

## Task 5

Read the text below. For questions (39–48) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D). Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

### BARBED WIRE

Barbed wire, a simple tool, reshaped Life in the American West by allowing ranchers to (39) \_\_\_\_\_ the land. The new fencing simplified the work of the rancher and farmer, and significantly (40) \_\_\_\_\_ political, social, and economic practices throughout the west helping to shape the 20th century.

Before the invention of barbed wire, the (41) \_\_\_\_\_ of effective fencing limited the range of farming the number of settlers in an area. With little or no wood and no rocks there wasn't any way to fence (42) \_\_\_\_\_ your land.

Wire fences used before the invention of the barb consisted of only one strand of wire, which was often (43) \_\_\_\_\_ by the weight of cattle pushing against it. Michael Kelly made a significant improvement to wire fencing with an invention that (44) \_\_\_\_\_ 'wo wires together to form a cable for barbs — the first of its kind. Kelly's double-strand design made the fence stronger, and the painful barbs taught cattle to (45) \_\_\_\_\_ their distance.

The widespread use of barbed wire changed life on the Great Plains (46) \_\_\_\_\_ and permanently. The lives of Native Americans were radically altered they began calling barbed wire 'the Devil's rope.' Fenced-off land meant that more and more cattle herders were dependent on the dwindling overgrazed public lands. The (47) \_\_\_\_\_ winter of 1886, and a big January 1887 blizzard, wreaked further havoc on the cattle market. Large-scale, open-range cattle enterprises effectively disappeared.

Barbed wire has survived the passage of time being used (48) \_\_\_\_\_ from farm land to prisons and even in battle fields. Barbed wire, one of the simplest of famous inventions, truly tamed the West.

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|-------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| 39 A train        | B tame      | C suppress    | D surrender |
| 40 A affected     | B touched   | C impressed   | D held      |
| 41 A loss         | B plenty    | C decrease    | D lack      |
| 42 A on           | B off       | C of          | D in        |
| 43 A cracked      | B separated | C broken      | D fixed     |
| 44 A altered      | B twisted   | C changed     | D edged     |
| 45 A take         | B keep      | C hold        | D do        |
| 46 A dramatically | B harmfully | C dangerously | D finally   |
| 47 A moderate     | B calm      | C sharp       | D harsh     |
| 48 A wherever     | B anywhere  | C everywhere  | D nowhere   |

### Task 9

Read the texts below. For questions (49–58) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D). Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

#### SPILLING SALT

‘When you spill salt, toss some over your left shoulder to avoid bad luck.’

Spilling salt (49) \_\_\_\_ unlucky for thousands of years. Around 3,500 B.C., the ancient Sumerians first (50) \_\_\_\_ to nullifying the bad luck of spilled salt by (51) \_\_\_\_ a pinch of it over their left shoulders. This ritual spread to the Egyptians, the Assyrians and later, the Greeks.

The superstition (52) \_\_\_\_ reflects how much people prized (and still prize) salt as a seasoning for food. The etymology of the word ‘salary’ shows how highly we value it. According to Panati: ‘The Roman writer Petronius, in the Satyricon, originated ‘not worth his salt’ as opprobrium\* for Roman soldiers, who (53) \_\_\_\_ special allowances for salt rations, called salarium ‘salt money’ the origin of our word ‘salary.’

\*opprobrium — very strong criticism of something

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|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| 49 A was considered | B has been considered | C will be considered | D considers  |
| 50 A taken          | B took                | C taking             | D has taken  |
| 51 A throwing       | B to throw            | C thrown             | D will throw |
| 52 A ultimate       | B ultimating          | C ultimately         | D ultimately |
| 53 A was given      | B is given            | C will be given      | D were given |

#### ‘IT’S BAD LUCK TO WALK UNDER A LADDER.’

This superstition really does originate 5,000 years ago in ancient Egypt. A ladder (54) \_\_\_\_ against a wall forms a triangle, and Egyptians regarded this shape as sacred (as exhibited, for example, by their pyramids). To them, triangles (55) \_\_\_\_ the trinity of the gods, and to pass through a triangle was to desecrate them.

This belief wended (56) \_\_\_\_ way up through the ages. ‘Centuries later, followers of Jesus Christ usurped the superstition, interpreting it in light of Christ’s death,’ Panati explained. ‘Because a ladder had rested against the crucifix, it became a symbol of wickedness, betrayal, and (57) \_\_\_\_ . Walking under a ladder courted misfortune.’

In England in the 1600s, criminals were forced (58) \_\_\_\_ under a ladder on their way to the gallows.

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|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 54 A lean       | B leaning         | C leaned      | D leant           |
| 55 A represents | B would represent | C represented | D had represented |
| 56 A it         | B it’s            | C its         | D its’            |
| 57 A die        | B dead            | C deadly      | D death           |
| 58 A to walk    | B walking         | C walks       | D having walked   |