

# Main Idea

## Question 1 .

**Directions: Select the correct text in the passage.**

Which sentence in the passage **best** shows that the National Cathedral is a marvelous structure?

### The National Cathedral

The National Cathedral, completed in 1990, is the culmination of a two-century-long plan for a majestic Gothic style cathedral. This richly decorated cathedral is located on a landscaped 57 acre plot of land on Mount Saint Albans in Northwest Washington, DC, 400 feet above sea level. The cathedral consists of a long narrow rectangular mass, the eight bay nave, and the five bay chancel, intersected by a six bay transept.<sup>1</sup> Above the crossing, rising just over 300 feet above grade, is the Gloria in Excelsis Tower. The Cathedral is the sixth-largest in the world, second largest in the United States. The top of the tower is the highest point in Washington, DC. The one-story porch projecting from the south transept has a large portal with a carved tympanum<sup>2</sup>. This portal is approached by the Pilgrim Steps, a long flight of steps 40 feet wide. The primary building material is gray Indiana limestone; some concrete and structural steel are used sparingly. The building abounds in architectural sculpture, wood carving, leaded glass, mosaics, artistic metal work, and many other works of art, including over 200 stained glass windows. Most of the decorative elements have Christian symbolism or are memorials to famous persons or events.

On January 4, 1792, descriptions from President Washington's disclosed plan for the "City of Washington, in the district of Columbia" were published in The Gazette of the United States, Philadelphia. Lot "D," which is north of what is now the National Mall, was set aside as a building site and designated for "a church intended for national purposes, ...assigned to the special use of no particular sect or denomination, but equally open to all." The National Portrait Gallery now occupies that site. A century later in 1891, a meeting was held to revive plans to build the church intended for national purposes.

In 1893, the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation of the District of Columbia was granted a charter from Congress to establish the cathedral and the site on Mount Saint Albans was chosen. Bishop Satterlee chose Frederick Bodley, England's leading Anglican church architect, as the head architect. Henry Vaughan was selected to be the supervising architect. The building of the cathedral finally started in 1907 with a ceremonial address by President Theodore Roosevelt. When construction of the cathedral resumed after a brief hiatus for World War I, both Bodley and Vaughan had passed away; American architect Philip Hubert Frohman took over the design of the cathedral and is known as the principal architect. The Cathedral has been the location of many significant events, including the funeral services of Woodrow Wilson and Dwight Eisenhower. Its pulpit was the last one from which Martin Luther King Jr. spoke prior to his assassination. The Cathedral is the burial place of many notable people, including Woodrow Wilson, Helen Keller, Admiral George Dewey, Bishop Satterlee, and the architects Henry Vaughan and Philip Frohman.

1. A nave, chancel, and transept are different parts of a church.
2. space underneath an arch

**Question 2 .**

**Directions: Select the correct text in the passage.**

Which sentence describes a limitation of tidal power as an energy source?

**Tidal Power**

Renewable energies harness power from natural resources. These technologies are useful because natural resources, such as sunlight and wind, continually replenish over time. Solar panels and wind turbines are examples of renewable energy sources. Tidal power is another lesser-known renewable energy source that harnesses power from ocean tides. [The tides occur based on the location and movement of the Moon around the Earth.](#) Because the Moon and the oceans are constants, people can use energy from tides indefinitely. As with other renewable energies, tidal power is a promising future energy source.

A tidal power plant looks and functions similar to a wind turbine. [With wind power the wind rotates a turbine to produce electricity, whereas with tidal power water rotates a turbine to produce electricity.](#) Other than the installation and occasional maintenance, tidal turbines can produce abundant amounts of energy from ocean tides. [Local governments and companies have teamed together to install tidal turbines.](#) A group of these tidal turbines can power entire towns.

Before governments or companies install tidal turbines, the local tides and geography must be studied extensively. [Not every coastal region experiences tides large and powerful enough to warrant building tidal turbines.](#) Nevertheless, numerous regions around the world have the tides and geography suitable for this fascinating power source. For example, areas of Canada, Western Europe, and Australia have large tides where tidal power stations could harness energy and create electricity.

**Question 3 .**

In 1925, four friends gathered to discuss their common goal to create a professional organization to encourage and honor women who were involved in geographic exploration and research. As a result of their meeting, Marguerite Harrison, Blair Niles, Gertrude Shelby, and Gertrude Emerson Sen began the Society for Woman Geographers (SWG). The SWG was created at a time when membership in most professional organizations was denied to women. Its focus is on providing a forum for women to share their research, meet other professionals, and advance their careers. Some famous members of the Society of Woman Geographers include pilot Amelia Earhart, former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt, and anthropologist Margaret Mead.

What is the main idea of this selection?

