

ACCUPREP – READING PRACTICE

For the following ten questions, read the passage and then select the correct answer to the question. You may need to answer based on explicit information from the passage, as well as ideas that are suggested or implied in the passage.

1. The Big Bang theory is the prevailing cosmological model that describes the early development of the Universe. According to the Big Bang theory, the Universe was once in an extremely hot and dense state which expanded rapidly. This rapid expansion caused the Universe to cool and resulted in its present continuously expanding state. According to the most recent measurements and observations, the Big Bang occurred approximately 13.75 billion years ago, which is thus considered the age of the Universe.

From this passage, it seems safe to conclude that

- a. All scientists now accept the Big Bang theory.
 - b. The center of the universe is 13.75 billion light years away.
 - c. According to this theory, the universe is still getting larger.
 - d. Christians do not accept the Big Bang theory.
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2. The Nobel Peace Prize of 1979 was awarded to Mother Teresa for her humanitarian work. Mother Teresa was born to parents of Albanian descent in 1910, and was named Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu. She joined a religious order of nuns, took the name of Teresa, and moved to Calcutta, where she worked among the poor, establishing hospitals, orphanages, and schools. Upon her death in 1997, organizations which she had founded to help the poor numbered over a million workers.

The purpose of this passage is to

- a. demonstrate the need for humanitarian relief.
 - b. explain the awarding of the Nobel Prize.
 - c. show some reasons why Mother Teresa received the Nobel Prize.
 - d. describe Mother Teresa's background in Albania.
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3. The Romance languages, which include Spanish, Portuguese, French, Italian, and Romanian, can all be traced back to Vulgar Latin, which was spoken by the soldiers, merchants, and settlers of the Roman Empire. With few exceptions, Romance languages have lost the declension system of Latin and, as a result, have subject-verb-object sentence structure and make extensive use of prepositions. This common origin explains many of the similarities in vocabulary, grammar, and sentence structure found among these languages.

From this passage we can conclude that

- a. All Spanish speakers can fully understand French.
 - b. Latin is no longer spoken.
 - c. Verb endings are not important in the Romance languages.
 - d. All of the Romance languages had their origins in Vulgar Latin.
4. Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni, commonly known as Michelangelo, was an Italian Renaissance sculptor, painter, architect, poet, and engineer. His works include the *David* and *Pieta* statues, which are among the world's most well-known sculptures. He painted the ceiling of Rome's Sistine Chapel. Michelangelo was the architect who designed the Laurentian Library in Florence and St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

The primary purpose of this passage is to

- a. Enumerate the most well-known works of Michelangelo.
 - b. Identify the painter of the Sistine Chapel.
 - c. List Michelangelo's works which are located in Rome.
 - d. State the correct, full name of Michelangelo.
5. An international team of researchers has sequenced the genome of the bonobo for the first time, confirming that it shares the same percentage of its DNA, approximately 99%, with us as chimps do. According to these scientists, these two African apes, chimpanzees and bonobos, are the closest relatives to man in the animal kingdom. The researchers now believe that the ancestor of humans split with the common ancestor of bonobos and chimps between 4 million and 7 million years ago in Africa.

From this passage, we can conclude that

- a. Mankind definitely evolved from the apes.
 - b. Mankind is more like chimpanzees than bonobos.
 - c. There is strong DNA evidence supporting the theory that mankind evolved from the apes.
 - d. The first men could not have originated in Africa.
6. Marie Curie, born Maria Sklodowska, was born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1867. She is famous for her ground-breaking work with radioactive materials, including the discovery of the element polonium, which was named after her homeland. She was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1903 and the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1911 in recognition of the importance of her work in radioactivity. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, the only woman to win in two fields, and the only person to win in multiple sciences. Throughout her life, Mme. Curie promoted the use of radium for therapeutic purposes to alleviate suffering. Curie died in 1934 of aplastic anemia brought on by her years of exposure to radiation.

The purpose of the paragraph is

- a. To summarize the accomplishments of a female scientist.
- b. To explain the use of radium for therapeutic purposes.
- c. To document the dangers of radioactive materials.
- d. To analyze the theory behind the discovery of polonium.

7. The term “zoonosis” refers to a disease transmitted naturally to man from animals. One such disease that has reached global epidemic proportions is the Human Immune Deficiency Virus (HIV). This virus is believed by researchers to have its origins in a virus found in chimpanzees. Malaria is another example, this disease believed to have its beginnings in gorillas.

