

Task 5

Read the text below. For questions (39–48) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D). Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

BARBED WIRE

Barbed wire, a simple tool, reshaped life in the American West by allowing ranchers to (39) _____ the land. The new fencing simplified the work of the rancher and farmer, and significantly (40) _____ political, social, and economic practices throughout the west helping to shape the 20th century.

Before the invention of barbed wire, the (41) _____ of effective fencing limited the range of farming the number of settlers in an area. With little or no wood and no rocks there wasn't any way to fence (42) _____ your land.

Wire fences used before the invention of the barb consisted of only one strand of wire, which was often (43) _____ by the weight of cattle pushing against it. Michael Kelly made a significant improvement to wire fencing with an invention that (44) _____ 'two wires together to form a cable for barbs — the first of its kind. Kelly's double-strand design made the fence stronger, and the painful barbs taught cattle to (45) _____ their distance.

The widespread use of barbed wire changed life on the Great Plains (46) _____ and permanently. The lives of Native Americans were radically altered they began calling barbed wire 'the Devil's rope.' Fenced-off land meant that more and more cattle herders were dependent on the dwindling overgrazed public lands. The (47) _____ winter of 1886, and a big January 1887 blizzard, wreaked further havoc on the cattle market. Large-scale, open-range cattle enterprises effectively disappeared.

Barbed wire has survived the passage of time being used (48) _____ from farm land to prisons and even in battle fields. Barbed wire, one of the simplest of famous inventions, truly tamed the West.

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|-------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| 39 A train | B tame | C suppress | D surrender |
| 40 A affected | B touched | C impressed | D held |
| 41 A loss | B plenty | C decrease | D lack |
| 42 A on | B off | C of | D in |
| 43 A cracked | B separated | C broken | D fixed |
| 44 A altered | B twisted | C changed | D edged |
| 45 A take | B keep | C hold | D do |
| 46 A dramatically | B harmfully | C dangerously | D finally |
| 47 A moderate | B calm | C sharp | D harsh |
| 48 A wherever | B anywhere | C everywhere | D somewhere |

Task 9

Read the texts below. For questions (49–58) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D). Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

SPILLING SALT

‘When you spill salt, toss some over your left shoulder to avoid bad luck.’

Spilling salt (49) _____ unlucky for thousands of years. Around 3,500 B.C., the ancient Sumerians first (50) _____ to nullifying the bad luck of spilled salt by (51) _____ a pinch of it over their left shoulders. This ritual spread to the Egyptians, the Assyrians and later, the Greeks.

The superstition (52) _____ reflects how much people prized (and still prize) salt as a seasoning for food. The etymology of the word ‘salary’ shows how highly we value it. According to Panati: ‘The Roman writer Petronius, in the Satyricon, originated ‘not worth his salt’ as opprobrium* for Roman soldiers, who (53) _____ special allowances for salt rations, called salarium ‘salt money’ the origin of our word ‘salary.’

**opprobrium* — very strong criticism of something

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|----|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| 49 | A was considered | B has been considered | C will be considered | D considers |
| 50 | A taken | B took | C taking | D has taken |
| 51 | A throwing | B to throw | C thrown | D will throw |
| 52 | A ultimate | B ultimating | C ultimately | D ultimatedly |
| 53 | A was given | B is given | C will be given | D were given |

‘IT’S BAD LUCK TO WALK UNDER A LADDER.’

This superstition really does originate 5,000 years ago in ancient Egypt. A ladder (54) _____ against a wall forms a triangle, and Egyptians regarded this shape as sacred (as exhibited, for example, by their pyramids). To them, triangles (55) _____ the trinity of the gods, and to pass through a triangle was to desecrate them.

This belief wended (56) _____ way up through the ages. ‘Centuries later, followers of Jesus Christ usurped the superstition, interpreting it in light of Christ’s death,’ Panati explained. ‘Because a ladder had rested against the crucifix, it became a symbol of wickedness, betrayal, and (57) _____. Walking under a ladder courted misfortune.’

In England in the 1600s, criminals were forced (58) _____ under a ladder on their way to the gallows.

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|----|--------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 54 | A lean | B leaning | C leaned | D leant |
| 55 | A represents | B would represent | C represented | D had represented |
| 56 | A it | B it’s | C its | D its’ |
| 57 | A die | B dead | C deadly | D death |
| 58 | A to walk | B walking | C walks | D having walked |