New Year's Eve is a time to clean up trash and perform elf dances. Families in Ecuador dance around scarecrows and read lists of people's faults. Later, when they set the scarecrow on fire, both it and the faults go up in flames. In Belgium, children write down good deeds they hope to perform. Chinese and Japanese get off to a good start by paying all their debts. How do you celebrate?

The main idea of this paragraph is

- a. Performing good deeds in Belgium
- b. New Year's traditions around the world
- c. How Americans celebrate the New Year
- d. A time to pay off debts

A supporting detail is

- a. How to celebrate the New Year
- b. B January 1 is a national holiday.
- c. Learning to do elf dances
- d. Icelanders clean up trash.

Some expressions about feelings are very colorful! If you're sad, you "might be feeling blue." Have you ever been so excited that you "talked a blue streak"? Perhaps you were "tickled pink." If you've ever been jealous, you might have been "green with envy." Suppose you are scared. Then you might turn "white as a sheet." Anger might make you "see red." Embarrassed about something? Will you turn "red as a beet"?

The main idea of this paragraph is

- a. Using blue to describe feelings
- b. "Seeing red" means being angry.
- c. Idioms about unhappy feelings
- d. Color phrases help express feelings.

A supporting detail is

- a. Understanding English sayings.
- b. A rainbow of expressions.
- c. "Green with envy" expresses jealousy.
- d. Yellow often means cowardice.