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**МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ И НАУКИ РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ**

Государственное образовательное учреждение

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# Методические указания по английскому языку на поисковое чтение для студентов 2 курса всех специальностей

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Предназначены для студентов 2 курса всех специальностей.

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## Text 1

Canada is a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary system of government modeled after that of Great Britain. The official head of state in Canada is Queen Elizabeth II of Britain, who is also Queen of Canada. The governor-general is the queen's personal representative in Canada and the official head of the Canadian parliament, although with very limited powers.

The federal parliament in Canada consists of the House of Commons and the Senate. The actual head of government is the prime minister, who is responsible for choosing a cabinet. The system is referred to as responsible government, which means that cabinet members sit in the parliament and are directly responsible to it, holding power only as long as a majority of the House of Commons shows confidence by voting with them.

The Canadian Senate has 102 members, appointed by the governor-general on the advice of the prime minister. Their actual function is advisory, although they may make minor changes in bills. The actual power resides in the House of Commons, the members of which are elected directly by the voters. General elections must be held at the end of every five years, but they may be conducted whenever issues require it, and most parliaments are dissolved before the end of the five-year term. When a government loses its majority support in a general election, a change of government occurs.

**1. What does this passage mainly discuss?**
**A** - The relationship between Canada and England
**B** - The Canadian election process
**C** - The Canadian system of government
**D** - The powers of parliament
**2. When does a change of government occur in Canada?**
**A** - When the governor-general decides to appoint a new government
**B** - When the voters do not return majority support for the government in a general election
**C** - When the prime minister advises the governor-general to appoint a new government
**D** - When the House of Commons votes for a new government

**3. The underlined word "dissolved" could best be replaced by**

**A** - approved
**B** – evaluated
**C** – reorganized
**D** - dismissed

**4. The underlined word "conducted" is closest in meaning to**

**A** - elected
**B** - held
**C** - dissolved
**D** - loses

**5. The underlined word "it" refers to**

**A** – parliament
**B -** voting
**C** - government
**D** - majority

**6. Select the sentence that indicates whose responsibility it is to choose the cabinet in Canada**

**A** - The actual power resides in the House of Commons, the members of which are elected directly by the voters.
**B** - The federal parliament in Canada consists of the House of Commons and the Senate.
**C** - The system is referred to as responsible government
**D** - The actual head of government is the prime minister, who is responsible for choosing a cabinet.

**7. What does the author mean by the following statement?**

Canada is a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary system of government modeled after that of Great Britain.

**A** - Whereas Canada has a constitutional form of government. Great Britain has a parliamentary system.
**B** - Canada and Great Britain both have model systems of government.
**C** - Great Britain and Canada have very similar systems of government.
**D** - Canada's parliament has adopted Great Britain's constitution.

**8. The governor-general is described as all of the following, except for**

**A** - the official head of parliament
**B** - the head of government
**C** - the queen's representative in Canada
**D** - the official who appoints the senate

**9. It can be inferred from the passage that the voters in Canada**

**A** - choose the prime minister and the Cabinet
**B** - do not usually vote in general elections

**C** - allow their representatives in the House of Commons to vote on their behalf in general elections
**D** - determine when a change of government should occur

## Text 2

Persons sixty-five years and over already represent 13 percent of the total population in America, and by 2025 there will be 59 million elderly Americans, representing 21 percent of the population of the United States. Furthermore, the percentage of the population over age eighty-five will increase from about 1 percent currently to 5 percent in 2050. This population trend has been referred to as the graying of America.

To explain this demographic change, we must look to three factors. Fertility, mortality, and immigration in large part influence all demographic trends. The large number of children born after World War II will increase the pool of elderly between 2010 and 2030. The "baby boom" will have become the "senior boom" sixty-five years later.

Although the increase in the birth rate is the most dramatic factor, the decline in the death rate is also significant. Medical advances have influenced life expectancy. For example, whereas only 40 percent of those Americans born in 1900 had a life expectancy of sixty-five, today 80 percent are expected to reach the classic retirement age. The average male life span, now 71.4 years, is expected to increase to 73.3 by 2005. Among females, the life span is projected to increase from the current 78.3 years to 81.3 years by 2005.

In addition, immigration has contributed to the increasing number of elderly. After World War I, a massive immigration of young adults of child-bearing age occurred. Because the birth rates among this specialized population were very high, their children, now among the elderly, are a significant segment of the older population.

**1. Which of the following would be the best title for the passage?**

**A** - The Graying of America
**B** - Immigration Patterns in America
**C** - Trends in Life Expectancy
**D** - Baby Boomers

**2.** The average life expectancy for an American woman today is

**A** - 71.4 years
**B** - 73.3 years
**C** - 78.3 years
**D** - 81.3 years

**3. The underlined word "pool" refers to**

**A** - a group of people
**B** - a general direction
**C** - a negative attitude
**D** - an increase in influence

**4. The underlined word "increase" is opposite in meaning to**

**A** - decline
**B** - life expectancy
**C** - medical advances
**D** - retirement age

**5. The underlined word "their" refers to**

**A** - the birth rates
**B** - young adults
**C** - this specialized population
**D** - the elderly

**6. Choose the paragraph that explains what has influenced life expectancy.**

**A** - Although the increase in the birth rate is the most dramatic factor ...
**B** - To explain this demographic change, we must look to three ...
**C** - Persons sixty-five years and over already represent 13 percent of the total population in America ...
**D** - In addition, immigration has contributed to the increasing number of elderly ...

**7. What does the author mean by the following statement?**

Although the birth rate is the most dramatic factor, the decline in the death rate is also significant.

**A** - Both the increase in births and the decrease in deaths are significant.
**B** - The higher number of births is less significant than the decrease in deaths.
**C** - Lower birth rates and higher death rates have had dramatic results.
**D** - A significant change in the number of births has balanced the change in the death rates.

**8. The author mentions all of the following as factors that have influenced population trends, except for**

**A** - the "baby boom" after World War II
**B** - the immigration after World War 1
**C** - the improvements in health care
**D** - the decline in the birth rate among young Americans

**9. It can be inferred from the passage that the word "gray" is a reference to**

**A** - the hair color typical of older people
**B** - the last name of the person who has studied the population trends
**C** - the diversity of colors in the population that mix to make gray
**D** - the dismal outlook for the future because of population trends

## Text 3

In the United States today there are more than half a million criminals serving time in prison. Most prisoners are male high-school dropouts between the ages of 18 and 29. Even more shocking is the fact that the number and rate of imprisonment has more than doubled over the past twenty years, and the recidivism - that is, the rate for rearrest - is more than 60 percent.

Although the stated objective of most prison systems, on both federal and state levels, is to rehabilitate the inmates and reintegrate them into society, the systems themselves do not support such a goal. Prisons are usually geographically or psychologically isolated and terribly overcrowded. Even in the more enlightened prisons, only one-third of the inmates have vocational training opportunities or work release options.

If prisons are indeed to achieve the goal of rehabilitating offenders, then the prisons themselves will have to change. First, they will have to be smaller, housing no more than five hundred prisoners. Second, they will have to be built in or near population centers with community resources available for gradual reintegration into society. Finally, prison programs must be restructured to include work release and vocational and academic training that promises to carry over into the inmate's life after release. Models for such collaborative efforts between the criminal justice system and the community already exist in several hundred half-way houses throughout the country.

**1. What is the author's main point?**

**A** - Prisons must be restructured if they are to accomplish the goal of rehabilitation.

**B** - Models for community collaboration have been successful.
**C** - Most of the criminals serving time in prison are high-school dropouts.
**D** - The criminal justice system must establish a better goal.

**2. According to the author, how many prisoners are offered training or work release?**

**A** – None **B** - 33 percent **C** - 50 percent **D** - 60 percent

**3. The underlined word "recidivism" refers to**

**A** - all people who are imprisoned
**B** - people who return to prison after release
**C** - people who drop out of high school
**D** - people who have been in prison for a long time

**4. The underlined word "goal" is closest in meaning to**

**A** - society **C** - the stated objective
**B** – prisons **D** - federal and state levels

**5. The underlined word "them" refers to**

**A** - inmates **C** - federal and state levels
**B** – criminals **D** - prison systems

**6.Choose the sentence that explains the rate of imprisonment over the past twenty years.**

**A** - Even more shocking is the fact that the number and rate of imprisonment has more than doubled over the past twenty years, and the recidivism-that is, the rate for rearrest - is more than 60 percent.
**B** - In the United States today there are more than half a million criminals serving time in prison.
**C** - Most prisoners are male high-school dropouts between the ages of 18 and 29.
**D** - Prisons are usually geographically or psychologically isolated and terribly overcrowded.

**7. What does the author mean by the statement?**

Although the stated objective of most prison systems, on both federal and state levels, is to rehabilitate the inmates and reintegrate them into society, the systems themselves do not support such a goal.

**A** - Inmates in prisons do not participate in rehabilitation programs before they are reintegrated into society.
**B** - The goal of rehabilitation and reintegration into society is encouraged by the prison systems.

**C** - Prison systems do not promote rehabilitation and reintegration despite their goal.
**D** - Rehabilitation cannot be achieved by prisons without reintegration into society.

