III. Reading practice

QUESTIONS 1–5

The business of tennis clothes has grown astoundingly in the past few years. Over $250 million is spent annually on the trappings of tennis. Apparently, everyone wants to look like a pro, even

though 20% of the clientele has never even played the game.

Manufacturers pay the stars lucrative fees for wearing their brands of clothes and wielding their racquets on center court. Chris Evert-Lloyd, for example, was rumored to have signed a five-year contract for $5 million with Ellesse, a producer of fancy, expensive tennis wear. John McEnroe received a reported $600,000 for playing with a Dunlop racquet, $330,000 for sporting Tacchini clothes, and $100,000 for tying his Nike tennis shoes. Obviously, in a bad year, these stars would have made more as fashion models than as athletes.

Not only tennis players get free clothing, but also all the people involved in the game—the referees, lines people, ball boys and girls—are living advertisements for tennis wear producers. Where, traditionally, conservative white clothing was required for the entire tennis coterie, changing times have seen a new vogue in tennis outfits. Flamboyant colors, designers' nameplates, geometric figures, and bold lines distinguish the new tennis togs from their predecessors.

1. It can be inferred from the passage that_____.

(A) tennis clothing appeals to the wealthy

(B) tennis stars get huge sums for endorsements

(C) the price of tennis racquets has remained stable

(D) bright colors entice people to buy tennis wear

2. The author's intention is to_____.

(A) explain why the cost of tennis clothes has risen

(B) defend tennis wear manufacturers from complaints about their high prices

(C) describe the means of advertising ex- pensive tennis clothes

(D) describe the new tennis clothing

3. A good title for this passage would be_____.

(A) The Stars at Play

(B) Big Business in Tennis Wear

(C) The High Cost of Playing Tennis

(D) Tennis Stars' Flamboyant Clothes

4. It is stated that John McEnroe_____.

(A) wore flamboyant clothing on the court

(B) must have earned over $1 million for endorsing tennis products

(C) was a fashion model more than he was a tennis player

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(D) had had a bad year in tennis competition

5. It is implied that_____.

(A) tennis clothing is bought by the well- to-do

(B) everyone who wears expensive tennis wear plays tennis

(C) tennis officials would prefer to wear

(D) fashion models wear tennis clothing

QUESTIONS 6-13

The oil embargoes of 1973–1975 caused vast chagrin among the manufacturers of automobiles around the world. In particular, American companies were costs of maintenance in the buyer's purchase price. New car advertisers now claim that all the buyer has to pay for is gas. To fight corrosion, new coatings have been developed that protect against the havoc caused by road salts, gravel, and other materials. Hence, when car obliged to create innovations in producing small cars that would compete in the market with those flowing into the American market from Japan and Europe. No longer could Americans afford ostentatious, gas-guzzling vehicles.

Of paramount importance to today's car owner is the cost of gasoline. American manufacturers have collaborated to supply their clientele with small cars that provide the amenities of the stereo- typed large American car, yet get better mileage than any other car in the history of American car production. It has become a question of ardently competing with foreign car manufacturers or succumbing to the intense competition and losing a lucrative business through apathy. The American car industry has been rejuvenated. The fuel consumption of the new cars has decreased by 49% since 1977; mileage has risen from an average 17.2 miles per gallon to 25.6 miles per gallon. These figures are indicative of a major turnaround in engineering, manufacturing, and design. The industry has made pertinent use of the computer by installing a microprocessor, a thin piece of silicon about the size of an aspirin, in new cars. This miniature computer measures engine speed, engine load, and other functions, and sends messages to the fuel system and other parts of the car's mechanism, thus producing lower gas consumption and cleaner exhaust.

By designing sleek, roomy, beautiful, sporty models, the automobile industry has enticed both the average-income and the affluent car buyer into purchasing small cars. In addition to saving on gas, today's car is built to save on maintenance and repair expenses. Furthermore, the manufacturer is including the owners are ready to turn in last year's car for a new one, they will find that their well-preserved used cars will have an unusually high trade-in value.

Fuel efficient, safe, emission free, economical, and beautiful, today's cars are better bargains than any ever produced before.

6. What significance did oil embargoes have in the automobile industry?

(A) Car manufacturers worldwide had to produce fuel-efficient automobiles.

(B) Automobile manufacturers had to make smaller cars.

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(C) The Japanese exported cars to America.

(D) Americans continued to drive American cars.

7. In the second paragraph, there is a statement that implies that_____.

(A) Americans love large cars.

(B) American auto manufacturers had been indifferent to the need for smaller cars.

(C) Americans will not buy uncomfortable small cars.

(D) All of the above.

