UNSEEN STRATEGY #1: What Do We Learn From – Practice Questions

1.

II Ocean scientists have long wanted to investigate the deepest regions of the seas, but they were restricted to a depth of 40 meters — the deepest that divers can go without protection from the enormous weight of the water above. Since the 1960s, specially designed chambers, known as "deep-submergence vehicles" (DSVs), have helped deal with the problem. Descending 3,000 to 11,000 meters, they have enabled researchers to spend a few hours at a time studying the geology and animal life of the ocean depths.

What information is given in paragraph II about DSVs?

i) Why they can only remain a few hours underwater.

ii) Why they were first designed in the 1960s.

iii) What enables them to stay submerged.

iv) How they are used in ocean research.

2.

I The old city of Chichester in Southern England is very popular with tourists, offering them boat trips and fishing along its beautiful canal. These days, however, visitors might notice something unexpected: a modern house sitting *on* the canal, its large windows overlooking the water. The house was designed by the architecture firm Baca as a model for the floating homes that may soon appear on waterways in urban centers around the world.

What do we learn about floating homes from paragraph I?

i) What they usually look like.

ii) Why they are used as tourist attractions.

iii) Why they might be useful.

iv) Where they might be built.

3.

I Over the past few decades, there has been a significant increase in the size and number of cities worldwide. More than half of the world's population now lives in cities, compared to a third just fifty years ago, and the numbers only keep rising. It is no secret that urban development often comes at a high environmental cost. Few people, however, realize that much of the damage is caused by the demand for one particular natural resource: sand.

II Sand is the thing modern cities are made of. As one of the main components of concrete and asphalt, it is used in the construction of every apartment building, office tower and shopping mall, and every road as well. In addition, sand is used for the process known as "land reclamation": by pouring billions of tons of sand into the sea, countries with a coastline can create large areas of additional land. The densely populated island-state of Singapore, for instance, has used this method since the 1960s to increase its area by 20%, providing space for new housing and commercial projects.

What do we learn from paragraphs I and II ?

PUT A √ BY THE TWO CORRECT ANSWERS.

..... i) Why so many people are living in cities.

..... ii) Why few people understand the importance of sand.

..... iii) What kind of problem is caused by the growth of cities.

..... iv) Why modern buildings are made of concrete.

..... v) Why the demand for sand is growing.

..... vi) How construction methods have been changing.

4.

The opening chapter introduces the concept of "super memory" — the ability to accurately recall anything from long lists of numbers to hundreds of historical facts. Filmore describes several studies of people with this rare skill, conducted to gain a better understanding of the mechanisms of memory. The conclusion: those who appear to have "super memory" start out with the same natural abilities as the rest of us; what helps them accomplish their amazing feats is their mastery of various memory techniques. Some of the methods, writes Filmore, go back over 2000 years to ancient Greece — an indication of the value that was once placed on improving one's memory. Sadly, she adds, with so many digital devices now available, not many people today are willing to devote the time and effort required to do that.

What can we understand from lines 7-17 about "super memory"?

i) It was discovered through research.

ii) It is the result of practice.

iii) It is a rare ability people are born with.

iv) It is not well understood.

5.

As a result of his findings, Kinnaman insists that only a few materials, such as paper and aluminium, should be recycled, and that all other types of waste should go in landfills. His view may seem surprising given that harmful substances have been known to leak from these sites and pollute surrounding land. However, recent technological advances have led to the improved construction and design of landfills, minimizing the risk to the environment. Furthermore, landfills are not the wasteful use of land that people assume them to be. A recent survey found that they actually take up very little space, and that, when full, most are covered over with soil and turned into fields or parks.

What do we learn from lines 17-25 about landfills?

i) They contain fewer harmful substances than we think.

ii) They are cheaper to construct than in the past.

iii) They are built differently than in the past.

iv) It is hard to find a good location for them.

6.

One example of such activity was uncovered last year in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), which published an alarming report on the involvement of the American sugar industry in scientific research in the 1960s. At that time, researchers were debating which types of food – those high in sugar, or those high in fat – might increase the risk of heart disease. But then, in 1965, a representative of the industry named John Hickson paid three Harvard University scientists to write a review of studies done on the subject. Hickson himself decided which studies would be reviewed, and made it clear what conclusions he expected. Not surprisingly, the team found the evidence linking heart disease to fat much stronger than the evidence linking it to sugar.

