

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

- 1** A student is writing an argumentative piece for his debate class on why high school students should be allowed to choose all of their classes. Read the paragraphs from the student's argument and the question that follows.

As they stand, high school students' schedules are overwhelming. Because they are forced to take too many classes, these students often struggle overall. When forced to take such varying subjects like literature, science, history, physical education, art, music, and mathematics, students often simply cannot retain all the information thrown at them. In addition, their schedules are so full of required classes that they do not have room for elective classes that they want to take.

I propose, instead of this forced schedule, that students be allowed to choose every class they take. Instead of suffering through mathematics, a student who knows she wants to be a journalist can focus on taking more literature and writing courses. Likewise, a student who knows he wants to be a banker can take more mathematics and fewer literature or science classes. Making all classes optional would maximize student interest and minimize student burnout.

The student found more information. Which piece of evidence supports the student's claim in his argumentative piece?

- A. Many elementary schools also require students to take mathematics each year.
- B. In general, high school students earn higher grades in elective classes than in required classes.
- C. Over half of all high school students attend at least some form of higher education after graduation.
- D. High schools in other countries also have a list of required classes for all students to take before graduation.

- 2** 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.

- 3** Read the following claim from an argumentative essay.

Even though it would cause school to end much later in the day, the school day should be amended to start at 9:00 instead of 7:35 so that students could be more awake, alert, and ready to learn.

Explain what type of sources would provide the most credible evidence for the claim presented in the excerpt above.

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

- 4 Read the following excerpt of an argumentative essay.

The Ideal Destination: New York City

It is important to have clear expectations and goals when deciding on where to go for vacation. The East Coast offers many historic and interesting locations that draw a large amount of tourists every year. The home of The White House and the Smithsonian Museums, Washington D.C., is a great place that everyone should visit. On the other hand, there are also locations that offer both a historical experience and an exciting one. New York City has attractions that young and old can appreciate such as Times Square and the Statue of Liberty. There are also ways to have fun in Washington D.C., such as taking a bicycle tour through the city or flying a kite on the lawn of the Washington Monument. It can be very difficult to find the right vacation destination.

Rewrite the paragraph above to make the claim clear.