Questions 1–11

Swans are among the most beautiful of North American waterfowl and have always enjoyed the admiration and even the protection of bird lovers. Of the six species in the swan genus, only two are native to North America. The trumpeter swan, the largest of the group, breeds in the northern United States and Alaska, and was nearly wiped out during the nineteenth century craze for elaborately feathered hats. The whistling swan, which winters in large flocks on the Chesapeake Bay, has recently been renamed the tundra swan because it breeds and summers on the northernmost tundra regions of the continent.

Recently, populations of mute swans—an exotic species introduced to North America from Europe in the early 1900s—have begun increasing by an alarming 30 to 40 percent annually in some states. Most wildlife biologists today believe the majestic white creatures, with their tendency to destroy a pond's plant life and drive away native waterfowl, might create havoc on the scale of the gypsy moth, starling, or English sparrow.

Both native species of swans are wild and require large areas of uninhabited summer ground for nesting and feeding. Mutes, however, semi-domesticated and accustomed to people, can nest in pairs of as many as three or four on one small coastal pond, which can burden delicate and environmentally essential brackish waters. Furthermore, mute swans usually form lifelong pair bonds and after selecting a pond, they make it their permanent home. Wildlife reserve managers have had little success in relocating mute swans to different ponds after the pair has established itself in one location.

1. The author's main purpose in this passage is to
   (A) interest people in wildlife biology
   (B) describe swans of North America
   (C) prevent extinction of a swan species
   (D) forewarn an environmental problem

2. According to the passage, the main issue concerning mute swans is that they are
   (A) not native to North America
   (B) semi-domesticated
   (C) increasing very rapidly
   (D) possessive of their habitat

3. The phrase "wiped out" in line 5 is closest in meaning to
   (A) miscalculated
   (B) admired
   (C) cleaned up
   (D) killed off

4. The phrase "an alarming 30–40 percent" in lines 10–11 is closest in meaning to
   (A) a general 30–40 percent
   (B) a worrisome 30–40 percent
   (C) an established 30–40 percent
   (D) a conservative 30–40 percent

5. The author states that the native species of swans can live best
   (A) in close contact with people
   (B) in the southern part of the United States
   (C) in unpopulated areas
   (D) in a similar habitat to mute swans

6. The passage comments on all features of swans EXCEPT their
   (A) life span
   (B) breeding and nesting habits
   (C) habitats
   (D) origins

7. Which swan was close to extinction?
   (A) The mute swan
   (B) The whistling swan
   (C) The trumpeter swan
   (D) The tundra swan

8. The phrase "majestic white creatures" in line 12 refers to
   (A) mute swans
   (B) trumpeter swans
   (C) whistling swans
   (D) swans in general

9. The word "burden" in line 18 is closest in meaning to
   (A) isolate
   (B) regulate
   (C) endanger
   (D) beautify

10. From the passage it can be concluded that mute swans are
    (A) more numerous than other types of swans
    (B) a problem for coastal ponds
    (C) welcome in most parts of North America
    (D) unattractive in appearance

11. It can be inferred from the passage that the author
    (A) approves of all swans
    (B) is concerned about mute swans
    (C) is a wildlife biologist
    (D) prefers trumpeter swans

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Questions 12–18

Writing is arguably the most important invention in human history. The opportunity for human knowledge to build on other knowledge is severely limited without the medium of writing. Not only does writing allow a permanence to human thought but also a complexity and scope to human expression that seem barely possible without it.

The earliest known artifacts that could be considered writing by the loosest definition are the famous and extraordinarily beautiful 20,000-year-old "cave paintings" in southern France and northern Spain. The pictures, mostly of animals but with some human figures, possibly tell some sort of story or may merely be pictures with expressive, magical, or religious purpose. Other assorted pictures have been found antedating the rise of the great civilizations of the Near East, but the earliest artifacts that are clearly writing date from about only 5,500 years ago in Mesopotamia.

