Questions 1–11

One of Vermont's more recent inhabitants, the Eastern coyote is regarded by many as a timber wolf in slightly reduced form. It isn't because the coyote's size, social structure, diet, and habits differ substantially from those of its big cousin. *Line* In one respect, however—the ability to generate controversy—the coyote (5) certainly rivals the wolf.

In simplest terms, the Eastern coyote is a mid-sized predator which fills an ecological niche between the red fox and that once occupied by wolves and cougar, predators that are no longer found in New England. The Eastern coyote is larger than the Western coyote because, as that adaptable beast spread (10) eastward, it picked up a few wolf genes.

It is the dietary habits of coyotes which bring a deluge of both praise and condemnation upon their furry heads. To animal rights activists, the coyote is a hero—God's Dog, a creature which keeps animal populations strong by killing only the weak, sick, and old, and limits the numbers of some game animals so (15) that there are fewer available for the hated human hunter. Conversely, to some hunters and to some farmers who raise sheep, the coyote is the devil incarnate—a wanton killer who destroys their game or livestock.

To what extent does the coyote live up to its reputation as either hero or villain? The answer is, "not very well." A closer examination of the coyote's (20) eating habits will tell where the truth may lie.

Regarding effects on game populations, the coyote's impact on small game may, to a considerable extent, be compensatory rather than additive. That is, much coyote predation probably substitutes for, rather than adds to, fox predation on such species as grouse, snowshoe hares, and rabbits. Why? Because there is (25) considerable evidence that the larger coyote displaces the fox to a substantial degree, relegating the latter largely to areas between coyote territories.

As regards the coyote's effect on deer, this issue is hotly debated. It was once thought by most wildlife biologists that coyotes rarely killed deer, other than newborn fawns. More recently, biologists have come to recognize that coyotes do (30) prey on adult deer, especially during winters with deep snow when movement, even for healthy adult deer, is difficult. Above all, coyotes are opportunists, and if they can easily exhaust and bring down a healthy adult deer in deep snow, they'll promptly do so (as will domestic dogs which are one of the worst predators of deer in winter). However, there is little evidence to support the "coyotes are (35) wrecking our deer herd" theory. The coyote is merely one more factor in the highly complex equation of deer ecology.

Sheep and domestic pets, such as cats and small dogs, are another matter. While most coyotes cause no trouble whatsoever in this regard, a few learn that sheep are slow and stupid compared to deer, or that hunting for cats and small dogs around (40) human habitations can mean an easy meal. A pair of coyotes and their pups can wreak havoc on a small flock of sheep in just one or two nights, to the understandable dismay and anger of the sheep raiser. Unquestionably, such coyotes are a serious problem.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. What is the topic of this passage?
   (A) The ecological range of the coyote
   (B) The controversy over Eastern coyotes
   (C) Differences between wolves and coyotes
   (D) Coyotes and deer herds in Vermont

2. According to the passage, the timber wolf and the coyote differ in all of the following features EXCEPT
   (A) size
   (B) diet
   (C) social structure
   (D) attracting controversy

3. According to the passage, people have strong opinions about the coyote's
   (A) eating habits
   (B) origin
   (C) color
   (D) predators

4. The word "substantially" in line 3 is closest in meaning to
   (A) slightly
   (B) incredibly
   (C) significantly
   (D) interestingly

5. Opponents of the coyote would agree with all of the following statements EXCEPT
   (A) The Eastern coyote preys only on animals that are weak and sick.
   (B) The Eastern coyote is a threat to deer herds.
   (C) The Eastern coyote kills sheep.
   (D) The Eastern coyote is a menace to domestic pets.

6. The word "niche" in line 7 is closest in meaning to
   (A) den
   (B) role
   (C) map
   (D) rivalry

7. The phrase "that adaptable beast" in line 9 refers to
   (A) the wolf
   (B) the Eastern coyote
   (C) the Western coyote
   (D) the red fox

8. According to the passage, on what basis would an animal rights activist defend the Eastern coyote?
   (A) Coyotes control game populations.
   (B) Coyotes are different from timber wolves.
   (C) Coyotes are few in number in the East.
   (D) Coyotes can be domesticated.

