

## Part 7 Reading Comprehension

Directions: In this part, you will read a selection of texts such as magazine and newspaper articles, letters, and advertisements. Each text is followed by several questions. Select the best answer for each question, and mark the letter (A), (B), (C), or (D) on your answer sheet.

### Question 153 through 155 refer to the following article

#### Fire Damages Local Warehouse

Rochester, April 151: Late in the evening of March 29th, a fire caused extensive damage to the Huggy Dog Co. warehouse on West 24th Street. There were no injuries. The only employee on the premises was the security guard, Russ Lupine, who called in the fire at 3:00 p.m. Firefighters arrived minutes later and put out the blaze. 5,000 cans of dog and cat food were destroyed along with several kilograms of bird seed and fish food. The cost of damage to the loading area, the worst hit section, is estimated at \$400,000.

Early investigations point to a faulty heating system as the cause of the fire. According to a Huggy Dog spokesperson, the company that installed the system, AMC Heaters, had ignored numerous complaints about the heating units over the past four weeks. Huggy Dog plans to take legal action against AMC Heaters.

153. Huggy Dog is probably what kind of company?

- (A) A fire fighting service
- (B) A heating systems
- (C) A pet food supplier
- (D) A security provider

154. What part of the warehouse was most affected by the fire?

- (A) The premises
- (B) The loading area
- (C) The security guard
- (D) The pet food

155. What will the company do?

- (A) Move to a newly renovated place
- (B) Start a heating systems business
- (C) Take another company to court
- (D) Hire a different security guard

Questions 156 through 158 refer to the following advertisement.

## FOR SALE

I am selling my beloved 1986 Celebrity Eurosport due to financial hardship. I have been unable to work because of a long-term illness, and I need to pay my bills. This car has very low mileage, and I am its only owner. I have treated this car with great care.

Don't miss this one!

- Classic F-platform has original doors and GM/Delco stereo!
- New exhaust, shocks, tires, and brakes-all replaced within the last six months
- Needs a paint touch-up and some minor repair work on fenders, rear bumper, and engine
- Seat covers and window shade included
- Reliable transportation for a student or as a second car
- \$400 O.B.O.
- Cash only please.

Call Randy, 389-3412, weekdays before 5 p.m.

156. Why is Randy selling his car?

- (A) It is too old.
- (B) He needs money.
- (C) It needs repairs.
- (D) He does not like it.

157. Which of the following is NOT true about the car?

- (A) It needs brand new tires.
- (B) It has its original stereo.
- (C) It has some seat covers.
- (D) It needs a bit of paint.

158. When could an interested buyer call?

- (A) Sunday morning
- (B) Tuesday night
- (C) Thursday morning
- (D) Saturday night

**Questions 159 through 161 refer to the following email.**

To: Saul Leganza, Guzzi Imports <sleganza@guzziimports.com> From: Peter Brown, Mel-Mart Superstore <pbrown@mel-mart.com>  
Re: Flight delay  
Date August 15th

This is just to confirm that I have received your phone message. My flight to California has been canceled because of bad weather. I will now be leaving Denver early tomorrow morning and arriving at LAX on United Flight 77 tomorrow afternoon. I could not get a direct flight, so it is going to take a lot longer than I had anticipated. I am sorry for any trouble this will cause you. Hopefully, we can reschedule our meetings for the day after I arrive, the 17th. I have attached my new itinerary. Please call me if you have any questions; otherwise, see you soon!

159. Where is Mr Brown now?

- (A) LAX
- (B) California
- (C) Denver
- (D) United

160. Why did Mr Brown send this email?

- (A) To confirm a reservation
- (B) To reschedule a flight
- (C) To cancel a meeting
- (D) To explain a situation

161. When will Mr Brown arrive in California?

- (A) August 14th
- (B) August 15th
- (C) August 16th
- (D) August 17<sup>th</sup>

Questions 162 through 164 refer to the following announcement.

## Movies at the Marquis

The Marquis is proud to announce a repeat of our special feature week.

Introduced last month, the special feature week was a great success. Each month, every evening for one whole week, we will show movies from one particular genre. This month, we have chosen horror. We want to know what YOU want to see, so fill in an audience choice form next time you visit. We will select our next genre based on the results of the survey.