The earliest system of writing is usually attributed to the Sumerians of Mesopotamia during the end of the fourth millennium B.C. There, officials of such Sumerian city-states as Uruk had developed a system of recording numerals, pictographs, and ideographs on specially prepared clay surfaces.

Although the clay blanks used by the Uruk scribes are universally referred to as tablets, a word with the connotation of flatness, they are actually convex. Individual characters were inscribed in the clay by means of a stylus made of wood, bone, or ivory, with one end blunt and the other pointed. The characters were basically of two kinds. Numerical signs were impressed into the clay; all other signs, pictographs, and ideographs alike, were incised with the pointed end of the stylus. The repertory of characters used by the Uruk scribes was large; it is estimated at no fewer than 1,500 separate signs.

12. This passage mainly discusses
    (A) "cave paintings" as an expressive achievement
    (B) early writing systems
    (C) the Uruk culture in Mesopotamia
    (D) writing instruments of the Uruk scribes

13. According to the passage, the invention of writing was important for all of the following reasons EXCEPT
    (A) it allowed for the development of human knowledge
    (B) it encouraged complexity of thinking
    (C) it began in Mesopotamia
    (D) it allowed human thought to be permanently recorded

14. The phrase "attributed to" in line 13 is closest in meaning to
    (A) blamed on
    (B) credited to
    (C) characterized by
    (D) replaced by

15. The word "incised" in line 22 is closest in meaning to
    (A) painted
    (B) erased
    (C) cut
    (D) embroidered

16. Which of the following terms does NOT refer to something on which early writing was inscribed?
    (A) Clay surfaces
    (B) Characters
    (C) Clay blanks
    (D) Tablets

17. According to the passage, how were pictographs recorded?
    (A) They were cut into the clay.
    (B) They were painted onto the surface.
    (C) They were pressed into the clay.
    (D) They were brushed onto the surface.

18. The word "repertory" in line 23 is closest in meaning to
    (A) arrangement
    (B) composition
    (C) understanding
    (D) number

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Questions 19–28

Most human diets contain between 10 and 15 percent of their total calories as protein. The rest of the dietary energy comes from carbohydrates, fats, and in some people, alcohol. The proportion of calories from fats varies from 10 percent in poor communities to 40 percent or more in rich communities.

In addition to providing energy, fats have several other functions in the body. The fat-soluble vitamins, A, D, E, and K, are dissolved in fats, as their name implies. Good sources of these vitamins have high oil or fat content, and the vitamins are stored in the body's fatty tissues. In the diet, fats cause food to remain longer in the stomach, thus increasing the feeling of fullness for some time after a meal is eaten. Fats add variety, taste, and texture to foods, which accounts for the popularity of fried foods. Fatty deposits in the body have an insulating and protective value. The curves of the human female body are due mostly to strategically located fat deposits.

Whether a certain amount of fat in the diet is essential to human health is not definitely known. When rats are fed a fat-free diet, their growth eventually ceases, their skin becomes inflamed and scaly, and their reproductive systems are damaged. Two fatty acids, linoleic and arachidonic acids, prevent these abnormalities and hence are called essential fatty acids. They also are required by a number of other animals, but their roles in human beings are debatable. Most nutritionists consider linoleic fatty acid an essential nutrient for humans.

19. This passage probably appeared in which of the following?
    (A) A diet book
    (B) A book on basic nutrition
    (C) A cookbook
    (D) A popular women's magazine

20. We can infer from the passage that all of the following statements about fats are true EXCEPT
    (A) fats provide energy for the body
    (B) economics influences the distribution of calorie intake
    (C) poor people eat more fatty foods
    (D) alcohol is not a common source of dietary energy

21. The word "functions" in line 5 is closest in meaning to
    (A) forms
    (B) needs
    (C) jobs
    (D) sources

22. The phrase "stored in" in line 8 is closest in meaning to
    (A) manufactured in
    (B) attached to
    (C) measured by
    (D) accumulated in

23. The author states that fats serve all of the following body functions EXCEPT to
    (A) promote a feeling of fullness
    (B) insulate and protect the body
    (C) provide energy
    (D) control weight gain

24. The word "essential" in line 14 is closest in meaning to
    (A) required for
    (B) desired for
    (C) detrimental to
    (D) beneficial to

25. According to the author of the passage, which of the following is true for rats when they are fed a fat free diet?
    (A) They stop growing.
    (B) They have more babies.
    (C) They lose body hair.
    (D) They require less care.