**8. The author mentions all the following as necessary to prison reform, except for**

**A** - newer buildings
**B** - smaller institutions
**C** - vocational training
**D** - collaboration with the community

**9. The paragraph following this passage most probably discusses**

**A** - the goals of most state and federal prisons
**B** - the cost of prison reform
**C** - examples of models for community collaboration
**D** - problems with the current criminal justice system

## Text 4

Universally acclaimed as America's greatest playwright, Eugene O'Neill was born in 1888 in the heart of the theater district in New York City. As the son of an actor he had early exposure to the world of the theater. He attended Princeton University briefly in 1906, but returned to New York to work in a variety of jobs before joining the crew of a freighter as a seaman. Upon returning from voyages to South Africa and South America, he was hospitalized for six months to recuperate from tuberculosis. While he was recovering, he determined to write a play about his adventures on the sea.

He went to Harvard, where he wrote the one-act “Bound East for Cardiff”. It was produced on Cape Cod by the Provincetown Players, an experimental theater group that was later to settle in the famous Greenwich Village theater district in New York City. The Players produced several more of his one-acts in the years between 1916-1920. With the full-length play “Beyond the Horizon”, produced on Broadway in 1920, O'Neill's success was assured. The play won the Pulitzer prize for the best play of the year. O'Neill was to be awarded the prize again in 1922, 1928, and 1957 for “Anna Christie”, “Strange Interlude”, and “Long Day's Journey Into Night”. In 1936, he was awarded the Nobel prize for literature.

O'Neill's plays, forty-five in all, cover a wide range of dramatic subjects, but several themes emerge, including the ambivalence of family relationships, the struggle between the sexes, the conflict between spiritual and material desires, and the vision of modern man as a victim of uncontrollable circumstances. Most of O'Neill's characters are seeking meaning in their lives. According to his biographers, most of the characters were portraits of himself and his family. In a sense, his work chronicled his life.

**1. This passage is a summary of O'Neill's**

**A** – work **B** - life **C** - work and life **D** - family

**2. How many times was O'Neill awarded the Pulitzer prize?**

**A** – one **B** – three **C** - four **D** - five

**3. The underlined word "briefly" is closest in meaning to**

**A** - seriously **C** - on scholarship

**B** - for a short time **D** - without enthusiasm

**4. The underlined word "struggle" is closest in meaning to**

**A** - ambivalence **C** - conflict

**B** – emerge **D** - vision

**5. The underlined word "it" refers to**

**A** - Cape Cod

**B** - the one-act “Bound East for Cardiff”

**C** - the Provincetown Players

**D** - the famous Greenwich Village theater

**6. Choose the sentence that indicates the reason for O'Neill's hospitalization.**

**A** - He had a sore throat.

**B** - He was hospitalized to recuperate from tuberculosis.

**C** - He wanted to get a sick leave.

**D** - He caught a cold.

**7. What does the author mean by the following statement?**

According to his biographers, most of the characters were portraits of himself and his family.

**A** - He used his family and his own experiences in his plays.

**B** - His biography contained stories about him and his family.

**C** - He had paintings of himself and members of his family.

**D** - His biographers took pictures of him with his family.

**8. The author mentions all of the following as themes for O'Neill's plays, except for**

**A** - life in college **C** - family life

**B** - adventures at sea **D** - relationships between men and women

**9. We can infer from information in the passage that O'Neill's plays were not**

**A** – controversial **C** - optimistic

**B** – autobiographical **D** - popular

## Text 5

Edgar Allan Poe is today regarded as one of the premier authors of horror stories, but he received very little recognition and almost no money for his stories while he lived. Twenty-five of his greatest stories were published in a collection called "Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque", which appeared in 1840, but at the time little notice was taken of it. Three years later, another story, "The Gold Bug", was published, selling 300,000 copies, and by 1845 he had written twelve more stories, which he published in "Tales". His best-known stories include "The Pit and the Pendulum" and "The Tell-Tale Heart", but it was a poem,"The Raven", that brought him his greatest recognition as a writer.

The centerpiece of a collection of thirty poems published in a volume titled "The Raven and Other Poems", it became quite popular. The theme of the poem is grief over the loss of an ideal love. The dramatic, almost theatrical tone, the intensity of the repetition, and the hypnotic rhythm reflect the narrator's despondent and desperate state of mind. When read aloud, it produces a powerful effect.

**1. What is the author's main purpose in this passage?**

**A** - To give examples of horror stories

**B** - To chronicle the work of Edgar Allan Poe

**C** - To compare Poe's stories with his poems

**D** - To suggest that "The Raven" be read aloud

**2. According to the passage, which of the following tales sold 300,000 copies?**

**A** - The Tell-Tale Heart **C** - The Raven
**B** - The Gold Bug **D** - The Pit and the Pendulum

**3. The underlined word "recognition" is closest in meaning to**

**A** – criticism **B** - opportunities **C** - imitation **D** - appreciation

**4. The underlined word "desperate" is closest in meaning to**

**A** - despondent **B** – dramatic **C** - theatrical **D** - hypnotic

**5. The underlined word "it" refers to**

**A** - The Tell-Tale Heart **C** - The Pit and the Pendulum
**B** - The Raven **D** - another story

**6. Choose the sentence that identifies the theme of the poem "The Raven"**

**A** - The centerpiece of a collection of thirty poems published in a volume titled "The Raven and Other Poems", it became quite popular.
**B** - The theme of the poem is grief over the loss of an ideal love.
**C** - The dramatic, almost theatrical tone, the intensity of the repetition, and the hypnotic rhythm reflect the narrator's despondent and desperate state of mind.
**D** - When read aloud, it produces a powerful effect.

**7. What does the author mean by the following statement?**

His best-known stories include "The Pit and the Pendulum" and "The Tell-Tale Heart", but it was a poem, "The Raven", that brought him his greatest recognition as a writer.

**A** - Poe is remembered more for a poem than for his short stories.
**B** – "The Raven" is less well-known than Poe's short stories.
**C** - Poe is famous for both short stories and poetry.
**D** - Poe wrote more short stories than poems.

**8. The author mentions all of the following as features of "The Raven", except for**

**A** - intense repetition **C** - cheerful mood
**B** - dramatic tone **D** - hypnotic rhythm

**9. It can be inferred from the passage that Edgar Allan Poe**

**A** - was married at a young age
**B** - lived in poverty
**C** - suffered a mental breakdown
**D** - died young

## Text 6

Jazz originated in the southern United States after the Civil War. It began as the musical expression of black people who had formerly been slaves, combining hymns, spirituals, and traditional work songs into a new form. The style was a blend of the rhythms brought to America by the Africans who were imported as slave labor and the popular music of the era that featured the ragtime piano. The term jazz itself is of obscure, and possibly nonmusical origin, but it was first used to describe this particular kind of musical expression in about 1915.

Improvisation has always been one of the primary elements of jazz. While one instrument, often the trumpet, plays the melody, another instrument, usually the clarinet, embellishes and invents compatible melodies around the original theme. Such improvisation is a test of the jazz musician's skill.

A jazz band commonly includes four to twelve musicians with a relatively large proportion of the group in the rhythm section. Customarily, there are a drummer, a bass player, and a pianist. Often there is also a banjo player or guitarist. In traditional jazz, the clarinet, trumpet, and trombone carry the melody, but in more modern jazz, the saxophone, violin, and flute may also be included in the melody section. Some jazz bands employ a blues singer.

Jazz first became popular outside the South in the 1920s, when jazz bands began to record, distribute, and even export their recordings to Europe. Since jazz is improvisational, it does not exist in the form of printed scores, and recorded performances were and still are the best way of preserving the music. A very basic library of recorded jazz would include work by such classic artists as Jelly Roll Morton, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, and Billie Holiday. Theirs is probably America's most unique and most important contribution to the musical world, although there are a few contemporary artists who are keeping the tradition alive.

**1. Which of the following is the main topic of the passage?**

**A** - The history of jazz
**B** - Jazz musicians
**C** - Improvisation
**D** - Jazz bands

**2. The new music of jazz was first heard**

**A** - in Europe
**B** - in Africa
**C** - in South America
**D** - in North America

**3. The underlined word "blend" is closest in meaning to**

**A** - mixture
**B** - rejection
**C** – imitation
**D** - variety

**4. The underlined word "commonly" is closest in meaning to**

**A** - customarily
**B** – large
**C** - relatively
**D** - always

**5. The underlined word "embellishes" means**

**A** – plays in unison
**B** –makes the melody more beautiful and complex
**C** – keeps silent
**D** – keeps playing

**6. Choose the paragraph that indicates the background of the people who first created jazz.**

**A** - Jazz first became popular outside the South in the 1920s ...
**B** - A jazz band commonly includes four to twelve musicians with a relatively large proportion of the group in the rhythm section ...
**C** - Jazz originated in the southern United States after the Civil War ...
**D** - Improvisation has always been one of the primary elements of jazz ...

**7. What does the author mean by the following statement?**

Since jazz is improvisational, it does not exist in the form of printed scores, and recorded performances were and still are the best way of preserving the music.

**A** - Because jazz is not written down, it has not been preserved.
**B** - Today jazz has written scores like other forms of music.
**C** - Jazz is preserved in audio recordings instead of in written records.
**D** - There are not very many copies of the early jazz performances.

