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Inferences

Directions: For each item, choose the answer to the inference question.

1. Undertakers report that human bodies do not deteriorate as quickly as they used to. They believe the reason is that preservatives in highly processed foods slow the body's decomposition.

Which diet is more likely to slow a dead body's decomposition?

- a. A diet of fresh vegetables
 - b. A diet of fast food and soda
 - c. A diet of raw seafood
-

2. Credit for introducing the hot dog in America goes to Antoine Feuchtwanger. At the 1904 Louisiana Exposition, he offered hot franks to people along with a pair of white gloves to prevent burnt fingers. But the gloves were costly and most people didn't return them. That's when Feuchtwanger turned to his brother-in-law, a baker, for a solution. The rest is history.

The brother-in-law's solution was probably to

- a. invent plastic gloves for eating franks.
 - b. create hot-dog relish.
 - c. bake a roll to hold the franks.
-

3. During the Vietnam War, soldiers confronted the problem of leeches sticking to their legs during marches through marshy areas. One soldier's solution was to have his mother send him a pair of women's heavy duty pantyhose. The pantyhose worked so well that many of his peers privately asked him for a pair as well. He ended up secretly distributing hundreds of pairs of pantyhose.

From the paragraph, which of the following is likely to be true?

- a. The other soldiers didn't have mothers to send them pantyhose.
 - b. The soldiers were embarrassed to ask for and wear women's pantyhose.
 - c. The soldiers didn't like the pantyhose that the army had issued them.
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4. The scarab, a large beetle, does something many would consider disgusting. The beetle gathers animal dung into balls for use as food. In doing so, the beetle breaks up and spreads the dung, helping to fertilize soil and reduce the population of disease-spreading flies. The scarab's useful work was observed by the ancient Egyptians, who painted images of the insect on pottery and jewelry.

From the paragraph, which of the following is likely to be true?

- a. The Egyptians had no understanding of what the scarab's role in nature was.
 - b. Egyptians probably got most of their food from hunting, not farming.
 - c. The scarab's role in fertilizing the land was valued by the Egyptians.
-

5. The U.S. Postal Service reports that about 124 million stamps of Elvis Presley issued in 1993 have been purchased as collector's items and never used to mail a letter, resulting in a profit for the postal service. Second to Elvis were the 1992 wildflowers stamps, with 76.2 million being purchased for collection only. Third at 75.8 million stamps are the rock 'n roll / rhythm and blues stamps issued in 1993.

Which inference is most strongly based on the paragraph?

- a. The image on a U.S. postal stamp strongly influences consumers' demand for that stamp.
 - b. The U.S. Postal Service is annoyed when stamps are kept by collectors.
 - c. The hobby of collecting stamps is more popular now than ever before.
-

6. According to researchers, five out of every ten robberies happen along streets. In 95 percent of the cases, the victim is alone and typically on the way to or from a leisure activity. Most often, victims are attacked at night within five miles of their homes, particularly when going to or returning from a nightclub or restaurant. Victims are more likely to encounter a single robber, though gangs of robbers—particularly teenaged males—do account for many robberies each year.

Which of the following ideas can be inferred from the paragraph?

- a. Women are always victims and never robbers.
 - b. People who avoid being alone on the street at night reduce their chances of being robbed.
 - c. If you never go out at night, then you will never be robbed.
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7. The Center for Disease Control compared gun owners and non-owners living in the same neighborhood. It found that those who kept a gun in the home, usually for protection, were 2.7 times more likely to be murdered. The murder was almost always committed by a family member or friend. Another study showed that the incidence of suicide is five times as high in households with guns as in those without guns.

Which of the following ideas can be inferred from the paragraph?

- a. Properly storing guns in a home is the best way to reduce gun-related deaths.
 - b. Owning a gun puts its owner in more, rather than less, danger of violent death.
 - c. Many deaths that are reported as gun-related suicides were actually murders.
-

8. In a series of experiments, pregnant women read the same children's book aloud daily during their ninth month of pregnancy. Three days after birth, their infants listened to the same story, read either by the infant's own mother or by another baby's mother. Tests indicated that the newborns paid greater attention to the recording of their own mother's voice. The newborns also responded less when their mothers read an unfamiliar story than when they read the familiar one.

Which of the following ideas can be inferred from the paragraph?

- a. Infants cannot detect differences between voices until they are several months old.
 - b. Women's voices have the same effect on babies as do men's voices.
 - c. Babies are capable of hearing, learning, and remembering while in the womb.
-

9. Marketers make millions of dollars when they predict what teenagers want to buy. To figure out teens' behavior, businesses look for "influencers," stylish teens who spend money on fashion trends before other teens catch on. Research shows that once influencers begin to buy certain clothes, fellow teens will quickly follow suit. According to one designer, teenagers copy others "so they can have the brands and badges to get them to the next level."

According to the passage, which of the following can we assume to be true?

- a. Clothing and fashion trends are important to many teenagers.
 - b. Most teenagers care little about clothing and current fashion trends.
 - c. All teenagers follow the trends set by "influencers."
-

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10. A study of 18,000 adults in 17 nations found that unmarried couples who live together were much less happy, less healthy, and less satisfied than married people. Furthermore, the study indicated that single people—despite movies, TV shows, and magazines which suggest otherwise—were most likely to be unhappy.

Which of the following ideas can be inferred from the paragraph?

- a. Marriage is the key to happiness for all adults.
- b. Magazines, TV, and movies make single life seem more enjoyable than it really is.
- c. Magazines, TV, and movies present a true and realistic view of the social life of adults.

