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PASSAGE 1

1-4: Answer these questions according to the passage below.



A virus is an invasive biological agent that reproduces inside the cells of living hosts. When infected by a virus, a host cell is forced to produce thousands of identical copies of the original virus at an extraordinary rate. So far, over 5,000 species of viruses have been discovered. The origins of viruses are unclear: some may have evolved from plasmids-pieces of DNA that can move between cells-while others may have evolved from bacteria. A virus consists of two or three parts: genes, made from either DNA or RNA; a protein coat that protects the genes; and in some viruses. an envelope of fat that surrounds and protects them when they are not contained within a host cell. They spread in many different ways. Just as many viruses are very specific as to which host species or tissue they attack, each species of virus relies on a particular method for propagation. Plant viruses are often spread from plant to plant by insects and other organisms, known as vectors. Some viruses of animals, including humans, are spread by exposure to infected bodily fluids. Viral infections can cause disease in humans, animals and even plants. However, they are usually eliminated by the immune system, conferring lifetime immunity to the host for that virus. Antibiotics have no effect on viruses, but antiviral drugs have been developed to treat life-threatening infections. Vaccines that produce lifelong immunity can prevent some viral infections.

1. One point made in the passage is that viruses ----.

- A) surround and protect people during young ages
- B) had better be contained within a host cell for at least two days
- C) are selective about the tissues they attack
- D) have got one standard way of spreading
- E) cannot be spread from plant to plant by insects

2. One learns from the passage that some viral infections ----.

- A) cure some diseases in humans, animals and even plants
- B) have been developed to treat other more dangerous infections
- C) can be good for general health
- D) can be avoided by getting vaccinated
- E) will certainly exterminate the human race

3. According to the passage, viruses are invasive agents ----.

- A) that reproduce just outside the cells of living hosts
- B) are often unable to produce identical copies of the original
- C) against which no drugs are commercially available
- D) that cost millions of lives each year
- E) and they propagate extremely fast

- 4. As stated in the passage, pieces of DNA that can move between cells ----.
 - A) are thought to have evolved from plasmids
 - B) might have been the ancestors of viruses
 - C) consist mainly of two or three parts
 - D) are known to have evolved from bacteria
 - E) are made from either DNA or RNA

PASSAGE 2

1-4: Answer these questions according to the passage below.



The White Stork is a large bird. Its plumage is mainly white, with black on its wings. The two subspecies, which differ slightly in size, breed in Europe, north-western Africa, south-western Asia and southern Africa. The White Stork is a long-distance migrant, wintering in Africa from tropical Sub-Saharan Africa to as far south as South Africa. When migrating between Europe and Africa, it avoids crossing the Mediterranean Sea because the air thermals on which it depends for flight do not form over water. A carnivore, the White Stork eats a wide variety of animal prey, including insects, fish, amphibians, reptiles, small mammals and small birds. It takes most of its food from the ground, among low vegetation, and from shallow water. It is a monogamous breeder, but does not pair for life. Both members of the pair build a large stick nest, which may be used for several years. Each year the female can lay one clutch of usually four eggs, which hatch asynchronously 33-34 days after being laid. Both parents take turns incubating the eggs and both feed the young. The White Stork has been rated as Least Concern by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). It has few natural predators, but may harbour several types of parasite; the plumage is home to chewing lice and feather mites.

1. According to the passage, the White Stork eats many different kinds of food ----.

- A) but prefers fish, amphibians, and reptiles
- B) unless it takes its food from the ground
- C) although it's in danger near shallow water
- which is why it is one of the longest living birds
- E) ranging from insects to small birds

2. As one understands from the passage, it is not likely ----.

- A) to see a White Stork in crowded city centres
- B) that the White Stork will face extinction soon
- C) that a female White Stork lays one clutch of four eggs
- D) that White Storks build a large stick nest
- E) to see several types of parasite in a White Stork

3. As stated in the passage, the White Stork

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- A) has got black plumage and a white beak
- B) has two subspecies that vary in size
- C) no longer lives in in Europe, north-western Africa
- D) has wings that differ considerably in size
- E) cannot be seen in south-western Asia and southern Africa

- 4. One learns from the passage that the Mediterranean Sea is not a good path for migrating White Storks ----.
 - A) but they still continue to use that path
 - B) because they come across a lot of predators along the way
 - C) although it is the shortest possible route
 - D) as the route affects their ability to fly negatively
 - E) since the air over the sea is too hot for them

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PASSAGE 10

1-4: Answer these questions according to the passage below.



Madagascar is an island country in the Indian Ocean, off the south-eastern coast of Africa. The nation comprises the island of Madagascar (the fourth-largest island in the world), as well as numerous smaller peripheral islands. Following the prehistoric breakup of the supercontinent Gondwana, Madagascar split from India around 88 million years ago, allowing native plants and animals to evolve in relative isolation. Consequently, Madagascar is a biodiversity hotspot; over 90 per cent of its wildlife is found nowhere else on Earth. The island's diverse ecosystems and unique wildlife are threatened by the encroachment of the rapidly growing human population. The Malagasy ethnic aroup is often divided into eighteen or more sub-groups of which the largest are the Merina of the central highlands. Until the late 18th century, Madagascar was ruled by a fragmented assortment of shifting socio-political alliances. Beginning in the early 19th century, most of the island was united and ruled as the Kingdom of Madagascar by a series of Merina nobles. The monarchy collapsed in 1897 when the island was absorbed into the French colonial empire, from which the island regained independence in 1960. In 2012, the population of Madagascar was estimated at just over 22 million, 90 per cent of whom live on less than two dollars per day. Malagasy and French are both official languages of the state. Ecotourism and agriculture, paired with greater investments in education, health and private enterprise, are key elements of Madagascar's development strategy.