**8. The author mentions all of the following as characteristic of jazz, except for**

**A** - a large number of percussion instruments
**B** - a printed score for the music
**C** - a melody played by the trumpet
**D** - a ragtime piano

**9. The paragraph following the passage most probably discusses**

**A** - recorded performances by jazz musicians

**B** - modern jazz musicians
**C** - famous blues singers
**D** - Louis Armstrong's contribution to jazz

## Text 7

Alfred Hitchcock's precut scripts are legendary. More than any other director, Hitchcock insisted on working from precise and detailed plans. He often used storyboarding, a series of framed drawings of his shots, especially for those sequences that would later require complex editing. Some of the scripts from which he worked included as many as six hundred sketches. Every camera shot was considered, and nothing extraneous was included.

By the time he had finished such a detailed plan, Hitchcock knew the script so well that he rarely had to refer to it. He then assumed his favorite role, and one that he compared to that of a conductor directing an orchestra without the score. It was at this point that his intuition served as his guide.

Because of the widespread popularity of suspense films, Hitchcock was always trying to avoid cliches by inventing new ways to present a similar plot. He was successful in part because he varied the mood from one film to another, and even introduced variation in the middle of a scene within the same film.

Hitchcock admitted that he was less interested in the story itself than in the telling of it. He was a master at using and creating techniques that infused the scene with strong emotions. Some of his most effective sequences are both terrifying and funny, providing the viewer with a juxtaposition of contradictory sensations.

**1. What is the author's main purpose in the passage?**
**A** - to describe Hitchcock's directing style
**B** - to explain how Hitchcock used story-boarding
**C** - to criticize Hitchcock's work
**D** - to compare Hitchcock with an orchestra conductor
**2. What is storyboarding?**

**A** - detailed script of the story
**B** - an acting technique that requires using strong emotions
**C** - an effect produced by editing film
**D** - a sequence of drawings for the camera crew

**3. The underlined word "juxtaposition" is closest in meaning to**

**A** - new idea **C** - close placement
**B** - large number **D** - difficult plan

**4. The underlined word "detailed" is closest in meaning to**

**A** – framed **B** - complex **C** - extraneous **D** - rarely

**5. The underlined word "it" refers to**

**A** - camera shot **B** - orchestra **C** – time **D** - script

**6. Choose the paragraph that discusses the variations in mood among Hitchcock's movies.**

**A** - Alfred Hitchcock's precut scripts are legendary ...
**B** - By the time he had finished such a detailed plan, Hitchcock knew the script ...
**C** - Because of the widespread popularity of suspense films, Hitchcock was always trying to avoid cliches ...
**D** - Hitchcock admitted that he was less interested in the story itself than in the telling of it ...

**7. What does the author mean by the following statement?**

Hitchcock admitted that he was less interested in the story itself than in the telling of it.

**A** - The presentation of the story was more interesting to Hitchcock.
**B** - Hitchcock had little interest in a story after he had told it.
**C** - Hitchcock liked to find interesting stories to tell.
**D** - The stories that Hitchcock told were usually very interesting.

**8. Hitchcock's directing style is described as employing all of the following, except for**

**A** - focusing his attention on the story line
**B** - using many drawings of camera shots
**C** - seldom referring to the script while shooting a scene
**D** - relying on intuition while filming

**9. The paragraph following the passage most probably discusses**

**A** - other directors of suspense films
**B** - examples of scenes in Hitchcock films that elicited contradictory emotions

**C** - the reason for Hitchcock's success
**D** - the importance of the story line to the suspense film

## Text 8

Independence Day in the United States is observed every year on the Fourth of July. Today, for most communities throughout the nation, the traditional celebration includes parades down the main streets, picnics with hot dogs and lemonade, and, of course, a fireworks display at night. In some towns across the country, however, special events are planned in honor of the annual occasion. In Bristol, Rhode Island, fire engine teams from communities throughout New England compete in a contest to squirt water from their fire hoses. Flagstaff, Arizona, hosts a huge three-day powwow, including a rodeo, for twenty Native American tribes. The annual Eskimo games with traditional kayak races are held in Kotzebue, Alaska. Two auto races are always scheduled for the Fourth, including a four-hundred-mile stock car event at the Daytona International Speedway in Daytona, Florida, and an annual auto race up the fourteen-thousand-foot precipice at Pike's Peak in Colorado.

Several small towns celebrate in other unique ways. Hannibal, Missouri, the hometown of Mark Twain, invites the children to participate in a fence-painting contest, reenacting a scene from Twain's novel “Tom Sawyer”. Lititz, Pennsylvania, congregates in the Lititz Springs Park to light thousands of candles and arrange them in various shapes and images.

In Ontario, California, the townspeople combine the traditional with the unusual by setting up tables along Euclid Avenue for what they describe as "the biggest picnic table in the world." In this way, everyone in town has a front-row seat for the two-mile parade.

**1. Which of the following is the main topic of the passage?**
**A** - Traditional celebrations for the Fourth of July
**B** - Holidays in the United States
**C** - The origin of Independence Day
**D** - Small towns in America

**2. How is Independence Day observed in Ontario, California?**
**A** - By hosting a powwow and rodeo
**B** - By sponsoring a stock car event
**C** - By squirting water from fire hoses
**D** - By setting up tables along the parade route
**3. The underlined word "huge" could best be replaced by**
**A** – exciting **B** - amusing **C** - complicated **D** - large
**4. The underlined word "annual" is closest in meaning to**
**A** – traditional **B** - every year **C** – special **D** - at night
**5.** The underlined phrase "fire engine team" means
**A** – volleyball team **C** – a group of firefighters
**B** – team players **D** – a group of partisans
**6. Choose the answer that indicates the distance for the parade in Ontario.**
**A –** 1 mile **B –** 3,200 km **C –** 3.2 km **D** – 50 feet
**7. What does the author mean by the following statement?**
Hannibal, Missouri, the hometown of Mark Twain, invites the children to participate in a fence-painting contest, reenacting a scene from Twain's novel "Tom Sawyer".
**A** - The contest was the inspiration for Mark Twain's novel "Tom Sawyer".
**B** - In one scene from "Tom Sawyer", children repaint Mark Twain's home.
**C** - There is an art contest for children in honor of Mark Twain.
**D** - As a reenactment from "Tom Sawyer", children paint fences in a competition.
**8. The author mentions all of the following as ways the Fourth of July is celebrated, except for**
**A** – parades **B** – races **C** - dances **D** - fireworks
**9. It can be inferred from the passage that**
**A** - the Fourth of July is celebrated in Canada as well as in the United States
**B** - towns in the United States celebrate the Fourth of July in different ways because of their regional customs
**C** - although fireworks are not legal, they are displayed on the Fourth of July

**D** - the Fourth of July is not celebrated in large cities in the United States

## Text 9

Collectibles have been a part of almost every culture since ancient times. Whereas some objects have been collected for their usefulness, others have been selected for their aesthetic beauty alone. In the United States, the kinds of collectibles currently popular range from traditional objects such as stamps, coins, rare books, and art to more recent items of interest like dolls, bottles, baseball cards, and comic books.

Interest in collectibles has increased enormously during the past decade, in part because some collectibles have demonstrated their value as investments. Especially during cycles of high inflation, investors try to purchase tangibles that will at least retain their current market values. In general, the most traditional collectibles will be sought because they have preserved their value over the years, there is an organized auction market for them, and they are most easily sold in the event that cash is needed. Some examples of the most stable collectibles are old masters, Chinese ceramics, stamps, coins, rare books, antique jewelry, silver, porcelain, art by well-known artists, autographs, and period furniture.

Other items of more recent interest include old phonograph records, old magazines, post-cards, baseball cards, art glass, dolls, classic cars, old bottles, and comic books. These relatively new kinds of collectibles may actually appreciate faster as short-term investments, but may not hold their value as long-term investments. Once a collectible has had its initial play, it appreciates at a fairly steady rate, supported by an increasing number of enthusiastic collectors competing for the limited supply of collectibles that become increasingly more difficult to locate.

**1. What is the author's main point?**

**A** - Collectibles provide interesting information about culture.

**B** - Collectibles are better than other types of investments.

**C** - New types of collectibles appreciate more rapidly.

**D** - A variety of collectibles have become popular investments in the United States.

**2. In comparing new collectibles with more traditional ones, the author observes that**

**A** - newer collectibles hold their value

**B** - more traditional collectibles appreciate faster

**C** - after a rapid increase in value, all collectibles have steady rates of appreciation

**D** - newer collectibles make better short-term investments

**3. The underlined word "stable" could be replaced by**

**A** – prevalent **B** - reliable **C** - expensive **D** - exquisite

**4. The underlined word "recent" is closest in meaning to**

**A** - other **B** - long-term **C** - old **D** - new

**5. The underlined word "their" refers to**

**A** - market values **C** - investors

**B** - cycles of high inflation **D** - tangibles

**6. Choose the sentence that indicates what type of collectible investors seek during cycles of high inflation.**

**A** - Some examples of the most stable collectibles are old masters, Chinese ceramics, stamps, coins, rare books, antique jewelry, silver, porcelain, art by well-known artists, autographs, and period furniture.

**B** - Interest in collectibles has increased enormously during the past decade, in part because some collectibles have demonstrated their value as investments.

**C** - Especially during cycles of high inflation, investors try to purchase tangibles that will at least retain their current market values.

**D** - In general, the most traditional collectibles will be sought because they have preserved their value over the years, there is an organized auction market for them, and they are most easily sold in the event that cash is needed.