- ☐ A. The Society of Woman Geographers is a professional organization for women.
- ☐ B. Amelia Earhart and Eleanor Roosevelt were among the Society's famous members.
- ☐ C. Women were not always allowed to participate in professional organizations.
- ☐ D. The Society of Woman Geographers was created by friends with a common goal.

**Question 4 .**

(1) Mohammed was the founder of Islam. He was born in Mecca in west central Arabia around AD 570. He married Khadija, a wealthy widow, at 25. They had six daughters and lived together for 24 years.

(2) At 40, Mohammed was in a cave on Mount Hira outside Mecca when he had visions of the angel Gabriel. Gabriel called him to recite in the name of Allah, God the Creator. Allah means God in Arabic. He received revelations that became the first parts of the Koran, which means "recitation" in Arabic.

(3) Mohammed shared the revelations with a group of friends who shared his belief in the unity of God. As the group grew larger, they were persecuted. Some took refuge in Christian Ethiopia. They were called Muslims, which means "one who surrenders." In Islam, Muslims surrender or submit to the one God.

(4) In 622, Mohammed and his followers moved from Mecca to Yathrib, a town 120 miles north of Mecca. Yathrib was renamed Medina, which means "city" of the prophet. The Muslim year is dated from this migration, called a hegira.

(5) Mohammed was believed to be illiterate and passed the Koran to his followers through scribes. These scribes wrote the Koran from Mohammed's recitation and their memory of his recitation. The final version of the Koran was completed 20 years after his death. It was written in Arabic and contained 112 suras (chapters). The first sura is always recited in daily prayers.

(6) The Koran teaches faith in God, the coming judgment, and the ideas of heaven and hell. It also explains the duties in marriage, family, and social life. Many stories in the Koran parallel stories in the Old and New Testaments from Judaism and Christianity. Adam, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus appear as prophets in the Koran. The religious duties of Islam are taught through five pillars. They are confession of faith in one God and Mohammed as his apostle, prayer five times a day, giving of a proportion of one's income, fasting from food and drink during the daylight hours throughout Ramadan (the ninth month of the year), and pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in a lifetime.

(7) In Islam, there is traditionally no separation between the unsacred and the sacred. There is no priesthood and no day reserved for worship. Instead, the law offers direction and an ideal of life. In the Islamic perspective, people sin by distraction or neglect, not by a rejection of God. The daily observances of Islam serve as reminders of the relationship between everyday life and Allah.

What is this passage mainly about?

- ☐ A. how the religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam are related
- ☐ B. a visit from the angel Gabriel who revealed the Koran to Mohammed
- ☐ C. the migration of early Muslims from Mecca to Medina
- ☐ D. the early beginnings of Islam and the founder, Mohammed

**Question 5 .**

Dear Mayor Applebee,

I have been a proud citizen of the town of Fairview all of my life, and I currently attend Fairview North High School. My family has owned land in this area for generations, and we have always taken pride in being active in the local community. I felt compelled to write a letter to you about an issue that should concern all citizens of our lovely town. On March 31st, the Department of Transportation plans to tear down the lovely Willshire Estate to make way for highway expansion. The Willshires were among the first families to settle in Fairview, and their home has been the site of many historic events. In fact, the signing of our town charter was conducted in their parlor. The destruction of this historic landmark should not be allowed—especially when there are so many wonderful things that could be done with the estate.

I would like for you to prevent the destruction of the Willshire Estate. Instead of becoming a meaningless addition to the highway, this lovely piece of property could be turned into a museum. The Willshires were always concerned with advancing the rights of African Americans, and I believe they would be delighted to see their home turned into a museum that honors a little-known African American inventor. Madam C.J. Walker was the first woman to become a millionaire through her own business. She was born into a poor family in 1867, and early in her life she worked as a laundress and earned less than a dollar a day. In 1905, she created and marketed a hair care line exclusively for African American women. Her money often went to support educational and charitable organizations such as the NAACP. I believe that Madame Walker's amazing life and legacy make her an excellent source for inspiring the next generation of Fairview youth. Please consider my proposal as an alternative to destroying one of our town's finest landmarks.

Sincerely,  
Rosita Sanderson

Which sentence best describes the main idea of the passage?

- ☐ A. "The Willshires were among the first families to settle in Fairview, and their home has been the site of many historic events."
- ☐ B. "Instead of becoming a meaningless addition to the highway, this lovely piece of property could be turned into a museum."
- ☐ C. "She was born into a poor family in 1867, and early in her life she worked as a laundress and earned less than a dollar a day."
- ☐ D. "My family has owned land in this area for generations, and we have always taken pride in being active in the local community."