1. According to the passage, some people of Merina origin ----.

- A) ruled Madagascar until it was colonized by the French
- B) divided the country into eighteen or more sub-groups
- C) fought wildly against the people of the central highlands
- D) are pleased with the current shifting socio-political alliances
- E) decided not to rule the Kingdom of Madagascar in the early 19th century

2. As pointed out in the passage, Madagascar

- A) is unwilling to make any more investments in education
- B) does not allow private enterprise in health and education sectors
- C) relies on ecotourism and agriculture for overall development
- D) has lost over 22 million of its educated citizens to developed countries
- E) regained independence from Merina nobles in 1960

3. According to the passage, Madagascar has diverse ecosystems ----.

- A) because it is an island in the Indian Ocean, off the south-eastern coast of Africa
- B) although it comprises the island of Madagascar and many smaller islands
- C) but this has nothing to do with the breakup of the supercontinent Gondwana
- D) in spite of splitting from India around 88 million years ago
- E) as its native plants and animals have evolved in relative isolation

4. One point made in the passage is that ----.

- A) Madagascar is no longer a biodiversity hotspot
- B) there are only three other islands in the world that are larger than Madagascar
- C) Madagascar's unique wildlife is threatened by decreasing human population
- D) not many people are aware that Madagascar has the cleanest beaches in the world
- E) only ten per cent of Madagascar's wildlife is found nowhere else on earth

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PASSAGE 11

1-4: Answer these questions according to the passage below.



The first people to reach North America almost certainly did so without knowing they had crossed into a new continent. Once in Alaska, it would take these first North Americans thousands of years more to work their way through the openings in great glaciers south to what is now the United States. Evidence of early life in North America continues to be found. Little of it, however, can be reliably dated before 12,000 BC. Many artefacts have been found at sites throughout North and South America, indicating that life was probably already well established in much of the Western Hemisphere by some time prior to 10,000 BC. Around that time the mammoth began to die out and the bison took its place as a principal source of food for these early North Americans. Over time, as more and more species vanished whether from overhunting or natural causes, plants, berries, and seeds became an increasingly important part of the early American diet. Gradually, foraging and the first attempts at primitive agriculture appeared. Native Americans in what is now central Mexico led the way, cultivating corn, and beans, perhaps as early as 8000 BC.

1. The passage mainly discusses ----.

- A) the climate of the continent of America
- B) the first forms of North American agriculture
- C) the early history of North America
- D) native Americans and their food as an important part of the early American diet
- E) the modern history of the US

2. We learn from the passage that ----.

- A) Alaska was the last piece of arable land discovered in the continent of America
- B) the first inhabitants of America were good at making ships
- C) the southern part of North America was discovered after the northern part
- D) there is no evidence of early life in North America
- E) the first people in North America were of African origin

3. The author implies that the early inhabitants of North America ----.

- A) made a conscious and planned discovery of the land
- B) could not find any food in Alaska apart from the mammoth
- C) hunted native people for food when the mammoth began to die out
- D) depended mainly on mammoths for food before the bison
- E) vanished in 10,000 BC probably prior to bison species died out from overhunting

4. It is implied in the passage that agriculture in North America emerged ----.

- A) before 12,000 BC when animal population decreased to a great extent
- B) in 10,000 BC when principal source of food was seeds
- C) in Alaska, which would take a long time
- D) due to decreasing food sources
- E) long before the Western Hemisphere

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PASSAGE 12

1-4: Answer these questions according to the passage below.



Silkworms, offspring of moths, produce their highly desirable, pricey silk, by spewing out thread from tiny holes in their jaws, which they use to spin into their equ-bearing cocoons. This entire production takes a mere 72 hours, during which time they produce between 500-1200 silken threads. These miniature, mulberry leaf-munching marvels lay, at minimum, 500 eggs each spring, thereby increasing the number of workers for the production line. The ancient Chinese unearthed the silkworm's secret. and were the first to spin the silkworm's threads into cloth. They kept this covert operation from the rest of the world by imposing the death sentence upon those who smuggled the worm or its eggs out of China. Eventually, however, the secret was out, and silkworms are now farmed for their silk, in China, Japan, India, France, Spain, and Italy. These countries harness the power of the silkworm through a tedious, labour-intensive, time-consuming process, a process which prominently figures into the price of silk.

1. We learn from the passage that ----.

- A) moths give birth to silkworms that produce silk
- B) silkworms feed on silk which bears cocoons
- C) cocoons are inexpensive since the silkworms are now farmed
- moths carry cocoons in their jaws and move on silken threads
- E) there are vast holes all around cocoons which are later filled with eggs

2. The author of the passage states that ----.

- A) the production of a cocoon takes quite a long time
- B) one cocoon is made up of at least 500 threads
- C) a moth can lay maximum 500 eggs a year
- D) moths are huge aggressive beasts that lay 500 eggs each spring
- E) cocoons feed on mulberry leaves and turn them into silk

3. It is implied in the passage that ----.

- A) the modern Chinese are not interested in silk production processes
- B) the ancient Chinese killed countless moths every day
- C) China used to be the only silk manufacturer in the world
- Italy is the biggest silk producer in the world
- E) modern China has quit silk production as it is a time-consuming process
- 4. What is meant by the phrase "this covert operation" in the passage is ----.
 - A) smuggling the worm or its eggs out of China
 - B) imposing the death sentence upon smugglers
 - C) unearthing the silkworm's secret of making silk
 - D) increasing the number of workers for the production line
 - E) producing silk cloth from silkworms' threads secretly

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PASSAGE 15

1-4: Answer these questions according to the passage below.