26. Linoleic fatty acid is mentioned in the passage as
    (A) an essential nutrient for humans
    (B) more useful than arachidonic acid
    (C) preventing weight gain in rats
    (D) a nutrient found in most foods

27. The phrase "these abnormalities" in lines 17–18 refers to
    (A) a condition caused by fried foods
    (B) strategically located fat deposits
    (C) curves on the human female body
    (D) cessation of growth, bad skin, and damaged reproductive systems

28. That humans should all have some fat in our diets is, according to the author,
    (A) a commonly held view
    (B) not yet a proven fact
    (C) only true for women
    (D) proven to be true by experiments on rats

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Questions 29–37

The dancer's source of information is kinesthetic sense. A dancer begins by looking at the body's parts and their most elementary kinetic functions. Knowledge and feeling of the body's parts need to be built up; the message network of muscle, bone, nerve, brain, judgement (and its reverse) needs to become efficient, reliable, and increasingly sensitive. From this basis dancers develop style and technique in their movements.

To have technique is to possess the physical expertise to perform whatever steps a given work may contain, be they simple or complex. Some dances may contain only the most elementary steps. Choreographers influenced by Minimalist art or by the stripped-down productions associated with the experimental Judson Dance Theater of the 1960s have put together dances that consist of nothing but such basic actions as walking or running. Anyone who can walk or run for the duration of those pieces therefore possesses the necessary technique to perform them.

If technique is the ability to perform steps, style refers to the way steps are organized and shaped, both by the choreographer who has invented them and by the dancers who perform them. Many things can affect the style of a work: for instance, the historical period and geographical locale in which it is set and the social status of its characters. The style of an abstract dance may also be determined by a choreographer's predilections: Some choreographers are fond of lyrical movements, whereas others prefer sharp, glittering steps. Individual performing styles may be influenced by such considerations as a dancer's temperament and the way that the dancer habitually accents or times certain movements on stage.

29. The main purpose of this passage is to
    (A) explain the necessity of technique in dance
    (B) contrast technique and style in dance
    (C) describe the differences between choreographers and dancers
    (D) contrast modern and classical dance

30. The words "kinesthetic" in line 1 and "kinetic" in line 2 are closest in meaning to
    (A) artistic
    (B) anatomical
    (C) movement
    (D) habitual

31. The phrase "put together" in line 11 is closest in meaning to
    (A) built
    (B) created
    (C) observed
    (D) reviewed

32. The phrase "those pieces" in line 13 refers to
    (A) dances of the Judson Dance Theater
    (B) dances of minimalist basic action art
    (C) dances of walking and running
    (D) productions that are stripped down

33. It can be inferred from the passage that the author believes dancers in the Judson Dance Theater exhibited
    (A) dance technique containing mostly elementary steps
    (B) complex dance technique
    (C) technique similar to classical ballet
    (D) technique different from that influenced by Minimalist Art

34. The word "work" in line 16 can best be replaced by
    (A) job
    (B) musical composition
    (C) dance group
    (D) choreographed dance

35. The word "set" in line 17 is closest in meaning to
    (A) presented
    (B) quoted
    (C) attended
    (D) advertised

36. The word "predilections" in line 19 is closest in meaning to
    (A) training
    (B) natural ability
    (C) preferences
    (D) size

37. Which of the following was NOT mentioned as something that might affect style in dance?
    (A) The amount of practice time
    (B) Temperament
    (C) Preference for certain movements
    (D) The historical setting of the work

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Questions 38–50

For its sudden destruction of crops, farmers call hail the "white plague." "It wipes you out in the passing of a cloud," complained a Colorado farm boy bitterly. "Half an hour ago you had a half-section of wheat—320 acres—ready to harvest and haul to town. Now you haven't got a penny."

