**PRETEST MATERIAL**

**Instructions:**

*Read the following texts carefully, and then choose the correct response for each of the questions below!*

**Text 1**

**Cultural Center Adds Classes for Young Adults**

The Allendale Cultural Center has expanded its arts program to include classes for young adults. Director Leah Martin announced Monday that beginning in September, three new classes will be offered to the Allendale community. The course titles will be Yoga for Teenagers; Hip Hop Dance: Learning the Latest Moves; and Creative Journaling for Teens: Discovering the Writer Within. The latter course will not be held at the Allendale Cultural Center but instead will meet at the Allendale Public Library.

Staff member Tricia Cousins will teach the yoga and hip hop classes. Ms. Cousins is an accomplished choreographer as well as an experienced dance educator. She has an MA in dance education from Teachers College, Columbia University, where she wrote a thesis on the pedagogical effectiveness of dance education. The journaling class will be taught by Betsy Milford. Ms. Milford is the head librarian at the Allendale Public Library as well as a columnist for the professional journal Library Focus.

The courses are part of the Allendale Cultural Center’s Project Teen, which was initiated by Leah Martin, Director of the Cultural Center. According to Martin, this project is a direct result of her efforts to make the center a more integral part of the Allendale community. Over the last several years, the number of people who have visited the cultural center for classes or events has steadily declined. Project Teen is primarily funded by a muniﬁcent grant from The McGee Arts Foundation, an organization devoted to bringing arts programs to young adults. Martin oversees the Project Teen board, which consists of ﬁve board members. Two board members are students at Allendale’s Brookdale High School; the other three are adults with backgrounds in education and the arts.

The creative journaling class will be cosponsored by Brookdale High School, and students who complete the class will be given the opportunity to publish one of their journal entries in Pulse, Brookdale’s student literary magazine. Students who complete the hip hop class will be eligible to participate in the Allendale Review, an annual concert sponsored by the cultural center that features local actors, musicians, and dancers.

All classes are scheduled to begin immediately following school dismissal, and transportation will be available from Brookdale High School to the Allendale Cultural Center and the Allendale Public Library. For more information about Project Teen, contact the cultural center’s programming ofﬁce at 988-0099 or drop by the ofﬁce after June 1 to pick up a fall course catalog. The ofﬁce is located on the third ﬂoor of the Allendale Town Hall.

1. The Creative Journaling for Teens class will be cosponsored by …..

a. The Allendale Public Library. b. The McGee Arts Foundation.

c. Brookdale High School. d. Betsy Milford.

2. Which of the following statements is correct?

a. Tricia Cousins will teach two of the new classes.

b. The new classes will begin on June 1.

c. People who want a complete fall catalogue should stop by the Allendale Public Library.

d. The cultural center’s annual concert is called Pulse.

3. According to Leah Martin, what was the direct cause of Project Teen?

a. Tricia Cousins, the talented choreographer and dance educator, was available to teach courses

 in the fall.

b. Community organizations were ignoring local teenagers.

c. The McGee Arts Foundation wanted to be more involved in Allendale’s arts programming.

d. She wanted to make the cultural center a more important part of the Allendale community.

4. Which of the following factors is implied as another reason for Project Teen?

a. The number of people who have visited the cultural center has declined over the last several years.

b. The cultural center wanted a grant from The McGee Arts Foundation.

c. The young people of Allendale have complained about the cultural center’s offerings.

d. Leah Martin thinks classes for teenagers are more important than classes for adults.

5. From the context of the passage, it can be determined that the word “muniﬁcent” most nearly means…..

a. complicated. b. generous.

c. curious. d. unusual.

6. The title of the course “Creative Journaling for Teens: Discovering the Writer Within” implies that…….

a. all young people should write in a journal daily.

b. teenagers do not have enough hobbies.

c. writing in a journal can help teenagers become better and more creative writers.

d. teenagers are in need of guidance and direction.

7. Which of the following correctly states the primary subject of this article?

a. Leah Martin’s personal ideas about young adults

b. The McGee Foundation’s grant to the Allendale Cultural Center

c. three new classes for young adults added to the cultural center’s arts program

d. the needs of young adults in Allendale

8. This article is organized in which of the following ways?

a. in chronological order, from the past to the future

b. most important information ﬁrst, followed by background and details.

c. background ﬁrst, followed by the most important information and details.

d. as sensational news, with the most controversial topic ﬁrst.

**Text 2**

**Bill Clinton’s Inaugural Address (excerpt from the opening)**

When George Washington ﬁrst took the oath I have just sworn to uphold, news traveled slowly across the land by horseback and across the ocean by boat. Now the sights and sounds of this ceremony are broadcast instantaneously to billions around the world. Communications and commerce are global. Investment is mobile. Technology is almost magical, and ambition for a better life is now universal.

We earn our livelihood in America today in peaceful competition with people all across the Earth. Profound and powerful forces are shaking and remaking our world, and the urgent question of our time is whether we can make change our friend and not our enemy. This new world has already enriched the lives of millions of Americans who are able to compete and win in it. But when most people are working harder for less; when others cannot work at all; when the cost of healthcare devastates families and threatens to bankrupt our enterprises, great and small; when the fear of crime robs law-abiding citizens of their freedom; and when millions of poor children cannot even imagine the lives we are calling them to lead, we have not made change our friend.