9. According to the article, the coyote's compensatory role regarding small game means that
   (A) the fox and the coyote hunt together
   (B) the coyote does not prey on the same game as the fox
   (C) the coyote replaces the fox as a predator of small game
   (D) the coyote moves from place to place when game becomes scarce

10. With which of the following statements about coyotes and deer would the author NOT agree?
    (A) Coyotes sometimes kill adult deer.
    (B) Coyotes kill deer more easily in the winter because of the snow.
    (C) Coyotes are the major cause of destruction of deer herds.
    (D) Both coyotes and dogs are a threat to deer.

11. According to the passage (paragraph 7), coyotes are a serious problem when
    (A) they hunt in pairs
    (B) they learn that it is easy to kill sheep and pets
    (C) deer are not available
    (D) they are raising a family

Questions 12–20

Economists have received the unfair reputation of being unable to agree on anything. The image of economists in disagreement is part of our folklore. An English commentator wrote: "If parliament were to ask six economists for an
Line opinion, seven answers could come back—two no doubt from the volatile
(5) Mr. Keynes." The *London Times* laments the "rise in skepticism about what economists can tell us," and *Business Week* complains about "the intellectual bankruptcy of the economics profession."

LIVEWORKSHEETS

The image of widespread disagreement among economists is overrated. The results of a survey of 100 professional economists confirm that there is considerable agreement among economists about what can be done (positive economics), especially in a microeconomic context. However, there is more disagreement over what ought to be done. Questions of what ought to be done (Should we equalize the distribution of income? Should we increase defense spending?) require moral and political value judgments on which individuals naturally differ. Finally, disagreement among professional economists receives more publicity than other scientific professions, which contributes to the false image of economists in disaccord.

While disagreements in other sciences are as strong or even stronger than in economics, these disagreements are less visible to the public eye. Theoretical physicists have disagreed about the physical nature of the universe since the foundations of physics, but this scientific controversy is understood by only a few theoretical physicists.

It does not require much disagreement to bring economic disputes to the public's attention. Everyone is interested in economic questions: Will inflation accelerate? Will I lose my job? Why is the price of gasoline rising so fast? Why are home mortgages so hard to come by? Economists do disagree, particularly on some big macroeconomic issues. But often what the public perceives as disagreements over positive economics are really disagreements over what ought to be. In general there is more agreement than disagreement among economists.

12. The word "folklore" in line 2 is closest in meaning to
    (A) a scientific theory
    (B) a national treasure
    (C) a commonly held belief
    (D) an untruth

13. According to the passage, the commentator mentions Mr. Keynes (line 5) as noted for his
    (A) good sense
    (B) inconsistency of opinions
    (C) predictability
    (D) greediness

14. According to the passage, positive economics is
    (A) an attempt to convince disgruntled economists
    (B) statements in microeconomics about what is possible
    (C) financial statements showing gain
    (D) results of economic surveys

15. The author believes that disagreement between economists is all of the following EXCEPT
    (A) natural
    (B) exaggerated
    (C) publicized
    (D) nonexistent

16. According to the passage, which of the following statements describes disagreements between theoretical physicists?
    (A) They are fairly recent situations.
    (B) They are not easily understood by non-physicists.
    (C) The public follows them intently.
    (D) They are not worthy of publication.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

17. The phrase "hard to come by" in line 26 is closest in meaning to
    (A) badly advertised
    (B) difficult to obtain
    (C) far away
    (D) plentiful

18. It can be inferred from the passage that economists find macroeconomic issues
    (A) more controversial than microeconomic issues
    (B) easier to understand than positive economics
    (C) similar to issues in theoretical physics
    (D) not concerned with reality

19. The purpose of the author in this passage is to
    (A) point out a misconception
    (B) support a generalization
    (C) elaborate on a myth
    (D) compare two views

20. The author's attitude toward economists in this passage is
    (A) sympathetic
    (B) critical
    (C) derisive
    (D) skeptical

Questions 21–30

In 1975 Marty Knowlton, a social activist and educator, linked the European hosteling concept with the residential emphasis of the Scandinavian Folk Schools and created a new kind of learning program for older adults. He called it
Line Elderhostel, and a new movement in American adult education began.
(5) Elderhostel is an educational adventure for older adults looking for something different. The later years should be a time of new beginnings, opportunities, and challenges. Elderhostel offers older adults a way to keep on expanding their horizons with people who are interested in the same things they are.

