

Questions 168-171 refer to the following online article.

Auckland Business News

(19 February)—Christine Redman recently found herself unable to pay for the iced latte she had ordered at her favorite coffee shop—even though she had plenty of cash. “They’d made the switch to electronic payments a few weeks before,” Ms. Redman explained. “But that day, I forgot to bring my debit card. It was embarrassing.”

The coffee shop, Seeley’s Beans, is one of several New Zealand retailers that have stopped accepting cash at their stores. Supporters of the trend say that electronic payments have benefits like faster transactions, error-free record-keeping, and less handling of potentially-unsanitary bills and coins. Seeley’s Beans spokesperson Sharon Wright said, “It was an easy choice, frankly.”

Consumers, however, are not convinced. Although there has been a steady move toward using cards and apps instead of paper money, many still prefer to use cash or at least to have the option of doing so. “For me, it’s about privacy. I wouldn’t go to a cashless store, because I don’t like the credit card company knowing everything I buy,” said Auckland citizen Chad Williams.

Similar consumer resistance has led some city governments in the United States to prohibit businesses from going cashless. Retail analyst Sang-Wook Jung believes that could happen here as well, but not right away. “At this point, there are only a few cashless places, so it’s not a big inconvenience. But if a lot of stores start to switch over, we may see a backlash too.”

Have you visited a cashless store? Tell us about it in the comments! (Note that commenters must create an Auckland Tribune account.)

168. What is the article about?

- (A) A trend in retail payment methods
- (B) The expansion of a coffee shop chain
- (C) A proposal for a city ordinance
- (D) A dispute between a customer and a store

169. What is implied about Mr. Williams?

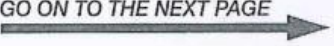
- (A) He works in the finance field.
- (B) He will not patronize cafés like Seeley’s Beans.
- (C) He spoke with Ms. Redman earlier in February.
- (D) He hopes to become a local politician.

170. Why does the article mention another country?

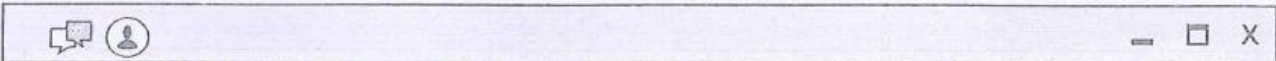
- (A) To explain a management practice’s origin
- (B) To highlight a company’s structure
- (C) To introduce a situation’s potential outcome
- (D) To express pride about a region’s achievements

171. What are readers of the article encouraged to do?

- (A) Sign up to receive updates on a story
- (B) Discuss any relevant experiences
- (C) Look at a list of similar writings
- (D) Report any factual errors

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Questions 172-175 refer to the following online chat discussion.

	
Monica Dietrich [2:11 P.M.]	Great news! A representative from Ramona Enterprises has finally agreed to do an interview with me!
Tao Hou [2:12 P.M.]	That's wonderful! Our readers will be thrilled to get some insights into one of the fastest-growing software companies in the industry. When will you go there?
Monica Dietrich [2:14 P.M.]	Next Monday at 2 P.M. That doesn't give me much time to prepare, and I've only been given a one-hour time slot, but I'll take what I can get.
Roxanne Toro [2:16 P.M.]	Jacques, are you free to go with Monica and take pictures?
Monica Dietrich [2:17 P.M.]	Actually, I'm the only one who will be allowed in the offices. The company said it prefers to supply its own pictures.
Jacques Favreau [2:18 P.M.]	That's a shame. I would love to see their offices. I heard that employees are allowed to personalize their workspaces, so you see everything from standing desks with treadmills to recliner chairs.
Monica Dietrich [2:19 P.M.]	I'll be sure to let you know if that's true!
Roxanne Toro [2:22 P.M.]	Will you have the article ready in time for this month's issue? The deadline is March 18, just two days after you visit Ramona Enterprises.
Monica Dietrich [2:23 P.M.]	I don't think that's a good idea.
Tao Hou [2:24 P.M.]	I agree. Quality has to be the top priority.

172. What is suggested about Ms. Dietrich?

- (A) She used to be employed by Ramona Enterprises.
- (B) She made multiple requests to Ramona Enterprises.
- (C) She checks Ramona Enterprises' Web site regularly.
- (D) She has confirmed a sale to Ramona Enterprises.

173. Where most likely do the writers work?

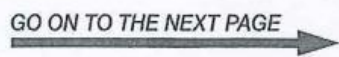
- (A) At a technology company
- (B) At a news station
- (C) At a recruiting agency
- (D) At a magazine publisher

174. Why is Mr. Favreau unable to accompany Ms. Dietrich?

- (A) He is too far away to arrive in time.
- (B) He has not been granted access.
- (C) He is busy with other work.
- (D) He is not qualified for an assignment.

175. At 2:23 P.M., what does Ms. Dietrich mean when she writes, "I don't think that's a good idea"?

- (A) She plans to supervise a process.
- (B) She prefers to meet in-person.
- (C) She wants more time for a task.
- (D) She thinks a workspace policy is unwise.

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Questions 176-180 refer to the following e-mail and article.

E-Mail message	
From:	Megan Danner
To:	Liling Yang
Subject:	Request
Date:	3 September
Attachment:	📎 7 files

Dear Professor Yang,

Hello! I hope this e-mail finds you well. I'm writing to take you up on the offer you made when I graduated last summer. In particular, I've decided to enter the Queensland Young Designers Contest, and I'm hoping that you'll review my submission before I turn it in.