Thousands of hailstorms occur each year, especially in the moist, temperate climates of the middle latitudes. In the United States alone, crop damage from hail totals about one billion dollars a year, with a further $75 million in losses attributable to livestock deaths and property damage.

The groundwork for such devastation is laid innocently enough, deep within a thunderstorm's cumulus cloud. There, at frigid altitudes above 15,000 feet, the air is at first so pure that water droplets can exist at temperatures well below the freezing point without turning to ice.

As the storm's convection currents become more powerful, however, they sweep tiny particles of dust and ice upward into the cloud. Each of these foreign bodies—a potential hailstone nucleus—begins to collide with supercooled water droplets, which freeze to it on impact. Buffeted about by a series of updrafts and downdrafts, the hailstone gathers layer upon layer of ice. When it has grown so heavy that even the strongest updraft cannot sustain it, the mature hailstone plummets to earth.

While weak storms produce small stones that melt before reaching the ground, severe thunderstorms are capable of generating hail the size of eggs, baseballs, or even grapefruit. When a particularly violent storm ravaged Coffeyville, Kansas, on September 3, 1970, residents collected scores of unusually large hailstones, including one that measured nearly six inches in diameter and weighed 1¾ pounds. When the amazing specimen was sent to Colorado's National Center for Atmospheric Research, meteorologists confirmed that it set a new record for size—and calculated that, in its final stages of growth, the stone had required an updraft of 100 miles per hour to keep it in the air.

38. What does this passage mainly discuss?
    (A) Hailstorms
    (B) Heavy stones
    (C) Severe storms
    (D) An amazing specimen

39. In lines 1–2 the phrase "it wipes you out" is closest in meaning to
    (A) hail has a cleansing effect
    (B) you feel tired after a hailstorm
    (C) hailstorms can cause financial ruin
    (D) a hailstorm will make you feel depressed

40. The word "devastation" in line 9 is closest in meaning to
    (A) destruction
    (B) speculation
    (C) creation
    (D) preparation

41. It can be inferred from the passage that hailstorms would most likely occur in which of the following climates?
    (A) A dry climate
    (B) A tropical climate
    (C) An arctic climate
    (D) A moderate climate

42. According to the passage, water droplets are able to exist as water when temperatures are below freezing because of
    (A) the high altitude
    (B) the pure air
    (C) the cumulus cloud
    (D) the convection currents

43. The word "frigid" in line 10 is closest in meaning to
    (A) high
    (B) cold
    (C) cloudy
    (D) remarkable

44. The formation of a hailstone can be best described as
    (A) sudden
    (B) cumulative
    (C) severe
    (D) sustaining

45. According to the passage, the hailstone falls to earth
    (A) immediately
    (B) when the downdraft is very strong
    (C) when it is heavier than the updraft
    (D) after the winds die down

LIVEWORKSHEETS

46. The phrase "the amazing specimen" in line 25 refers to
    (A) a storm
    (B) a hailstone
    (C) a grapefruit
    (D) a baseball

47. It can be inferred from the passage that some hailstones melt before reaching the ground because of their
    (A) weight
    (B) size
    (C) nucleus
    (D) immaturity

48. The word "confirmed" in line 26 is closest in meaning to
    (A) suggested
    (B) predicted
    (C) established
    (D) guessed

49. The word "it" in line 26 refers to
    (A) the National Center for Atmospheric Research
    (B) the size
    (C) the specimen
    (D) the storm

50. Which of the following types of organization does the author use for this passage?
    (A) Argumentation
    (B) Comparison
    (C) Description
    (D) Process

This is the end of Section 3.



If you finish before time is called, check your work on Section 3 only.

LIVEWORKSHEETS