9. What is the central topic of the speech so far?

a. how Americans can keep up with global competition

b. ways in which technology has undermined our economy

c. ways in which technology has improved our lives

d. how change has affected America and our need to adapt

10. By comparing our times with those of George Washington, Bill Clinton demonstrates…..

a. how apparently different, but actually similar, the two eras are.

b. how technology has drastically speeded up communications.

c. that presidential inaugurations receive huge media attention.

d. that television is a much more convincing communications tool than print.

11. When President Clinton says that “most people are working harder for less,” he is…..

a. reaching a reasonable conclusion based on evidence he has provided.

b. reaching an unreasonable conclusion based on evidence he has provided.

c. making a generalization that would require evidence before it could be conﬁrmed.

d. making a generalization that is so obvious that evidence is not needed.

12. Assuming that Clinton wants to add something about crime being a more serious threat in our time than in George Washington’s, which of the following sentences would be most consistent with the the presidential speech?

a. If I’d been alive in George’s day, I would have enjoyed knowing that my wife and child could walk city streets without being mugged.

b. In George Washington’s time, Americans may not have enjoyed as many luxuries, but they could rest in the awareness that their neighborhoods were safe.

c. George could at least count on one thing. He knew that his family was safe from crime.

d. A statistical analysis of the overall growth in crime rates since 1789 would reveal that a signiﬁcant increase has occurred.

**Text 3**

**The Crossing Chapter I: The Blue Wall**

**(excerpt from the opening of a novel by Winston Churchill)**

I was born under the Blue Ridge, and under that side which is blue in the evening light, in a wild land of game and forest and rushing waters. There, on the borders of a creek that runs into the Yadkin River, in a cabin that was chinked with red mud, I came into the world a subject of King George the Third, in that part of his realm known as the province of North Carolina.

The cabin reeked of corn-pone and bacon, and the odor of pelts. It had two shakedowns, on one of which I slept under a bearskin. A rough stone chimney was reared outside, and the ﬁreplace was as long as my father was tall. There was a crane in it, and a bake kettle; and over it great buckhorns held my father’s riﬂe when it was not in use. On other horns hung jerked bear’s meat and venison hams, and gourds for drinking cups, and bags of seed, and my father’s best hunting shirt; also, in a neglected corner, several articles of woman’s attire from pegs. These once belonged to my mother. Among them was a gown of silk, of a ﬁne, faded pattern, over which I was wont to speculate. The women at the Cross-Roads, twelve miles away, were dressed in coarse butternut wool and huge sun bonnets. But when I questioned my father on these matters he would give me no answers.

My father was—how shall I say what he was? To this day I can only surmise many things of him. He was a Scotchman born, and I know now that he had a slight Scotch accent. At the time of which I write, my early childhood, he was a frontiersman and hunter. I can see him now, with his hunting shirt and leggins and moccasins; his powder horn, engraved with wondrous scenes; his bullet pouch and tomahawk and hunting knife. He was a tall, lean man with a strange, sad face. And he talked little save when he drank too many “horns,” as they were called in that country. These lapses of my father’s were a perpetual source of wonder to me—and, I must say, of delight. They occurred only when a passing traveler who hit his fancy chanced that way, or, what was almost as rare, a neighbor. Many a winter night I have lain awake under the skins, listening to a ﬂow of language that held me spellbound, though I understood scarce a word of it.

“Virtuous and vicious every man must be,

Few in the extreme, but all in a degree.”

The chance neighbor or traveler was no less struck with wonder. And many the time have I heard the query, at the Cross-Roads and elsewhere, “Whar Alec Trimble got his larnin’?”

13. Why did the narrator enjoy it when his father drank too many “horns,” or drafts of liquor?

a. The father spoke brilliantly at those times.

b. The boy was then allowed to do as he pleased.

c. These were the only times when the father was not abusive.

d. The boy was allowed to sample the drink himself.

14. Judging by the sentences surrounding it, the word “surmise” in the third paragraph most nearly means…..

a. to form a negative opinion. b. to praise.

c. to desire. d. to guess.

15. The mention of the dress in the second paragraph is most likely meant to…….

a. show the similarity between its owner and other members of the community.

b. show how warm the climate was.

c. show the dissimilarity between its owner and other members of the community.

d. give us insight into the way most of the women of the region dressed.

16. It can be inferred from the passage that Alec Trimble is…..

a. a traveler. b. a neighbor.

c. the narrator’s father. d. a poet.

17. What is the meaning of the lines of verse quoted in the passage?

a. Men who pretend to be virtuous are actually vicious.

b. Moderate amounts of virtuousness and viciousness are present in all men.

c. Virtuous men cannot also be vicious.

d. Whether men are virtuous or vicious depends on the difﬁculty of their circumstances.