**Question 6 .**

*adapted from the Introduction to Dreams* by Henri Bergson  
by Edwin E. Slosson

*The following passage is an introduction to the book Dreams, which was written by French philosopher Henri Bergson. Bergson was interested in the study of memory and consciousness. He won a Nobel Prize in Literature in 1927.*

Before the dawn of history, mankind was engaged in the study of dreaming. The wise man among the ancients was the interpreter of dreams. The ability to interpret successfully was the quickest road to royal favor; failure to give satisfaction in this respect led to banishment from court or death. When a scholar laboriously translates a cuneiform<sup>1</sup> tablet dug up from a Babylonian mound where it has lain buried for five thousand years or more, the chances are that it will turn out either an astrological treatise or a dream book. If the former, we look upon it with some indulgence; if the latter with pure contempt. For we know that the study of the stars, though undertaken for selfish reasons and pursued in the spirit of charlatanry, led at length to physical science, while the study of dreams has proved as unprofitable as the dreaming of

them. Out of astrology grew astronomy. Out of oneiromancy<sup>2</sup> has grown—nothing.

That at least was substantially true up to the beginning of the present century. Dream books in all languages continued to sell in cheap editions, and the interpreters of dreams made a decent living out of the poorer classes. But the psychologist rarely paid attention to dreams except incidentally in his study of imagery, association and the speed of thought. But now a change has come over the spirit of the times. The subject of the significance of dreams, so long ignored, has suddenly become a matter of energetic study and of fiery controversy the world over.

The cause of this revival of interest is the new point of view brought forward by Professor Bergson in the paper which he made accessible to the English-reading public. This is the idea that we can explore the unconscious substratum of our mentality, the storehouse of our memories, by means of dreams. This is because these memories are by no means inert, but have, as it were, a life and purpose of their own, and strive to rise into consciousness whenever they get a change, even into the semi-consciousness of a dream. To use Professor Bergson's striking metaphor, our memories are packed away under pressure like steam in a boiler and the dream is their escape valve.

Bergson's view indicates that we keep stored away somewhere all our memories, the good as well as the evil, the pleasant together with the unpleasant. There may be nightmares down cellar, as we thought as a child, but even in those days we knew how to dodge them when we went after apples; that is, take down a light and slam the door quickly on coming up.

Further, Bergson believes that dreaming is not so unlike the ordinary process of perception as had been hitherto supposed. Both use sense impressions as crude material to be molded and defined by the aid of memory images. Here, too, he set forth the idea, which he, so far as I know, was the first to formulate, that sleep is a state of disinterested, a theory which has since been adopted by several psychologists.

1. one of the earliest modes of writing
2. the study of or interpretation of dreams

**Directions: Select ALL the correct answers.**

Which **two** statements from the passage **best** illustrate the central ideas?

- ☐ For we know that the study of the stars, though undertaken for selfish reasons and pursued in the spirit of charlatanry, led at length to physical science, while the study of dreams has proved as unprofitable as the dreaming of them.
- ☐ The subject of the significance of dreams, so long ignored, has suddenly become a matter of energetic study and of fiery controversy the world over.
- ☐ To use Professor Bergson's striking metaphor, our memories are packed away under pressure like steam in a boiler and the dream is their escape valve.
- ☐ But the psychologist rarely paid attention to dreams except incidentally in his study of imagery, association and the speed of thought.
- ☐ Before the dawn of history mankind was engaged in the study of dreaming.

**Question 7 .**

(1) Mohammed was the founder of Islam. He was born in Mecca in west central Arabia around AD 570. He married Khadija, a wealthy widow, at 25. They had six daughters and lived together for 24 years.

(2) At 40, Mohammed was in a cave on Mount Hira outside Mecca when he had visions of the angel Gabriel. Gabriel called him to recite in the name of Allah, God the Creator. Allah means God in Arabic. He received revelations that became the first parts of the Koran, which means "recitation" in Arabic.

(3) Mohammed shared the revelations with a group of friends who shared his belief in the unity of God. As the group grew larger, they were persecuted. Some took refuge in Christian Ethiopia. They were called Muslims, which means "one who surrenders." In Islam, Muslims surrender or submit to the one God.

(4) In 622, Mohammed and his followers moved from Mecca to Yathrib, a town 120 miles north of Mecca. Yathrib was renamed Medina, which means "city" of the prophet. The Muslim year is dated from this migration, called a hegira.

(5) Mohammed was believed to be illiterate and passed the Koran to his followers through scribes. These scribes wrote the Koran from Mohammed's recitation and their memory of his recitation. The final version of the Koran was completed 20 years after his death. It was written in Arabic and contained 112 suras (chapters). The first sura is always recited in daily prayers.

(6) The Koran teaches faith in God, the coming judgment, and the ideas of heaven and hell. It also explains the duties in marriage, family, and social life. Many stories in the Koran parallel stories in the Old and New Testaments from Judaism and Christianity. Adam, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus appear as prophets in the Koran. The religious duties of Islam are taught through five pillars. They are confession of faith in one God and Mohammed as his apostle, prayer five times a day, giving of a proportion of one's income, fasting from food and drink during the daylight hours throughout Ramadan (the ninth month of the year), and pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in a lifetime.