8. The microprocessor is_____.

(A) responsible for the American car industry's rejuvenation

(B) a major turnaround in American car manufacturing

(C) a computer that saves gas and helps create cleaner emission

(D) a pertinent use of fuel consumption

9. According to the passage, small American cars are being bought_____.

(A) by middle-class and rich clientele

(B) because they save fuel

(C) because of inflation

(D) by Americans who want to help American business

10. According to the passage, new cars are a better bargain than those manufactured in years past because they_____.

(A) cost less to run and are built to last longer

(B) have a built-in computer

(C) save fuel, have more safety features, cost less to maintain, and have a higher trade-in value

(D) are a lot smaller and don't rust be- cause of better coatings

11. From the information given in the reading, you can infer that anticorrosive coatings will not only protect a new car's body, but also_____.

(A) make the car run better

(B) increase the trade-in value of the car

(C) increase the car's mileage

(D) make the car safer to drive

12. From the passage you can infer that_____.

(A) new cars are fuel efficient, sleek, and beautiful

(B) Americans want their cars to be both beautiful and practical in terms of comfort and cost

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(C) Americans will continue to buy European and Japanese cars because they are cheaper

(D) if oil becomes plentiful and cheap again, Americans will not return to buying large cars

13. Another inference from the article is that_____.

(A) the most important consideration in buying a car is the cost of gas

(B) gas shortages caused American manufacturers to change their production methods

(C) today's cars are more sensible buys than those in the past

(D) large cars are more comfortable than small cars

QUESTIONS 14-23

The New York Times is a daily newspaper published in New York City. For a long time, it has been the newspaper of record in the United States and one of the world's great newspapers. Its strength is in its editorial excellence; it has never been the largest newspaper in terms of circulation. A.

The Times was established in 1851 as a penny paper whose editors wanted to report the news in a **restrained** and objective fashion. It enjoyed early success as its editors set a pattern for the future by appealing to a cultured, intellectual readership instead of a mass audience. However, in the late nineteenth century, it came into competition with more popular, colorful, if not lurid, newspapers in New York City. B. Despite price increases, the Times was losing $1,000 a week when Adolph Simon Ochs bought it in 1896.

Ochs built the Times into an internationally respected daily. He hired Carr Van Anda as editor. Van Anda placed greater stress than ever on full reporting of the news of the day, and **his** reporters maintained and emphasized existing good coverage of international news. The management of the paper decided to eliminate fiction from the paper, added a Sunday magazine section, and reduced the paper's price back to a penny. In April 1912, the paper took many risks to report every aspect of the sinking of the Titanic. This greatly enhanced its prestige, and in its coverage of two world wars, the Times continued to enhance its reputation for excellence in world news. C

In 1971, the Times was given a copy of the so-called "Pentagon Papers," a secret government study of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War. When it published the report, it became involved in several lawsuits. D. The U.S. Supreme Court found that the **publication** was protected by the freedom-of-the-press clause in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Later in the 1970s, the paper, under Adolph Ochs's grand- son, Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, introduced sweeping changes in the organization of the newspaper and its staff and brought out a national edition transmitted by satellite to regional printing plants.

14. What is the main idea of the passage?

(A) The New York Times publishes the best fiction by American writers.

(B) The New York Times became highly respected throughout the world.

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(C) The New York Times broadcasts its news to TV stations via satellite.

(D) The New York Times lost its prestige after the Vietnam War.

15. It can be inferred from the passage that the circulation of the Times is_____.

(A) not the largest in the world.

(B) not the best in the world.

(C) the smallest in the world.

(D) the worst in the world.

16. Which phrase is closest in meaning to the word "restrained"?

(A) Put in prison

(B) In handcuffs

(C) Without education

(D) With self-control

17. According to the passage, what caused the loss of money at the Times?

(A) Other newspapers were more colorful.

(B) Other newspapers had better reporters.

(C) Other newspapers added a Sunday magazine.

(D) Other newspapers were better managed.

18. What word or phrase does the word "his" as used refer to?

(A) Van Anda

(B) Reporters

(C) News of the day

(D) International news

19. Where can the following sentence best be added to the passage?

Their publishers ran sensational stories, not because they were true, but because they sold newspapers.

(A) A

(B) B

(C) C

(D) D

20. To improve its circulation, the management of the Times did all of the following EXCEPT:

(A) emphasized good coverage of international news

(B) added a Sunday magazine section

(C) increased the number of lurid stories, even if they were not true

(D) eliminated fiction from the paper

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21. The passage implies that the newspaper's reputation_____.

(A) decreased when it lowered its price to a penny

(B) grew because Adolph Ochs bought it in 1896

(C) increased because of its coverage of the Titanic's sinking

(D) decreased because it could not compete with other New York papers

22. What word or phrase does the word "publication" refer to?

(A) The Times

(B) "The Pentagon Papers"

(C) The Report

(D) The Constitution

23. According to the passage, the Times has a national edition that is_____.

(A) protected by the Supreme Court

(B) printed in the form of a Sunday magazine

(C) shipped by train and air transport daily

(D) transmitted by satellite to regional printing plants

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