18. Which of the following adjectives best describes the region in which the cabin is located?

a. remote b. urban c. agricultural d. ﬂat

19. The author most likely uses dialect when quoting the question, “Whar Alec Trimble got his larnin’?” in order to……

a. show disapproval of the father’s drinking.

b. show how people talked down to the narrator.

c. show the speakers’ lack of education.

d. mimic the way the father talked.

**Text 4**

**(excerpt from a letter to a pet-sitter)**

Dear Lee,

As I told you, I’ll be gone until Wednesday morning. Thank you so much for taking on my “children” while I’m away. Like real children, they can be kind of irritating sometimes, but I’m going to enjoy myself so much more knowing they’re getting some kind human attention. Remember that Regina (the “queen” in Latin, and she acts like one) is teething. If you don’t watch her, she’ll chew anything, including her sister, the cat. There are plenty of chew toys around the house. Whenever she starts gnawing on anything illegal, just divert her with one of those. She generally settles right down to a good hour-long chew. Then you’ll see her wandering around whimpering with the remains of the toy in her mouth. She gets really frustrated because what she wants is to bury the thing. She’ll try to dig a hole between the cushions of the couch. Finding that unsatisfactory, she’ll wander some more, discontent, until you solve her problem for her. I usually show her the laundry basket, moving a few clothes so she can bury her toy beneath them. I do sound like a parent, don’t I? You have to understand, my own son is practically grown up.

Regina’s food is the Puppy Chow in the utility room, where the other pet food is stored. Give her a bowl once in the morning and once in the evening. No more than that, no matter how much she begs. Beagles are notorious overeaters, according to her breeder, and I don’t want her to lose her girlish ﬁgure. She can share Rex (the King’s) water, but be sure it’s changed daily. She needs to go out several times a day, especially last thing at night and ﬁrst thing in the morning. Let her stay out for about ten minutes each time, so she can do all her business. She also needs a walk in the afternoon, after which it’s important to romp with her for a while in the yard. The game she loves most is fetch, but be sure to make her drop the ball. She’d rather play tug of war with it. Tell her, “Sit! ”Then, when she does, say, “Drop it!” Be sure to tell her “good girl,” and then throw the ball for her. I hope you’ll enjoy these sessions as much as I do.

Now, for the other two, Rex and Paws… (letter continues)

20. If the pet-sitter is a business-like professional who watches people’s pets for a living, she or he would likely prefer…….

a. more ﬁrst-person revelations about the owner.

b. fewer ﬁrst-person revelations about the owner.

c. more praise for agreeing to watch the animals.

d. greater detail on the animals’ cute behavior.

21. According to the author, his or her attachment to the pets derives at least partially from…… a. their regal pedigrees and royal bearing.

b. having few friends to pass the time with.

c. these particular animals’ exceptional needs.

d. a desire to continue parenting.

22. The information in the note is sufﬁcient to determine that there are three animals. They are…..

a. two cats and a dog. b. three dogs.

c. a dog, a cat, and an unspeciﬁed animal. d. a cat, a dog, and a parrot.

23. Given that there are three animals to feed, which of the following arrangements of the feeding instructions would be most efﬁcient and easiest to follow?

a. all given in one list, chronologically from morning to night

b. provided separately as they are for Regina, within separate passages on each animal

c. given in the order of quantities needed, the most to the least

d. placed in the middle of the letter, where they would be least likely to be overlooked

24. From the context of the note, it is most likely that the name “Rex” is……

a. Spanish. b. English.

c. French. d. Latin.

25. If the sitter is to follow the owner’s directions in playing fetch with Regina, at what point will he or she will tell Regina “good girl”?

a. every time Regina goes after the ball b. after Regina ﬁnds the ball

c. when Regina brings the ball back d. after Regina drops the ball.

26. This letter is best described as……

a. chatty and humorous. b. logical and precise.

c. conﬁdent and trusting. d. condescending and preachy.

**Text 5**

**Improving Streamside Wildlife Habitats**

**(excerpt from Habitat Extension Bulletin distributed by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department)**

 Riparian vegetation [the green band of vegetation along a watercourse] can help stabilize stream banks; ﬁlter sediment from surface runoff; and provide wildlife habitat, livestock forage, and scenic value. Well-developed vegetation also allows bank soils to absorb extra water during spring runoff, releasing it later during drier months, thus improving late-summer stream ﬂows.

 In many parts of the arid West, trees and shrubs are found only in riparian areas. Woody plants are very important as winter cover for many wildlife species, including upland game birds such as pheasants and turkeys. Often this winter cover is the greatest single factor limiting game bird populations. Woody vegetation also provides hiding cover and browse for many other species of birds and mammals, both game and nongame.

 Dead trees (“snags”) are an integral part of streamside habitats and should be left standing whenever possible. Woodpeckers, nuthatches, brown creepers, and other birds eat the insects that decompose the wood. These insects usually pose no threat to nearby living trees. Occasionally a disease organism or misuse of pesticides will weaken or kill a stand of trees. If several trees in a small area begin to die, contact your local extension agent immediately.

