ACCUPLACER Next Generation Reading Study Guide

Section: ACCUPLACER Next Generation Reading Exams • **Total Questions:** 10 • **Format:** Verified Q&A

1. Which of the following sentences contains irrelevant information and should be deleted from the passage?

> *(1) Weeds rob other plants of nutrients, water, and, crucially, sunlight. (2) This means they attack other plants indirectly. (3) People who mostly view cornfields from an airplane window probably do not appreciate how much of farming consists of keeping weeds away from crops. (4) A number of weeds are edible and can be used for food or herbal medicine. (5) The very word "cultivate" means not only to make something grow but also to plow the soil, which was the original method of weed control- uprooting unwanted plants and burying their seeds. (6) A single ragweed plant, if left unchecked, can reduce the yield in an area holding 30 soybean plants by as much as half. (7) Thus it is no surprise that farmers were excited when technology was developed to breed crops that were resistant to glyphosate, the most widely used herbicide in the United States. (8) Entire fields could now be treated with glyphosate, but only the weeds were eradicated and not the valuable crops themselves. (9) But now farmers face a new problem, one that many agricultural scientists would say was inevitable, that is the weeds themselves have developed resistance to this herbicide. (10) These resistant plants are often referred to as "super weeds." (11) Several weed species throughout the world have already developed this resistance. (12) And while there continues to be hundreds of species that remain susceptible to glyphosate, the ones that do show resistance are some of the most prolific and difficult to eradicate. (13) They also tend to infest some of the most common crop types: cotton, corn, and soybeans.*

(A) Sentence 4
(B) Sentence 6
(C) Sentence 8
(D) Sentence 11

2. What change needs to be made to sentence 11 (reproduced below) to make the sentence grammatically correct? 'Most New Yorkers have gotten used to the idea: a recent poll of New York City residents show that two-thirds of them support the bike lanes.'

(A) Change 'gotten' to 'got'
(B) Change 'show' to 'shows'
(C) Change 'support' to 'supported'
(D) Change 'lanes' to 'lane'

3. Which is the best way to revise and combine the underlined portions of sentences 9 and 10: 'The chips remained a local delicacy until the Prohibition era. This is when an entrepreneur named Herman Lay popularized the product throughout the Southeastern United States'?

> *According to urban legend, the potato chip was accidentally invented in 1853 by an irritated chef. He was George Crum, the son of an African-American father and Native-American mother, who was working as a chef one summer in Saratoga Springs, New York. A customer in the restaurant where Crum worked complained that his French-fried potatoes were too thick and soft and sent them back to the kitchen. To teach the customer a lesson, Crum allegedly sliced a new batch of potatoes as thinly as he possibly could, fried the slices until they were hard and crunchy, and then doused them with salt. But far from being angry, the customer ended up loving the new dish, and thus the potato chip was born! Saratoga Springs was famous at the time for its natural hot springs, some of which are still in operation today. Soon the potato chips, originally known as 'Saratoga chips' or 'potato crunches,' became very popular. With the profits he'd made, Crum opened his own restaurant, where every table had its own basket of chips. The chips remained a local delicacy until the Prohibition era. This is when an entrepreneur named Herman Lay popularized the product throughout the Southeastern United States. However, not everyone believes that George Crum was the inventor of the potato chip. These skeptics say that certain cookbooks from the early 1800s, such as William Kitchiner's The Cook's Oracle and N.K.M. Lee's The Cook's Own Book, described recipes for very similar potato dishes-the only difference is that they weren't called 'potato chips.'*

(A) era, this is when

(B) era, then

(C) era, which is when

(D) era, when

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4. The passage refers to the 'recent biography' in order to

> *Susan Glaspell's role in the literary scene is often understood to have begun with her entrance to New York's Greenwich Village as part of a cast of eccentric radicals who were challenging the status quo in art and politics. But a recent biography emphasizes that, long before that time, Glaspell was already a successful writer. She sold short stories for top dollar to major magazines and was able to live in Paris for a year on the sales of her first, best-selling novet. When she landed in New York in 1913, her reputation had preceded her.*
> *Adapted from Susan Jonas, "Uncommon Woman: In a Necessary New Biography, the Prolific Susan Glaspell Emerges from the Shadow of O'Neill." ©2005 by Theater Communications Group*

(A) correct a misconception about the origins of Glaspell's literary prominence

(B) demonstrate that Glaspell was more well-known than other writers in the New York literary scene

(C) analyze the influence that Glaspell's initial success had on her subsequent literary career

(D) examine the reasons for the commercial success that Glaspell's writings enjoyed

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5. Which of the following pieces of information, if added to the last paragraph, would best support the writer's argument?