Determined to create the world's cheapest wheelchair, a mechanical engineer called Don Schoendorfer in Orange County, California, shut himself to his house three hours every day before work, busy at a worktable in his overstuffed garage. First, he tried a chair with a conventional canvaslike seat, but realized it wouldn't work as it was too expensive. He knew he needed something cheap and durable to the point of indestructible. The chair had to cross mountains, swamps and deserts, and endure the heat and frost with minor upkeep. Many of the world's poor, he knew, lived on less than \$2 a day and could never dream of buying a Western-type wheelchair for hundreds or even thousands of dollars. Finally, he came up with an idea: the ordinary white plastic lawn chair. Perfect. He scouted out sales, buying plastic lawn chairs by the dozen for \$3 a piece. Then he wandered the corridors of huge shopping malls in search of the most inexpensive bike tyres, even the most costeffective screws and, eventually, managed to finish his masterpiece to aid the poor.

1. According to the passage, it is true that the people whom the mechanical engineer cared about ----.

- A) can't even dream of buying a wheelchair even if it is not too expensive
- B) are financially forced to make up their own cheap wheelchairs
- C) are given free chairs by the State of California in the Orange County
- D) wouldn't be able to afford an expensive, modern wheelchair
- E) are in search of inexpensive bike tyres and screws

2. We can understand from the passage that the mechanical engineer mentioned in the passage ----.

- A) distributed his invention to hundreds of citizens in the state where he lived
- B) gave up in the end since the difficulties overwhelmed him
- C) bought plastic wheelchairs to give to the poor
- D) decided to stop working as an engineer and make the chairs his life's work
- E) struggled to find the cheapest possible components for his invention
- 3. One can infer from the passage that in order to obtain a durable but cheap wheelchair, ----.
 - A) the engineer had to use a canvas-like seat
 - B) one doesn't have to spend hundreds of dollars
 - C) people sold their bike tyres and plastic chairs
 - D) a team of engineers should work together
 - E) an engineer spent less than \$2 and assembled his own using a plastic chair

4. What can be understood about Don Schoendorfer and his efforts to build a cheap wheelchair?

- A) He needed the local people to fund his project to deliver the cheap wheelchairs to poor people.
- B) He spent more than \$5 on one of the wheelchairs but sold them at a cheaper price.
- C) He was able to make the wheelchair he wanted by using cost-effective products to help the poor.
- D) He could not convince his colleagues to help him design a cheap wheelchair.
- E) He helped his poor disabled friends to get around freely at a reasonable price.

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PASSAGE 16

1-4: Answer these questions according to the passage below.



A robot does not operate like a conventional surgeon does. It has no need to open up your chest or abdomen to let in big human hands. Instead, the robot's long, spidery arms roam deep into your body through a set of tiny incisions, called "ports". Inside your body it can wield instruments to repair heart valves or remove diseased prostate glands. Its tiny robot hands don't tremble as they work and can twist and turn so skilfully that beats the limitations of a human wrist. When it is finished, it can withdraw leaving just some small holes needing a few stitches. A robot-equipped operating room is a strange sight. The robot sits alongside the operating table with its long arms bent down over the patient. One arm carries a miniature stereoscopic camera. Others carry surgical instruments needed to cut, clamp and suture.

1. It is pointed out in the passage that ----.

- A) robots are not programmed to move instruments inside the body
- B) robots will need special equipment for future operations
- C) the way a robot operates is different from a surgeon does
- robots can't penetrate deep inside the body
- E) despite the good job robots do, conventional surgeries are still preferable

2. We can infer from the passage that ----.

- A) the operations performed by robots are never in control of the doctors
- B) the hands of the surgeons might sometimes tremble
- C) conventional surgeons are superior to robots
- D) removing diseased prostate glands is the only thing that a robot can do
- E) heart valves are mostly repaired by the robots

3. According to the passage ----.

- A) the hands of the robot may cause harm to the patient during an operation
- B) robots are not preferred in an important operation
- C) robots can't operate as well as doctors do
- D) usually more than one robot takes part in an operation
- E) robots can use their hands efficiently at the same time
- 4. Why does the author put a special emphasis on tiny incisions called "ports"?
 - A) To criticise the robots for taking many risks by operating through such small holes in the body
 - B) To support the idea of having robot surgeons in all of the hospitals around the world
 - C) To enable the reader to grasp the severity of the threats that awaits people operated by robot surgeons
 - D) To show the competence of robots in doing a surgery compared to human surgeons who need to open up the body to operate
 - E) To give an answer to the question why human surgeons need to open up the body while robots don't

PASSAGE 20

1-4: Answer these questions according to the passage below.



The history of the computer in the 20th century is one of dramatic adaptation and expansion. The computer had modest beginnings in areas where it was used as a specialist tool. The first electronic computer was built in the 1930s and was solely for the use of undergraduate students in Iowa State University to handle mathematical computations in nuclear physics. During World War II, computers were developed in order to break codes used by the enemy. In the post war years the scope of computers was expanded to include the military. Obviously people needed to communicate around these institutions and so there was a need for early network tools. In the 1960's an early version of the Internet, ARPANET was used in computer science and engineering projects. However, only 10 years later computers were starting to change our lifestyle, the way we do business and many other things and by the late 1980s networks were expanding to embrace sections of the general public. Consequently, the Internet was born.

1. One can understand from the passage that ----.

- A) computers can be used as a teaching aid both in schools and at home
- B) early computers were not used in military after World Word II
- C) a very primitive form of Internet was used in 1960s
- the first computer was designed to break codes used by the enemy during the Second World War
- E) computers are capable of storing massive data

2. It is clear from the passage that the first electronic computer ----.

- A) was used to break codes used by the enemy long before World War II
- B) had dramatic effects on the use of computers in everyday life
- C) changed the learning styles of the US students to a great extent
- b) was used only by undergraduate students to deal with mathematical computations in nuclear physics
- E) had positive effects although it had some disadvantages

3. According to the passage, it is true that _____.

- A) after World War II, the use of computers was limited to military only
- B) the first computer was designed especially for military use
- C) before 1960's, networks had already been used by general public
- D) only ten years after the early version of the Internet, computers began to change people's lifestyle
- E) the learning styles of the US students are restricted because of the computers

4. Which could be the best title for this passage?

- A) How the Military Invented the Internet
- B) The Birth and Expansion of the Internet
- C) Using the Internet for Military Purposes
- D) How the Internet Has Changed People's Lives
- E) The Earliest Version of the Internet

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PASSAGE 24

1-4: Answer these questions according to the passage below.