The primary purpose of this passage is

- a. To define the word zoonosis.
 - b. To show how primates cause disease.
 - c. To trace the origins of malaria to gorillas.
 - d. To define the word zoonosis and give some examples.
8. Mohandas Gandhi developed a theory of non-violent protest which included non-cooperation and peaceful resistance. He espoused this theory to the Indian people to gain the independence of India from British colonial rule. Many of his principles of non-violent resistance were followed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in his struggle for civil rights for African-Americans. Ironically, both of these champions of peace were slain by assassins.

The main idea of this paragraph is

- a. Leaders of peace movements are often hypocrites.
- b. Peaceful protest can lead to political change.
- c. Mohandas Gandhi based his theories on the ideas of Dr. King.
- d. Mohandas Gandhi was unsuccessful in bringing about the independence of India.

9. NASA, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, recently conducted studies into the use of interior plants (house plants) for indoor air pollution abatement. NASA's research stemmed from its continuing efforts to develop a safe enclosed environment for space stations and a possible lunar base. NASA's study concluded that house plants do remove a substantial proportion of indoor air pollutants. Theoretically, this data can be used to lobby for the incorporation of live plants into the environments of modern energy efficient buildings with reduced fresh air exchange.

From this passage we can conclude that

- a. Research for space exploration can have practical applications on earth.
 - b. NASA scientists have failed to grow plants in space.
 - c. NASA's study proved that house plants do not remove a substantial amount of indoor air pollutants.
 - d. NASA's funding has been cut because it often finances ridiculous studies.
10. Obesity is a growing problem, generally caused by two factors, over-eating and insufficient exercise. The most commonly used measure of weight status today is the body mass index, or BMI. BMI uses a simple calculation based on the ratio of someone's height and weight ($BMI = \text{kg}/\text{m}^2$). Decades of research have shown that BMI provides a good estimate of "fatness" and also correlates well with important health outcomes like heart disease, diabetes, cancer, and overall mortality. Globally, there are 1.5 billion adults who are either overweight or obese.

From this passage we can conclude that

- a. There are more obese people in the United States than other countries.
 - b. There is an established relationship between obesity and heart disease.
 - c. Body mass index in adults is fixed and cannot be changed.
 - d. Exercise alone can never affect an adult's BMI.
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For the following ten questions, you will see two sentences. Read the sentences, and then choose the best answer to the question.

11. Ten states have followed California in passing laws legalizing the medical use of marijuana.

The federal government maintains marijuana on the list of Schedule 1 prohibited drugs, on a par with heroin.

How are the two sentences related?

- a. They repeat the same idea.
- b. They give a problem and a solution.
- c. They provide a general rule and a specific example.
- d. They create a contrast.

12. The New York City Police Department employs a stop and frisk program, the stated purpose of which is to identify and arrest criminals.

Last year, murders in New York City were down 20%.

What does the second sentence do?

- a. It states an effect.
- b. It gives an example.
- c. It offers a solution.
- d. It makes a comparison.

13. Many religions teach that all human life is sacred.

Some churches support the death penalty.

How are the two sentences related?

- a. They present problems and solutions.
- b. They contradict one another.
- c. They give a cause and its effect.
- d. They provide explanations for a contentious topic.

14. Some studies have concluded that playing violent video games has adverse affects on young children.

The number of hours that children play violent video games continues to rise.

What does the second sentence do?

- a. It exemplifies the first sentence.
- b. It explains the reason for the result mentioned in the first sentence.
- c. It gives information which counters what is stated in the first sentence.
- d. It draws a conclusion about what is stated in the first sentence.

15. One proposal to reduce gun violence in America is to totally ban assault rifles.

Passing a law to proscribe the possession of assault rifles has been offered as a means to decrease the number of crimes involving firearms.

What does the second sentence do?

- a. It restates the idea made in the first sentence.
- b. It sums up the points raised in the first sentence.
- c. It provides an example of what is stated in the first sentence.
- d. It gives unexpected information.

16. Some people are concerned about citizen participation in government, and point to the fact that less than 60% of eligible voters voted in the 2012 American Presidential election.

In Australia, if you do not vote and do not have a valid and sufficient reason for failing to vote, a penalty is imposed.

What does the second sentence do?

- a. It repeats the same idea as stated in the first sentence.
- b. It contradicts the evidence given in the first sentence.
- c. It provides an application for the theory provided in the first sentence.
- d. It presents a solution to the problem mentioned in the first sentence.