> *People have long been told by health experts that they should get eight hours of unbroken sleep each night. Nevertheless, many struggle on a nightly basis to fall asleep and stay asleep. Some scientists have begun to reconsider this issue and have concluded that the health experts have not been giving very good advice. In a study conducted in 2015, subjects were kept in darkness for 14 hours each night, this being an attempt to create conditions similar to natural wintertime conditions. Deprived of artificial light, most subjects' nightly sleep time eventually expanded and divided into two roughly equal shifts with 1 to 3 hours of wakefulness between. The results of this study suggest that human sleep is not naturally concentrated in one block. In fact, having two 'sleeps' a night may be the natural human condition. Historical data also support these findings. Historians have uncovered documents dating back to ancient times that refer to a 'first sleep' and 'second sleep.' Rather than view waking in the middle of the night as a nuisance, people appear to have welcomed it as natural, useful, and even enjoyable. By the end of the 1700s, street lighting in cities became more common, people stayed up later, and writers mentioning first and second sleep less and less. Most people seem to have adapted to consolidated sleep, even if they do not get a full eight hours each night. However, researchers argue that some modern sleep disorders such as insomnia may be the result of enforcing an unnatural sleep rhythm. In other words, waking in the middle of the night may not indicate an inability to sleep, but rather an attempt by the brain to sleep 'naturally.'*

(A) Although common elsewhere, napping during the workday is not generally accepted in the United States.

(B) Other research suggests that insomnia may be hereditary.

(C) The industrial revolution and the invention of the light bulb also contributed to the demise of segmented sleep.

(D) The afternoon slump that many workers experience is partly a result of the digestion of their lunches.

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6. Dr. Yuan headed a medical team that was highly..... . in that it represented multifarious specialties and varied experiences.

(A) assiduous

(B) eclectic

(C) remunerative

(D) cohesive

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7. The descriptive language in sentences 1-4 mainly creates a sense that the garden is

> *The house stood on a corner, around which the cedar hedge turned, continuing along the side of the garden until it reached the line of the front of the house. The piazza to a rear wing, at right angles to the front of the house, was open to inspection from the side street, which, to judge from its deserted look, seemed to be but little used. Turning into this street and walking leisurely past the back yard, which was only slightly screened from the street by a china-tree, Warwick perceived the young woman standing on the piazza, facing an elderly woman, who sat in a large rocking-chair, plying a pair of knitting-needles on a half-finished stocking. Warwick"s walk led him within three feet of the side gate, which he felt an almost irresistible impulse to enter. Every detail of the house and garden was familiar; a thousand cords of memory and affection drew him thither; but a stronger counter-motive prevailed. With a great effort he restrained himself, and after a momentary pause, walked slowly on past the house, with a backward glance, which he turned away when he saw that it was observed*

(A) formal and unwelcoming

(B) overgrown and shabby

(C) lush and private

(D) modern and spare

8. As used in sentence 17, 'manipulating' most nearly means

> *This passage is from a 2019 novel. The narrator is reflecting on a time when she was about ten years old. A ham (amateur) radio is a device for exchanging messages and requires a license to operate. (1) One day, my father brought home a pile of the parts needed to build a ham radio and asked if I wanted to help him put it together. (2) It took us a week, and we built it at our kitchen table, which meant that for that week we ate dinner on our laps in our living room. (3) After dinner, my father went straight to the kitchen table where he'd left a mess of wire and cables and vacuum tubes, and got to work. (4) I started by helping my mother clean up, but then I went over to him, leaning over the part of the radio he was working on to study the diagrams and assembly instructions. (5) Once the receiver was built, we took it into the garage and built a simple transmitter. (6) Then we studied for the radio license, quizzing each other on Morse code and electrical principles and radio wave characteristics every night. (7) My father already knew all of it from the war. (8) He'd been a radio operator as a soldier, and he told me how radio waves could go far, far out into space and how a few years ago two radio operators from opposite sides of the world had sent messages to each other by bouncing them off the moon. (9) After we received our radio licenses, we spent many nights sitting side by side in the garage, picking up radio stations and messages from other amateur radio operators. (10) There were so many messages floating around, waiting to be picked up: Are you lonely? (11) How are you? (12) What's the weather like there? (13) There were reports of shipwrecks, and messages from as far away as Canada, and we decoded each message as it arrived. (14) Nowadays, when communication is so instantaneous, I cannot help remembering with nostalgia how my father and I turned the knobs to the contraption we had built as the messages came in through our complicated machine of vacuum tubing and plumbing wire. (15) We recorded the taps as they came in- and I marveled that each tap traveled only a little bit slower than the speed of light. (16) Tap tap tap came the pulses of radio waves into our earphones, and I transcribed the taps as fast as I could into letters, watching them gather into words and then sentences. (17) It was the closest thing to performing magic that I could imagine: manipulating the radio waves that were all around us to talk to someone across the world.*