27. What is the effect of the word choice “riparian”?

a. It gives the article an authoritative, scientiﬁc tone.

b. It causes confusion, since both streams and rivers could be viewed as riparian.

c. It seems condescending, as if the author was stooping to teach readers.

d. It misleads readers into thinking they are getting scientiﬁc information when they are not.

28. By listing the speciﬁc birds that live in riparian areas, the author conveys a sense of……

a. urgency on behalf of endangered species.

b. the rich and varied life in such areas.

c. his or her own importance as a scientiﬁc expert.

d. poetic wonder over the variety found in nature.

29. The main subject of the second paragraph of this passage is……

a. the types of birds that live in riparian areas.

b. the effect of winter cover on water purity.

c. the role of trees and shrubs in riparian areas.

d. how winter cover affects game bird populations.

30. Overall, the assertions of this passage seem to be based on…..

a. rash opinion with little observation behind it.

b. deeply held emotional convictions.

c. fact derived from scientiﬁc literature.

d. inconclusive evidence gathered in ﬁeld studies.

31. What does the word “arid” accomplish in the ﬁrst sentence of the second paragraph?

a. It provides a sense of the generally high altitude of the West.

b. It signiﬁes a change in subject from the Eastern United States to the West.

c. It clariﬁes the author’s purpose to discuss nonurban areas.

d. It clariﬁes the reason that trees and shrubs are found only in riparian areas.

**Text 6**

**(excerpt from “First,” a short story)**

 First, you ought to know that I’m “only” fourteen. My mother points this out frequently. I can make decisions for myself when I’m old enough to vote, she says. Second, I should tell you that she’s right—I’m not always responsible. I sometimes take the prize for a grade-A dork. Last weekend, for instance, when I was staying at Dad’s, I decided it was time I learned to drive. It was Sunday morning, 7 a.m. to be exact, and I hadn’t slept well thinking about this argument I’ll be telling you about in a minute. Nobody was up yet in the neighborhood, and I thought there would be no harm in backing the car out of the garage and cruising around the block. But Dad has a clutch car, and the “R” on the shift handle was up on the left side, awful close to ﬁrst gear, and I guess you can guess the rest.

 Dad’s always been understanding. He didn’t say, like Mom would, “Okay, little Miss Know-It-All, you can just spend the rest of the year paying this off.” He worried about what might have happened to me—to me, you see, and that made me feel guiltier than anything. Overall, I just think he’d be a better number-one caregiver, if you get my drift. Of course I can’t say things like that to Mom.

 To her, I have to say, “But Mom, Dad’s place is closer to school. I could ride my bike.” She replies, “Jennifer Lynn, you don’t own a bike, because you left it in the yard and it was stolen, and you haven’t got the perseverance it takes to do a little work and earn the money to replace it.”

32. Which description best explains the structure of the story so far?

a. chronological, according to what happens ﬁrst, second, and so on

b. reverse chronological order, with the most recent events recorded ﬁrst

c. intentionally confused order, incorporating ﬂashbacks to previous events

d. according to importance, with the most signiﬁcant details related ﬁrst

33. What device does the author use to illustrate the narrator’s feelings about her mother and father?

a. vivid and speciﬁc visual detail

b. rhetorical questions, which make a point but don’t invite a direct answer

c. metaphors and other ﬁgurative language

d. contrast between the parents’ typical reactions.

34. The narrator attributes her inability to sleep when staying at her father’s house to….

a. thinking about a disagreement with someone.

b. the uncomfortable quiet of an early Sunday morning.

c. the sore throat she had from shouting so much.

d. her accident with the car.

35. When the narrator says she sometimes “take[s] the prize for a grade-A dork,” the word choice is intended to indicate

a. that she doesn’t know proper English.

b. her age and culture.

c. that she is unable to judge her own actions.

d. that she thinks she’s better than most others who might be termed “dorks”.

36. From the context in the last sentence of the passage, it can be determined that the word “perseverance” most nearly means…..

a. attractiveness. b. thinking ability.

c. ability to persist. d. love of danger.

37. In choosing to use the bike argument with her mother, the narrator is trying to appeal to her mother’s…….

a. compassion over her lost bike. b. disregard for material objects.

c. laziness. d. reason.

38. The main argument the narrator has been having with her mother is over whether she should…..

a. be allowed to date. b. live with her mother or father.

c. be allowed to drive a car. d. pay for things she breaks.

39. It appears that the mother has alienated her daughter by…..

 a. being too busy to give her the attention she needs.

b. having divorced her father.

c. insisting too much on reasonableness.

d. valuing things over people and feelings.

40-. What most likely happened with the car?

a. The narrator mistook ﬁrst gear for reverse and ran into the garage wall.

b. The narrator stole it from her father and drove it over to her mother’s.

c. The father left it in gear, and when the narrator started it, it leapt forward into the wall.

d. The narrator attempted suicide through carbon monoxide poisoning.