**7. What does the author mean by the following statement?**

Whereas some objects have been collected for their usefulness, others have been selected for their aesthetic beauty alone.

**A** - In general, collectors choose objects that are both useful and beautiful.

**B** - Some beautiful objects are also useful to collectors.

**C** - Only the objects that are beautiful have appealed to collectors.

**D** - Objects may be attractive to collectors either because they are useful or because they are beautiful.

**8. The author mentions all of the following as examples of new types of collectible items, except for**

**A** - postcards **B** – dolls **C** - bottles **D** - autographs

**9. The paragraph following the passage most probably discusses**

**A** - how collectors locate and purchase collectibles

**B** - why collectibles are risky investments

**C** - where to buy collectible toys

**D** - when to sell a collectible item for profit

## Text 10

Although he created the game of basketball at the YMCA in Springfield, Massachusetts, Dr. James A. Naismith was a Canadian. Working as a physical education instructor at the International YMCA, now Springfield College, Dr. Naismith noticed a lack of interest in exercise among students during the wintertime. The New England winters were fierce, and the students balked at participating in outdoor activities. Naismith determined that a fast-moving game that could be played indoors would fill a void after the baseball and football seasons had ended.

First he attempted to adapt outdoor games such as soccer and rugby to indoor play, but he soon found them unsuitable for confined areas. Finally, he determined that he would have to invent a game. In December of 1891, Dr. Naismith hung two old peach baskets at either end of the gymnasium at the school, and, using a soccer ball and nine players on each side, organized the first basketball game. The early rules allowed three points for each basket and made running with the ball a violation. Every time a goal was made, someone had to climb a ladder to retrieve the ball.

Nevertheless, the game became popular. In less than a year, basketball was being played in both the United States and Canada. Five years later, a championship tournament was staged in New York City, which was won by the Brooklyn Central YMCA.

The teams had already been reduced to seven players, and five became standard in the 1897 season. When basketball was introduced as a demonstration sport in the 1904 Olympic Games in St. Louis, it quickly spread throughout the world. In 1906, a metal hoop was <u>used for the first time</u> to replace the basket, but the name basketball has remained.

**1. What does this passage mainly discuss?**

**A** - The Olympic Games in St. Louis in 1904
**B** - The development of basketball
**C** - The YMCA athletic program
**D** - Dr. James Naismith

**2. When was the first demonstration game of basketball held during the Olympics?**

**A** - 1891 **B** - 1892 **C** - 1897 **D** - 1904

**3. The underlined phrase "balked at" could best be replaced by**

**A** – resisted
**B** – enjoyed
**C** - excelled at
**D** - were exhausted by

**4. The underlined phrase "used for the first time" is closest in meaning to**

**A** - to replace the basket
**B** - has remained
**C** - was introduced
**D** - had already been reduced

**5. The underlined word "them" refers to**

**A** - outdoor games
**B** - confined areas
**C** - the baseball and football seasons
**D** - indoor play

**6. Choose the paragraph that indicates the winner of the first basketball championship tournament.**

**A** - The teams had already been reduced to seven players ...
**B** - Nevertheless, the game became popular ...
**C**- Although he created the game of basketball at the YMCA in Springfield, Massachusetts, Dr. James A. Naismith was a Canadian ...
**D** -First he attempted to adapt outdoor games such as soccer and rugby to indoor play ...

**7. What does the author mean by the following statement?**

When basketball was introduced as a demonstration sport in the 1904 Olympic Games in St. Louis, it quickly spread throughout the world.

**A** - Basketball was not considered an Olympic sport at the St. Louis games.
**B** - Basketball became popular worldwide after its introduction at the Olympic Games in St. Louis.
**C** - Basketball players from many countries competed in the Olympic Games in St. Louis.
**D** - Basketball was one of the most popular sports at the Olympic Games in St. Louis.

**8. The author mentions all of the following as typical of the early game of basketball, except for**

**A** - Three points were scored for every basket.
**B** - Running with the ball was not a foul.
**C** - Nine players were on a team.
**D** - The ball had to be retrieved from the basket after each score.

**9. It can be inferred from the passage that the original baskets**

**A** - were not placed very high
**B** - had a metal rim
**C** - did not have a hole in the bottom
**D** - were hung on the same side of the basketball court

## Text 11

"Mickey Mouse" was not Walt Disney's first successful cartoon creation, but he is certainly his most famous one. It was on a cross-country train trip from New York to California in 1927 that Disney first drew the mouse with the big ears. Supposedly, he took his inspiration from the tame field mice that used to scamper into his old studio in Kansas City. No one is quite sure why he dressed the mouse in the now-familiar shorts with two buttons and gave him the yellow shoes. But we do know that Disney had intended to call him Mortimer until his wife Lillian intervened and christened him Mickey Mouse.

Capitalizing on the interest in Charles Lindbergh, Disney planned Mickey's debut in the short cartoon with Minnie as a co-star. In the third short cartoon, "Steamboat Willie", Mickey was whistling and singing through the miracle of the modern soundtrack. By the 1930s Mickey's image had circled the globe. He was a superstar at the height of his career.

Although he has received a few minor changes throughout his lifetime, most notably the addition of white gloves and the alterations to achieve the rounder forms of a more childish body, he has remained true to his nature since those first cartoons. Mickey is appealing because he is nice. He may get into trouble, but he takes it on the chin with a grin. He is both good-natured and resourceful. Perhaps that was Disney's own image of himself. Why else would he have insisted on doing Mickey's voice in all the cartoons for twenty years? When interviewed, he would say, "There is a lot of the mouse in me." And that mouse has remained one of the most pervasive images in American popular culture.

**1. Which of the following is the main topic of the passage?**
**A** - The image of Mickey Mouse
**B** - The life of Walt Disney
**C** - The history of cartoons
**D** - The definition of American culture
**2. What distinguished "Steamboat Willie" from earlier cartoons?**
**A** - better color
**B** - a soundtrack
**C** - Minnie Mouse as co-star
**D** - the longer format
**3. The underlined word "pervasive" could best be replaced by**
**A** - well loved
**B** - widespread
**C** - often copied
**D** - expensive to buy
**4. The underlined word "changes" is closest in meaning to**
**A** - the alterations
**B** - first cartoons
**C** - the rounder forms
**D** - white gloves
**5. The underlined word "those" refers to**
**A** - first cartoons
**B** - a more childish body
**C** - rounder forms
**D** - a few minor changes
**6. Mickey' personality is described as all of the following, except for**
**A** - Mickey Mouse is kind.
**B** - He comes out of a difficult situation with credit.
**C** - He can easily find the ways of solving his problems.
**D** - He feels low facing the difficulties.
**7. What does the author mean by the following statement?**

Although he has received a few minor changes throughout his lifetime, most notably the addition of white gloves and the alterations to achieve the rounder forms of a more childish body, he has remained true to his nature since those first cartoons

**A** - The current version of Mickey Mouse is different in every way from the early cartoons.

**B** - The original Mickey Mouse was one of the first cartoon characters.

**C** - In the first cartoons, Mickey Mouse looked more like a child.

**D** - The personality of Mickey Mouse has not changed over the years.

**8. The first image of Mickey Mouse is described as all of the following, except for**

**A** - He was dressed in shorts with two buttons.

**B** - He had big ears.

**C** - He wore yellow shoes.

**D** - He was wearing white gloves.

**9. The paragraph following the passage most probably discusses**

**A** - the history of cartoons

**B** - other images in popular culture

**C** - Walt Disney's childhood

**D** - the voices of cartoon characters

## Text 12

There are four basic types of competition in business that form a continuum from pure competition through monopolistic competition and oligopoly to monopoly. At one end of the continuum, pure competition results when every company has a similar product. Companies that deal in commodities such as wheat or corn are often involved in pure competition. In pure competition, it is often the ease and efficiency of distribution that influences purchase.

In contrast, in monopolistic competition, several companies may compete for the sale of items that may be substituted. The classic example of monopolistic competition is coffee and tea. If the price of one is perceived as too high, consumers may begin to purchase the other. Coupons and other discounts are often used as part of a marketing strategy to influence sales.

Oligopoly occurs when a few companies dominate the sales of a product or service. For example, only five airline carriers control more than 70 percent of all ticket sales in the United States. In oligopoly, serious competition is not considered desirable because it would result in reduced revenue for every company in the group. Although price wars do occur, in which all companies offer substantial savings to customers, a somewhat similar tendency to raise prices simultaneously is also usual.

Finally, monopoly occurs when only one firm sells the product. Some monopolies have been tolerated for producers of goods and services that have been considered basic or essential, including electricity and water. In these cases, it is government control, rather than competition, that protects and influences sales.

**1. Which of the following would be the best title for the passage?**
**A** - Monopolies
**B** - The Commodity Market
**C** - The Competition Continuum
**D** - The Best Type of Competition

**2. An example of a product in monopolistic competition is**
**A** - corn
**B** - electricity
**C** - airline tickets
**D** - coffee

**3. The underlined word "tolerated" could best be replaced by**
**A** - permitted
**B** - reserved
**C** - criticized
**D** - devised

**4. The underlined word "dominate" is closest in meaning to**
**A** - control more than 70 percent
**B** - is not considered desirable
**C** - serious competition
**D** - result in reduced revenue

**5. The underlined word "it" refers to**
**A** – oligopoly **B** - company **C** - competition **D** - group

**6. Monopolies' sales are controlled by**
**A** - airline carriers
**B** - monopolistic competition
**C** - the ease and efficiency of distribution of goods
**D** - government

**7. What does the author mean by the following statement?**
Although price wars do occur, in which all companies offer substantial savings to customers, a somewhat similar tendency to raise prices simultaneously is also usual

**A** - Prices are lower during price wars, but they are usually higher afterward.
**B** - It is common for companies to compete for customers by lowering prices.
**C** - Customers may lose money when companies have price wars.
**D** - It is not unusual for all companies to increase prices at the same time.