Elderhostel, a nonprofit educational organization, offers inexpensive, short-
(10) term academic programs hosted by educational institutions around the world. Participants live on college and university campuses, in conference centers, in marine biology field stations and environmental study centers, and enjoy the cultural and recreational resources that go with them. Some educational institutions that do not have residential facilities or whose residence halls are not
(15) available will use modest commercial sites for their programs.

Elderhostel has grown since the early years from a few hundred hostelers on a handful of New England college campuses into an international network of 1,800 participating institutions. Today Elderhostel has programs in every American state and Canadian province as well as over 45 foreign countries. Last year
(20) almost 1/4 million people enrolled in Elderhostel.

Individuals 55 years of age and older are eligible. Participants' spouses of any age are welcome. Companions of age-eligible participants must be at least 50. Elderhostel encourages diversity and welcomes people of all races, colors, and religions.

(25) Plain and simple is the essence of hosteling. Living on campuses or at comparable educational or commercial facilities allows tuition to be kept modest. That usually means two twin beds to a room with a bathroom down the hall. Meals include wholesome and nutritious institutional fare. Although the meals are not intended to tickle the gourmet palate, hostelers are usually
(30) impressed by the high quality.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Elderhostel offers college-level liberal arts or science courses selected by the institution hosting the program. Top faculty members will teach their specialties. Courses aren't for credit, and there are no exams or grades. Because Elderhostel is an academic program, participants are expected to attend all classes. No specific prior educational background is necessary, except in the few rare instances where it is specifically noted in the catalogue.

Elderhostel may not be for everyone. But all that is needed is an adventuresome spirit and a yearning to be challenged by new ideas and experiences.

21. The topic of this passage is
    (A) European hostels
    (B) nonprofit educational programs
    (C) a new movement in adult education
    (D) new college liberal arts programs

22. The phrase "later years" in line 6 refers to
    (A) a time of life
    (B) a period in one's educational career
    (C) the years after Elderhostel was founded
    (D) extended leisure time

23. The phrase "expanding their horizons" in lines 7–8 is closest in meaning to
    (A) travelling to distant places
    (B) developing new interests
    (C) earning college credit
    (D) beginning new careers

24. All of the following can be inferred from the passage about hosteling EXCEPT
    (A) it is basically for the young
    (B) shared accommodations keep costs down
    (C) it is popular in Europe
    (D) it is an inexpensive way to travel

25. According to the passage, Elderhostel was developed to
    (A) allow university faculty to teach special courses
    (B) attract European tourists
    (C) provide inexpensive adventure tours
    (D) provide older adults with opportunities for further education

26. According to the passage Elderhostel participants may live in all of the following situations EXCEPT
    (A) college dormitories
    (B) luxury resorts
    (C) special seaside study sites
    (D) conference centers

27. The word "modest" in line 27 is closest in meaning to
    (A) regulated
    (B) low cost
    (C) well publicized
    (D) flexible

28. Which of the following is NOT a part of the Elderhostel program?
    (A) grades
    (B) short courses
    (C) interesting subjects
    (D) international sites

29. According to the passage, Elderhostel is designed for people who
    (A) want to learn about something new
    (B) need a special diet
    (C) are interested in studying with college students
    (D) plan to study a subject in depth

30. The author's tone in this passage is
    (A) cynical
    (B) promotional
    (C) critical
    (D) neutral

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Questions 31–40

The planet Mars has always captured the human imagination. There is its redness. We know now that the color comes from chemical reactions that long ago locked up Mars's oxygen in reddish minerals on its surface, causing the "rusting" of the planet. To the ancients, the red color meant only one thing: blood. From the earliest times, Mars—named for the Roman god of war—has been associated with bloodshed. Even the astronomical symbol for Mars, a circle with an arrow pointing at 2 o'clock, is supposed to represent a shield and a spear.