### Horror Week

*Ghostly Monsters* (1956), Kip McVities, Rosie Ranger  
Monday,  
6:00 p.m.

*The Bilge and the Brine* (1943), Mack Jangler, Gregory Ryan  
Tuesday and Wednesday,  
7:30 p.m.

*Elvis and the Swamp Monster* (1978), Mike Myron, Roger Paul  
Thursday and Friday,  
8:00 p.m.

*Digstown* (1987), Lou Rosette, Jr., D. Hasbro Wiseman  
Friday through Sunday, 9:00 p.m.,  
12.00 a.m.

62. On what day can a person see two movies?  
(A) Monday  
(B) Wednesday  
(C) Friday  
(D) Sunday

63. How will the theater choose the theme of the next special feature week?  
(A) According to customers preferences  
(B) According to box office popularity  
(C) By critics' recommendations  
(D) By asking staff members

164. What is the latest time that you can see a movie?  
(A) Noon  
(B) 8:00 p.m.  
(C) 9:00 p.m.  
(D) Midnight

Questions 165 through 168 refer to the following letter.

**Bugs and Beans Coffee Shop**

Museum of Natural Sciences

401 E. Rosser Ave.

Columbus, OH 45021

Tel: (502) 235-5555

coffe@mofns.com

Mr. Tomi Galoob Galoob  
Ceramics PO Box 356  
Frisbee, NY 02165

Dear Mr. Galoob,

Thank you for sending me a copy of your latest ceramics catalog. You have been sending us your catalog here at the museum for several years now, and I always look forward to reading it. I was amazed yet again at the variety and creativity that you have displayed in your work. Your vases and bowls are quite exquisite! They really do resemble the plants and animals that they are modeled after. I would like to order 50 or more of the ladybug bowls. They are perfect for holding sugar cubes. However, it was the scorpion cups that really grabbed my attention. According to the catalog, they are available in small, medium, and extra-large sizes. I am interested in purchasing approximately 25 of the extra-large scorpion cups. Please send me information on your available stock. I would appreciate receiving the information by email. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Linda Trump  
Manager, Bugs and Beans Coffee Shop

165. What does the letter request?  
(A) The latest catalog  
(B) Information about stock  
(C) 25 large cups  
(D) Vases and bowls

166. How does the letter writer want the ceramics company to respond?  
(A) Send a letter  
(B) Make a phone call  
(C) Write an email  
(D) Send a fax

167. What is Mrs. Trump's opinion of Galoob Ceramics?  
(A) Their products have become expensive.  
(B) Their products are very attractive.  
(C) Their products used to be better.  
(D) Their products lack any variety.

168. What will the coffee shop use to hold sugar?  
(A) Scorpion cups  
(B) The catalog  
(C) Ladybug bowls  
(D) Small cups

Questions 169 through 172 refer to the following advertisement.

## Dream Vacation

Golden sandy beaches, deep blue seas, peace and quiet, and delicious food.

Would you like to take the vacation of a lifetime? Have you always thought about getting away on a romantic cruise but could never afford it? Now your dream can become a reality. Get away with Dazzle Tours. Why not take one of our mini-breaks? You will find that a 7-day break costs a lot less than you thought. If you book now, you can get away for even less. For a limited time, we are offering a Caribbean cruise with stops in Jamaica, Aruba, and Puerto Rico for only \$799 (plus taxes). Service charges and visa fees are included.

### Your Dazzle Tour includes:

- Round-trip airfare from Palm Beach to Belize
- All meals and on-board entertainment
- Choice of breakfasts, a buffet lunch, and a 3-course dinner menu
- Full use of our sports center, sauna, and casino
- Jet-skiing and scuba diving
- Savings on shopping
- Book of discount coupons given to each passenger-can be used in any of our on-board shops and boutiques (excludes alcohol and tobacco)
- Guided tours at destination cities with one of our expert local guides. All guides are fluent in English and extremely knowledgeable about their city.

With DazzleTours, every day is a new adventure. All tours last seven days and six nights. Departures are every Sunday until August 31st. Reservations must be made two weeks in advance. Call one of our agents to reserve your place now!

