

Critical Reading Final Test 6/3 GEng

Part 1 (10 Points)

Directions: Read each paragraph. Mentally determine its topic. Then identify its stated main idea sentence by asking yourself, "What is the one most important point the author wants me to understand about the topic?" The sentence that answers that question is the paragraph's stated main Idea sentence.

- ¹Some believe that Americans have become merely consumers of material goods who no longer care about helping others. ²This image is false, however. ³An estimated 90 million Americans volunteer, and the monetary value of their volunteer time is estimated at \$200 billion a year. ⁴Many of these volunteers serve on committees, baby-sit, sing in church choirs, coach, and lead scout troops. ⁵More than 1.5 million of these volunteers provide fire protection and ambulance service without pay.
- ¹Is it an ant, you wonder, or, a termite? ²Ants resemble termites, but they are quite different and can be easily distinguished. ³In contrast to termites, ants are usually dark in color, are hard bodied, and have constriction between the thorax and abdomen. ⁴Also, ants and termites belong to different orders.
- ¹Adolescents tend to choose friends who are like them, and friends influence each other to become even more alike. ²Friends are usually the same race and have similar status within the peer group. ³Male adolescents tend to have many friends, but the friendships are rarely close ones. ⁴Among teenage girls, friendships are fewer but much closer, and they provide a great deal of emotional support.
- ¹An individual with the eating disorder bulimia first eats secretly, consuming an enormous, amount of food in one sitting. ²The large quantity of food is clearly beyond simple hunger. ³Then, after the eating binge comes the purge. ⁴In this phase, the person vomits or uses laxatives to make sure the food does not stay in the body and produce weight gain. ⁵With bulimia, there is always a distinct "binge and purge" pattern.
- ¹When you listen to a speech, can it help you to focus on the speaker's strengths and weaknesses? ²By closely observing and listening to people when they give speeches, you can learn a great deal that will make you a more successful speaker. ³If the speaker is not effective, try to determine why. ⁴If he or she is effective, try to pick out techniques you can use in your own speeches. ⁵If the speaker is ineffective, avoid the errors the person made.

Part 2 (10 Points)

Directions: Read the story. Place the number (starting with 1) on the lines below to correctly order the events as they happened.

Life Before Human Roamed the Earth

Many years ago, the world was filled with animals. The animals could sense deep, hard and cold winter season getting ready to set in. Their suspicions had come true. The sun went dormant for six months. When the sun got bright enough to see anything, you could see a thick hazy fog that blanketed the sky. To top it off, it snowed continuously.

The weather made it impossible for the animals to find food to eat. With each week they grew hungrier. The lack of heat drove the animals crazy as they were constantly shivering. Everyone was scared from one day to the next.

All the animals got together and called for a “Council of the Greats” meeting. All animals were invited to attend, but only the greatest elder of each group could speak. The Lynx was the first to speak up. He said that they had plenty of food, but no place to keep warm. The Mouse spoke up and said that we have plenty of warm space and food, but we have no water to speak of. The Wolverine then spoke up and said that we have plenty of water, but no food or warm, dry space. Jinga the head of Council saw a common theme here. “We will all be fine as long as we work together. Lynx share your food with Wolverine. Wolverines in return bring both Mouse and Lynx plenty of water. Lynx bring your food to Mouse’s place where you will stay until this is over. You will all live and work together. We can make it though this!”

As time went on, all the animals lived and worked together. The sun eventually came back and life returned to normal. By leaning on each other for support the animals were able to live long and healthy lives.

- _____ The sun returned after being dormant for 6 months.
- _____ The animals sensed a long cold winter ahead of them.
- _____ The weather made it difficult to find food.
- _____ The sun went dormant.
- _____ The animals cooperatively lived with one another and shared resources.

Part 3 (10 Points)

Directions: Read each passage and answer the question that follows.

Students at school have been sick all winter long. Many students have missed over a week of school due to the viruses passing from student to student. A few students, though, have not gotten sick at all. They have had perfect attendance. When asked why they not gotten sick. The students explained that they cleaned their hands regularly with hand-sanitizer.

1. What is the cause of the students not getting sick?
 - a. They missed no school.
 - b. They miss many days of school.
 - c. They used hand-sanitizer.
 - d. They ate breakfast every day.

Due to their incredible force and unpredictability, floods can cause tremendous damage. They can ruin houses, roads and buildings. Floods can take down trees and cause mudslides. It often leaves mud, sand and debris behind. It can take months to clean up after a flood.

2. What is the effect?
 - a. Floods can cause a lot of damage.
 - b. Floods happen in many areas without warning.
 - c. Floods are strong and unpredictable.
 - d. Flood damage is devastating.

The second Aswan Dam, which was completed in 1970, was built to prevent the Nile River from flooding, generate electricity, and store water for agricultural uses. While the damming of the Nile has generated electricity and stored water as originally intended, the project has also created new cultural and environmental problems.

Erosion of the coastline, pollution in the Nile from the use of chemical fertilizers, and an increase in the salt present in the Mediterranean are a few of the environmental problems caused by the dam. In addition, 60,000 people were displaced from their homes when Nubia, located in southern Egypt, was flooded, and important cultural sites have been destroyed by the dam's presence. Therefore, it remains to be seen whether the Aswan Dam has solved as many problems as it has caused.

3. Based on the information in this passage, what has caused an increase in pollution in the Nile River?
 - a. the use of chemical fertilizers
 - b. the destruction of cultural sites
 - c. the increase in salt in the water
 - d. the generation of electricity

Hurricanes begin when the weather conditions are just right for a cluster of thunderstorms to form over a tropical ocean. If such a cluster remains long enough, it organizes into a tropical depression, with winds of up to 42 miles per hour. If a tropical depression increases to winds of 43 to 74 miles per hour, it is a tropical storm. A tropical storm is given a name and watched closely, by satellite, to see if it gets worse and begins to have the telltale circular shape of a hurricane. If the air pressure continues to drop, the wind rises to above 75 miles per hour, and a true hurricane is born.

4. Which of the following causes weather forecasters to say a storm has become a hurricane?
 - a. A cluster of thunderstorms form over a tropical ocean.
 - b. A cluster begins to organize into a tropical depression.
 - c. Winds increase to over 75 miles per hour.
 - d. Winds increase to 23 to 42 miles an hour.

In recent decades, cities have grown so large that now about 50% of the Earth's population lives in urban areas. There are several reasons for this occurrence. First, the increasing industrialization of the nineteenth century resulted in the creation of many factory jobs, which tended to be located in cities. These jobs, with their promise of a better material life, attracted many people from rural areas. Second, there were many schools established to educate the children of the new factory laborers. The promise of a better education persuaded many families to leave farming communities and move to the cities. Finally, as the cities grew, people established places of leisure, entertainment, and culture, such as sports stadiums, theaters, and museums. For many people, these facilities made city life appear more interesting than life on the farm, and therefore drew them away from rural communities.

5. What was one effect of industrialization?
 - a. People moved to rural communities.
 - b. People made less money.
 - c. Theater became more popular.
 - d. Many factory jobs were created.