17. Some ecologists believe that more resources should be directed into research to develop solar energy technologies to meet the world's growing energy needs.

It has been estimated that covering only 4% of the world's desert areas with photovoltaics could supply the equivalent of all the world's electricity.

What does the second sentence do?

- a. It supports the point stated in the first sentence.
 - b. It refutes the point raised in the first sentence.
 - c. It provides a general application of the specific example given in the first sentence.
 - d. It contradicts the idea as stated in the first sentence.
18. Lupus is a disease of the autoimmune system, in which the body's own defense mechanisms attack certain organs within the body.

Autoimmune diseases, including lupus, arise from an inappropriate immune response of the body against substances and tissues normally present in the body.

How are the two sentences related?

- a. They reinforce each other.
 - b. They provide a contrast.
 - c. They repeat the same idea.
 - d. The second analyzes the claim made in the first.
19. One of the consequences flowing from Albert Einstein's theory of general relativity is that rays of light bend in the presence of a gravitational field.

Tests done by many universities continue to support the existence of gravitational redshift, which manifests itself as a change in the color of visible light as the wavelength of the light is increased toward the red part of the light spectrum.

What does the second sentence do?

- a. It repeats the same idea as stated in the first sentence.
- b. It refutes the point raised in the first sentence.
- c. It presents a solution to the problem mentioned in the first sentence.
- d. It provides support for the idea stated in the first sentence.

20. According to the first law of thermodynamics, the flow of heat is a form of energy transfer.

A quantity of heat that flows from a hot body to a cold one can be expressed as an amount of energy being transferred from the hot body to the cold one.

What does the second sentence do?

- a. It applies the theory mentioned in the first sentence.
- b. It restates the theory mentioned in the first sentence.
- c. It gives a solution to the problem described in the first sentence.
- d. It contradicts the evidence provided in the first sentence.

ACCUPREP-READING PRACTICE

ANSWER KEY

1. C

2. C

3. D

4. A

5. C

6. A

7. D

8. B

9. A

10. B

11. D

12. A

13. B

14. C

15. A

16. D

17. A

18. C

19. D

20. A

ACCUPREP.READING.SOLUTIONS

QUESTION 1.

The correct answer is *“According to this theory, the universe is still getting larger”* because the passage clearly notes that at present the universe is in a continuously expanding state. A prevailing model is not necessarily universally accepted. Light years are measurements of distance, but the passage only mentions time measurements. Finally, there is no discussion of the acceptance of the Big Bang theory by Christians.

QUESTION 2.

The correct answer is *“show some reasons why Mother Teresa received the Nobel Peace Prize”* because the passage states that she received the Nobel Peace Prize for her humanitarian work, and then lists several of her accomplishments in that area. While the passage mentions “humanitarian relief,” that statement is too broad to cover the topic of the passage, which is limited to Mother Teresa’s humanitarian work. How the Nobel Peace Prize is determined and awarded is not discussed. The brief biographical information given is incidental to the main purpose of the passage.

QUESTION 3.

The correct answer is *“All of the Romance languages had their origins in Vulgar Latin”* because the passage clearly states that “The Romance languages . . . can all be traced back to Vulgar Latin.” While Spanish and French are both Romance languages with common origins, we cannot assume that at present they are still so similar that all Spanish speakers can fully understand French. The passage does not address the use of spoken Latin today. Lastly, verb endings are not even mentioned in the passage.

QUESTION 4.

The correct answer is *“Enumerate the most well-known works of Michelangelo”* because most of the passage is devoted to listing Michelangelo’s greatest works. The painting of the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel is only one of several examples of his work. The Laurentian Library is specifically mentioned as being in Florence. While noted in the passage, Michelangelo’s full name is an interesting aside, but it is not the primary purpose of this passage.

QUESTION 5.

The correct answer is *“There is strong DNA evidence supporting the theory that mankind evolved from the apes”*, because a sharing of 99% of DNA with another species shows an extremely close relationship between

those species, supporting the proposal of common ancestry. While this evidence may be considered strong, it is not definitive. According to the passage, chimpanzees share the same percentage of DNA with humans, not more. Finally, the passage offers no direct statements concerning the African origins of mankind, though common ancestry with African apes would tend to support, not refute, an African site for mankind's origin.

QUESTION 6.