(7) In Islam, there is traditionally no separation between the unsacred and the sacred. There is no priesthood and no day reserved for worship. Instead, the law offers direction and an ideal of life. In the Islamic perspective, people sin by distraction or neglect, not by a rejection of God. The daily observances of Islam serve as reminders of the relationship between everyday life and Allah.

Paragraph 7 mainly says

- ☐ A. people are going to sin so they need to be reminded to attend services at the mosque every week.
- ☐ B. Islamic law applies to everyone, even if they are Muslims, Jews, Christians or Buddhists.
- ☐ C. people who sin or reject God will be severely punished by fellow Muslims during Ramadan.
- ☐ D. there is no need for priests, a special day for worship, or separation of church and state.

**Question 8 .**

When he was sixteen years old, Robin Lee Graham decided to sail around the world by himself. In the summer of 1965, Graham set sail from his home port of Los Angeles in his 24-foot fiberglass sloop named *Dove*. He was accompanied only by his two cats, Joliette and Susette. During his trip, Graham kept an audio diary, and he often recorded his feelings of loneliness during calm weather and anxiety when he faced squalls and other dangerous weather situations. He successfully sailed across the Pacific Ocean, and he visited many Pacific islands, including the Solomon Islands, American Samoa, and the Yasawa Islands. During his journey, Robin Lee Graham met fellow world traveler Patti Ratterree, and the two wed in Australia. They traveled together on *Dove* across most of the Indian Ocean. After returning to Los Angeles almost five years after he set sail, Graham co-wrote a book named *Dove*. The story of his journey was also made into a movie of the same name.

Which sentence best expresses the main idea of the passage?

- ☐ A. Robin Lee Graham co-wrote a book named after his ship, *Dove*.
- ☐ B. Robin Lee Graham and his wife, Patti, were married in Australia.
- ☐ C. Robin Lee Graham was often lonely and anxious during his long trip.
- ☐ D. Robin Lee Graham sailed around the world in a ship named *Dove*.

**Question 9 .**

Parkour is thought by many to be an extreme sport—especially when people see parkour practitioners (known as traceurs) climbing walls and jumping off buildings. However, it might be better to characterize parkour as a radical art form involving both the body and mind. Although this art form can be extreme, it does not involve the teamwork, structure, or competitiveness of organized sports. In addition, traceurs can be difficult to recognize, as they do not wear matching uniforms to identify themselves. Parkour and its practitioners are in a category of their own.

The ultimate goal of parkour is for a person to mentally and physically prepare to overcome any obstacle he or she may face. Traceurs, who pit their bodies against various types of obstacles, often risk physical injury, and safety is an important concern. While practicing parkour, a traceur's route may take him or her over a large boulder, across several rooftops, or across the top of a wall. As dangerous as these acts may sound, most traceurs do attempt to learn the safest way to move, jump, and land. Parkour has become a popular art form in urban settings around the world due to the many obstacles located around the cityscape. This has led to concerns for traceurs' safety, as well as worries about traceurs trespassing on private property and attempting to jump from high buildings. As in most physical activities, safety for oneself and others should be paramount in the practice of parkour.

Which sentence from the passage best expresses the main idea of paragraph 2?

- ☐ A. "Traceurs, who pit their bodies against various types of obstacles, often risk physical injury, and safety is an important concern."
- ☐ B. "The ultimate goal of parkour is for a person to mentally and physically prepare to overcome any obstacle he or she may face."
- ☐ C. "Parkour has become a popular art form in many cities around the world due to the many obstacles located around urban settings."
- ☐ D. "While practicing parkour, a traceur's route may take him or her over a large boulder, across several rooftops, or across the top of a wall."

**Question 10 .**

(1) Known to the world as Mark Twain, Samuel Langhorne Clemens was born on November 30, 1835, in Florida, Missouri. Twain is considered one of the premier writers in American history, as well as one of the most influential writers to have ever lived. Twain's manner of wit and humor characterized all of his writing. Equally impressive was his keen sense of human nature.

(2) Satire and humor typify much of Twain's writings. His work includes many different styles, including essays, novels, short stories, and literary criticism. Works for which Twain is best known draw from his boyhood world on the Mississippi River. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, published in 1876, and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, published in 1884, are two enduring classics of American literature. Twain also wrote popular travelogues, including *The Innocents Abroad*. This particular work told of his travels to Europe and the Holy Land.

(3) Twain's later writings were darker and more satirical. As he aged, he became more critical of politics, society, and people in general. Of these, *Pudd'nhead Wilson*, *The Mysterious Stranger*, and *Letters from the Earth* are exceptionally fault-finding. Some attribute his sarcastic and scolding manner in these works to the personal tragedies and financial failure he suffered during his later life.