As astronomers acquired telescopes, Mars mythology grew. It was the Italian astronomer Giovanni Schiaparelli who, in 1877, produced the most lasting bit of Martian folklore. He saw what he took to be long, thin, unnaturally straight lines on the Martian surface. He called them *canali*, a word that can translate into English either as "channels" or "canals." Unfortunately, the latter translation was used, and the canals of Mars were born. Obviously if there were canals, there had to be canal builders, so once more Mars was peopled with all manner of intelligent life forms!

In 1965 *Mariner 4* sent back our first close-up pictures of the Martian surface. Not only were there no canals, but *Mariner 4* and the spacecraft that followed revealed a planet that was a largely cratered, apparently lifeless desert. We have subsequently learned that Mars is home to Olympus Mons, the largest volcano in the entire solar system, and to a canyon system stretching for almost 3,000 miles around the Martian equator. The atmosphere is extremely thin (equivalent to that at 130,000 feet above Earth) and made up almost entirely of carbon dioxide. The surface is cold, almost never getting above freezing even at the summertime equator.

Perhaps the greatest surprise were the photographs from *Mariner 9* in 1971–72 that showed channels on the surface. Now these were not Schiaparelli's *canali*—there's no way these channels could be seen by even the most powerful earthbound telescope. They are unmistakable water courses, however. There is no water in them now, but they trace out the path of water that flowed in the past. They resemble the arroyos of the American West, through which water from infrequent cloudbursts flows, but which are bone-dry most of the time. Water once ran on the surface of Mars.

New explorations on Mars by the spacecraft *Pathfinder*, due to arrive on the planet's surface in 1997, are planned to give scientists more information about possible past life on Mars. One of *Pathfinder's* missions will be to lay the groundwork for future efforts to find fossil remains of living things. The landing site for the *Mars Pathfinder* is going to be the mouth of an old flood channel called Ares Vallis.

31. It can be inferred from the passage that myths about Mars
    (A) are widely believed today
    (B) have been dispelled by current space exploration
    (C) are based on scientific facts
    (D) depict it as a lifeless planet

32. Which of the following have NOT been a source of information about Mars?
    (A) Spacecraft
    (B) Telescopes
    (C) Conjecture
    (D) Astronauts

33. The phrase "the latter" in line 12 refers to
    (A) canals
    (B) canali
    (C) channels
    (D) unusual straight lines

LIVEWORKSHEETS

34. The photographs from *Mariner 9* were surprising because
    (A) they verified Schiaparelli's *canali*
    (B) they show that water may once have existed on Mars
    (C) they were not as good as the images from Earth's telescopes
    (D) they were first shown in the American West

35. The author implies that the English translation of the Italian word *canali* as *canals* was unfortunate because
    (A) it contributed to the myth of life on Mars
    (B) Schiaparelli's discovery was not given proper credit
    (C) no telescope on Earth could see canals accurately
    (D) the misconception held up scientific space travel for centuries

36. Where in the passage does the author give information about the topography of Mars?
    (A) Lines 2–3
    (B) Lines 16–19
    (C) Lines 23–28
    (D) Lines 35–37

37. The word "powerful" in line 27 is closest in meaning to
    (A) expensive
    (B) dominant
    (C) influential
    (D) strong

38. According to the passage, the redness of Mars is a result of
    (A) a chemical reaction on the planet surface
    (B) the old age of the planet
    (C) the reflection of the Sun
    (D) an abundance of oxygen in the planet's atmosphere

39. Why do scientists think that the channels of Mars were waterways?
    (A) They resemble a similar system on Earth.
    (B) They still have a little water in them.
    (C) Bones have been found there.
    (D) They are straight and narrow.

40. According to the passage, *Pathfinder's* mission to Mars includes
    (A) preparing for future fossil-finding expeditions
    (B) placing specialized equipment on the planet's surface
    (C) checking for flood damage
    (D) bringing back fossils for further study

Questions 41–50

Many people are unaware of how many of the products we use every day come from petroleum and natural gas. In the United States each family of four uses more than two tons of petroleum products annually. That's almost 1200 lb
Line of chemicals each year for every man, woman, and child in the United States—a
(5) staggering total of 225 billion pounds of chemicals from petroleum, and to a lesser extent, natural gas.