**8. The author mentions all of the following as characteristic of monopoly, except for**

**A** - the use of coupons or other discounts
**B** - government control
**C** - basic or essential services
**D** - only one firm

**9. It can be inferred that this passage was first printed in**

**A** - a business textbook
**B** - a government document
**C** - an airline brochure
**D** - a newspaper

## Text 13

Although Henry Ford's name is closely associated with the concept of mass production, he should receive equal credit for introducing labor practices as early as 1913 that would be considered advanced even by today's standards. Safety measures were improved, and the working day was reduced to eight hours, compared with the ten- or twelve-hour day common at the time. In order to accommodate the shorter working day, the entire factory was converted from two to three shifts.

In addition, sick leaves as well as improved medical care for those injured on the job were instituted. The Ford Motor Company was one of the first factories to develop a technical school to train specialized skilled laborers and an English language school for immigrants. Some efforts were even made to hire the handicapped and provide jobs for former convicts.

The most widely acclaimed innovation was the five-dollar-a-day minimum wage that was offered in order to recruit and retain the best mechanics and to discourage the growth of labor unions. Ford explained the new wage policy in terms of efficiency and profit sharing. He also

mentioned the fact that his employees would be able to purchase the automobiles that they produced in effect creating a market for the products. In order to qualify for the minimum wage, an employee had to establish a decent home and demonstrate good personal habits, including sobriety, thriftiness, industriousness, and dependability. Although some criticism was directed at Ford for involving himself too much in the personal lives of his employees, there can be no doubt that, at a time when immigrants were being taken advantage of in frightful ways, Henry Ford was helping many people to establish themselves in America.

**1. What is the author's main purpose in the passage?**
**A** - to include mass production and the assembly line among Henry Ford's accomplishments
**B** - to report the origin of the minimum wage
**C** - to credit Henry Ford with industrial reforms
**D** - to defend Henry Ford's practices
**2. How many hours did Ford's employees work per shift in his factory?**
**A** - three **B** - eight **C** - ten **D** - twelve
**3. The underlined word "innovation" refers to**
**A** - an original idea or change **C** - a devious plan
**B** - an extravagant offer **D** - a popular policy
**4. The underlined phrase "provide jobs" is closest in meaning to**
**A** - to train **B** - to hire **C** - to develop **D** - to discourage
**5. The underlined word "they" refers to**
**A** - employers **B** - automobiles **C** - employees **D** - terms
**6. What an employee was to do to qualify for the minimum wage?**
**A** – He was obliged to buy one of Ford's cars.
**B** - He had to establish a decent home and demonstrate good personal habits.
**C** – He had to work 12 hours a day.
**D** – He had to be a sociable, resourceful and skilled worker.
**7. What does the author mean by the following statement?**
Although some criticism was directed at Ford for involving himself too much in the personal lives of his employees, there can be no doubt that, at a time when immigrants were being taken advantage of in

frightful ways, Henry Ford was helping many people to establish themselves in America.

**A** - Henry Ford assisted many recent immigrants.

**B** - Henry Ford took advantage of immigrants when they first arrived.

**C** - Recent immigrants were frightened by Henry Ford.

**D** - The personal lives of his employees were not of interest to Henry Ford.

**8. The author mentions all of the following as labor practices instituted by Ford, except for**

**A** - the five-dollar-a-day minimum wage

**B** - education and training programs

**C** - labor unions

**D** - sick leaves

**9. It can be inferred from the passage that the author**

**A** - feels that Ford should be remembered for the concept of mass production

**B** - believes that Ford was too involved in his workers' lives

**C** - favors labor unions

**D** - commends Ford's philanthropy

## Text 14

The increase in international business and in foreign investment has created a need for executives with knowledge of foreign languages and skills in cross-cultural communication. Americans, however, have not been well trained in either area and, consequently, have not enjoyed the same level of success in negotiation in an international arena as have their foreign counterparts.

Negotiating is the process of communicating back and forth for the purpose of reaching an agreement. It involves persuasion and compromise, but in order to participate in either one, the negotiators must understand the ways in which people are persuaded and how compromise is reached within the culture of the negotiation.

In many international business negotiations abroad, Americans are perceived as wealthy and impersonal. It often appears to the foreign negotiator that the American represents a large multimillion-dollar corporation that can afford to pay the price without bargaining further. The American negotiator's role becomes that of an impersonal purveyor

of information and cash, an image that succeeds only in undermining the negotiation.

In studies of American negotiators abroad, several traits have been identified that may serve to confirm this stereotypical perception, while subverting the negotiator's position. Two traits in particular that cause cross-cultural misunderstanding are directness and impatience on the part of the American negotiator. Furthermore, American negotiators often insist on realizing short-term goals. Foreign negotiators, on the other hand, may value the relationship established between negotiators and may be willing to invest time in it for long-term benefits. In order to solidify the relationship, they may opt for indirect interactions without regard for the time involved in getting to know the other negotiator.

Clearly, perceptions and differences in values affect the outcomes of negotiations and the success of negotiators. For Americans to play a more effective role in international business negotiations, they must put forth more effort to improve cross-cultural understanding.

**1. What is the author's main point?**

**A** - Negotiation is the process of reaching an agreement.

**B** - Foreign languages are important for international business.

**C** - Foreign perceptions of American negotiators are based on stereotypes.

**D** - American negotiators need to learn more about other cultures.

**2. According to the author, what is the purpose of negotiation?**

**A** - to undermine the other negotiator's position

**B** - to communicate back and forth

**C** - to reach an agreement

**D** - to understand the culture of the negotiators

**3. The underlined word "persuaded" is closest in meaning to**

**A** - respected **B** – accused **C** - informed **D** - convinced

**4. The underlined word "undermining" is closest in meaning to**

**A** – negotiation **C** - impatience

**B** - misunderstanding **D** - subverting

**5. The underlined word "that" refers to**

**A** - represents **B** - corporation **C** - role **D** - information

**6. Choose the paragraph that indicates the two criteria necessary for negotiation.**

**A** - Clearly, perceptions and differences in values affect the ...
**B** - In studies of American negotiators abroad, several traits ...
**C** - The increase in international business and in foreign investment...
**D** - Negotiating is the process of communicating back and forth for the purpose of reaching an agreement ...

**7. What does the author mean by the following statement?**

Americans, however, have not been well trained in either area and, consequently, have not enjoyed the same level of success in negotiation in an international arena as have their foreign counterparts.

**A** - Training is not available for Americans who must interact in international negotiations.
**B** - Foreign businesspersons negotiate less effectively than Americans because of their training.
**C** - Because their training is not as good, Americans are less successful as negotiators than their international counterparts.
**D** - Foreign businesspersons do not like to negotiate with Americans, who are not well trained.

**8. The American negotiator is described as all of the following, except for**

**A** - perceived by foreign negotiators as wealthy
**B** - willing to invest time in relationships
**C** - known for direct interactions
**D** - interested in short-term goals

**9. The paragraph following the passage most probably discusses**

**A** - ways to increase cross-cultural understanding
**B** - traits that cause cross-cultural misunderstanding
**C** - knowledge of foreign languages
**D** - relationships between negotiators

## Text 15

Andrew Carnegie, known as the King of Steel, built the steel industry in the United States, and, in the process, became one of the wealthiest men in America. His success resulted in part from his ability to sell the product and in part from his policy of <u>expanding</u> during

periods of economic decline, when most of his competitors were reducing their investments.

Carnegie believed that individuals should progress through hard work, but he also felt strongly that the wealthy should use their fortunes for the benefit of society. He opposed charity, preferring instead to provide educational opportunities that would allow others to help themselves. "He who dies rich, dies disgraced," he often said.

Among his more noteworthy contributions to society are those that bear his name, including the Carnegie Institute of Pittsburgh, which has a library, a museum of fine arts, and a museum of natural history. He also founded a school of technology that is now part of Carnegie-Mellon University. Other philanthropic gifts are the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace to promote understanding between nations, the Carnegie Institute of Washington to fund scientific research, and Carnegie Hall to provide a center for the arts.

Few Americans have been left untouched by Andrew Carnegie's generosity. His contributions of more than five million dollars established two thousand five hundred libraries in small communities throughout the country and formed the nucleus of the public library system that the Americans all enjoy today.