-------------------------***This is the end of the Pretest Section***-------------------

**Pretest Answer Key**

1. C 2. A 3. D 4. A

5. B 6. C 7. C 8. B

9. D 10. B 11. C 12. B

13. A 14. D 15. C 16. C

17. B 18. A 19. C 20. B

21. D 22. C 23. A 24. D

25. D 26. A 27. A 28. B

29. C 30. C 31. D 32. C

33. D 34. A 35. B 36. C

37. D 38. B 39. D 40. A

*---------------------Read Carefully-Think Critically-Act Positively-------------------*

**Appendix 1.f. The Posttest Material (2)**

**POSTTEST MATERIAL**

**Instructions:**

*Read the following texts carefully, and then choose the correct answer for each of the questions below!*

**Text 1**

**Grunge Music and American Popular Culture**

The late 1980s found the landscape of popular music in America dominated by a distinctive style of rock and roll known as *Glam Rock* or *Hair Metal*—so called because of the over-styled hair, makeup, and wardrobe worn by the genre’s ostentatious rockers. Bands like Poison, Whitesnake, and Mötley Crüe popularized glam rock with their power ballads and flashy style, but the product had worn thin by the early 1990s. Just as superficial as the 80s, glam rockers were shallow, short on substance, and musically inferior.

In 1991, a Seattle-based band called Nirvana shocked the corporate music industry with the release of its debut single, “Smells Like Teen Spirit,” which quickly became a huge hit all over the world. Nirvana’s distorted, guitar laden sound and thought-provoking lyrics were the antithesis of glam rock, and the youth of America were quick to pledge their allegiance to the brand-new movement known as *grunge*.

Grunge actually got its start in the Pacific Northwest during the mid-1980s. Nirvana had simply mainstreamed a sound and culture that got its start years before with bands like Mudhoney, Soundgarden, and Green River. Grunge rockers derived their fashion sense from the youth culture of the Pacific Northwest: a melding of punk rock style and outdoors clothing like flannels, heavy boots, worn out jeans, and corduroys. At the height of the movement’s popularity, when other Seattle bands like Pearl Jam and Alice in Chains were all the rage, the trappings of grunge were working their way to the height of American fashion. Like the music, the teenagers were fast to embrace the grunge fashion because it represented defiance against corporate America and shallow pop culture.

The popularity of grunge music was ephemeral; by the mid- to late-1990s, its influence upon American culture had all but disappeared, and most of its recognizable bands were nowhere to be seen on the charts. The heavy sound and themes of grunge were replaced on the radio waves by boy bands like the Backstreet Boys, and the bubblegum pop of Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera.

There are many reasons why the Seattle sound faded out of the mainstream as quickly as it rocketed to prominence, but the most glaring reason lies at the defiant, anti-establishment heart of the grunge movement itself. It is very hard to buck the trend when you are the one setting it, and many of the grunge bands were never comfortable with the fame that was thrust upon them. Ultimately, the simple fact that many grunge bands were so against mainstream rock stardom eventually took the movement back to where it started: underground. The fickle American mainstream public, as quick as they were to hop on to the grunge bandwagon, were just as quick to hop off and move on to something else.

1. The word “ostentatious” in the first sentence most nearly means…

a. stubborn. b. youthful.

c. showy. d. unadorned.

2. Teenagers embraced grunge fashion because…

a. they were tired of Glam Rock fashion.

b. it defied corporate America and the shallowness of pop culture.

c. grunge rockers told them to embrace it.

d. it outraged their parents.

3. This writer is trying to document….

a. the popularity of glam rock.

b. Nirvana’s role in popularizing grunge music.

c. the rise and fall of grunge music.

d. the reasons young people responded so enthusiastically to grunge music.

4. According to this passage, what is the difference between glam rock and grunge?

a. Glam rock is flashier and superficial, while grunge is thought-provoking and

 anti-establishment.

b. Glam rock appeals to teenagers, while grunge appeals to adults.

c. Glam rock faded quickly, while grunge is still prominent.

d. Glam rock was more commercially successful than grunge.

5. Which of the following bands is not associated with grunge?

a. Nirvana b. Mudhoney

c. Pearl Jam d. Backstreet Boys

**Text 2**

**To Lease or Not to Lease**

Planning to lease a car because you don’t think you can afford to buy? Think again. Leasing can end up being just as expensive as buying—and you don’t even get to the keep the car. Most people who are thinking about leasing are attracted to this option because they believe it will cost them less money. And they’re right—it is cheaper, but only in the short term. For example, if you were to lease a brand-new Subaru Forester with $4,000 down, you might pay $300 per month for the car. If you were to buy the same car with $3,000 down, you would pay closer to $400 per month. Over a three-year lease, that’s $3,600—a big savings. But after your lease is over, you have to give the car back. If you want to keep driving, you’ll either have to put another down-payment on another lease, or, if you have the option to buy the car, you’ll have to pay thousands of dollars to purchase the vehicle—dollars that won’t be spread out in more manageable monthly payments.

Many people want to lease because they can drive a more upmarket car than they might otherwise be able to afford. For example, if your monthly budget allowed you to spend $300 on a car, you might be able to lease a brand new Ford Explorer. For the same price, you might have to buy an Explorer that was two or three years old with 50,000 miles, or buy a new but considerably less expensive make and model. A lease, therefore, allows you to drive the latest models of more expensive cars. But when your lease is over, you will have to return that Explorer. Whatever car you can afford to buy, you get to keep it, and it will always have a resell or trade-in value if you want to later upgrade to a newer car.

