

Accuplacer Reading Comprehension Part 1

Reading Comprehension Part 1

Sample 1:

In 1804, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark began an expedition across the western United States, then known as the Louisiana Territory. The two men had met years earlier and established a long-lasting friendship. When Lewis was later a young captain in the army, he received a letter from President Thomas Jefferson offering him funding to explore the Western country. With Jefferson's permission, Lewis offered a partnership in the expedition to his friend Clark. When their journey had safely concluded 8,000 miles later, President Jefferson purchased the Louisiana Territory for fifteen million dollars.

The purpose of the passage is

- A. to give the background to Lewis and Clark's westward expedition
- B. to defend the purchase of the Louisiana Territory
- C. to state a crucial decision made by Thomas Jefferson
- D. to compare the skills of Lewis and Clark

Sample 2:

Cancer occurs when cells in the body begin to divide abnormally and form more cells without control or order. There are some factors which are known to increase the risk of cancer. Smoking is the largest single cause of death from cancer in the United States. In addition, poor food choices increase cancer risk. Indeed, research shows that there is a definite link between the consumption of high-fat food and cancer.

From this passage, we can infer that

- A. a low-fat diet can reduce the risk of cancer
- B. smoking always causes cells to divide abnormally
- C. the consumption of high-fat food has increased in recent years
- D. most cancer sufferers have made poor food choices

Accuplacer Reading Comprehension Answers 1

Reading Comprehension Answers 1

Sample 1:

In 1804, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark began an expedition across the western United States, then known as the Louisiana Territory. The two men had met years earlier and established a long-lasting friendship. When Lewis was later a young captain in the army, he received a letter from President Thomas Jefferson offering him funding to explore the Western country. With Jefferson's permission, Lewis offered a partnership in the expedition to his friend Clark. When their journey had safely concluded 8,000 miles later, President Jefferson purchased the Louisiana Territory for fifteen million dollars.

The purpose of the passage is

1. to give the background to Lewis and Clark's westward expedition
2. to defend the purchase of the Louisiana Territory
3. to state a crucial decision made by Thomas Jefferson
4. to compare the skills of Lewis and Clark

The correct answer is A. The the main purpose of the passage is to describe how Lewis and Clark met and talk about the events that led up to their expedition together. The passage does not take a defensive tone or mention any criticisms, so answer B is incorrect. Answer C gives a specific point from the passage, not the main purpose. Answer D is incorrect because the passage does not make any comparisons. The passage doesn't use any of the following: like, similarly, in the same way

Sample 2:

Cancer occurs when cells in the body begin to divide abnormally and form more cells without control or order. There are some factors which are known to increase the risk of cancer. Smoking is the largest single cause of death from cancer in the United States. In addition, poor food choices increase cancer risk. Indeed, research shows that there is a definite link between the consumption of high-fat food and cancer.

From this passage, we can infer that

1. a low-fat diet can reduce the risk of cancer
2. smoking always causes cells to divide abnormally
3. the consumption of high-fat food has increased in recent years
4. most cancer sufferers have made poor food choices

The correct answer is A. This type of question tests your ability to draw conclusions from the information that is stated in the passage. The passage states that a high-fat diet increases the risk of cancer, so conversely, a low-fat diet will reduce the risk of cancer. The passage does not state that smoking always leads to cancer, so answer B is incorrect. The passage makes no statement about whether the consumption

of high-fat food has increased in recent years, so answer C is incorrect. We know from the passage that poor food choices can cause cancer. However, we do not know if this is true for most people. So answer D is incorrect.

Accuplacer Reading Comprehension Part 2

Reading Comprehension Part 2 - Sentence Relationships:

1. Interviewing for a new job can be an extremely stressful event.

Many job candidates become anxious about having to respond to certain interview questions, especially those that ask them to prove their competence.

How are the two sentences related?

- A. They repeat the same idea.
- B. They give a problem and a solution.
- C. They make a comparison
- D. They provide a general claim and specific example.

2. The pain associated with certain medical conditions can be alleviated by listening to classical music on a regular basis.

A great deal of American hospitals have established music therapy programs to help reduce the suffering of their terminally-ill patients.

What does the second sentence do?

- A. It supports the claim made in the first sentence.
- B. It gives the reason for the result mentioned in the first sentence.
- C. It contradicts the evidence given in the first sentence.
- D. It draws a conclusion about what is stated in the first sentence.

3. The tornado caused wide-spread devastation to property in the local area.

Property insurance is much more expensive now than it was before the storm.

What does the second sentence do?

- A. It states the effect.
- B. It gives an example.

C. It offers a solution.

D. It makes a contrast.

4. The city has been trying to reduce the amount of litter dropped by pedestrians.

The municipal government has recently introduced fines for littering.

How are the two sentences related?

A. They repeat the same idea.

B. They provide a general rule and a specific example.

C. They state a problem and a solution.

D. They offer a theory and an explanation.

5. According to the law of gravity, objects dropped from above the surface of the earth fall to the earth's surface.

Apples that fall from apple trees land on the ground.

What does the second sentence do?

A. It refutes the claim made in the first sentence.

B. It draws a conclusion about what is stated in the first sentence.

C. It applies the theory mentioned in the first sentence.

D. It contradicts the evidence given in the first sentence.

To see the answers to reading comprehension part 2, please click on the link below.

Accuplacer Reading Comprehension Answers 2

Reading Comprehension Answers 2 - Sentence Relationships:

1. Interviewing for a new job can be an extremely stressful event.

Many job candidates become anxious about having to respond to certain interview questions, especially those that ask them to prove their competence.

How are the two sentences related?

A. They repeat the same idea.

B. They give a problem and a solution.

- C. They make a comparison
- D. They provide a general claim and specific example.

The correct answer is D. Notice the words "certain" and "especially" in the second sentence, which indicate that a specific example is being provided.

2. The pain associated with many medical conditions can be alleviated by listening to classical music on a regular basis.

A great deal of American hospitals have established music therapy programs to help reduce the suffering of their terminally-ill patients.

What does the second sentence do?

- A. It supports the claim made in the first sentence.
- B. It gives the reason for the result mentioned in the first sentence.
- C. It contradicts the evidence given in the first sentence.
- D. It draws a conclusion about what is stated in the first sentence.

The correct answer is A. The words "can be" in the first sentence indicate that a claim is being made.

3. The tornado caused wide-spread devastation to property in the local area.

Property insurance is much more expensive now than it was before the storm.

What does the second sentence do?

- A. It states the effect.
- B. It gives an example.
- C. It offers a solution.
- D. It makes a contrast.

The correct answer is A. Insurance prices have increased because of the tornado damage. So the price increase is the effect of the storm.

4. The city has been trying to reduce the amount of litter dropped by pedestrians.

The municipal government has recently introduced fines for littering.

How are the two sentences related?

- A. They repeat the same idea.
- B. They provide a general rule and a specific example.
- C. They state a problem and a solution.
- D. They offer a theory and an explanation.

The correct answer is C. The fines have been introduced in order to deter people from littering. So the fines are a solution.

5. According to the law of gravity, objects dropped from above the surface of the earth fall to the earth's surface.

Apples that fall from apple trees land on the ground.

What does the second sentence do?

- A. It refutes the claim made in the first sentence.
- B. It draws a conclusion about what is stated in the first sentence.
- C. It applies the theory mentioned in the first sentence.
- D. It contradicts the evidence given in the first sentence.

The correct answer is C. We know that the first sentence is describing a theory because of the word "law." The second sentence applies the general theory to an apple, which is a specific object.