**1. Which of the following is the main topic of the passage?**
**A** - The establishment of the public library system
**B** - The work of Carnegie-Mellon University
**C** - The building of the steel industry
**D** - The philanthropy of Andrew Carnegie
**2. How many libraries did Carnegie establish for the public library system?**
**A** - 25 **B** – 500 **C** - 2,500 **D** - Five million
**3. The underlined word "fortunes" could best be replaced by**
**A** - assets **B** - talents **C** - influence **D** - advice
**4. The underlined word "expanding" is opposite in meaning to**
**A** - economic decline **B** - reducing **C** - competitors **D** - economy
**5. The underlined word "those" refers to**
**A** - educational opportunities **C** - noteworthy contributions
**B** - fortunes **D** - individuals
**6. Choose the paragraph that tells how Carnegie became wealthy.**

**A** - Andrew Carnegie, known as the King of Steel, ...
**B** - Carnegie believed that individuals should...
**C** - Among his more noteworthy contributions to society are those that bear his name ...
**D** - Few Americans have been left untouched by Andrew Carnegie's generosity ...

**7. What does the author mean by the following statement?**

His success resulted in part from his ability to sell the product, and in part from his policy of expanding during periods of economic decline, when most of his competitors were reducing their investments.

**A** - By selling his investments, he was able to purchase more products.
**B** - He succeeded by investing his competitor's products.
**C** - He was successful in spite of difficulties in selling his product during economic depressions.
**D** - He achieved success because he invested when the competition was not investing.

**8. The author mentions all of the following as recipients of philanthropic contributions by Carnegie, except for**

**A** - the arts **B** – technology **C** - economics **D** - science

**9. What does Carnegie mean when he says, "He who dies rich, dies disgraced"?**

**A** - Rich people should be ashamed of their money.
**B** - Rich people should use their money for the benefit of society before they die.
**C** - Rich people often live disgraceful lives.
**D** - People should try to become rich before they die.

## Text 16

Although the composition and role of the board of directors of a company will vary from one organization to the next, a few generalizations may be made. As regards the composition of the board, customarily some directors are prominent men and women selected to give prestige to the group. Others are usually chosen from among retired executives of the organization for their specialized knowledge of the company.

It is generally true that, as long as the top management maintains the confidence of the board of directors, the directors will not actively intervene to dictate specific policies. This is the same administrative procedure usually followed by the board of trustees of a college or university, and is similar in many respects to the parliamentary system of ministerial responsibility practiced in Great Britain.

**1. The title that best expresses the ideas in this passage is**
**A** - The Board of Directors **C** - The Parliamentary System
**B** - The Board of Trustees **D** - Management
**2. Who generally formulates policies for a company?**
**A** - top management **C** - the board of directors
**B** - a dictator **D** - retired executives
**3. The underlined word "prominent" could best be replaced by**
**A** - professional **B** - ethical **C** - important **D** - elderly
**4. The underlined word "selected" is closest in meaning to**
**A** - chosen **B** - made **C** - retired **D** - specialized
**5. The underlined word "others" refers to**
**A** - regards **B** - directors **C** - executives **D** - men and women
**6. What is the composition of a board of directors according to the passage?**
**A** - It consists of the shareholders of the company.
**B** - A director is a talented employee of the company.
**C** - A director must be either an important person giving prestige to the group or a retired executive.
**D** - A director is a respected postgraduate.
**7. What does the author mean by the following statement?**
It is generally true that, as long as the top management maintains the confidence of the board of directors, the directors will not actively intervene to dictate specific policies.
**A** - Policies are dictated by the board with the approval of top management.
**B** - The board will assume control only if they lose confidence in management.
**C** - A vote of confidence by management authorizes the board to make policies.

**D** - When management loses confidence in the board, they will assume control.

**8. The author mentions all of the following as having similar administrative procedures, except for**

**A** - the board of directors of a company

**B** - the board of trustees of a college

**C** - the members of Congress in the United States

**D** - the members of Parliament in Great Britain

**9. Who would not be a likely candidate to be chosen as a member of the board of directors of City Bank?**

**A -** a retired president of City Bank

**B -** a respected lawyer

**C -** a City Bank employee

**D -** a state senator

## Text 17

Ogden Nash was a poet, storyteller, humorist, and philosopher. Born in Rye, New York, and raised in Savannah, Georgia, he tried but failed to adapt himself to the academic, and later the business world. After attending Harvard University briefly, he became a mail clerk on Wall Street, later advancing to bond salesman. His first job as a writer was to produce advertising copy for streetcar cards. Then, in 1925, he joined the advertising department of Doubleday Page and Company, one of the largest publishing houses in New York. Later, as a member of the editorial staff of The New Yorker magazine, he began writing short poems.

His verses are filled with humor and wry wit as well as the unexpected or improbable rhymes that have come to characterize them. One of his most famous poems is a two-line verse titled "Reflections on Ice-Breaking" in which he offers the following advice to young lovers: "Candy is dandy, but liquor is quicker." Beginning in 1931, and extending over the next four decades, Nash produced nineteen books of poetry. During the same time period, he was a favorite contributor to many leading magazines, and his name became a household word.

**1. Which of the following would be the best title for the passage?**

**A -** Poems in The New Yorker

**C -** The Life and Work of Ogden Nash

**B -** Humor in Poetry **D -** Reflections on Ice-Breaking

**2. Nash's first job was as a**

**A** - mail clerk **C -** writer of advertising copy

**B -** bond salesman **D -** magazine writer

**3. The underlined word "leading" could best be replaced by**

**A -** witty **B -** contemporary **C -** prominent **D -** extravagant

**4. The underlined word "poems" is closest in meaning to**

**A -** publishing houses **C -** verses

**B -** advertising department **D -** streetcar cards

**5. The underlined phrase "household word" means**

**A** - a familiar person or name

**B** - a word pronounced by a person who owns a house

**C** - a word used for describing a house

**D** - a person's name

**6. Ogden Nash began writing short poems when he was**

**A -** a mail clerk **B -** a student **C** - an editor **D** - a streetcar driver

**7. What does the author mean by the following statement?**

Born in Rye, New York, and raised in Savannah, Georgia, he tried but failed to adapt himself to the academic, and later the business world.

**A** - He was a better businessman than he was a teacher.

**B** - He did not succeed in either teaching or business.

**C** - He tried teaching before he finally succeeded in business.

**D** - He made no effort to succeed in teaching and business.

**8. Nash is described as all of the following, except for**

**A** - a humorist **C** - a prolific writer

**B** - a popular poet **D** - an alcoholic

**9. His poems are characterized as all of the following, except for**

**A –** They are humorous.

**B –** They are witty.

**C** – His verses are filled with unexpected rhymes.

**D –** They are pessimistic.

## Text 18

In the spring of 1934, storms swept across the Great Plains, but they were not rainstorms. They were the result of sun and drought and a

terrible wind that blew millions of tons of topsoil from 300,000 square miles in Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, and New Mexico. This was the Dust Bowl. It buried fences, fields, and homes. It choked cattle and sickened the people who stayed. Three hundred and fifty thousand settlers fled, many becoming part of a slow, sad caravan along Route 66 to California.

But wind and drought were not the only factors that combined to create the Dust Bowl. Only fifty years earlier, a carpet of buffalo grass had covered the Great Plains, protecting the soil and retaining the moisture in the ground. By the turn of the century, farmers had settled, homesteading in regions that had been used as range land. The increased demand for wheat during World War I encouraged farmers to plow and plant even wider areas. Forty percent of the land that they plowed up had never been exposed to rain, wind, or sun before. When the drought and wind came, the land had been prepared for disaster.

**1. With which of the following topics is the passage primarily concerned?**

**A -** The Dust Bowl
**B** - The Great Plains
**C** - Homesteading
**D** - World War I

**2. Where did many of the homesteaders go when they abandoned their farms?**

**A** - to Kansas
**B** - to New Mexico
**C** - to Texas
**D** - to California

**3. The underlined word "caravan" is closest in meaning to**

**A** - line
**B** - group
**C** - family
**D** - town

**4. The underlined word "fled" is opposite in meaning to**

**A** - sickened
**B** - buried
**C** - stayed
**D** - choked

**5. The word "homestead" means**

**A -** a solid part of the Earth's surface
**B -** an area of land granted to a settler as a home
**C -** the land of a person's birth or citizenship
**D** - one of the original US states

**6. Choose the sentence that explains why the farmers plowed the land that the protective buffalo grass had covered.**

**A** - It was the best way to survive.
**B -** It was an agricultural experiment.
**C -**They wanted to provide their families with food.
**D -** The increased demand for wheat during World War I encouraged farmers to plow and plant even wider areas.

**7. What does the author mean by the following statement?**

By the turn of the century, farmers had settled, homesteading in regions that had been used as range land.

**A** - Homesteaders began to settle land.
**B -** Ranches began to replace farms.
**C** - Homesteads were used for open range.
**D** - No homesteads were left.

**8. The author mentions all of the following as having contributed to the disaster, except for**

**A** - wind
**B -** drought
**C -** homesteading
**D** - rain

**9. It can be inferred from the passage that**

**A** - ranchers caused the Dust Bowl by grazing too many buffalo on the grasslands
**B** - the Dust Bowl was brought to an end by rainstorms
**C** - the Great Plains is a wheat-producing region in the United States
**D** - all the homesteaders had to abandon their farms during the Dust Bowl

## Text 19

William Lyon Mackenzie King was a Canadian statesman and head of the Liberal Party who held the office of prime minister for a total of twenty-one years, longer than any public servant in the history of Canada. His father was a prominent judge, and his mother the daughter of William Lyon Mackenzie, leader of the rebellion of 1837 in Upper Canada. Greatly influenced by his famous grandfather, King was determined to serve his country in the role of reformer. After graduation from the University of Toronto with a degree in economics, he studied sociology and labor relations at Harvard and Chicago Universities.