Furthermore, people who lease cars are often shocked and appalled by how much they must pay when the lease is over. Most leases limit you to a certain number of miles, and if you go over that allotment, you must pay for each mile. As a result, at the end of a lease, you may end up paying thousands of dollars in mileage fees. For example, if your lease covers you for 25,000 miles over three years, but you drive 40,000, that’s an extra 15,000 miles. At $.11 per mile, that’s $1,650 you’ll have to pay. And you still won’t have a car.

In addition, when you lease, you still have to pay for regular maintenance and repairs to the vehicle. Since you must return the car when your lease expires, you are paying to repair someone else’s car. If you own the car, however, you would know that every dollar you spend maintaining or repairing the car is an investment in a real piece of property—your property, not someone else’s.

By now, the benefits of buying over leasing should be clear. But if you’re still not convinced, remember this fundamental fact: If you lease, when your lease is up, and after you’ve made all of your monthly payments, paid for extra mileage, and paid for repairs, *you must give the car back.* It isn’t yours to keep, no matter how much the lease cost you. Whatever make or model you can afford to buy, it is yours to keep after you make the payments. There’s no giving it back, and that makes all the difference.

6. According to the passage, which of the following statements is true?

a. People believe leasing will cost them less money.

b. Most Americans lease rather than buy cars.

c. Most car leases allow for unlimited mileage.

d. Leasing a car is never as expensive as buying.

7. Which of the following sentences best summarizes the main idea of this passage?

a. Leasing a car is a bad idea.

b. The benefits of buying a car outweigh the benefits of leasing a car.

c. Leasing allows people to drive more expensive cars than they might otherwise

 be able to afford.

d. People are often shocked at how much money they end up paying when a car

 lease is over.

8. The author makes his or her point by…

a. making an argument using chronological order.

b. arguing the benefits of buying from the most to least important.

c. comparing and contrasting leasing and buying.

d. stating opinions.

9. This writer bases his or her argument primarily on…

a. facts derived from the author’s personal observations.

b. opinions that others have reported to the author.

c. facts with logic and statistics supporting them.

d. opinions derived from the author’s personal observations.

10. From the context, it can be determined that the word “upmarket” in the third paragraph means…

a. safer. b. bigger.

c. expensive. d. dependable.

11. When this author says that “most people want to lease because they can then drive a more upmarket car,” he or she is….

a. making a generalization that requires evidence before it can be confirmed.

b. making an obvious generalization that needs no evidence.

c. reaching an unreasonable conclusion based on evidence provided.

d. reaching a reasonable conclusion based on evidence provided.

**Text 3**

**“The Weekly Visit”**

**(short story excerpt)**

The requisite visit happened typically on sunny Saturdays, when my child spirits were at their highest and could be most diminished by the cramped interior of her house. My mother, accustomed to the bright, spacious farmhouse that was once Grandma’s seemed no less susceptible to the gloom. She would set her jaw as Grandma described the many ailments attendant on age and would check her watch—an hour being the minimum she expected herself to withstand. Her barely contained impatience and my grandmother’s crippling age radiated out around me. We were the women of the Carlson clan, each throbbing with agitation, like concentric, blinking circles on a radar screen.

I would sit at the white and red metal table with the pull-out leaves and built-in silverware drawer, cracking almonds. This was the one good thing at Grandma’s house, the almonds, which she kept in a green Depression glass bowl. I would lift the lid carefully and try to set it down on the metal table quietly, then attempt to crack the nuts without scattering the shell crumbs. It was not good to draw attention to myself at Grandma Carlson’s. Sounding angry, she would call to me in her croupy drawl. When I failed to understand her, she would reach out to me with her palsied, slick, wrinkled hand and shout, “Here!” She would be offering some of her horehound candy, which tasted like a cross between butterscotch and bitter sticks.

There was this lamentable air in the dim house with its itchy mohair furniture and its dark colors, awareness—Grandma’s—underlying the mentholatum, that her age scared her grandkids. I would yearn during the dutiful visit to get outside into the yard, where Grandma had transplanted a few flowers when she moved from the farm. But even the yard, with its overgrown hedges and rusted metal lawn chairs, seemed dreary. When I came back inside, light and air bursting in with me, Grandma, her hair up in a gray bun, would rock a little and smile. I would lean then against my mother’s chair, Grandma’s fond eyes peering at me, and whisper out of the corner of my mouth, “Mom, can we go?”

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12. From the overall context of the passage, it is most likely that the word *lamentable* at the beginning of the third paragraph means…

a. laughable. b. sad.

c. insane. d. inspired.

13. In revising this story, the author is considering taking out the reference to “butterscotch and bitter sticks” and instead describing the candy as “bitter with a sweet under-taste.” Which is better—the original or this alternative description—and why?

a. the original, because it leaves the actual taste up to the reader’s imagination

b. the original, because it is more vivid and exact

c. the alternative, because it is more brief and to the point

d. the alternative, because it is more vivid and exact

14. Which of the following accurately reflects the comparative attitudes of the characters in this excerpt?

a. The attitudes of the mother and the daughter are similar.

b. The attitudes of the grandmother and the mother are similar.

c. The attitudes of the grandmother and the granddaughter are similar.

d. The attitudes of the mother and the daughter are dissimilar.