Rail transport is the most energy-efficient means of mechanised land transport. The rails provide very smooth and hard surfaces on which the wheels of the train may roll with minimum friction. Trains also have a small frontal area in relation to the load they are carrying, which cuts down on air resistance and thus energy usage. In all, under the right circumstances, a train needs 50-70% less energy to transport a given tonnage of freight than does road transport. Furthermore, the rails distribute the weight of the train evenly, allowing significantly greater loads per axle/wheel than in road transport. Rail transport is also one of the safest modes of transport, and also makes highly efficient use of space: a double-tracked rail line can carry more passengers or load in a given amount of time than a four-laned road. As a result, rail transport is the major form of public transport in many countries.

1. Which of the following conclusions could be drawn from the passage?

- As the wheels of the train roll with friction on the rails, rail transport is considered unsafe.
- B) In order to cut down on air resistance, a special part is added to the front of the train.
- C) Due to the advantages it has, rail transport is the most preferred way of transportation in many a country.
- In terms of use of space, road transport is more advantageous than rail transport.
- E) There is not any difference between rail transport and road transport in terms of the capacity to convey load.

2. According to the passage, it is true that

- A) because of the hard surface of the rails, the amount of friction is high
- B) the more load trains carry, the more dangerous the travel will be
- C) people prefer to use road transport even if it is far more unsafe than rail transport
- D) under certain conditions it is quicker to convey more load via road transport
- E) rail transport is superior to road transport in certain aspects
- 3. One can understand from the passage that
 - A) when compared to road transport, rail transport spends less energy while conveying load
 - B) the importance of rail transport is highly ignored in some countries
 - C) there is always a risk of accident if a train is overloaded
 - D) the small area in front of the train is used for carrying light load
 - E) rail transport will become a primary means of transportation in the near future

4. How does rail transport offer a more effective use of space than road transport?

- A) Its construction and maintenance is easier even if it is built on a larger space than a road.
- B) It does not take up as much space as a road does, so it can carry fewer passengers.
- C) It provides the passengers with larger and more comfortable seats.
- D) It can accommodate more people or goods at a certain time than a road does.
- E) Regardless of the number of tracks, rail transport enables more vehicles at the same time than a road.

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PASSAGE 25

1-4: Answer these questions according to the passage below.



Since tattoos involve needles and blood, they carry several risks. These include transmission of diseases like hepatitis, tuberculosis and possibly HIV. When tattoo artists follow all the correct sterilization and sanitation procedures, risks for disease transmission are relatively low. However, doctors warn that non-sterile tattooing practices can lead to the transmission of hepatitis B and other infectious organisms. Infections can occur in new tattoos, especially without appropriate after-care. Some people also experience allergic reactions to tattoo inks. Finally, some people experience pain or burning during magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) examinations because of metallic pigments. In addition, most states place restrictions on whether people who have tattoos can donate blood. Because of the danger of hepatitis, the American Red Cross, for example, doesn't accept blood from someone who has been tattooed in the past year unless the tattoo parlour is state-regulated.

1. Which of the following can be said about tattoos?

- A) They are forbidden in America as they are dangerous.
- B) They always carry risk for diseases but the way it is done determines how serious the risk will be.
- C) They are dangerous for people who have given blood recently.
- D) They made in state-regulated environment cost a fortune.
- E) They done by amateur artists cause burning or pain.

2. It is pointed out in the passage that the American Red Cross ----.

- A) has stopped accepting blood donations temporarily
- B) supplies sterilized environment for tattoo artists
- C) tells the governments that non-sterilized tattooing places may cause the spread of certain diseases
- P) rejects the blood donation from people tattooed in an environment that isn't regulated by the state
- E) treats people who are infected due to tattooing practices

3. According to the passage, it is true that _____.

- A) people who are allergic to inks cannot be tattooed
- B) there are many people who are not aware of the dangers of tattoos
- C) thanks to technology, one doesn't experience any pain or burning while being tattooed any more
- because of loss of blood throughout tattooing process, one needs blood transfusion afterwards
- E) newly made tattoos may lead to infection if proper after-care is not provided
- 4. It could be painful for a tattooed person to have an MRI scan because ----.
 - A) the metallic pigments in the tattoo are affected by the magnetic field of the machine during the scan
 - B) some tattoo making processes lead to the transmission of infectious organisms
 - C) the inks used during tattooing can have metallic pigments
 - b) he or she can have an infection in his or her blood, which causes pain or burning
 - E) tattoos do not sometimes feature the use of healthy equipment or sanitary procedures

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PASSAGE 26

1-4: Answer these questions according to the passage below.



Pan American World Airways was the principal international airline of the United States from the 1930s until its collapse in 1991. Originally founded as a seaplane company out of Key West, Florida, the airline became a major one; it was credited with many innovations that shaped the international airline industry, including the widespread use of jet aircraft, jumbo jets, and computerized reservation systems. Identified by its blue globe logo and the use of "Clipper" in aircraft names and call signs, the airline was a cultural icon of the 20th century. and the unofficial flag carrier of the United States. Pan Am went through two incarnations after 1991. In September 1996, a new investment group purchased the rights of the Pan American brand after the original carrier declared bankruptcy. The second Pan Am operated from 1996 to 1998 with a focus on low-cost. long-distance flights between the US and the Caribbean. The current incarnation is based in Portsmouth and known as the Pan Am "Clipper Connection". The airline currently flies to destinations in the north-eastern United States, Florida, Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico.