(A) cheating

(B) using

(C) plotting with

(D) carrying out

9. Which sentence should be deleted to improve the unity of the second paragraph?

> *(1) New York City has a long history with bicycle lanes, which are either painted on a street or constructed alongside a street and are used by bicycles rather than cars. (2) Its first bike lane - and the country's first - was built in 1894, along Brooklyn's Ocean Parkway. (3) Interest in bicycle lanes reappeared in the 1970s, and by 1980 Mayor Ed Koch saw to the construction of them on Sixth and Seventh Avenues in Midtown. (4) However, those lanes faced such fierce opposition they were immediately removed. (5) Things have recently changed: since 2006, the city has taken bike lanes to a whole new level. (6) They installed more than 250 miles around the city's five boroughs. (7) Many New Yorkers complained the new bike lanes slowed car traffic and reduced the number of parking spaces. (8) Others complained bicyclists were not following traffic rules in the lanes. (9) In Williamsburg, Brooklyn, religious leaders convinced the city to remove a new strip of freshly-painted bike lane in their neighborhood. (10) Elected officials and perturbed residents of Staten Island also pressured the city into removing its own 2.35-mile dedicated lane. (11) Most New Yorkers have gotten used to the idea: a recent poll of New York City residents show that two-thirds of them support the bike lanes. (12) They cite environmental reasons for their support, as well as the health and safety benefits the lanes provide bike riders. (13) Ultimately, the city can be happy knowing that statistics have shown its new bike lanes have already made the streets of New York safer for bikers and pedestrians.*

(A) Sentence 3
(B) Sentence 4
(C) Sentence 5
(D) Sentence 6

10. The narrator primarily portrays the woman she is observing as someone who is:

> *The narrator of this passage from a novel is Nasarian, a woman who was born in Kenya and now lives in New York City. (1) Looking at her makes me remember. (2) I can almost feel the heat rising, riding the backs of broken cobblestones, gray and scraped smooth by a ceaseless parade of tired, black, sandaled feet. (3) But that was far away and long ago. (4) Here, this woman peers almost timidly around the curving, splintered wood of the brownstone door, blinking furiously now as the wind and rain whip her face. (5) I stare, and a sudden longing whistles through my mind, dancing around me on each restless gust of cold, wet wind that slams into my chest as I walk down 132nd Street in Harlem. (6) Harlem. (7) So far from my home. (8) So far from the endless Kenyan plains that I still dream about each night. (9) The rain pelts my face, and I shiver as it shimmies down my neck and creeps underneath the thick, scratchy collar of my coat. (10) I cannot stop staring into this woman's face, this African mother draped from brow to ankle in gold and wind-crushed linen. (11) As she descends the stairs, the rain seems to disappear around her. (12) Now that she has committed herself, she does not blink or falter. (13) If anything, the rain has become a tightly woven fruit basket bearing down on the crown of her head, under which her pride demands that she stand erect. (14) The only concession she gives is to pull her head wrap up out of the folds of her long, dark cloak and clutch it tightly underneath her chin. (15) The scarf is a replica of the same gilded hijab my mother wore as a child, long before she became my mother. (16) I know this because it is the outfit that she chooses when she comes to me at night in my dreams. (17) This woman looks nothing like my mother, yet somehow my heart tells me that they are almost exactly the same. (18) She tucks her curling braids underneath the edges of the wrap, attempting to cover the wildness embroidered in her hair. (19) I don't understand why, modesty is no kin to women like her. (20) She cannot help but walk like a mountain's peak through the raunchy streets of Harlem, wearing her continent on the high bridge of her nose, with the valleys curving round like clattering rings into her nostrils. (21) Her exposed heels are lined with the deep furrows of an elephant's trunk. (22) She wears sandals in the November cold, in the hard, trash-swilling rain because the thirsty leather straps remind her of deserts and home (at least that's why I do so).*

(A) modest and self-effacing

(B) imposing and dignified

(C) youthful and energetic

(D) angry and impatient