**Text 4**

**Fly-Rights—A Consumer Guide to Air Travel**

**(excerpt)**

If your reservations are booked far enough ahead of time, the airline may offer to mail your tickets to you. However, if you don’t receive the tickets and the airline’s records show that they mailed them, you may have to go through cumbersome lost-ticket procedures. It is safer to check the telephone directory for a conveniently located travel agency or airline ticket office and buy your tickets there.

As soon as you receive your ticket, make sure all the information on it is correct, especially the airports (if any of the cities have more than one) and the flight dates. Have any necessary corrections made immediately.

It’s a good idea to reconfirm your reservations before you start your trip; flight schedules sometimes change. On international trips, most airlines require that you reconfirm your onward or return reservations at least 72 hours before each flight. If you don’t, your reservations may be canceled.

Check your tickets as you board each flight to ensure that only the correct coupon has been removed by the airline agent.

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15. Numbering the paragraphs 1 through 4 as they now appear, choose the option that places them in chronological order.

a. 2, 3, 4, 1 b. 3, 1, 2, 4

c. 3, 2, 1, 4 d. 1, 2, 3, 4

16. As the passage appears in paragraph 1, why is it suggested that you buy your tickets from a “conveniently located” agency or office?

a. because you can stop on your way to the airport to pick up your tickets

b. because you can pick your tickets up rather than relying on the mail

c. because the airlines themselves often make mistakes in issuing tickets

d. because it is good to support local businesses

17. Which is a possible result of not following the advice offered in the first sentence of paragraph 2?

a. You might fly into the right city, but the wrong airport.

b. You might miss your flight, because the date was improperly recorded.

c. You might not be allowed to board your flight because the name on the ticket doesn’t match that on your ID.

d. Any of the above could happen as a result of not following the advice.

**Text 5**

**“Bear Story”**

Campers Gene and Marie Marsden took pride in being good citizens when in the wild. While driving the three hundred miles from their home in Colorado to the Green River Lakes area of the Wind River Mountains in Wyoming, they instructed their children in the protocol they’d learned in the bear safety pamphlet put out by the Bridger-Teton Forest Service. The number-one rule was “Don’t feed the bears!”— whether intentionally or not. Warning the kids not to go anywhere near a bear, the Marsdens had no problem with the intentional part, but the unintentional part was not as easy to avoid as they thought.

Mr. and Mrs. Marsden did their best to keep a tidy camp. While the bear manual had said to hang all food at least ten feet off the ground and four feet out from the trunk of a tree, they did what all the other people in the nearby public campground were doing and locked their food in their little utility trailer at night. Afraid that the scent of the bait might attract a bear, they even locked up Marie’s fishing pole. It was always dark when they went to bed, but they perused the campsite with flashlights, making sure nothing was left out. Taking the recommended precaution of sleeping a hundred yards from where they cooked their food, they kept the car near their tents, unhitched from the trailer, which they left up at the other camp. Before going to bed each night, all of the Marsdens took off the clothes they had worn during the day while eating, replacing them with pajamas that they used only for sleeping. They were also careful to lock the dirty laundry in the trailer. As the pamphlet advised, they took no snacks into their tents.

Gene says he now regrets not having taken their dog into the tent at night, but they liked having him on guard. Small animals would often come sniffing around, and the dog would chase them back into the thickets, then return to the hollow he’d dug for himself in front of the children’s tent. But on the night of the encounter, Spike would not stop barking, and Marie Marsden knew he must be sounding the alarm on something more dangerous and dauntless than a raccoon or squirrel. When she unzipped the tent and shined her flashlight in the direction of the cooking area, she saw Spike attempting to hold a young grizzly bear at bay.

They all managed to pile into the car, and with the kids sitting atop stuffed sacks full of clothes and gear, they drove quickly down the trail, calling out the window to Spike and abandoning the cargo trailer to whatever fate the bear might have in store for it. Uncertain whether the bear was following, one of the children opened a door and loaded Spike up on the run. They drove to a pay phone twenty miles away and called a Fish and Game Department ranger, who identified the bear by the white ruff the Marsdens had seen around his neck. The authorities informed the Marsdens that the bear was a young, recently weaned male that they’d been keeping an eye on.

The next morning, the Marsdens heard helicopters circling over the mountain above them and wondered if it might have something to do with the bear. After spending the night in the public campground, they drove back to their site. Wandering the area in search of clues, Marie came to a halt below the tallest spruce. She slapped her head and shouted, “Oh no!”

“What is it?” Gene asked.

Marie pointed at the ground where Spike’s dog food bowl lay upside down. A week after their return home, the Marsdens read the headline in their local paper. “Bear Euthanized in Wind Rivers.” According to the article, the Fish and Game Department had shot the young bear because, having been rewarded for invading a human campsite, it would likely do so again.

