

READING COMPREHENSION TASK 2

Read the passage and select the choice that describes its main idea best:

➤ **Passage 1**

The best recipes for clam chowder all include onions and a bay leaf. The onions add a sharpness and zest to the blandness of the clams, and also help remove their slimy texture. The bay leaf complements the onion's strong flavor.

This paragraph best supports the statement that

- a. onions were once thought to be poisonous.
- b. bay leaves are essential in many soups.
- c. clam chowder is very nutritious.
- d. onions and bay leaves go well with clams.
- e. clams should not be overcooked.

➤ **Passage 2**

One New York publisher has estimated that 50,000 to 60,000 people in the United States want an anthology that includes the complete works of William Shakespeare. And what accounts for this renewed interest in Shakespeare? As scholars point out, the psychological insights he portrays in both male and female characters are amazing even today.

This paragraph best supports the statement that

- a. Shakespeare's characters are more interesting than fictional characters today.
- b. people today are interested in Shakespeare's work because of the characters.
- c. academic scholars are putting together an anthology of Shakespeare's work.
- d. New Yorkers have a renewed interest in the work of Shakespeare.
- e. Shakespeare was a psychiatrist as well as a playwright.

➤ **Passage 3**

Critical reading is a demanding process. To read critically, you must slow down your reading and, with pencil in hand, perform specific operations on the text. Mark up the text with your reactions, conclusions, and questions. When you read, become an active participant.

This paragraph best supports the statement that

- a. critical reading is a slow, dull, but essential process.
- b. the best critical reading happens at critical times in a person's life.
- c. readers should get in the habit of questioning the truth of what they read.
- d. critical reading requires thoughtful and careful attention.
- e. critical reading should take place at the same time each day.

➤ **Passage 4**

The Fourth Amendment to the Constitution protects citizens against unreasonable searches and seizures. No search of a person's home or personal effects may be conducted without a written search warrant issued on probable cause. This means that a neutral judge must approve the factual basis justifying a search before it can be conducted.

This paragraph best supports the statement that the police cannot search a person's home or private papers unless they have

- a. legal authorization.
- b. direct evidence of a crime.
- c. read the person his or her constitutional rights.
- d. a reasonable belief that a crime has occurred.
- e. requested that a judge be present.