

READING COMPREHENSION

(Practice Identifying the Main Idea, Identifying Unfamiliar Vocabulary, and Recognizing the organization of ideas in a Passage)

Students' Name	Students ID (NIM)
1. _____	_____
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Directions: In this section, you will read 2 passages and answer comprehension questions about each passage. Choose **one** best answer, (A), (B), (C), or (D), to each question.

Questions 1 to 4

Over a dozen journalists resigned on December 1st from Hong Kong Cable Television Limited, a major subscription-based TV station in Hong Kong, in protest after the media company fired 40 editorial staff in what is perceived as a political crackdown. Those laid off include the head of the China desk and the entire team of the award-winning News Lancet Line (5) program. The broadcaster cited financial reasons for the layoff, a claim the newsroom staff rebukes. The entire China desk, a total of 12 people, has since resigned in protest, along with the heads of the international and finance desks and the newsroom's chief assignment editor.

The layoffs were sudden and took immediate effect — those who were sacked were told to leave the office on the same day. In shock, members of staff gathered outside the room of the (10) news director demanding an explanation. Among those laid off is Wong Lai-ping, former deputy news editor at the China desk. In a radio interview aired on December 2, she rebuked the management's claim that the decision was made out of financial difficulties, remarking that in August, the management fired the then-executive director Fung Tak-hung and replaced him with four new managers. Wong said that the new management often made editorial requests, such as (15) live broadcasts of China's foreign minister's regular press conference, or modifying headlines. According to Wong, the newsroom staff refused to comply with such requests.

1. What is the author's main point in the passage?
 - A. The resignation of 40 journalists of Hong Kong Cable Television Limited
 - B. The financial reasons for editorial staff layoff
 - C. The impact of the mass layoffs on 40 editorial staff
 - D. The process of editorial staff resignation
2. The information in the passage is developed by
 - A. citing an effect and its causes
 - B. explaining history with three specific cases
 - C. demonstrating the sides of an issue
 - D. developing the process of solving problems
3. The word "sacked" in line 7 is closest in meaning to
 - A. accepted
 - B. blocked
 - C. gained
 - D. expelled
4. The word "rebukes" in line 6 could best be replaced by
 - A. reforms
 - B. reproves
 - C. reconstructs
 - D. releases

Questions 5 to 6

Although photography was first made public in 1839, the theory behind the principles of the medium begins with Aristotle's description of how light waves behave when projected through a small aperture. This is fundamentally the description of how a lens or camera's aperture operates when it projects an image onto the film at the back of a camera. In the Middle Ages, Line (5) Alhazen and Francis Bacon extended the principle to include a large, darkened room with a small opening in one wall. In the 15 to 18th centuries this camera obscura, as it came to be called, was reduced in size and made convenient for artists to use in tracing the scenic design and architectural perspective.

The chemical principles basic to photography were also described well before (10) photography was "invented". Johann Schulze, in 1727, demonstrated that silver salts turned dark when exposed to light. Carl W. Scheele, in 1777, showed that ammonia retarded the effects of light and he indicated a possible way of stabilizing the photochemical process. By the end of the 18th century, the necessary equipment (the camera obscura) was available at least to produce semi-permanent photographic images.

(15) The artistic style and aesthetics of Renaissance and post-Renaissance Europe placed a high value on a naturalistic rendering of nature and thus legitimized the use of machines like camera obscura by artists. By the mid-18th century, public demand had made itself for realistic portraits, which was partially satisfied by experiments in the automatic; if permanent, recording of portrait silhouettes on photo-sensitive paper. Two imperatives: the need for prospectively (20) accurate landscape and architectural scenes and for objectively truthful portraits created a climate for certain types and styles of pictures that, after 1839, would be achieved easily by photography.

5. Which of the following expresses the main idea of the passage?

- A. The invention of modern camera
- B. The evolution of photography
- C. The history of camera obscura
- D. The characteristics of camera obscura

7. The word "convenient" in line 7 is closest in meaning to

- A. complicated
- B. comfortable
- C. compatible
- D. conducive

9. The word "legitimized" in line 16 is closest in meaning to

- A. authorized
- B. constructed
- C. validated
- D. utilized

6. How is the information in the film production organized?

- A. The pros and cons are described.
- B. The cause-effect approach is used.
- C. The importance of the steps is highlighted.
- D. The chronological order is presented.

8. The word "equipment" in line 13 could be best replaced by

- A. apparatus
- B. experiment
- C. cutlery
- D. repertory

10. What is the main idea of the last paragraph?

- A. Architectural scenes for truthful portraits
- B. Aesthetics of the post-Renaissance period
- C. Obscura development after the Renaissance period
- D. Europe's value on a naturalistic photography