(4) Scholars and readers alike will continue to find pleasure in Twain's work. His influence on American literature is enormous and continues to this day. Perhaps William Faulkner placed upon him the greatest honor by calling him the "father of American literature."

Which of the following most completely states the main idea of the passage?

- ☐ A. Mark Twain was an extremely productive and influential writer of humor and satire.
- ☐ B. The life of Mark Twain was marked by good and bad periods that influenced his writing.
- ☐ C. The life of Mark Twain is remembered fondly by his readers as well as his critics.
- ☐ D. Mark Twain wrote many stories and essays about his impressions of life in the South.



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Which statement **best** expresses the main idea of paragraph 2?

- ☐ A. "*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, published in 1876, and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, published in 1884, are two enduring classics of American literature."
- ☐ B. "Twain also wrote popular travelogues, including *The Innocents Abroad*."
- ☐ C. "His work includes many different styles, including essays, novels, short stories, and literary criticism."
- ☐ D. "Works for which Twain is best known draw from his boyhood world on the Mississippi River."

**Question 12 .**

Parkour is thought by many to be an extreme sport—especially when people see parkour practitioners (known as traceurs) climbing walls and jumping off buildings. However, it might be better to characterize parkour as a radical art form involving both the body and mind. Although this art form can be extreme, it does not involve the teamwork, structure, or competitiveness of organized sports. In addition, traceurs can be difficult to recognize, as they do not wear matching uniforms to identify themselves. Parkour and its practitioners are in a category of their own.

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Which sentence best states the main idea of the first paragraph?

- ☐ A. Parkour does not have many practitioners around the world.
- ☐ B. Parkour is only dangerous when traceurs are not careful.
- ☐ C. Parkour does not have much in common with extreme sports.
- ☐ D. Parkour is a reinvention of the classic form of extreme sports.

**Question 13 .**

Dear Mayor Applebee,

I have been a proud citizen of the town of Fairview all of my life, and I currently attend Fairview North High School. My family has owned land in this area for generations, and we have always taken pride in being active in the local community. I felt compelled to write a letter to you about an issue that should concern all citizens of our lovely town. On March 31st, the Department of Transportation plans to tear down the lovely Willshire Estate to make way for highway expansion. The Willshires were among the first families to settle in Fairview, and their home has been the site of many historic events. In fact, the signing of our town charter was conducted in their parlor. The destruction of this historic landmark should not be allowed—especially when there are so many wonderful things that could be done with the estate.

I would like for you to prevent the destruction of the Willshire Estate. Instead of becoming a meaningless addition to the highway, this lovely piece of property could be turned into a museum. The Willshires were always concerned with advancing the rights of African Americans, and I believe they would be delighted to see their home turned into a museum that honors a little-known African American inventor. Madam C.J. Walker was the first woman to become a millionaire through her own business. She was born into a poor family in 1867, and early in her life she worked as a laundress and earned less than a dollar a day. In 1905, she created and marketed a hair care line exclusively for African American women. Her money often went to support educational and charitable organizations such as the NAACP. I believe that Madame Walker's amazing life and legacy make her an excellent source for inspiring the next generation of Fairview youth. Please consider my proposal as an alternative to destroying one of our town's finest landmarks.

Sincerely,  
Rosita Sanderson

What is the main idea of the first paragraph of this letter?

- ☐ A. The Willshire family was interested in African American history.
- ☐ B. The Fairview town charter was signed in the Willshire Estate parlor.
- ☐ C. The Department of Transportation plans to expand the highway.
- ☐ D. The Willshire Estate is scheduled to be torn down on March 31st.

**Question 14 .****Aimee Mullins**

by J. Robbins

Model, actress, and athlete Aimee Mullins was born with a condition called fibular hemimelia. The condition, which caused her to be born without shin (fibula) bones, required her to undergo an amputation of both legs below the knees at the age of one. Aimee, wearing artificial legs, participated in athletics against her non-disabled peers, and it wasn't until high school that she entered her first track meet for people with physical disabilities. At her first track event, she not only beat the other runners, most of whom had less severe amputations, but she also set a national record.

Aimee continued to compete in athletics as she graduated high school and entered Georgetown University. While attending college, she became the first athlete with a disability to enter NCAA Division I track and field events. Her next challenge was the Paralympic Games, an athletic competition that allows people with disabilities to compete in events similar to those in the Olympic Games. In 1996, Aimee accomplished her goal of setting records in the 100 and 200-meter dash and in the long jump at the Paralympic Games in Georgia.