I suspect you're already familiar with the contest, but let me give you an overview just in case. It's organised by the Queensland Fashion Council in order to support talented young designers. The first prize winner is featured in the council yearbook, but I'm just hoping for one of the top five spots, as all of them come with an invitation to the council's yearly fashion show. As for the entries, contestants have to submit three collections. Each collection consists of sketches of three clothing designs connected by a creative concept chosen by the applicant.

So, I'm sending you my sketches and the accompanying explanations of the creative concepts I chose. I've also included a document listing the judging criteria, for reference. I know you are busy, but I would be very grateful if you could take a look at these materials sometime before 10 September and share any comments that come to mind. Thank you in advance for any help you can give.

Sincerely,

Megan

Queensland Young Designers Contest Award Winner Announced

BRISBANE (12 December)—The Queensland Fashion Council (QFC) revealed the winner of its fourth annual contest for young fashion designers yesterday. Jacquelyn Abbot, an assistant buyer at Sandpace Apparel and a recent graduate of Wilburt University, took first place among nearly 500 entrants.

The QFC has over 3,000 members, including designers, other industry employees, and investors, and the judges committee for the Queensland Young Designers Contest consists of some of the top names in eastern Australian fashion.

Ms. Abbot's design entry, which embodied the concepts "Fresh", "Reflections", and "Flight", impressed the judges with its original interpretations of classic styles. Gary Odell, the chair of the committee and a member of the QFC board, said, "Ms. Abbot's clothes and accessories are fascinating, becoming more complex the longer you look at them. We think she has a bright future in this industry."

Ms. Abbot, as well as top runners-up Jemma Ryan, Hayden Noe, Megan Danner, and Kevin Naylor, will receive a range of support services from the council.

176. Why was the e-mail sent?
- (A) To request clarification about a requirement
 - (B) To respond to a suggestion to enter a contest
 - (C) To ask for feedback on some entry materials
 - (D) To provide a reminder about a deadline
177. What is NOT attached to the e-mail?
- (A) A sample template for a document
 - (B) A list of some evaluation standards
 - (C) Descriptions of design concepts
 - (D) Drawings of fashion items
178. What is suggested about Ms. Danner?
- (A) She completed an internship at the QFC.
 - (B) She will be promoted in an annual publication.
 - (C) She wrote an e-mail to a Wilburt University professor.
 - (D) She will receive a pass to a fashion event.
179. According to the article, what is true about the QFC?
- (A) It has around 500 members.
 - (B) Its board of directors is headed by Mr. Odell.
 - (C) It has held the competition three times before.
 - (D) It is affiliated with Sandpape Apparel.
180. In the article, the word "bright" in paragraph 3, line 9, is closest in meaning to
- (A) sunny
 - (B) cheerful
 - (C) promising
 - (D) clever

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Questions 181-185 refer to the following meeting agenda and e-mail.

Thornwood Monthly City Council Meeting

Room 105, Thornwood Community Center
Tuesday, February 10, 7 P.M.

Attendance: 10 out of 12 council members **Absent:** Patrick Chu, Tamara Walton
Minutes from January's meeting were read and approved.

Department Reports:
Finance: Request for March's operating expenses approved Parks and Recreation: Explanation of park improvement grant
Public Presentations:
Suggestions for the usage of the grant funds at Randall Park -Richard Dejean, former council member: building a covered picnic shelter with several picnic tables -Lorena Palermo, Thornwood resident: adding an asphalt path that joggers can use to exercise in the park -Veer Kamath, Thornwood resident: installing a fenced-in basketball court near the soccer fields -Heather Bolin, president of the Nature Now charity: planting a flower garden to enhance the park's appearance
Deliberation:
Council members debated the merits of the various proposals.
Next Meeting (March 13):
The council will vote on the park improvement grant. The meeting will be held in the main auditorium because unusually large attendance is predicted.

To:	Lewis Knutson <lknutson@thornwood.gov>
From:	Victoria Pickard <vpickard@thornwood.gov>
Date:	March 15
Subject:	Randall Park Project

Hi Lewis,

Now that we have selected the project for Randall Park, we need to get started on the planning. I would like to sit down with the director and assistant director of the parks and recreation department sometime this week—could you arrange that? We need to get an accurate map of where the jogging path will be installed.

Once a tentative plan is in place, we can begin advertising the project and collecting bids from construction companies. I believe this project will be an excellent use of the grant funds we received. However, I'm worried that the process will be much lengthier than citizens expect. We'll have to hurry if we want it to be ready by the end of the summer.

Please keep me posted on your progress.

Thanks!

Victoria

181. What is NOT indicated about the February meeting?
- (A) A monthly budget was approved.
 - (B) A charity representative gave a presentation.
 - (C) The majority of council members were present.
 - (D) There was a debate over the venue of the next meeting.
182. What does the meeting agenda suggest about the vote on the park improvement grant?
- (A) Some council members would not participate in it.
 - (B) It was supposed to take place in February.
 - (C) It would be broadcast to local audiences.
 - (D) It was expected to attract a lot of public interest.
183. Whose proposal was successful?
- (A) Mr. Dejean's
 - (B) Ms. Palermo's
 - (C) Mr. Kamath's
 - (D) Ms. Bolin's
184. What is Mr. Knutson asked to do this week?
- (A) Train some volunteers
 - (B) Set up a meeting
 - (C) Contact construction companies
 - (D) Post an advertisement
185. What does Ms. Pickard mention about the park improvement project?
- (A) A grant organization may not approve plans for it.
 - (B) It will not use all of the available funds.
 - (C) She is concerned about its duration.
 - (D) It may disrupt a seasonal festival.

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