WORKSHEET 1
MAIN IDEA

Directions: The topic is given for each of these paragraphs. Remember that the topic must be part of the main idea sentence. Read each paragraph. Then select the answer choice that expresses its implied main idea.

1. Topic: ***leadership styles***

Autocratic leaders are hands-on leaders who keep strict control over group members and their activities. They ask few questions, make the decisions, give orders, and are likely to use coercion to make others carry out their assignments. Laissez-faire leaders are hands-off leaders who leave most of the decisions to the group and tend not to get involved. Democratic leaders encourage group participation in decision-making and problem-solving. Their style falls between the other two extremes.

A) Democratic leaders are more effective than autocratic leaders.
B) There are three leadership styles.
C) Autocratic leaders are strict, laissez-faire leaders are hands-off leaders, and democratic leaders encourage group participation in decision-making.
D) Employees prefer to work with democratic leaders.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

WORKSHEET 1
MAIN IDEA

2. Topic: ***Americans waiting to marry (age at which Americans marry)***

Are Americans today waiting longer to get married? According to 2003 Census Bureau figures, the answer is yes. The Associated Press reports that one-third of men are still single when they reach age 34 and that nearly one-quarter of women are still single at that age. Compared with data for 1970, these figures are four times higher. In 1970, the percent of never-married men aged 30-34 was 9 percent; the rate has risen to 33 percent. The percent of never-married women increased from 6 percent to 23 percent. The typical marriage age for men in 2003 was 27.1 years, up from 25.3 in 1970. The typical age for women rose from 20.8 to 23.2.

A) Are Americans today waiting longer to get married?

B) Men marry at a later age than women do.

C) Americans today are waiting longer to get married.

D) More men than women are still single at age 34.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

WORKSHEET 1
MAIN IDEA

3. Topic: ***results of a survey about teens and money***

A recent survey revealed some shocking results. One in five teens does not know that if you take out a loan, you must pay interest in addition to repaying the loan. One teen in four has the mistaken notion that financial aid will take care of all their college expenses. And one teen in three thinks that Social Security payments will provide all the money they need when they retire.

A) A recent survey revealed some shocking results: one in five teens do not know that if you take out a loan, you must pay interest in addition to repaying the loan.

B) Teenagers do not know anything about money matters.

C) A recent survey revealed some shocking results about how little understanding teens have about money matters.

D) One teen in four has the mistaken notion that financial aid will take care of all their college expenses. And one teen in three thinks that Social Security payments will provide all the money they need when they retire.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

WORKSHEET 1
MAIN IDEA

4. Topic: ***fiction (definition of)***

Novels and short stories are types of fiction. Drama is another example. Fairy tales and fables are also fiction. It is a type of narrative writing that comes from the imagination of the author rather than from history or fact.

A) There are many types of literature.
B) Novels, short stories, drama, fairy tales and fables are types of fiction.
C) Fiction is a type of narrative writing that comes from the imagination of the author rather than from history or fact.
D) Novels and short stories are types of fiction.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

WORKSHEET 1
MAIN IDEA

5. Topic: ***how far it is to the Sun (distance to the sun)***

How far is it to the Sun? It's so far that it's hard to comprehend. In actual distance, it's approximately 93 million miles. The distance changes slightly as the Earth travels around the Sun. Suppose it were possible to take a jetliner there. Traveling at a little over 550 mph, it would take nearly 20 years to get there. Even if you could travel at 25,000 mph, it would take five months to reach the Sun.

A) How far is it to the Sun?

B) Its so far to the Sun that it's hard to comprehend.

C) In actual distance, it's approximately 93 million miles to the Sun.

D) It takes a long time to get to the Sun, no matter how you travel.

NAME: CLASS:

DATE: NUMBER:

LIVEWORKSHEETS