

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the question(s) that follow.

Section 1

A Tormented Genius

"As for me, I am rather often uneasy in my mind, because I think that my life has not been calm enough; all those bitter disappointments, adversities, changes keep me from developing fully and naturally in my artistic career," wrote Vincent van Gogh on June 16, 1889.

Van Gogh was a tormented, genius artist. Born on March 30, 1853, he suffered much in his lifetime. Some historians say that the reason Van Gogh was such a depressed man was because his mother bore a child named Vincent who died at birth exactly one year before Vincent, the artist, was born. Perhaps because of this family tragedy, he always felt that he was an inadequate substitute for the first Vincent his mother lost. However, this is a theory that has yet to be supported with historical evidence.

Vincent van Gogh loved English life. In fact, he spent many years as an art dealer in England and loved English art and literature. This would later influence his career as an artist. In the 1870s, Van Gogh taught at various boys' schools and studied the Bible. Even while teaching, he visited art galleries. He made a determined effort to become a minister, but he was not a gifted preacher, and he failed in his studies of Greek, Latin, and mathematics. Though he was dismissed by the Church, he still ministered to the poor, to the point of giving away all his own provisions to the needy.

It was a pivotal moment in his life when he walked seventy kilometers to visit the French painter, Jules Breton. Shyness overcame him, and he never knocked at the painter's door, but from that point on, Van Gogh began to sketch. While studying art, Van Gogh lived in poverty and blundered through a series of failed relationships.

In 1883, Van Gogh moved from sketching and drawing to painting with oil paints. He wandered through the Netherlands, painting the landscape and the people. He enjoyed painting peasant life because he always identified with poor laborers. During this period in his life, Van Gogh painted some of the works for which he would later be universally known.

In the late 1880s, Van Gogh suffered from mental illness and broken friendships, but at this low point, he began to achieve fame. Ironically, the fame Van Gogh earned for such familiar masterpieces as "Starry Night" did not come in his lifetime. His life ended on July 29, 1890. His coffin was covered with yellow dahlias and sunflowers because his favorite color was yellow. He had often painted sunflowers. Maybe their brightness cheered his unhappy heart. If only he'd known that he would one day be a household name and that his paintings would be favored and collected by millions, his outlook wouldn't have been so bleak. Vincent van Gogh deserves a great deal of credit for his perseverance and his devotion to art in the face of mental anguish and poverty.

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the question(s) that follow.

- 1** Which option correctly identifies the sequence of events in "A Tormented Genius"?
- A. Vincent van Gogh ministered to the poor, suffered from mental illness, painted "Starry Night," and was dismissed by the Church.
 - B. Vincent van Gogh suffered a family tragedy, studied English, art and literature, started oil painting, and taught at various boys' schools.
 - C. Vincent van Gogh spent years as an art dealer, taught at various boys' schools, visited Jules Breton, and wandered the Netherlands painting.
 - D. Vincent van Gogh studied the Bible, tried to become a minister, acquired fame for his art, and met French painter, Jules Breton.

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

- 2 A student is creating a presentation overviewing Judy Blume's life and works for Author Appreciation Week at her school. She found a print source that is credible and has accurate information. Read Source 1 and the directions that follow.

Source 1: Biography of Judy Blume

Judy Blume, who is now married with children and a grandchild, has written numerous books for both adults and children. Her books, now translated into 32 languages, are often best sellers. Blume has been writing since she was a child and has seen over 82 million copies of her books sold in her lifetime. She has received many awards and honors for her books and also donates her time and talents to many volunteer organizations and charitable institutions.

The student needs to find additional sources that contain similar, accurate information about her topic. Choose *two* sources that *most likely* contain information that accurately supports the information in Source 1.

- A. a printed list of the works of Blume's top competitors in the area of children's literature
- B. a website called blumesvolunteerwork.org that outlines Blume's volunteer work specifically
- C. a website called notblume.org that documents reasons that people do not like to read Judy Blume's works
- D. a printed magazine article that overviews the differences between current and past children's literature
- E. a printed manuscript of an interview with Blume's next-door neighbor about Blume's behavior
- F. a website called blumesbooks.org that lists each of her books, and explains what events, experiences, or people from her life inspired her to write each one

- 3 Which of the following is an example of plagiarism?

- A. Turning in someone else's work as your own.
- B. Failing to put a quotation in quotation marks.
- C. Using someone else's ideas without giving him or her credit.
- D. All of the above

- 4 Which of the following is a good practice to follow for the content of your speech?