1. According to the passage, it is true that Pan American World Airways ----.

- A) became one of the foremost international airline companies in the late 1990s
- B) has used different logos ever since it was first founded
- C) is the first airline company having used jet aircraft in international flights
- D) was initially established with the purpose of providing seaplane service
- had to be closed down as it wasn't able to keep up with the latest developments in aviation

2. It is understood from the passage that ----.

- A) to remain competitive with other airlines during 1990s Pan American Airways used computerized reservation systems
- B) Pan American's iconic image was what saved the company from bankruptcy in 1991
- C) what forced Pan American Airways to declare bankruptcy was the poor administration of the company
- D) Pan American Airways had to diversify into other areas such as freight carriage after it was bought by another company
- after it was bought by another company in 1996 Pan American Airways operated mainly between the US and the Caribbean for a while

3. One can understand from the passage ----.

- Pan American Airways, based in Portsmouth today, carries people to destinations throughout the United States
- B) 1991 was a year when some airline companies went bankrupt, one of which was Pan American Airways
- C) Pan American Airways is considered a pioneer in the airline history owing to the innovations it introduced
- after it was sold in 1996, Pan American Airways again became one of the leading airline companies in the United States
- E) the main reason underlying the collapse of an airline is the low demand for air travel

4. What can be inferred about the second Pan American company?

- A) It still operates as an airline company and flies to different places in at least two countries
- B) It can be said that this version is even more successful than the first company.
- C) It only operates in northern or eastern regions in America; not in southern regions.
- Its flying routes and destinations are not different from those of the first company's.
- E) It finds it hard to keep up with the demands of the passengers, so it will probably go bankrupt soon.

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PASSAGE 32

1-4: Answer these questions according to the passage below.



According to scholars, alchemy was first practised in the 3rd century in early Egypt. It consisted chiefly of experiments with metals and other chemical materials. In its beginning, alchemy was essentially a craft and embraced many kinds of metalwork, including the use of alloys resembling gold and silver. Alexandria is considered a centre of early alchemy, and the art was influenced by the philosophy of the Hellenistic Greeks. Since the early alchemists were mainly artisans, they tried to conceal the secrets of their work; thus, many of the materials they used were referred to by astrological names. It is believed that the concept of the philosopher's stone, which was an imaginary substance thought to be capable of transmuting the less noble metals into gold may have originated in Alexandria. Alchemy, strongly tinged with magic, reached the Arabs and remained for several centuries under Muslim influence: in the 12th century, it reached parts of Europe through translations of Arabic writings.

1. According to the passage, the reason why the early artisans used astrological names for the materials ----.

- A) was to keep their work from the view of other people
- B) stemmed from the fact that they were interested in astrology
- was mentioned in Arabic writings and reached to modern times with the help of their translations
- D) was that other people did not have any curiosity about the secret of their work
- has been a great concern for the scholars for centuries who want to solve the secrets of alchemy

2. One can understand from the passage that when alchemy is concerned ----.

- A) nobody can give an exact time of its origin
- Alexandria was accepted as the centre of alchemy because most of the artisans were living there
- C) gold must have been seen as the most precious metal
- D) the Muslim influence cannot be denied from the beginning of this craft
- E) the west learned everything about the secret of it thanks to Arabic writings

3. Which could be inferred from the passage about alchemy?

- A) It didn't find itself a place in the western world in the very beginning.
- B) It did not make use of alloys although considered as a craft.
- C) It was an imaginary craft where people tried to conceal their secrets.
- D) It was only mentioned in Arabic writings because of its origin.
- E) It was practised only by early Egyptian artisans.

4. What is the primary purpose of the author?

- A) To search for an answer as to where the origins of alchemy lies
- B) To inform the reader about what alchemy is and how it is perceived and spread around the world
- C) To criticize the Europeans for not taking alchemy seriously until the 12th century
- D) To explain how alchemy works and how it is very different from chemistry
- E) To emphasize the differences between alchemy and chemistry by referring to their uses through time

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PASSAGE 40

1-4: Answer these questions according to the passage below.



The severity of an earthquake can be expressed in terms of both intensity and magnitude. However, the two terms are quite different, and they are often confused. Intensity is based on the observed effects of ground shaking on people, buildings, and natural features. It varies from place to place within the disturbed region depending on the location of the observer with respect to the earthquake epicentre. Magnitude is related to the amount of seismic energy released at the hypocenter of the earthquake. It is based on the amplitude of the earthquake waves recorded on instruments which have a common calibration. The magnitude of an earthquake is thus represented by a single, instrumentally determined value. Earthquakes are the result of forces deep within the Earth's interior that continuously affect the surface of the Earth. The energy from these forces is stored in a variety of ways within the rocks. When this energy is released suddenly an earthquake results.

1. According to the passage, both magnitude and intensity ----.

- A) are terms used to show the severity of an earthquake though they mean different things
- B) are not observable results of an earthquake
- C) can be represented with instrumentally measured values
- D) are important only for those within the area of an earthquake
- E) are the reasons that cause an earthquake to happen

2. It is understood from the passage that an earthquake ----.

- A) is predicted by examining the rocks on the surface of the Earth
- B) may sometimes be confused with magnitude or intensity
- C) may be observed with the same severity no matter how far you are from the epicentre
- D) cannot be evaluated by any means of technology
- E) can be described as a sudden release of energy from the forces deep within the Earth

3. We can infer from the passage that ----.

- A) the closer you are to the epicentre of an earthquake, the more likely you are to observe the intensity
- B) there are words other than magnitude and intensity that are used to describe the severity of an earthquake
- C) the quantity of energy stored within the rocks varies depending on the climate
- D) the greater the earthquake waves are, the more difficult it is to record them
- E) there may be instruments that can measure seismic energy in the future

4. What can be understood about the magnitude of an earthquake?

- It is different from intensity in that it is related to the observed effects of the earthquake.
- B) Its scale can differ from region to region depending on the instruments with calibration.
- C) It is not based on the amplitude of the waves, but the amount of the released energy.
- D) It is measured with special instruments and expressed using a single value.
- E) Scientists use a particular device to measure it, but it doesn't always have consistent results.

