

IMPLIED MAIN IDEAS/CENTRAL POINT: Test A

A. In the space provided, write the letter of the sentence that best expresses the implied main idea of each of the following paragraphs.

___ 1. ¹A puddle of dark liquid under a car indicates a leak in the oil or transmission fluid. ²Another warning sign of car trouble is uneven wear on tire treads. ³If the outer edge of the tire tread wears out before the center, the tire is under-inflated. ⁴The most significant early warning signal, however, is less and less mileage per gallon. ⁵Lower fuel economy is caused by a variety of problems ranging from a clogged filter to ignition or carburetor trouble.

- A. Several warning signs can indicate car problems.
- B. A puddle of dark liquid under a car is a sign that a car has an oil or transmission-fluid leak.
- C. The most significant warning signal of a car problem is getting lower mileage per gallon of gas.
- D. Various problems may cause a car's fuel economy to decrease.

___ 2. ¹We think of crime as having a clear victim who suffers at the hands of another person. ²Some crimes, however, don't seem to have victims. ³These victimless crimes include prostitution, illicit drug use, and gambling. ⁴In this type of crime, there is usually no one who feels he or she has been harmed. ⁵These acts are called criminal because the community as a whole, or powerful groups within it, regard them as morally wrong. ⁶Those who hold different views of morality think that at least some of these behaviors should not be considered criminal. ⁷Still others argue that victimless crimes really do have victims. ⁸For example, compulsive gamblers rob their families of income. ⁹Also, prostitutes spread AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, and drug users may resort to other crimes to support their habit.

- A. Victimless activities such as prostitution and gambling should not be illegal.
- B. The community or a powerful part of it determines what activities are criminal.
- C. There are varying views of victimless crimes.
- D. One view of victimless crimes is that they in fact do have victims.

___ 3. ¹A round foundation in Africa that is two million years old reveals an appreciation like our own for balance and form. ²A flower arrangement found in an ancient burial site in Iraq suggests that flowers were a symbol of comfort. ³Ice Age sculptures emphasize human sexuality, showing the importance of fertility to early people. ⁴And cave paintings dating back to 20,000 B.C. prove that the artists were keen observers of nature.

- A. Ancient artists were even more talented than artists of recent centuries.
- B. Early human handiwork suggests that ancient peoples had values and sensitivities much like our own.
- C. An ancient flower arrangement at a burial site shows that flowers have been a symbol of comfort for centuries.
- D. Humans were interested in producing art as far back as 20,000 B.C.

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- B.** (4.) The author has stated the central point of the following textbook selection in one sentence. Find and underline that sentence. Then, in the space provided, write the number of the sentence that contains the central point.

America in 1901

¹As the nation reached adulthood, a number of ugly problems existed. ²Maldistribution of wealth and income persisted. ³One percent of American families possessed nearly seven-eighths of its wealth. ⁴Four-fifths of Americans lived on a survival level while a handful lived in incredible luxury. ⁵In 1900, Andrew Carnegie earned about \$23 million; the average working man earned \$500. ⁶The wealth of a few was increased by the exploitation of women and children. ⁷One out of five women worked for food rather than fulfillment, earning wages as low as \$6 a week. ⁸The sacrifice of the country's young to the god of economic growth was alarming. ⁹One reporter undertook to do a child's job in the mines for one day and wrote, "I tried to pick out the pieces of slate from the hurrying stream of coal, often missing them; my hands were bruised and cut within a few minutes; I was covered from head to foot with coal dust, and for many hours afterwards I was expectorating some of the small particles of anthracite I had swallowed."

¹⁰Working conditions were equally horrifying in other industries, and for many Americans, housing conditions were as bad or worse. ¹¹One investigator described a Chicago neighborhood, remarking on the "filthy and rotten tenements, the dingy courts and tumbledown sheds, the foul stables and dilapidated outhouses, the broken sewer pipes, and piles of garbage fairly alive with diseased odors." ¹²At the same time, the Vanderbilts summered in a "cottage" of seventy rooms, and wealthy men partied in shirts with diamond buttons worth thousands of dollars.

¹³The middle class experienced neither extreme. ¹⁴Its members did have their economic grievances, however. ¹⁵Prosperity increased the cost of living by 35 percent in less than a decade while many middle-class incomes remained fairly stable. ¹⁶Such people were not poor, but they believed they were not getting a fair share of the prosperity.