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Directions: Choose the inference that is most logical, based on the information given in the selection.

PEANUTS



A1. Choose the logical inference.

- a. Lucy has just criticized the boy, Linus.
 - b. Linus feels Lucy's criticism is valid.
 - c. Lucy feels very guilty that Linus has taken her criticism badly.
-

A2. Choose the logical inference.

- a. The cartoonist believes we should never criticize others.
 - b. The cartoonist believes it's best to criticize others in a constructive way.
 - c. The cartoonist believes we should always criticize others.
-

(1) Shortly after the young woman sat down in the bus, she lit a cigarette. (2) The man next to her waved some smoke away, nudged her, and pointed to the sign at the front of the bus.

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(3) The woman did not turn to look at the man and continued smoking calmly. (4) The man got up and spoke to the bus driver, who continued driving and shook his head. (5) At the next stop, the man, looking disgusted, got off the bus.

B3. Choose the logical inference.

- a. The man had never smoked.
 - b. The smoke was bothering the man.
 - c. The man had recently given up smoking.
-

B4. Choose the logical inference.

- a. The driver was related to the woman.
 - b. The man got off the bus because it was his stop.
 - c. The driver refused to get involved.
-

(1) My day has not ended. (2) When I get home I suddenly realize that I have between thirty and forty pounds of fish to clean—rockfish yet, all full of spines and pricklers and razor-sharp teeth. (3) When I'm finished, I have so many holes in me I look like a composite of George Custer, Saint Sebastian, and Bonnie and Clyde, but my family comes out to view the catch and restore my faith in the whole enterprise.

(4) "Yuk," says my daughter.

(5) "That's a lot of rockfish for people who aren't all that into rockfish," says my wife.

(6) "I wouldn't eat that on a bet," says my son.

C5. Choose the logical inference.

- a. The author's family appreciates his hard work to feed them.
 - b. The man enjoys the challenge of cleaning rockfish.
 - c. When he praises his family for restoring his faith, the author is being sarcastic.
-

(1) I guess I did it because I hadn't studied very much. (2) And it seemed so easy—everybody knows that Mr. Wagner keeps his office door unlocked. (3) It's just too bad things didn't work out for

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me. (4) Now my classmates are mad at me because they must re-study for the new test Mr. Wagner is making up. (5) My parents have taken away my car keys. (6) And even worse, I'll have to go to summer school for biology.

D6. Choose the logical inference.

- a. The speaker does not seem to have a guilty conscience about what he did.
 - b. The speaker deeply regrets not studying more.
 - c. The speaker will never cheat again.
-

(1) The swim team at the University of California at Berkeley was having a practice. (2) After a race, the coach told each swimmer his time—but it wasn't his real time. (3) The coach falsified the time, making it slower than it really was. (4) During the next race, the coach watched what happened. (5) Some of his swimmers swam significantly faster than before, while others swam considerably slower than their usual pace.

E7. Choose on the logical inference.

- a. Giving disappointing news to athletes is the best way to increase their performance.
 - b. Disappointing news about performance can make some athletes try harder and perform better.
 - c. Some of the Berkeley swimmers probably knew about their coach's experiment before it took place.
-

(1) In 1995, the American Academy of Pediatrics declared that "advertising directed at children is inherently deceptive and exploits children under eight years of age." (2) The academy did not recommend a ban on such advertising because it seemed impractical and would infringe upon advertisers' freedom of speech. (3) Today the health risks faced by the nation's children far outweigh the needs of its mass marketers. (4) Congress should immediately ban all advertisements aimed at children that promote foods high in fat and sugar. (5) Thirty years ago Congress banned cigarette ads from radio and television as a public health measure—and those ads were directed at adults. (6) Smoking has declined ever since. (7) A ban on advertising unhealthy foods to children would discourage eating habits that are not only hard to break, but potentially life-threatening. (8) Moreover, such a ban would encourage the fast-food chains to alter the recipes for their children's meals. (9) Greatly reducing the fat content of McDonald's Happy Meals, for example, could have an immediate effect on the diet of the nation's kids. (10) Every month more than 90 percent of the children in the United States eat at McDonald's.

F8. Choose the logical inference.

- a. The author suggests that children's poor eating habits are as serious a health problem as adult's smoking.

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b. TV commercials and other ads probably have little effect on children's behaviors.

c. The author believes fast-food chains can be convinced to voluntarily refrain from advertising unhealthy foods for young children.

Voter Turnout Among the World's Democracies

Country	Approximate Voter Turnout	Automatic Registration	Election Day a Holiday or Weekend Day?
Belgium	90%	Yes	Yes
Italy	90%	Yes	Yes
Denmark	85%	Yes	No
Austria	80%	Yes	Yes
France	80%	No	Yes
Germany	80%	Yes	Yes
Great Britain	70%	Yes	No
Canada	65%	Yes	No
Japan	60%	Yes	Yes
United States	50%	No	No

Source: Thomas E. Patterson, The American Democracy, 2001.

G9. Choose the logical inference.

a. Factors that have increased voter participation in other countries have not worked as well in Japan.

b. About a third of voters in the United States do not vote.

c. Low voter turnout in the United States probably has little to do with automatic voter registration or Election Day holidays.

G10. Choose the logical inference.

a. Voter turnout would be better if elections were held on weekend days rather than on holidays.

b. Voter turnout would be better if elections were held on holidays rather than on weekend days.

c. Compared to the United States, other countries make it easier for voters to participate in elections.

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