He served his fellow Canadians in many appointed and elected offices, including among them a seat in the parliament, before being elected prime minister in 1921. His three terms of office were marked by compromise, and he was often criticized for procrastination. Nevertheless, he earned the respect of most Canadians for his political astuteness and what one biographer, John Moir of the University of Toronto, has called his "essential Canadianness". According to Moir, King's methods may have been frustrating to some, but he was able to maintain unity and extend Canadian autonomy while acting within a difficult federal system.

**1. What is the author's main point?**
**A** - King made a valuable contribution to Canada.
**B -** King's methods were frustrating to many Canadians.
**C** - King came from a prominent Canadian family.
**D** - King held many positions in government.
**2. According to biographer John Moir, why was King admired?**
**A** - for his procrastination
**B** - for his willingness to compromise
**C** - for his ability to deal with frustration
**D** - for his Canadian persona
**3. The word "autonomy" could best be replaced by**
**A -** independence **B** - culture **C** - friendship **D** - conscientiousness
**4. The word "leader" is closest in meaning to**
**A -** public servant **B** - head **C** - judge **D -** statesman
**5. According to the passage, he was not probably an expert in**
**A -** labor relations **C** - economy
**B -** sociology **D -** ecology
**6. Choose the sentence that explains why King was respected by his fellow countrymen.**
**A -** His three terms of office were marked by compromise.
**B** - He had famous relatives.
**C** - He was astute.
**D** - He served his fellow Canadians in many appointed and elected offices
**7. What does the author mean by the following statement?**

Greatly influenced by his famous grandfather, King was determined to serve his country in the role of reformer.

**A -** King's ambition was to make changes while in office.

**B -** King was not as famous as his grandfather.

**C** - King's grandfather extended his influence throughout the country.

**D -** King wanted to retain the reforms that his grandfather had achieved.

**8. The author mentions all of the following universities as institutions where King studied, except for**

**A -** Harvard University **C** - Chicago University

**B -** University of Upper Canada **D -** University of Toronto

**9. It can be inferred from the passage that William Lyon Mackenzie King was**

**A -** proud of his family **C** - not well educated

**B -** not popular with the voters **D -** not willing to delay his resignation

## Text 20

At the age of sixty-five, Laura Ingalls Wilder began writing a series of novels for young people based on her early experiences on the American frontier. Born in the state of Wisconsin in 1867, she and her family were rugged pioneers. Seeking better farm land, they went by covered wagon to Missouri in 1869, then on to Kansas the next year, returning to Wisconsin in 1871, and traveling on to Minnesota and Iowa before settling permanently in South Dakota in 1879. Because of this constant moving, Wilder's early education took place sporadically in a succession of one-room schools. From age thirteen to sixteen, she attended school more regularly, although she never graduated.

At the age of eighteen, she married Almanzo James Wilder. They bought a small farm in the Ozarks, where they remained for the rest of their lives. Their only daughter, Rose, who had become a nationally known journalist, encouraged her mother to write. Serving as agent and editor, Rose negotiated with Harper's to publish her mother's first book, “Little House in the Big Woods”. Seven more books followed, each chronicling her early life on the plains. Written from the perspective of a child, they have remained popular with young readers from many nations. Twenty years after her death in 1957, more than 20 million

copies had been sold, and they had been translated into fourteen languages. In 1974, a weekly television series, "Little House on the Prairie", was produced, based on the stories from the Wilder books. It was very well received.

**1. Which of the following is the main topic of the passage?**
**A** - American pioneer life
**B** - Children's literature
**C** - A weekly television series
**D** - Wilder's career

**2. Laura Ingalls Wilder began writing novels**
**A** - when she was a child on the frontier
**B** - right after she moved to the Ozarks
**C** - when she was a young mother
**D** - after her sixty-fifth birthday

**3. The underlined word "sporadically" is closest in meaning to**
**A** - with great success
**B** - for a long time
**C** - at irregular intervals
**D** - in a very efficient way

**4. The underlined phrase "well received" is closest in meaning to**
**A -** produced **B -** popular **C** – based **D -** translated

**5. It can be inferred from the passage that**
**A** - Laura Ingalls Wilder wrote scripts for the television series
**B** - the Wilders were not happy living in the Ozarks
**C** - Wilder's daughter was not a successful writer
**D -** Wilder's books have a universal appeal

**6. Why were Wilder's books so popular with children?**
**A** - She wrote them when she was a child.
**B** - She depicted only children in her books.
**C** - She loved children very much and they felt it reading her books.
**D** - She described her childhood on the plains keeping in mind the very feelings and impressions she had being a child.

**7. What does the author mean by the following statement?**
Because of this constant moving, Wilder's early education took place sporadically in a succession of one-room schools.
**A** - Wilder was successful in all the one-room schools that she attended.
**B** - Wilder did not receive a complete education because her family did not stay in one place.
**C** - Wilder was a very good student who progressed rapidly in school.
**D** - The one-room schools that Wilder attended were not adequate.

**8. The author mentions all of the following as events in the life of Laura Ingalls Wilder, except for**

**A** - She went west by covered wagon.
**B** - She graduated from a one-room school.
**C** - She married Almanzo Wilder.
**D** - She had one daughter.

**9. When was television series based on her stories produced?**

**A** – after her death
**B** – in 1974
**C** – in 1957
**D** – at the age of 18

## Text 21

"The Pearl" by John Steinbeck is the retelling of a legend about a fisherman who finds a huge pearl, realizes that the discovery is destroying his life, and returns the pearl to the sea. It is told in a style so authentic that readers feel they are hearing the story from one of the villagers who knows all the characters. In spite of its apparent simplicity, however, there are several levels to appreciate in reading "The Pearl".

Some critics have pointed out that the author was committed to ecology, and that this book was really his statement about the dangers of creating an imbalance in the natural environment. When the fisherman throws the pearl back into the sea, he is restoring the natural order. In fact, Steinbeck was a member of an expedition to explore marine life along the Gulf of California when he heard the legend of the "pearl of the world".

Other critics have suggested that Steinbeck's concern for the conditions of the working class was reflected in the relationships among the characters. The priest becomes interested in the poor fisherman's family after the pearl is found because he hopes to receive a donation that will enable him to improve his church. The doctor who has refused to treat the fisherman's baby in the past is solicitous when it becomes known that the fisherman has found a valuable pearl. An even more direct example of exploitation is the way that the pearl merchants take advantage of the fishermen in the village.

Finally, the work has been interpreted as an allegory of human desires, the vanity of material wealth, and the struggle between good and evil. Although the fisherman had dreamed that peace and happiness could be bought with the pearl, he realizes that these spiritual gifts are beyond price. They cannot be purchased.

Steinbeck himself writes in the introduction, "If this story is a parable, perhaps everyone takes his own meaning from it and reads his own life into it". Precisely this latitude for personal interpretation within the universal themes gives “The Pearl” such enduring appeal.

**1. What is the author's main point?**
**A** - Steinbeck retold a legend.
**B** - There are many levels to appreciate in “The Pearl”.
**C** - Spiritual gifts are beyond price.
**D** - The Pearl is a very simple story.
**2. According to the passage, why has “The Pearl” remained so popular?**
**A** - Because it allows the reader to interpret the story in a personal way
**B** - Because it is a beautiful story
**C** - Because it is a very easy story to read
**D** - Because the characters are realistic
**3. The underlined word “authentic” could best be replaced by**
**A** – spectacular **B -** realistic **C -** eloquent **D -** sentimental
**4. The underlined word “bought” is closest in meaning to**
**A -** purchased **B -** dreamed **C -** interpreted **D -** take advantage
**5. It can be inferred from the passage that the author**
**A** - does not agree with the critics
**B** - feels that “The Pearl” has one correct interpretation
**C -** does not appreciate Steinbeck's work
**D -** feels that reading “The Pearl” is a personal experience
**6. Choose the paragraph that indicates the priest's interest in the fisherman's family after the pearl is found.**
**A** - Some critics have pointed out that the author was committed ...
**B** - Other critics have suggested that Steinbeck's concern for...
**C** - Steinbeck himself writes in the introduction ...
**D** - The Pearl by John Steinbeck is the retelling of a legend about...
**7. What does the author mean by the following statement?**

Although the fisherman had dreamed that peace and happiness could be bought with the pearl, he realizes that these spiritual gifts are beyond price.

**A** - The pearl was a spiritual gift that had no monetary value.

**B** - The fisherman's dream was to buy a pearl, but he realized that it was too costly.

**C** - The peace and happiness that the fisherman desired could not be purchased.

**D** - The fisherman understood that the beautiful pearl was just a dream.

**8. The author mentions all of the following as reasons that Steinbeck may have written "The Pearl", except for**

**A** - because he was making a statement about the exploitation of the poor

**B** - because he was expressing concern for the preservation of the environment

**C** - because he was trying to demonstrate the futility of materialism

**D -** because he wanted to create a legend that would last

**9. According to the passage, what was the attitude of the people towards the fisherman after he had found the pearl?**

**A** - They envied him.

**B** - They tried to steal the pearl.

**C** - They became more attentive to his family's sorrows.

**D** - They tried to get acquainted with the fisherman.

## Text 22

The practice of signing and numbering individual prints was introduced by James Abbott McNeill Whistler, the nineteenth-century artist best known for the painting of his mother, called "Arrangement in Grey and Black", but known to most of us as "Whistler's Mother".