_____ is the number of the sentence that states the central point.

INFERENCES: Test A

A. After reading each selection below, write the letter of the best answer to each question.

¹In colonial America, anyone could become a physician merely by adopting the label. ²There were no medical schools or medical societies to license or regulate what was a free-for-all trade. ³Sometimes clergymen tried to provide medical care to their parishioners, and care of a sort was offered by all kinds of laypeople as well. ⁴Documents of the time record a doctor who sold “tea, sugar, olives, grapes, anchovies, raisins, and prunes” along with medicinals. ⁵Documents also tell of a woman who “Acts here in the Double Capacity of a Doctress and Coffee Woman.” ⁶Training for medical practice, such as it was, was given by apprenticeship.

- ___ 1. The passage suggests that in comparison to today, a medical practice in colonial America
- A. must have been harder to establish.
 - B. probably required more study.
 - c. was less likely to be full-time.
- ___ 2. Considering the medical training and care, we might conclude that in colonial America
- A. most doctors did medical research.
 - B. people were lucky to get good medical care.
 - C. very few people would have been considered qualified to be medical apprentices.

¹CPR—or cardiopulmonary resuscitation—is a life-saving procedure that forces oxygen-rich blood through a body in which the heart has stopped. ²A person is not “dead” until his or her brain has died, which happens after about six minutes once the heart has stopped pumping blood through the brain. ³When a qualified person does CPR, he or she presses on the patient’s chest, squeezing the stopped heart between the breast bone and the spine, which forces blood through the body. ⁴Between each series of pumps, the rescuer breathes into the victim’s mouth, sending fresh oxygen into his lungs and into the blood. ⁵Many people are alive today because of CPR.

- ___ 3. After someone’s heart has stopped,
- A. people on the scene should wait for medical personnel to do CPR.
 - B. CPR must be performed within about six minutes.
 - C. CPR must be performed at a hospital.
- ___ 4. Essentially, CPR duplicates some of the activity of the
- A. brain.
 - B. spine.
 - C. heart.

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- ___ 5. Pumping blood through the body during CPR is not enough because
- A. the pumping involves pressing on the patient’s chest.
 - B. the blood needs to receive oxygen.
 - C. the pumped blood eventually reaches the brain.

B. (6–10.) Below is the beginning of an essay titled “The Plot Against People” by *New York Times* columnist Russell Baker. After reading the passage, check the **five** statements which are most logically supported by the information given.

inanimate: lifeless

idle: not busy

classified: grouped

cunning: slyness

¹Inanimate objects are classified scientifically into three major categories—those that break down, those that get lost, and those that don’t work.

²The goal of all inanimate objects is to resist man and ultimately to defeat him, and the three major classifications are based on the method each object uses to achieve its purpose. ³As a general rule, any object capable of breaking down at the moment when it is most needed will do so. ⁴The automobile is typical of this category.

⁵With the cunning peculiar to its breed, the automobile never breaks down while entering a filling station which has a large staff of idle mechanics. ⁶It waits until it reaches a downtown intersection in the middle of the rush hour, or until it is fully loaded with family and luggage on the Ohio Turnpike. ⁷Thus it creates maximum inconvenience, frustration, and irritability. . . .

⁸Many inanimate objects, of course, find it extremely difficult to break down. ⁹Pliers, for example, and gloves and keys are almost totally incapable of breaking down. ¹⁰Therefore, they have had to evolve a different technique for resisting man.

¹¹They get lost. ¹²Science has still not solved the mystery of how they do it, and no man has ever caught one of them in the act.

- ___ 1. We can conclude that the author does not own an automobile anymore.
- ___ 2. The author writes about “inanimate objects,” but describes them as having some characteristics of living beings.
- ___ 3. The author has probably had frustrating experiences with things that broke down, got lost, and didn’t work.
- ___ 4. The author assumes his readers have had frustrating experiences with things breaking down, getting lost, and not working.
- ___ 5. The essay appears to be about all types of “inanimate objects,” both manmade and objects found in nature.
- ___ 6. The passage’s humor partly stems from the author’s exaggerations.
- ___ 7. We can conclude from the essay that the author often writes about science.
- ___ 8. The passage’s humor partly stems from the truth behind the author’s points.
- ___ 9. When the author refers to science and scientific classification, he expects to be taken seriously.
- ___ 10. In real life, the author tends to lose things more often than others do.

IMPLIED MAIN IDEAS/CENTRAL POINT:

Test A

- A. 1. A B. 4. Sentence 1
 2. C
 3. B

INFERENCES: Test A

- A.
- 1. C
 - 2. B
 - 3. B
 - 4. C
 - 5. B
- B. 2, 3, 4, 6, 8