Of the vast amount of petroleum and natural gas we consume, more than 90 percent is burned as fuels. Only about 5.5 percent is used for the manufacture of petrochemicals by the chemical industry. These petrochemicals vary widely in
(10) their functions and include such products as drugs, detergents, rubber, paints, fertilizers, dyes, perfumes, explosives, food preservatives, artificial sweeteners, and agricultural chemicals. Finally, about 1.5 percent of the oil and natural gas is used as raw material for plastics. This small percentage translates into the production of billions of pounds of polymers that yield many different and
(15) useful products.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

In post-World War II years, the United States was flooded with domestic and imported items of extremely low cost, low quality, and limited lifetime. This led to the image of "cheap plastics" with low durability. Today, however, the image of plastics has changed. Plastics perform an extremely broad range of functions, from heart valves and artificial kidneys to ski boots, nonstick surfaces, super glues, and spacecraft parts, and they compete with natural products in durability. No other materials except plastics could perform all these different functions.

Plastics are replacing more and more parts of your car. The use of 1 lb of plastic can replace an average of 3.5 lb of metal in an automobile. An automobile with 400 lb of plastic substituted for metal will weigh about 1000 lb less, which increases its gas mileage by about 3 mi/gal. The fuel savings are estimated to be about 160 million barrels of oil annually. That's more than the total amount used by the chemical industry as raw materials to make the polymers. As another example, synthetic polymer fibers are commonly used in fabrics, for both economical and practical reasons. If the world's synthetic fibers were replaced by cotton, this would require an additional 40 million acres of farmland.

Certainly the use of polymer plastics will increase. One can expect to find more applications in home construction and furniture because of the unlimited design freedom of plastics. Plastics will be used more in drink containers and food packaging. The 700 billion gallons of liquids consumed each year in the United States will find their way to the consumer more and more in plastic bottles. Diseased or malfunctioning parts of the body will be replaced by specialized plastic components to a greater degree. We are indeed becoming a plastic society.

41. What does this passage mainly discuss?
    (A) Production of petroleum and natural gas
    (B) Plastics and plastic products
    (C) New uses of plastic in automobiles
    (D) The versatility of petrochemicals

42. According to the passage, the percentage of petroleum and natural gas that is used in the production of plastics is
    (A) tiny
    (B) exaggerated
    (C) extravagant
    (D) efficient

43. The word "yield" in line 14 is closest in meaning to
    (A) produce
    (B) surrender
    (C) gain
    (D) require

44. The word "flooded" in line 16 is closest in meaning to
    (A) inundated
    (B) damaged
    (C) promoted
    (D) in need of

45. It can be inferred from the passage (paragraph 3) that after World War II plastic products in the US were all of the following EXCEPT
    (A) inexpensive
    (B) long-lasting
    (C) mediocre
    (D) plentiful

LIVEWORKSHEETS

46. The word "This" in line 17 refers to
    (A) the end of World War II
    (B) the use of imported rather than domestic goods
    (C) the limited lifetime of the goods
    (D) the appearance of large quantities of inferior goods

47. In paragraph 4, the author supports the use of plastics in cars and polymer fibers in fabrics because they are
    (A) economical
    (B) fashionable
    (C) easily manufactured
    (D) costly

48. The author believes that the use of plastics in home construction and furniture will increase because plastics
    (A) lend themselves to flexibility in design
    (B) are relatively inexpensive
    (C) come in decorative colors
    (D) are incredibly strong

49. Where in the passage does the author mention the products made of petrochemicals?
    (A) Lines 1–3
    (B) Lines 10–12
    (C) Lines 19–21
    (D) Lines 27–30

50. Which of the following devices does the author use to present information about plastic products?
    (A) Enumeration
    (B) Metaphor
    (C) Appeal to experts
    (D) Examples

LIVEWORKSHEETS