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PASSAGE 50

1-4: Answer these questions according to the passage below.



Comet Hyakutake is a comet that was discovered in January 1996 which passed very close to the Earth in March of that year. It was one of the closest cometary approaches to the Earth in the last 200 years. The comet became very bright in the night sky, and, as a result, it was seen by a large number of people around the world. Scientific observations of the comet led to several notable discoveries. Most surprising to scientists was the discovery of X-ray emission from the comet, the first time a comet had been found to be emitting X-rays. The Ulysses spacecraft also unexpectedly crossed the comet's tail at a distance of more than 500 million km from the nucleus, showing that Hyakutake had the longest tail yet known for a comet. Hyakutake is a long period comet. Before its most recent passage through the solar system, its orbital period was about 15,000 years, but the gravitational influence of the giant planets has now increased this to 72,000 years.

1. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage about Comet Hyakutake?

- A) It is the first comet detected to give out X-rays.
- B) It passes very close to the Earth about every 15,000 years.
- C) It was so bright that it could be observed even in the daylight.
- D) It is considered to be the brightest comet of the last two centuries.
- E) It isn't expected to return to the inner solar system again.

2. It is understood from the passage that ----.

- A) 1996 was the only year when a comet passed close to the Earth in the past 200 years
- B) Hyakutake's tail length is more than 500 million km
- C) it is estimated that 72,000 years have passed since Comet Hyakutake last passed very close to the Earth
- D) Comet Hyakutake is the most widely observed comet of the 20th century
- what distinguished Comet Hyakutake from other comets is its long orbital period

3. We learn from the passage that ----.

- A) few comets passed close to the Earth in the previous century
- B) Comet Hyakutake visited our solar system for the first time in 1996
- C) because it approached the Earth so close, Comet Hyakutake was visible to people
- Comet Hyakutake is likely to have passed close to the Sun several times before
- E) the Ulysses spacecraft made a planned pass through the tail of the comet before 1996

4. Which of the following is clearly stated about the orbital period of the Hyakutate?

- A) The giant planets caused its gravitational orbit to change, thus making it shorter.
- B) The influence of the planets that Hyakutate passed by made it become slightly longer.
- C) It was measured to be fifteen thousand years thanks to the Ulysses spacecraft.
- Its exact span could not be measured but scientists think it to be more than 72,000 years.
- E) It used to be much shorter than it is now and it is the result of the influence of giant planets.

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PASSAGE 51

1-4: Answer these questions according to the passage below.



In 1782, Congress selected the bald eagle as the emblem of the newly formed United States, because it symbolized courage and might, and because it was indigenous only to the United States and to Canada. The national seal depicts the bald eagle with its wings spread, with one claw clutching an olive branch, and the other claw grasping arrows. The bald eagle owes its name to the early American colonists, and is bald in name only. Since ancient times, men have identified themselves with the eagle because it creates an impression of majesty and of power while in flight. As early as 5,000 years ago, ancient Sumerians chose the eagle as their emblem, symbolizing their power. Ancient Romans followed suit, as did Emperor Charlemagne, and finally Napoleon. Franklin wanted the turkey, not the eagle, to be the US national emblem. He considered the eagle a "bird of bad moral character".

1. It is implied in the passage that the image of power and strength attached to eagles ----.

- A) was actually wrong since they are considered birds of bad moral character
- B) proved to be a sheer fallacy
- C) inspired many national emblems
- D) was drawn from Emperor Charlemagne
- E) was not favoured by ancient Romans

2. We learn from the passage that ----.

- A) the United States was established long after its emblem was chosen
- B) the American Congress was founded in 1782
- C) the bald eagle can only be found in the United States
- D) the natural habitat of bald eagle was the US and Canada
- E) the Americans were the mightiest people at the time
- 3. The national seal referred to in the passage is ----.
 - A) the American emblem selected by the Congress in 1782
 - B) an animal indigenous to North America only
 - C) the United States Congress that was founded in 1782
 - D) Canadian courage which is symbolized with turkey
 - E) the olive industry in the United States

4. The author of the passage states that ----.

- A) the early Americans hunted bald eagles for food
- B) the early Americans used arrows to hunt eagles
- C) the bald eagle is not actually bald
- the US was the first to choose the eagle as their symbol
- E) Sumerians were at odds with the early Americans

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PASSAGE 52

1-4: Answer these questions according to the passage below.



Humanity's desire to fly probably dates back to the first time prehistoric man observed birds. However, the first successful flight was made by the French Montgolfier Brothers in 1783, when they flew a balloon over Paris. The next major advance was the development of gliders. However, powered flight didn't become a practical possibility until the invention of lightweight, petrol-driven internal combustion engines at the end of the nineteenth century. Then, in 1903 the Wright Brothers made the first powered flight in their biplane. The Wrights not only built a working airplane but also helped advance the modern science of aeronautical engineering. Almost as soon as they were invented, planes were drafted for military service. The first war to see major use of planes in offensive and defensive capabilities was World War I. World War II saw a drastic increase in the pace of aircraft development and production. Today, aviation focused on eliminating the pilot in favour of remotely operated or completely autonomous vehicles.