- A. A speech should have ten to fifteen separate topics, which will keep the audience engaged.
- B. A speech should include many topics that are somewhat related to the main idea, but do not contribute to the coherent argument.
- C. A speech should normally have no more than five points that relate coherently to each other.
- D. A speech should have no more than two points so that the audience does not lose interest.

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

- 5 A student is writing a report about klipspringers for her life science class. Read both sources and the directions that follow.

Source 1: Encyclopedia entry on klipspringers

The klipspringer, whose name means "rock jumper," is mostly found in Eastern and Southern Africa. This small antelope grows to only 2.5 to 3 feet long, 2 feet tall, and between 20–30 pounds. It is a hearty, adaptable eater and eats various green plants. It gets all the water it needs from these plants as well. Klipspringers mate monogamously for life and have one offspring each year on average. They are quick and agile, so they outrun and outjump many of their potential predators.

Source 2: Article on the habitat of klipspringers

Klipspringers, or "goats of the rocks" as local people call them, survive best where there are steep rocks. While they prefer mountains, they can also survive in river gorges or rocky areas within plains or forests. Their bodies have adapted to living in such conditions, as these small animals have two specialized rubbery hooves on each foot to help them balance on small rock outcroppings in the mountains. They also have strong legs to maintain balance and jump well.

The student took notes about information in the sources. Which note correctly paraphrases information from *both* sources?

- A. Klipspringers, that are locally known as "goats of the rocks," have bodies that are adapted to living in steep conditions.
- B. Klipspringers mate for life, as they have one offspring per year on average.
- C. Klipspringers prefer mountains, but they can also survive in river gorges or rocky areas and are mostly found in the steep, rocky terrain of Eastern and Southern Africa.
- D. Klipspringers can run or jump away from predators effectively and nimbly with their specialized rubbery hooves and strong legs.

- 6 Which of the following ideas provides additional support for the main idea below?

Exposure to music at a young age helps students understand mathematics.

- A. Many schools have taken out musical programs, cheating children out of their musical learning experience.
- B. To understand music, one needs to work with fractions, as in quarter and eighth notes.
- C. The study of music is much easier if one begins to learn it as a child.
- D. Children enjoy music because it gives them a chance to sing and dance.

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

- 7 A student is writing a research report about the sounds of howler monkeys for her life science class. The student wants to revise her report to include more significant supporting evidence for her topic. Read the draft of the report and the additional source she found and complete the task that follows.

Draft:

A black howler monkey earns its name every morning and evening when it gathers with its group and "howls" with loud, deep calls that can be heard up to three miles away through dense forests. These monkeys, which live in the rainforests of Latin America, are well known by other species as well as humans because of their consistent and extremely loud howl.

Howler monkeys, which eat mostly leaves and live in the tops of trees, need to defend their territory to ensure they have enough leaves to feed their groups. Because of this, they howl each morning and each night to see where other howler monkeys are in the area. One group howls and the other responds, signaling to one another where they are. This gives the howler monkeys a chance to stake their territory to protect their food.

Additional Source: Student notes from an encyclopedia article on howler monkeys

- Male howler monkeys are black, but females are brown.
- Howler monkeys can live up to 20 years of age in the wild.
- Both sexes of howler monkey howl, but the males' voices are louder and deeper.
- Several female howler monkeys care for each howler monkey offspring, a practice called "all mothering."
- Tamarins, spider monkeys, capuchin monkeys, and marmosets all live in the same rainforests that howler monkeys do.
- When howler monkeys are in captivity, they howl less often than in the wild because they feel no need to defend their territory.

Choose **two** sentences from the source that provide the best evidence to support the main idea of the report.

- A. Male howler monkeys are black, but females are brown.
- B. Howler monkeys can live up to 20 years of age in the wild.
- C. Both sexes of howler monkey howl, but the males' voices are louder and deeper.
- D. Several female howler monkeys care for each howler monkey offspring, a practice called "all mothering."
- E. Tamarins, spider monkeys, capuchin monkeys, and marmosets all live in the same rainforests that howler monkeys do.
- F. When howler monkeys are in captivity, they howl less often than in the wild because they feel no need to defend their territory.

- 8 A national health magazine has asked for student writers to contribute to its latest issue on the importance of exercise for young people. Explain, in a detailed paragraph, the benefits of exercise for a young person.

Remember that your audience consists of professional adults and potentially of national readers.

Make sure your paragraph:

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

- **Is organized, including a thesis, appropriate transitions, and a concluding sentence**
- **Consists of a logical presentation of ideas**
- **Contains details about the benefits of exercise for young people**
- **Is formal, fitting the audience and purpose of this writing situation**
- **Does not use slang, contractions, or informal vocabulary**