Dazzle Tours: 1-800-455-2222

169. What is the purpose of this advertisement?

- (A) To advertise a buffet
- (B) To offer store discounts
- (C) To promote a cruise
- (D) To introduce a casino

170. What is NOT included in the tour price?

- (A) Some meals
- (B) The flights
- (C) Service charges
- (D) Additional Taxes

171. How can reservations be made?

- (A) By mailing Dazzle Tours
- (B) By visiting the airport
- (C) By telephoning
- (D) By faxing the company

172. How long does a Dazzle Tour last?

- (A) For six days
- (B) Until August 31<sup>st</sup>
- (C) For two weeks
- (D) For one week

**Questions 173 through 176 refer to the following notice.**

## Park Board Meeting

All local citizens are invited to the City Park Board open meeting!

Come along, and find out what is happening in your local park. The City Park Board open meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, at 8 p.m. in conference room B of the public library. Agenda items include the following: funding for new snow blowers, construction of a temporary outdoor ice rink for the winter, and next month's Winterfest Bonfire Ball to raise money for equipment for the children's playground.

Snow blowers will enable us to keep the park open all year round even in the heaviest snow. With the park open all winter, we have decided to convert the central pond into an ice rink.

Local businessman, Hans Brent, has donated \$10,000 toward the cost. Winterfest Bonfire Ball tickets will be on sale at the meeting. They always sell out fast, so coming to the meeting will increase your chances of getting a ticket.

It is not necessary to notify us of your attendance in advance. However, if you would like to speak at the meeting or present a report on behalf of a local organization, please contact Glen Tuber at the city office, at 345-4444, extension 221, before October 5<sup>th</sup>. All speakers must receive authorization before the meeting, so it is essential that you contact us in advance.

Every weekday, we receive dozens of phone calls from local citizens who want to know what is happening in the park. Don't be one of those people. Come along to the meeting, and find out the truth for yourself!

173. Where will the park board meet?

- (A) At the ice rink
- (B) In the library
- (C) At the office
- (D) In the park

174. What will NOT be discussed at the meeting?

- (A) Building a place for ice skating
- (B) Paying for snow removal equipment
- (C) Speakers at the next meeting
- (D) An upcoming community festival

175. Which people should call Glen Tuber?

- (A) People wanting to attend the meeting
- (B) People wanting to buy festival tickets
- (C) People wanting to speak at the meeting
- (D) People wanting to borrow library books

176. On what day will the park close for the winter?

- (A) October 17th
- (B) October 5th
- (C) It will not be closed this winter.
- (D) It will be announced at the meeting.

**Questions 177 through 180 refer to the following advice.**

## **Tips for Shopping Online**

Shopping online gives you access to thousands of goods from companies around the world. However, some more unfortunate individuals find that the goods they ordered look nothing like the pictures, arrive damaged, or don't arrive at all. Here are some tips to help protect yourself when you shop on the world wide web.

Before placing your first order, research other people's opinions of the company. There are many websites dedicated to reviewing online companies with satisfaction surveys and customer reviews and comments. These are real people with honest opinions talking about their personal experiences with the company.

Next, read all the available information the company provides including the fine print. Make sure you read and understand the return policy. Look for companies that offer a no-questions-asked return policy. Check whether you will have to pay shipping if you need to return the goods.

Always include shipping costs and sales tax in the final price when comparing costs. If the cheapest item has the most expensive shipping fees, it might not be the bargain it seems to be. Make sure you know exactly what you are paying for.

Find out how long you will have to wait for your order. If you need something in a hurry, shopping online might not be the best option. Over-night shipping can be very costly. Keep records of your order. Print out your e-receipt, or save it to a file on your hard drive. This proof-of-purchase will help you in the event that your item is damaged or not what you ordered.

If you encounter any problems with an online company, contact a consumer advocacy group. You can easily find telephone numbers for such groups on the Internet.

177. What should you do before making an online purchase?

- (A) Check the company's website
- (B) Find out more about the seller
- (C) Check the pictures of the item
- (D) Find out about shipping costs

178. Why should an online shopper keep receipts?

- (A) For recycling purposes
- (B) In case there are disputes
- (C) To show for the shipping
- (D) To prove his or her identity

179. Which of the following is NOT a disadvantage of online shopping?

- (A) High overnight shipping fees
- (B) Products which are damaged
- (C) Wide variety of goods
- (D) The items sent are not the ones pictured.

180. Who should you contact if you have problems?

- (A) The review websites
- (B) The shipping company
- (C) A customer watchdog
- (D) Your Internet provider

Questions 181 through 185 refer to the following table and memo.