Athletics is not the only area in which Aimee Mullins excels. She earned an internship with the prestigious Georgetown University Foreign Affairs program. After graduating with degrees in both history and diplomacy, Aimee starred in several television programs, movies, and runway fashion shows. She is also a motivational speaker who donates her time and efforts to helping people with disabilities participate fully in life.

Which sentence best expresses the main idea of paragraph 3?

- ☐ A. Aimee Mullins has decided to leave athletics and become a volunteer with many charitable organizations.
- ☐ B. Acting, modeling, and community service are other areas in which Aimee Mullins has found success.
- ☐ C. Acting in television shows and movies has allowed Aimee Mullins to become an advocate for change.
- ☐ D. Many people do not know that Aimee Mullins has also participated in runway fashion shows in France.

**Question 15 .**

Anthropology is the study of human life. Anthropologists are scientists. They examine humankind throughout the world and throughout time. They study the origin, the behavior, the features, and the culture of humanity. Stated another way, anthropologists seek to understand the elements that define us as human.

Anthropology is divided into several areas of study. For example, physical anthropology is the study of human biology. This field examines the physical makeup and evolution of the human species. Cultural anthropology is the study of culture and human behavior. This field examines how humans live and work together in groups. Another branch of anthropology is archeology. Archeologists study ancient civilizations through the recovery and analysis of artifacts.

Which of the following **best** states the main idea of paragraph 2?

- ☐ A. Anthropology contains specialized fields of human study.
- ☐ B. Anthropologists study past and present human life.
- ☐ C. Anthropology involves the scientific study of human life.
- ☐ D. Anthropologists are interested in all areas of human life.

**Question 16 .**

Dear Editor:

My name is Elisa Rodriguez, and I have enjoyed your newspaper for many years. It is no surprise to me that *The Daily Herald* is the bestselling newspaper in our city. I have especially enjoyed your series on technology. However, there is one issue that your paper has not addressed yet.

Television stations are switching to digital broadcast signals this year. This means that those of us who have used television antennas in the past can no longer use them. In fact, I have learned that I will no longer be able to use my antenna at all. Instead, I must purchase a digital converter box, subscribe to a cable or broadband service, or buy a digital television.

I think the new digital television service is an issue that should be addressed by *The Daily Herald*. I have already had to explain the issue to many of my friends and family members. The community that daily enjoys your newspaper would benefit greatly from learning about the new digital television service during your technology series. Thank you for reading my letter.

Sincerely,  
Elisa Rodriguez

What is the main idea of this letter?

- ☐ A. *The Daily Herald* should cover more technology related issues.
- ☐ B. *The Daily Herald* should be the bestselling newspaper in the state.
- ☐ C. *The Daily Herald* should print information about digital television.
- ☐ D. *The Daily Herald* should supply new televisions for local readers.

**Question 17 .**

With its wide variety of styles and tastes, pasta is considered one of America's favorite foods. In the year 2000 alone, Americans consumed 1.3 million pounds of pasta. That's enough to wrap the world in pasta 9 times! A trip to the grocery store will reveal the amazing variety that pasta offers.

Pasta comes in many different shapes and sizes. Some are string shaped like spaghetti and vermicelli. Others are ribbon shaped like fettuccine and linguine. There are short tubes like elbow macaroni and penne, but there are also unique shapes like farfalle and rotelle. Other types include large sheets like lasagna and stuffed pasta like ravioli, manicotti, and tortellini.

The shape and characteristics of each variety's surface makes it better suited for certain kinds of sauce. Fettuccine goes best with alfredo sauce, and spaghetti goes best with tomato sauce. Lasagna wouldn't be lasagna without those characteristically large sheets, and macaroni is a must in macaroni and cheese.

This passage is mainly about

- ☐ A. the world popularity of pasta.
- ☐ B. the different types of sauces.
- ☐ C. the variety that pasta offers.
- ☐ D. why people love to eat pasta.

**Question 18 .**

The most important festival in China is Chinese New Year. The celebration will begin with a family reunion dinner on Chinese New Year's Eve. The dinner is full of symbolic meaning. A whole chicken symbolizes blessings for the family. Vegetables are eaten slowly to signify long lives. The fish on the table cannot be eaten and carries the meaning of abundance. Chinese dumplings have the shape of the ancient Chinese silver ingots, symbolizing wealth. Rice cake means that each year is better than the last. Noodles remain uncut, also symbolizing long lives.

Which statement supports the idea that the family reunion dinner is important?

- ☐ A. The family dinner is full of symbolic meaning.
- ☐ B. Noodles and vegetables signify long lives.
- ☐ C. Chinese New Year is an important holiday.
- ☐ D. A lot of food is served at the family dinner.

**Question 19 .**

**Directions: Select the correct text in the passage.**

Which sentence **best** shows how the writers of the Beat Generation worked as artists?

