READING PRACTICE FOR GRADE 12 **Name:**

FACTUAL INFORMATION QUESTION (Keyword -> locate information)

Example 1: The History of Wallpaper

In the Middle Ages, the wealthy covered their walls with large tapestries, which not only provided color but also insulated the cold stone walls. But only the very rich could afford them, and they were often unavailable during times of war, when international trade was difficult. In England, tapestries had to be imported from France, but after Henry III was thrown out of the Catholic Church in 1645, trade with Europe dried up. The upper classes began using wallpaper instead. By the eighteenth century, England was the leading manufacturer in Europe. When the steam-powered printing press was invented in 1813, British manufacturers were able to mass-produce wallpaper, causing its price to fall. Suddenly, it was affordable to the working classes as well. In the twentieth century, wallpaper was accepted as a cheap and effective way of brightening the dark rooms of working-class homes.



Question 1: According to the passage, the English upper class began using wallpaper because:

(A) it was cheaper than tapestries
(B) they started using wood walls
(C) tapestries were no longer fashionable
(D) tapestries could no longer be imported

Example 2: Progressive Taxation

Taxes on income can be either progressive or flat. A flat tax is proportional to the amount one earns, a so the tax rate is the same for all levels of income. With a progressive tax, however, the rate increases w income. The justification for the higher rate is to avoid the inequity of a flat tax. This occurs because, when everyone pays the same rate, the wealthy pay a smaller percentage of their income than do lower income earners. That is because the less well-off have to use a greater share of their income for necessities such as food, housing, and clothing. Once the richer taxpayers pay for the same necessities, they have a larger portion of their income left over for savings, luxuries, and leisure. The theory behind a progressive income tax is that it places a greater burden on those better able to afford it.

Question1: According to the passage, the problem with a flat tax is that

(A) it takes too much from high-income people

(B) it decreases as income goes down

(C) the rich pay a smaller share than the poor

(D) the poor cannot afford luxuries

Question 2: The author's description of the progressive tax mentions which of the following?

(A) It puts a greater burden on those able to afford it.

(B) It increases as income goes down.

(C) It is not mentioned in the Constitution.

(D) It makes luxuries affordable for low-income people

LIVEWORKSHEETS



PRACTICE 1: ANCIENT EGYPTIAN PAINTING

Egyptian painting began about 5,000 years ago, arising out of the advanced civilization centered in the fertile Nile Valley. Because of the extremely dry climate, many ancient Egyptian paintings survive today. Paintings were intended to provide company for the dead in the afterlife, so they were placed in the tombs in which the dead were buried. Artists tried accurately to portray the time in which the person lived so that the deceased would always feel the comfort of seeing the people and places that he knew. Subjects also included journeys through the afterworld and the gods to be found there. Because Egyptian society was very religious, many paintings depict gods and goddesses as well as pharaohs, their rulers, who were also treated as gods. The artistic style was to use clear and simple lines and shapes in order to achieve a sense of order.

Question 1: According to the passage, the purpose of Egyptian paintings was to _____.

A. entertain the ruling class
C. give offerings to the gods
B. decorate the pharaohs' homes
D. comfort the dead

Question 2: The author's description of subjects of paintings mentions which of the following? (Choose two answers)

A. soldiers
D. pyramids
B. gods
E. Egyptian rulers
C. priests

PRACTICE 3: WORKS PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

During the Great Depression in the United States in the 1930s, factories were forced to close, putting millions out of work. The unemployed had to depend on public relief money. In 1935 President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Works Progress Administration, which was designed to provide government-funded jobs for those on relief. The agency, later renamed the Works Projects Administration (WPA), was the largest agency in Roosevelt's New Deal, his program for economic recovery.

The first head of the agency was Harry L. Hopkins. He estimated that 3.5 million people would be eligible to work in the WPA and that he would need $1,200 per year for each worker. Congress approved $4 billion to begin. Wages were set at different levels according to the region of the country, the local market wage, and the skill required. In order to maximize the number of workers, each person was limited to no more than thirty hours a week.

Question 1: According to the passage, the author mentions which of the following as the factors used to set WPA wages? (Choose 2 answers.)

A. the worker's geographic location
D. the worker's age
B. the worker's skill
E. the worker's marital status
C. the worker's political party

Question 2: What was the goal of the establishment of the WPA?

A. offered relief money
B. renamed the largest agency
C. offered employment funded by the government
D. worked for economic recovery

LIVEWORKSHEETS