The correct answer is *"To summarize the accomplishments of a great female scientist"* because there are several examples of Marie Curie's work with an emphasis on its recognized importance. While the use of radium for therapeutic purposes is mentioned, there is no explanation of how it is to be used. Though the danger of exposure to radiation is mentioned as the cause of Marie Curie's death, that is not the primary purpose of the passage. The discovery of polonium is mentioned as only one of Marie Curie's accomplishments.

QUESTION 7.

The correct answer is *"To define the word zoonosis and give some examples,"* because the passage gives a definition of a word or term, and then gives two examples. Choice "a" only describes part of the passage. The passage does not examine how the process works. The origin of malaria in gorillas is only one example, and is not broad enough to cover the entire passage.

QUESTION 8.

The correct answer is *"Peaceful protest can lead to political change,"* because the passage offers two examples of non-violent protest leading to political change, namely Indian independence and American Civil Rights. The passage does not address the hypocrisy of leaders. Dr. King based his theories on the ideas of Gandhi. Finally, Gandhi was successful in gaining Indian independence from British rule.

QUESTION 9.

The correct answer is *"Research for space exploration can have practical applications on earth,"* because the passage suggests using NASA's research from its study and applying its findings to solve an environmental

problem on earth. NASA has grown plants in space, and its study shows that those plants do remove a substantial amount of air pollutants. The passage does not discuss funding.

QUESTION 10.

The correct answer is "*There is an established relationship between obesity and heart disease,*" because the passage states, "Decades of research have shown that BMI . . . correlates well with . . . heart disease . . ." The passage does not offer any information on the comparison of obesity in the United States and other countries. Since BMI considers weight in its calculation, a change in weight would clearly affect BMI. Since exercise can affect weight, it can affect BMI.

QUESTION 11.

The correct answer is "*They create a contrast,*" by stating that one government is legalizing marijuana while another is doing the opposite, which is maintaining its prohibited status. There is no discussion of any solution. The passage does not give a general rule.

QUESTION 12.

The correct answer is "*It states an effect,*" because a result, or effect, of having less criminals on the streets would be a decline in the murder rate. No examples are given in the passage. No solutions are being offered, and there are no comparisons given in the passage.

QUESTION 13.

The correct answer is "*They contradict one another,*" because to state that human life is sacred and then to support the state's taking of human life is contradictory. The passage does not offer solutions to a problem, nor does it give any cause and effect. Also, no explanations are given in the passage.

QUESTION 14.

The correct answer is *“It gives information which counters what is stated in the first sentence,”* because if playing violent video games has been shown to have negative effects, one would expect the number of hours played to be reduced, not increased. No examples or explanations are offered in the passage to explain the disparity between the two statements, nor is there the presentation of a logical conclusion.

QUESTION 15.

The correct answer is *“It restates the idea made in the first sentence,”* because the second sentence restates the proposal of reducing gun violence by banning assault rifles. The second sentence does not provide a specific example of an idea presented in the first sentence, nor does it provide any type of summary. It repeats the idea of the first sentence, and thus is not giving any new, unexpected information.

QUESTION 16.

The correct answer is *“It presents a solution to the problem mentioned in the first sentence,”* because the first sentence presents the problem of low voter participation, and the second sentence supplies one solution used to address this problem. The two sentences are not repetitive versions of the same idea, nor are they opposing ideas. The second sentence also does not provide an application for a theory because the first sentence does not present a theory.

QUESTION 17.

The correct answer is *“It supports the point stated in the first sentence,”* because the first sentence states the belief in the need for developing solar energy, and the second sentence gives an example supporting this belief with a specific proposal. The second statement is one of support, not refutation or contradiction. Answer “c” incorrectly reverses the identification of the general and specific statements.

QUESTION 18.

The correct answer is *“They repeat the same idea,”* because both sentences supply the same information, only in a different order with some different vocabulary. Since they repeat the same information, they can’t be said to reinforce, since that implies supplying some new information. There is no contrast, nor is there an analysis given.

QUESTION 19.

The correct answer is *“It provides support for the idea stated in the first sentence,”* because the first sentence includes the prediction that light will bend in a gravitational field, and the second sentence states that test results support this prediction. The two sentences do not restate the same idea, nor does the second refute the first. The second sentence is not a solution.

QUESTION 20.

The correct answer is *“It applies the theory mentioned in the first sentence.”* The first sentence states a general principle of the first law of thermodynamics. The second sentence gives a specific example of this principle, and does not merely restate it. It does not state a solution, nor does it provide any contradictory information.