**Jack Kerouac: A Literary Jazz Artist**

by Alisa Scerrato

Jack Kerouac, born in 1922 in Lowell, Massachusetts, was a groundbreaking writer. He invented a new style of prose, which is often referred to as "automatic writing" or "spontaneous prose." His works were heavily autobiographical; he captured life as he saw it and applied it to paper as if he were composing a jazz piece. The jazz style of music, which he was heavily inspired by, involves a variety of rhythms and unexpected interruptions of flow. Jack adapted this style and applied it to writing literature, hence the term "spontaneous prose." Jack broke grammar rules and created new ones, and due to his unconventional writing style, he was not accepted as a serious writer by critics and publishers for several years. Eventually, his style caught on and helped influence a generation of writers who belonged to what was called the Beat Generation. **The term "beat" had many different connotations at the time, from "beat down" to "tired," mainly referring to their impression of society at the time.** The term was even used as an abbreviation for "beatnik." However, members of this generation did not accept or use the term Beat Generation to define themselves. **The main characteristic of this lifestyle was to live in the moment and write words down on paper spontaneously in order to capture experiences as they happened.**

**Kerouac was an educated man with a zest for life, and he eventually took to the road to experience a country that he believed was much more interesting than the suburbia that was becoming the norm in America.** He was fascinated by Neal Cassady, a charismatic character, who was considered a genius and icon during the 1950s and 1960s. They took several cross-country road trips together in the 1950s, and these adventures became the basis for Kerouac's most acclaimed work, *On the Road*. **He wrote about his wild experiences and the people he met and presented the manuscript to his editor on a single roll of paper.** The novel was initially rejected but then published in 1957. At the time, people thought this new style of Beat writing was simply a fad. However, Kerouac proved them wrong, and he continued to write and attain respect in the literary world. He published other novels such as *The Dharma Bums*, *Big Sur*, and *The Subterraneans*, just to name a few. Jack Kerouac died in 1969 at age 47, but his legacy lives on.

**Question 20 .**

(1) The history of Judaism goes back almost 3500 years. Early Hebrews were nomads. Traditionally, Abraham is supposed to have migrated from Mesopotamia into Canaan, which is present-day Palestine. His grandson Jacob was renamed Israel, which means “striver with God.” The 12 biblical tribes of Israel descended from Jacob’s 12 sons. The Bible explains how Jacob’s sons sold their brother Joseph into slavery in Egypt. Joseph found favor with the Egyptians and lived a prosperous life as an Egyptian official. When Canaan experienced famine, Joseph’s father and brothers had to appeal to Joseph for assistance. Thanks to Joseph, they lived well in Egypt for many years. Later, the Egyptians enslaved their descendents.

(2) Moses led his people out of Egypt. The name Moses is Egyptian. Legend tells of his youth at the Egyptian royal court. It is debatable whether he was completely of Hebrew origin. Moses was told by God in a vision to deliver the Israelites from Egypt and lead them into Canaan.

(3) No one knows the exact date of the Exodus, or the flight from Egypt, but some say it happened in the 13th century BC. The Israelites escaped across the northern end of the Red Sea into the desert and went to Mount Sinai. The Bible says that God revealed the Ten Commandments, also known as the Decalogue and the Law, to Moses on Sinai. The Law was inscribed on stone and kept in a chest called the Ark of the Covenant. The Torah, known as the Pentateuch (the five books), comprises the biblical books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. The Pentateuch is attributed to Moses. The books suggest an agricultural community as well as a nomadic existence. They also contain rules and principles for daily life.

(4) It was at this time that the Israelites (or Hebrews) became a religious sect. Over hundreds of years the 12 tribes of Israel scattered. The small kingdom of Judah was the only one to survive until 586 BC, when it fell to Babylonia. Almost 50 years later, the leaders of Judah returned. This is when the terms Judaism and Jews were first used to identify Hebrews from Judah.

(5) The ancient Hebrew prophets changed and shaped Judaism. They also made huge contributions to many generations that followed. They established the tradition of the worship of one God, also called monotheism. These men also taught their people how to live by the Laws of Moses. Many ancient traditions are still followed today by Jews around the world.

Which statement supports the idea that Moses was chosen by God to help the Israelites?

- ☐ A. God told Moses in a vision to lead the Israelites out of Egyptian slavery.
- ☐ B. Joseph and his brother's descendents later were enslaved by the Egyptians.
- ☐ C. The Ten Commandments were carved on stone and put in a chest.
- ☐ D. Moses may have been partially of Hebrew origin and partially Egyptian.