1. According to the passage, ----.

- A) it has always been a dream of men to build truly autonomous planes
- B) the advent of balloons preceded gliders in the history of aviation
- C) the Montgolfier Brothers were the first people to make the powered flight
- fighter aircraft were used in military long before World War I
- E) the first successful flight was made by the Wright Brothers in 1783

2. One can understand from the passage that ----.

- A) the progress of aeronautical engineering slowed down during the World Wars
- B) the Montgolfier Brothers can be considered as the pioneers of the aviation age
- C) planes were used in the World War I for only offensive purposes
- D) during the World War II engineers focused on building autonomous planes
- E) gliders are lightweight planes with a petrol-driven engine

3. It is clearly stated in the passage that ----.

- A) early inventors made only partial progress in the development of aviation
- B) the Montgolfier Brothers are the inventors of gliders
- C) although aircraft had been used in some wars previously, actual aerial combat first appeared in World War II
- D) the first petrol-driven internal combustion engine was invented by the Wright Brothers
- E) in the World Wars fighter planes were used together with balloons and gliders

4. What can be understood about the Wright Brothers?

- A) One could not argue that there was a science called aeronautical engineering before them.
- B) Their first airplane was fully operating, so they became the pioneers of the aviation industry.
- C) Not only did they build a functioning airplane, but they also contributed to the advancement of aeronautical engineering.
- D) They were not the ones to make the first powered flight, but the ones to build a petrol-driven engine.
- E) They contributed a lot to the creation of war planes after they made it possible to fly long distances.

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PASSAGE 126

1-4: Answer these questions according to the passage below.

There were only two times when a foreign ethnic tribe ruled the whole of China. The first was the Mongols, whose leader Kublai Khan established the Yuan dynasty in 1271 AD. Kublai Khan and his successors' oppressive governing style didn't fit well with the Chinese, triggering numerous civil unrests. In 1368 AD. Zhu Yuanzhang orchestrated one such revolution and toppled the Mongols. His Ming dynasty fell into turmoil in 1644 AD, giving the Manchu, a nomadic tribe living in the presentday northeast of China, an opportunity to step up their effort of conquest. The Manchus became the second foreign ethnic tribe to rule the whole of China. Its Qing dynasty also happens to be China's last dynasty. The Manchus appreciated and embraced the Chinese culture. Their willingness to assimilate was a sharp contrast from the Mongols' refusal to integrate. But despite their numerous efforts in consolidation, the Manchus remained sceptical toward the Chinese. As a show of asserting authority, they forced all Chinese men to adopt the Manchus' traditional hairstyle. Though the Qing Emperors were autocrats, they carried out many popular reforms to stabilize the society and to stimulate the economy.

1. We learn from the passage that the Qing dynasty ----.

- A) was reluctant to integrate since they were happy with the Chinese culture
- B) strived to disintegrate the Manchus' traditions
- C) adopted Chinese hairstyle from a foreign ethnic tribe
- D) was a democratic one that tried to promote human rights
- E) performed some reforms to improve social and economic situations

2. It is stated in the passage that ----.

- A) Kublai Khan didn't want to rule the whole of China
- B) the Ming Dynasty was Chinese in origin
- C) the Manchus were proud of their pure Chinese origin
- D) the Qing Dynasty fought against the Manchus and managed to destroy them
- E) the Mongols appreciated the Manchu culture and embraced it

- 3. The author of the passage states that the Mongols and the Manchus ----.
 - A) were of Chinese origin unlike the Mongols
 - B) fought each other for centuries
 - C) were the two foreign tribes that ruled China
 - D) were not even aware of the need to look back in history
 - E) were two neighbouring states that lived in peace for an unusually long time

4. According to the passage, the Manchus were different from the Mongols in that ----.

- A) the Manchus ruled the whole of China
- B) the Manchus rule led to civil unrest which was backed up by many people
- C) the Mongols were nomadic living in different parts of the country
- D) the Mongols refused to assimilate into the Chinese
- E) the Manchus were too flexible toward the Chinese

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PASSAGE 127

1-4: Answer these questions according to the passage below.

The periodic table of the chemical elements, also called the Mendeleev periodic table, is a tabular display of the known chemical elements. First created by Dmitri Mendeleev, the elements are arranged by electron configuration so that many chemical properties follow a regular pattern across the table. Each element is listed by its atomic number and its chemical symbol. Mendeleev's ordering of the periodic table was one of the greatest developments in modern chemistry because chemists were able to quantitatively explain the behaviour of the elements, and to predict the existence of yet undiscovered ones. There are 116 chemical elements whose discoveries have been confirmed. Ninety four can be found naturally on Earth, and the rest have been produced in laboratories. The Mendeleev periodic table provides the basic information on the elements: however, there are also other methods for displaying the chemical elements for more details.

1. Which could be inferred from the passage about the arrangement of elements in the Mendeleev periodic table?

- A) It enabled chemists to speculate on the existence of other undiscovered elements.
- B) It is unsystematic in that the chemical properties of elements don't follow a regular pattern.
- C) It is a matter of discussion among chemists even today.
- D) It was determined by a group of chemists.
- E) It had to be revised due to the discovery of other new chemical elements.