### Survey: Destination Preferences of 500 Potential Customers

Sunshine Holidays Marketing Division  
Table of Results (to be posted in the staff room of all branches)

Age \ Country	Italy	France	England	Spain
Age	Country			
20 - 29	12	30	15	43
30 - 39	14	34	23	29
40 - 49	20	37	24	19
50 - 59	21	32	23	24
60 - 69	20	27	38	15

## MEMO

To: All Branch Managers  
From: Sunshine Holidays Marketing Division  
Re: Customer Preferences Competition

As a result of recent research, we have decided to launch a staff competition.

500 British people were recently surveyed by Sunshine Holidays about their vacation plans for the coming summer. 100 people in each of five different age ranges were surveyed. They were asked to indicate which countries they planned to visit out of four possible choices. The choices given were Italy, France, England and Spain. It seems that as they get older, people tend to choose not to travel oversea. As we can see from the table, the older participants chose Britain as their first choice to visit. When asked about this choice, they gave several reasons including fears about health problems and access to medical treatment in a foreign country, worries about communicating in a foreign language, and the desire to spend time with their grandchildren during school vacations. The youngest group of participants chose Spain as their favorite. They said it was because of Spain's reputation as a lively dynamic country with beautiful beaches and great nightlife. However, overall, France was the most popular destination for all age groups. This is because of its close location to Britain.

We want to increase the number of older customers visiting Spain (target A) and the number of younger visitors traveling within Britain (target B). For this reason, we are launching a staff competition. Please submit your ideas to increase the number of customers in either target group A or target group B. The two lucky winners will win an all-expenses-paid trip to Bermuda.

181. What were the people surveyed about?

- (A) Their vacation plans
- (B) Countries they had visited
- (C) Ski resorts in Europe
- (D) General world knowledge

183. Why was Spain popular with younger participants?

- (A) Because they can speak Spanish
- (B) Because it is nearest to Britain
- (C) Because it is the least expensive
- (D) Because it is fun and energetic

184. Why did older participants prefer to travel domestically?

- (A) They dislike hotter climates.
- (B) Overseas travel is expensive.
- (C) They worry about medical care.
- (D) Children in hotels are too noisy

185. Who will take part in the competition?

- (A) New Customers
- (C) Young people
- (B) Travel agents
- (D) Tour guides

**Questions 186 through 190 refer to the following article and letter.**

## Mankato Herald Musicians Hurt in Stage Accident

Mankato, July 5th: Cheers turned to tears last weekend at the Summer Classics Music Festival in Woodland Park. Saturday night's concert, the culmination of a week-long celebration, was attended by over 250 people. The evening closed with the first movement from Bach's Brandenburg Concerto NO.5. For this final number, the Mankato Symphony Orchestra was joined by local pop band, Sons of Poseidon, just back from a tour of Eastern Europe and China. The audience did not seem to enjoy the performance, which featured dueling solos from lead singer, Vince Voxx, and guitarist, Barron von larnz. There are reports of some members of the audience throwing empty cans at the stage. Just minutes before the close of the piece, disaster struck. According to eye-witness reports, the band's rotating drum cage began to spin out of control. Some concert goers said that Vince Voxx had tried to throw back some of the cans, and they became entangled in the mechanism of the drum cage. A stagehand managed to disconnect the cage from its power source, but not before the drummer was knocked unconscious. He is listed in stable condition at St. Gules Memorial Hospital.

The Editor  
Mankato Herald  
Local News Desk  
Mankato

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am one of the musicians involved in last weekend's music festival, and I would like to say that I feel your reporting was very biased. While I saw journalists from many newspapers, I did not see anyone from the *Mankato Herald*. The details in your report differ greatly from the facts. First, the audience thoroughly enjoyed the performance, cheering and singing along. Cans were not thrown at the stage, and even if they had been, our lead singer, Vince Voxx, would never do something irresponsible or dangerous like throwing them back at the audience. He is not that kind of person. He can always be trusted to do the right thing. Further, the drum cage did not "spin out of control," and no one was hospitalized. The *Mankato Herald* has a history of writing negative reports about events involving Sons of Poseidon. I am not sure why but would like to request that you write more objective articles in the future.

Sincerely,

Johan Greer (Barron von Jamz)