What do we learn from lines 7-15?

PUT A √ BY THE TWO CORRECT ANSWERS.

..... (i) Why heart disease was common in the 1960s.

..... (ii) Why the JAMA report was only published last year.

..... (iii) What the scientific debate in the 1960s was about.

..... (iv) Why the risk of heart disease is mainly linked with food.

..... (v) Where the first studies on fat and sugar were done.

..... (vi) How Hickson influenced the results of the Harvard review.

UNSEEN STRATEGY #2: Why Answers – Practice Questions

A. Basic Practice Exercises:

1) I am sorry I am late. The car broke down on the way.

The writer explains why _____.

2) Scientists are looking at animals' biology in the hope of finding solutions for human medical problems.

The writer explains why_____.

3) She loves animals so much that she decided to become a vegetarian.

The writer explains why_____.

4) My wife used to hit me. Therefore, I left her.

The writer explains why_____.

5) Dolphins and whales breathe air. So, we call them mammals even though they live in water.

The writer explains why_____.

B. Bagrut exercises

1.

Escape your stressful life!

Are you feeling tired and stressed out? That is not a healthy way to live! Researchers have discovered that stress is responsible for many sicknesses, including heart problems, high blood pressure, migraines and depression. Escape your stressful life before it's too late, by moving to the beautiful and quiet village of HazelWhite.

Question: What does the writer of the advertisement explain in lines 1-4? Write one answer.

He explains why_____ .

2.

There is a new invention on the car market- a "black box" for your car. This amazing black box checks the driver's performance. It is the latest high-tech device for parents who are trying to force their teenage children to drive more carefully. It has a tiny memory card to record information. Parents use their computer to see if their teenager drives too fast, forgets to signal, or doesn't wear a seat belt.

Question: In lines 1-5 we learn why_____.

3.

It takes 2-4 years of driving to gain driving experience on the roads and become a good driver. A recent study shows that inexperienced 16-year-olds have three times as many accidents as 18-year-olds. these teen crashes are usually caused by not looking in the right place at the right time or by not keeping a safe distance from other cars. Teens are also easily distracted by conversations, music or cellphones.

Question: The study explains why_____.

4.

A report by the National Endowment of the Arts shows that children are reading less. Although the report does not explain why reading among the young has declined, Dina Mathews, a librarian, believes part of the problem may be that adults make children feel that reading is a duty rather than a pleasure. A common complaint she hears from young people is that few books relate to their lives or interests.

Question: What does Dina Mathews explain?

She explains why _____.

5.

Is yours a tablet, a cell phone, a watch or a pair of glasses? We are talking, of course, about computers. Just a few years ago they were big things sitting on top of your table and you could only use them at home. Now, you can have your computer anywhere you go and it comes in a variety of shapes and sizes. This sudden surge of new designs comes as a result of two trends: the computer's growing importance as an entertainment item and advances in technology.

Question: In lines 1-5 the writer explains why_____
_____.

6.

Dutch researchers have begun to spy on diners at a new restaurant in Washington University. They watch which tables diners eat at, what food they choose, and how much food is thrown away. Scales built into the floor weigh each costumer and his tray, and high-tech chairs measure each diner's pulse as he takes his first bite. According to Rene Koster, head of the research team, observation is a much more precise tool than costumer surveys, because people make many food choices automatically, without understanding the reasons behind their behavior.

Question: Rene Koster explains why he and his team chose _____
_____.

7.

II Ocean scientists have long wanted to investigate the deepest regions of the seas, but they were restricted to a depth of 40 meters — the deepest that divers can go without protection from the enormous weight of the water above. Since the 1960s, specially designed chambers, known as "deep-submergence vehicles" (DSVs), have helped deal with the problem. Descending 3,000 to 11,000 meters, they have enabled researchers to spend a few hours at a time studying the geology and animal life of the ocean depths.

COMPLETE THE SENTENCE.

From lines 6-8 we learn why divers ..... .
(8 points)