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# Answers

1. --
2. --
3. A
4. D
5. B
6. --
7. D
8. D
9. A
10. A
11. C
12. C
13. D
14. B
15. A
16. C
17. C
18. A
19. --
20. A



# Explanations

1. The sentence "The building abounds in architectural sculpture, wood carving, leaded glass, mosaics, artistic metal work, and many other works of art, including over 200 stained glass windows" best shows that the National Cathedral is an architectural marvel. In the passage, the writer describes how the cathedral was constructed, including all the skilled craftsmanship and artistic work that went into creating the building.
2. The central idea of this passage focuses on the function and features of tidal power. Throughout most of the passage, the author supports tidal power as a beneficial renewable energy source. However, the sentence "Not every coastal region experiences tides large and powerful enough to warrant building tidal turbines" describes a limitation of tidal power as an energy source. This sentence shows tidal power's application is limited to few and specific regions.
3. The main idea of this selection is that the Society of Woman Geographers is a professional organization. The other answer choices give details from the passage that support the main idea.
4. We learn about Mohammed, as well as how Islam got its start. For example, in paragraph 1 we see that he married when he was 25, had six daughters and was happily married for 24 years. In paragraph 2, we are told about a vision of the angel Gabriel when Mohammed was 40. It was this vision that led to the Koran and what became Islam. In paragraph 3 we learn that Mohammed shared his visions with a group of friends, who started meeting together to pray to Allah. From this small group the teachings began to spread.
5. The author of this letter is writing to the mayor to request that a historic piece of property be saved and turned into a museum. The sentence, "Instead of becoming a meaningless addition to the highway, this lovely piece of property could be used as a museum," best expresses the main idea of the letter.
6. The two statements that best convey the central ideas of the passage are "Before the dawn of history mankind was engaged in the study of dreaming" and "The subject of the significance of dreams, so long ignored, has suddenly become a matter of energetic study and of fiery controversy the world over." The first sentence acknowledges that there is a long history to the study of dreams, and the second sentence notes the rise of the study of dreams.
7. The last sentence in this paragraph sums up the Islamic perspective. It says that simply practicing the daily observances—for example, praying five times a day to God—reminds followers of their relationship with God. This act of daily prayer does away with the need to set aside a specific day for worship, since every day is a day of worship. The law—the Koran—gives Muslims direction, not priests. Consequently in Islam there is no need for priests.
8. The main idea of this passage is that Robin Lee Graham sailed around the world in a ship named *Dove*.
9. The second paragraph of this passage discusses safety issues in the practice of parkour. The main idea of paragraph 2 is best expressed by the sentence, "Traceurs, who pit their bodies against various types of obstacles, often risk physical injury, and safety is an important concern."
10. The main idea of the passage as a whole is that Mark Twain was an extremely productive and influential writer of humor and satire. Each paragraph of the passage discusses these ideas to some degree.
11. The second paragraph of the passage deals primarily with the diversity and range of Twain's work. As the paragraph states, he wrote many different works in many different genres, which are styles or techniques of writing. The paragraph provides several examples of Twain's range of work.

12. The first paragraph gives several ways in which parkour is different from extreme sports. "Parkour does not have much in common with extreme sports" is the best way to state the central idea of paragraph 1.
13. In the first paragraph of this letter, the author informs the mayor that the Willshire Estate is scheduled to be torn down on March 31st. The estate's destruction is the main idea of the first paragraph of the letter.
14. The final paragraph of this passage discusses the various ways in which Aimee Mullins has found success outside of athletics. The paragraph mentions acting, modeling, and volunteering with community service organizations.
15. Paragraph 2 provides more detail about the study of anthropology than the first paragraph. In contrast, paragraph 1 provides a general understanding of the subject. In paragraph 2, the author mentions a few of the specialized fields. Also provided is a brief description of each. Therefore, the main idea of this paragraph is that anthropology contains specialized fields of human study.
16. The main idea of this letter is stated in the first sentence of the third paragraph. The author, Elisa Rodriguez, states, "I think the new digital television service should be addressed by *The Daily Herald*."
17. The passage is mainly about the great variety that pasta offers. Each sentence in the passage relates to this main idea. The passage mentions pasta's popularity in the U.S. and the different types of sauces that belong with them, but both of these ideas are the effects of pasta's wide variety of styles and tastes.
18. Supporting statements help to explain or give details about important ideas in the passage. This passage talks about the importance of the family reunion dinner on Chinese New Year's Eve. It explains that all of the food that is present at the dinner has special symbolic meaning for the family members. That is a good supporting detail that helps explain why the dinner is so important for the family.
19. The sentence "The main characteristic of this lifestyle was to live in the moment and write words down on paper spontaneously in order to capture experiences as they happened" best describes how the writers of the Beat Generation worked as artists because it explains their approach to writing.
20. One important idea in this passage is that Jewish tradition says that Moses was chosen by God to help the Israelites. One detail that supports this idea is that Moses received a vision from God in which he was told to lead the Israelites out of Egypt and into Canaan. Moses also received the Law from God, which the Israelites followed.