Whistler's brother-in-law, Sir Francis Seymour Haden, a less well-known artist, had speculated that collectors might find prints more attractive if they knew that there were only a limited number of copies produced. By signing the work in pencil, an artist could guarantee and personalize each print.

As soon as Whistler and Haden began the practice of signing and numbering their prints, their work began to increase in value. When

other artists noticed that the signed prints encouraged higher prices, they began copying the procedure.

Although most prints are signed on the right-hand side in the margin below the image, the placement of the signature is a matter of personal choice. Indeed, prints have been signed within the image, in any of the margins, or even on the reverse side of the print. Wherever the artist elects to sign it, a signed print is still valued above an unsigned one, even in the same edition.

**1. Which of the following would be the best title for the passage?**

**A** - Whistler's Mother **C** - The Practice of Signing Prints
**B** - Whistler's Greatest Works **D** - Copying Limited Edition Prints

**2. What made Whistler's work more valuable?**

**A** - His fame as an artist **C** - His signature on the prints
**B** - His painting of his mother **D** - His brother-in-law's prints

**3. The underlined word "speculated" could best be replaced by**

**A -** guessed **B -** noticed **C -** denied **D -** announced

**4. The underlined word "procedure" is closest in meaning to**

**A -** practice **B -** copying **C -** work **D -** numbering

**5. According to the passage, the interdependence between the place of the artist's signature and the print's value is in the following**

**A** -The better the place of the signature, the higher the price of the print is.
**B** - If the signature is in the right-hand corner below the image the price of the print will be higher.
**C** - The print with the signature on its reverse side is more valuable.
**D** - There is no interdependence between the place of the artist's signature and the print's value. The matter is in the signature itself. If the print is signed it is more valuable.

**6. Choose the paragraph that indicates where one might find an artist's signature on his work.**

**A** - Whistler's brother-in-law, Sir Francis Seymour Haden,...
**B** - The practice of signing and numbering individual prints...
**C** - Although most prints are signed on the right-hand side...
**D** - As soon as Whistler and Haden began the practice of signing...

**7. What does the author mean by the following statement?**

As soon as Whistler and Haden began the practice of signing and numbering their prints, their work began to increase in value.

**A** - The prints that were signed and numbered were worth more.
**B** - The signing and numbering of prints was not very popular.
**C** - The signatures became more valuable than the prints.
**D** - Many copies of the prints were made.

**8. The author mentions all of the following as reasons why a collector prefers a signed print, except for**

**A** - It guarantees the print's authenticity.
**B** - It makes the print more personal.
**C** - It encourages higher prices for the print.
**D** - It limits the number of copies of the print.

**9. It can be inferred from the passage that artists number their prints**

**A** - as an accounting procedure
**B** - to guarantee a limited edition
**C** - when the buyer requests it
**D** - at the same place on each of the prints they produce

## Text 23

Here's a very tasty cookie recipe for you to try at home. You will need two cups each of margarine, white sugar and brown sugar; four eggs, four cups of flour, 1 teaspoon of baking powder, a pinch of salt and a cup of milk chocolate chips. First of all, pre-heat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Take a large bowl and cream together the margarine and sugar until they are smooth. Then add the eggs, one by one. Sift the flour and baking powder into the mixture and add the salt. Finally add the chocolate chips. Drop spoonfuls of the mixture onto cookie sheets and bake for eight to ten minutes until the edges are golden brown. Cool for one hour before eating.

1. **Which of the following is NOT an ingredient in the recipe?**
   **A -** eggs **B -** margarine **C -** cream **D -** flour
2. **What must the cook do first?**
   **A -** Put the margarine and sugar in a bowl.

**B -** Turn on the oven.
**C -** Sift (просеять через сито) the flour.
**D -** Break the eggs.

3. **Which of the following items is needed to make this recipe?**
   **A -** a microwave **B -** a bowl **C -** a saucepan **D -** a knife
4. **Which of the following ingredients is added last?**
   **A -** salt **B -** baking powder **C -** chocolate chips **D -** eggs
5. **What part of speech is the underlined word "cream" in this passage?**
   **A -** noun **B -** adverb **C -** particle **D -** verb
6. **The underlined word "recipe" means**
   **A -** a set of instructions telling you how to turn on an oven
   **B -** an instruction on how to buy good products
   **C -** a cookbook
   **D -** a set of instructions telling you how to prepare and cook food, including a list of what food is needed for this
7. **How long does it take to bake the cookies?**
   **A -** two minutes **C -** seven minutes
   **B -** ten minutes **D -** one hour
8. **Find the synonym to the word "cookie"**
   **A -** biscuit **B -** beefsteak C - soup D – salad
9. **What does the author recommend doing before eating?**
   **A –** washing hands **C –** cooling the cookies for one hour
   **B –** switching off the oven **D –** making tea

## Text 24

***Hachi: A Dog's Tale*** (or ***Hachiko: A Dog's Story*** outside the United States) is a 2009 American drama film based on the true story of the faithful Akita (акита-ину) Hachikō. It is a remake of the 1987 Japanese movie *Hachi-kō.*

*Hachiko: A Dog's Story* was directed by Lasse Hallström, written by Stephen P. Lindsey and starring Richard Gere, Joan Allen and Sarah Roemer. The soundtrack was written by a Polish composer Jan A.P. Kaczmarek.

In the film a college professor (Richard Gere) takes in an abandoned dog, Hachi, and they become inseparable friends. After the professor dies while away from home, the dog keeps vigil waiting for his master for nearly a decade.

The movie *Hachiko: A Dog' Story* is based on a true story that took place in Japan. In 1924, Hachikō was brought to Tokyo by his owner, Hidesaburo Ueno, a professor at the University of Tokyo. During his owner's life Hachikō saw him off from the front door and greeted him at the end of the day at the nearby Shibuya Station. The pair continued their daily routine until May 1925, when Professor Ueno didn't return on the usual train one evening. The professor had suffered a stroke at the university that day. He died and never returned to the train station where his friend was waiting.

Hachikō was given away after his master's death, but he escaped, showing up again and again at his old home. After time, Hachikō apparently realized that Professor Ueno no longer lived at the house. So he went to look for his master at the train station where he had accompanied him so many times before. Each day, the dog waited for Professor Ueno to return.

Realizing that Hachikō waited for his dead master, people's hearts were touched. They brought him food. This continued for almost ten years, with Hachikō appearing only in the evening, precisely when the train was due at the station. This dog that became a national sensation died on March 8, 1935, and was found on a street in Shibuya, not far from the place where he had been waiting for his master.

The people of Japan were so touched by this heartfelt example of a dog's devotion to his owner that a bronze statue in Hachikō's likeness was erected in 1934 at Shibuya Station in Tokyo. Eventually, Hachikō's legendary faithfulness became a national symbol of loyalty.

The first foreign premiere of *Hachiko: A Dog's Story* was on August 8, 2009, in Japan. In the United States the movie was first shown at the Seattle International Film Festival on June 13, 2009. Total foreign box office had reached $45,000,000 as of June 2010.

1. ***Hachiko: A Dog's Story* is**

**A –** an American drama

**B** – a Japanese remake

**C** – an American thriller

**D** – a Japanese true story

2. **What is not true about the film?**

**A –** The film is based on the true story of the faithful Akita Hachikō.

**B -** The soundtrack was written by a Polish composer Jan A.P. Kaczmarek.

**C -** The first foreign premiere of *Hachiko: A Dog's Story* was in 2010 in Japan.

**D -** Total foreign box office had reached $45,000,000 as of June 2010.

3. **Where did the true story the film was based on take place?**

**A –** It happened in America.

**B –** It took place in Japan.

**C –** It happened in Poland.

**D** – It took place at the Seattle International Film Festival.

4. **Who was the owner of the real Hachikō?**

**A** – Richard Gere

**B** - Jan A.P. Kaczmarek.

**C** - Hidesaburo Ueno, a professor at the University of Tokyo.

**D** - Stephen P. Lindsey

5. **Where was the statue in Hachikō's likeness erected?**

**A –** not far from the University of Tokyo

**B –** in America

**C –** at the place where his owner had died

**D -** at Shibuya Station in Tokyo

6. **How long did Hachikō wait for his master to return?**

**A –** for 2 years

**C –** until his owner died

**B –** for almost ten years **D –** for a few days

7. **According to the passage, what is not true about the attitude of the people of Japan to Hachikō?**

**A –** Realizing that Hachikō waited for his dead master, people's hearts were touched.

B – A statue in Hachikō's likeness was erected at Shibuya Station in Tokyo.

C - Hachikō's legendary faithfulness became a national symbol of loyalty.

D – People do not remember this dog now.

8. **Which word is not synonymous to the others?**

**A –** disloyalty **B –** devotion **C –** loyalty **D** – faithfulness

9. **The author mentions all of the following about Hachikō, except for**

**A –**Hachikō was a dog faithful to his dead master, waiting for him at the station where he saw him for the last time.

**B –** He became a national symbol of faithfulness in Japan.

**C -** Hachikō was present at the unveiling of the bronze statue in his likeness that was erected at Shibuya Station in 1934 in Tokyo.

**D –** The people of Japan have loved this dog for his sincere devotion to his owner.

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