2. It is stated in the passage that ----.

- the Mendeleev's periodic table differs little from the ones displaying the chemical elements with more details
- B) the Mendeleev periodic table displays 116 chemical elements, all of which can be found naturally on Earth
- C) it is hard to explain the typical behaviour of an element by referring to the Mendeleev periodic table
- D) the Mendeleev periodic table was formed through a cooperative work of chemists
- E) some elements have been formed under laboratory conditions

One can understand from the passage that

- A) of all the elements found so far, only ninety four of them have been officially confirmed
- B) the elements in the Mendeleev periodic table are listed according to their chemical symbols only
- C) when compared to some other methods for displaying chemical elements, the Mendeleev periodic table provides fewer details of the elements
- Since it was created by Mendeleev, the periodic table has been subjected to a lot of criticism
- E) all chemical elements can be produced artificially in laboratories

4. What is the main purpose of the passage?

- A) To explain the creation process of the periodic table by Dmitri Mendeleev
- B) To show the development of periodic table in the years following its creation
- C) To prove that Dmitri Mendeleev was the most prolific chemist of all time
- D) To inform the reader about the creation and properties of the periodic table by Dmitri Mendeleev
- E) To emphasize the importance of the periodic table in all the discoveries in chemistry

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PASSAGE 198

1-4: Answer these questions according to the passage below.

Baking soda is a white crystalline powder. At temperatures above 149°C, it decomposes into sodium carbonate, water, and carbon dioxide. Its native chemical and physical properties account for its wide range of applications, including cleaning, deodorizing, buffering, and fire extinguishing. Baking soda neutralizes odours chemically, rather than masking or absorbing them. Consequently, it is used in bath salts and deodorant body powders. It is also found in some anti-plague mouth-wash products and toothpaste. When it is used as a cleaner in paste form or dry on a damp sponge, its crystalline structure provides a gentle abrasion that helps to remove dirt without scratching sensitive surfaces. Its mild alkalinity works to turn up fatty acids contained in dirt and grease into a form of soap that can be dissolved in water and rinsed easily. Baking soda is also used as a leavening agent in making baked goods like bread. When combined with an acidic agent, such as lemon juice, carbon dioxide gas is released and is absorbed by the product's cells. As the gas expands during baking, the cell walls expand as well, creating a leavened product. It also has many industrial applications. For example, it releases carbon dioxide when heated. Since carbon dioxide is heavier than air, it can smother flames by keeping oxygen out, making sodium bicarbonate a useful agent in fire extinguishers.

1. The passage is mainly concerned with ----.

- A) household and industrial uses of baking soda
- B) the chemical composition of baking soda
- C) how baking soda can be used to improve cooking quality
- D) the harmful chemicals in baking soda
- E) a brief history of the industrial uses of baking soda

- 2. One learns from the passage that when baking soda is combined with an acidic agent, carbon dioxide gas is released ----.
 - A) and that's why it is a useful agent for putting out fire
 - B) so its other industrial applications are usually overlooked
 - C) but for this, a complicated and expensive production process is required
 - D) which is why experts recommend keeping baking soda away from children
 - E) and too much carbon dioxide in a closed place may cause respiration problems

3. According to the passage, baking soda can be used in a variety of ways ----.

- A) in spite of the fact that it is a white crystalline powder
- B) before it is broken into sodium carbonate, water, and carbon dioxide
- C) on account of its inherent chemical and physical qualities
- D) except for cleaning, deodorizing, buffering, and fire extinguishing
- E) but it is capable of neutralizing odours chemically
- 4. As stated in the passage, baking soda is used in anti-plaque mouth-wash products and toothpaste ----.
 - A) but it is more effective when it is used in bath salts and deodorant body powders
 - B) until it can be dissolved in water and rinsed easily
 - C) although it cannot be utilized as a cleaner in paste form or dry on a wet sponge
 - D) yet many people think it is a costly way of keeping teeth clean
 - E) as it can provide a gentle abrasion without causing damage to delicate surfaces

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PASSAGE 200

1-4: Answer these questions according to the passage below.

A group in England is planning to sink a retired warship to use it as an artificial diving reef. They plan to sink the ship off the Cornish coast and hope the project will generate ten million pounds a year for the local economy by attracting diving enthusiasts. It is believed the reef will encourage eco-tourism through diving as well as helping protect fish stocks and marine life in general. The sunken ship would attract divers from across Europe and there will be facilities for able-bodied and disabled divers. The group is appealing to similar organisations in the hope that they will help them not only financially but also by sharing their knowledge on such projects. The scheme would be the first for Britain. Human-made artificial reefs are not a new thing, however. Other countries including America and Australia already have artificial reefs created from redundant ships, and the response from diving enthusiasts has so far proved amazing. The Japanese have been building them for over four hundred years to improve their fish stocks. In India villagers make triangular concrete structures utilising the very sand from their beaches, then they sink them to redress the damage done by commercial trawling. Brazil is currently manufacturing concrete reef balls which have pioneered reef restoration throughout the world, and the list goes on.

1. According to the passage, the artificial diving reef in England ----.

- A) cannot keep fish stocks safe from harm
- B) will not be the first one throughout the world
- C) won't be realized if necessary financial help cannot be provided
- will be the first to be arranged according to the needs of disabled divers
- E) is a unique project but not supported by the public

2. It is stated in the passage that the group planning to sink a retired warship ----.

- A) won't get any outside financial help
- B) has chosen Cornish coast for their
- project as it is very popular with touristsC) wishes to stimulate local economy by their project
- D) hasn't been able to find enough sponsors to support their project yet
- E) is looking for similar organizations just because they don't have enough money to carry out their project

3. We learn from the passage that America and Australia ----.

- A) are against Britain's creating an artificial reef
- B) may consider creating artificial reefs if Britain's project is successful
- C) are thinking of creating more artificial reefs in the future
- D) will help Britain to carry out its artificial diving reef project
- E) have been able to draw a lot of diving enthusiasts to their artificial reefs up to now
- 4. Which of the following could be inferred from the passage about artificial reefs?
 - A) They cannot be built without using concrete structures such as concrete balls.
 - B) They are not usually used for purposes other than recreational ones.
 - C) Their existence is actually quite modern, and there is no earlier use of them than that of Japan's.
 - D) They are used by different countries around the world for one reason or another.
 - E) They can only be produced and applied by industrial companies.

