

Select the statement that best expresses the main idea.

1. People often refer to taxes in terms of their being much too high. In reality, they are probably even higher than you think, because in addition to the federal income tax we are now studying, there are many other Federal, State, and local taxes, including sales taxes, inheritance taxes, state income taxes, personal property taxes, real estate taxes, and others. These are just some of the most obvious ones.

- a. Taxes are much too high.
- b. We pay more taxes than we may realize.
- c. Inheritance taxes and real estate taxes are unfair.
- d. The Federal taxes are the highest in the US.

2. The fact that electronic computers are now used for data processing has led the general public to believe that it is a mysterious, complicated science and that the computers are giant brains. Both of these ideas are false. A computer is basically just a high-speed adding machine that performs the functions it is told to do. If the input data are varied even a little, the computer is unable to operate until it is programmed to accept this. The business operations it performs are impressive only because of the extremely high speed of processing data. Unlike man, the computer performs repetitive calculations without getting tired or bored.

- a. A computer is a high-speed adding machine.
- b. A computer is a mysterious giant brain.
- c. A computer is impressive because of its high speed.
- d. With certain programming, a computer can perform things that the man cannot do.

3. There is a common belief that while the dog is man's best friend, the coyote is his worst enemy. The bad reputation of the coyote traces back to his desire for small animals; he hunts at night and is particularly destructive to sheep, young pigs, and poultry. Provided valuable farm animals are protected, the coyote will be beneficial in reducing the rodent population. Where coyotes have been allowed to do their work without disturbance, ranchers and fruit growers have found them so valuable that they would no more shoot them.

- a. Under certain conditions the coyote is helpful to man.
- b. The coyote is feared because of his fondness for small animals
- c. Modern ranchers would no sooner shoot coyotes than they would shoot dogs.
- d. The coyote usually prefers rabbits and other rodents to sheep and poultry.

4. In earlier days those who had overseas business which they believed should be discussed personally, took ship, and set out across the briny deep. Once aboard they transacted their affairs, engaging in commercial and social matters or conducting government business. Today ships and passengers continue to sail the seven seas, and airplanes soar overhead. But above them all, words speed through the sky – telephone conversations quickly bring together in the most personal fashion people who are separated by thousands of miles.

- a. Overseas telephone service today is ruling out all need for overseas travel.
- b. Nothing can take the place of person-to-person conversation in settling business, social, and government problems.
- c. Many conversations which once required overseas travel can now be conducted by telephone.
- d. Even with modern overseas telephone service people continue to travel abroad by ship or by plane.