The Marsdens knew they had been lucky in the encounter, yet much to their shame and sadness, they also knew that the bear had not.

18. Which of the following statements is true?

a. The Marsdens went camping in the Wind River Mountains of Wyoming.

b. The pamphlet on camping in bear country was sent to the Marsdens by the Fish

 and Game Department.

c. The Marsdens went camping in the Green River Lakes area near their

 hometown.

d. all of the above

19. Who does the author imply is mostly to blame in the bear’s death?

a. the Marsdens, because they were not careful enough

b. the bear, because he invaded a human camp

c. the Fish and Game authorities, because of poor communication with campers

d. the Forest Service, for putting out incomplete information

20. In paragraph 3, it can be determined from the context that the word “dauntless” means….

a. stupid. b. fearless.

c. clumsy. d. spineless.

21. This story is arranged….

a. like a news story, with the most important event told first.

b. in reverse chronological order, with the last event first.

c. in standard chronological order, with events told in the order they occurred.

d. in mixed, random order.

22. What was the “reward” referred to in the next to last paragraph?

a. the bear seeing the Marsdens run from him

b. the bear receiving no punishment for disturbing humans

c. the bear being able to stand off Spike

d. the bear getting the dog food

23. The tone and style of this piece make it appropriate for which of the following types of publications?

a. a scientific report on human-bear interaction

b. a pamphlet on bear safety such as the one the Marsdens read

c. a statistical study on bear fatalities in the Western mountains

d. a human interest article in the Sunday magazine of a newspaper

**Text 6**

**“A Plains Childhood”**

When I think of my family’s history on the land, I experience a pang of regret. Unlike much of the arid West, where the land has gone virtually unchanged for centuries, my place of origin, western Kansas, has been torn up by agriculture. The flat plains, excellent soil, and sparse but just adequate rainfall permitted farming; therefore farming prevailed, and a good 90% of the original sod prairie is gone. The consequence, in human terms, is that our relationship to our place has always felt primarily mercantile. We used the land and denied, or held at bay, its effect on us. Yet from my earliest childhood, when most of the Kansas prairie was still intact, I’ve known that the land also had a romantic quality. I’ve felt moved by the expanse of it, enthralled by its size. I take pride in my identity as a plains daughter.1

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24. Which of the following is the most accurate restatement of the author’s position?

a. The presence of people has enriched the plains habitat.

b. Farming has improved the soil of the plains.

c. Farming has eroded the natural beauty of the plains.

d. Farming has chemically polluted the plains.

25. The argument in this paragraph is based primarily on….

a. facts of history and statistical studies.

b. facts derived from the author’s personal observations.

c. feelings the author has picked up from personal experience.

d. feelings passed down to the author by ancestors.

26. From context, it can be determined that the word “mercantile” has something to do with…

a. practicality. b. danger.

c. America. d. spirituality.

**Text 7**

The coast of the State of Maine is one of the most irregular in the world. A straight line running from the southernmost coastal city to the northernmost coastal city would measure about 225 miles. If you followed the coastline between these points, you would travel more than ten times as far. This irregularity is the result of what is called a drowned coastline. The term comes from the glacial activity of the Ice Age. At that time, the whole area that is now Maine was part of a mountain range that towered above the sea. As the glacier descended, however, it expended enormous force on those mountains, and they sank into the sea.

As the mountains sank, ocean water charged over the lowest parts of the remaining land, forming a series of twisting inlets and lagoons of contorted grottos and nooks. The highest parts of the former mountain range, nearest the shore, remained as islands. Mt. Desert Island was one of the most famous of all the islands left behind by the glacier. Marine fossils found here were 225 feet above sea level indicating the level of the shoreline prior to the glacier.

The 2,500 mile long rocky and jagged coastline of Maine keeps watch over nearly 2,000 islands. Many of these islands are tiny and uninhabited, but many are home to thriving communities. Mt. Desert Island is one of the largest, most beautiful of the Maine coast islands. Measuring 16 miles by 12 miles, Mt. Desert was very nearly formed as two distinct islands. It is split almost in half by Somes Sound, a very deep and very narrow stretch of water seven miles long.

For years, Mt. Desert Island, particularly its major settlement, Bar Harbor, afforded summer homes for the wealthy. Recently though, Bar Harbor has become a burgeoning arts community as well. But, the best part of the island is the unspoiled forest land known as Acadia National Park. Since the island sits on the boundary line between

the temperate and subarctic zones, the island supports the flora and fauna of both zones as well as beach, inland, and alpine plants. It also lies in a major bird migration lane and is a resting spot for many birds.

The establishment of Acadia National Park in 1916 means that this natural monument will be preserved and that it will be available to all people, not just the wealthy. Visitors to Acadia may receive nature instruction from the park naturalists as well as enjoy camping, hiking, cycling, and boating. Or they may choose to spend time at the archeological museum learning about the Stone Age inhabitants of the island.

The best view on Mt. Desert Island is from the top of Cadillac Mountain. This mountain rises 1,532 feet, making it the highest mountain on the Atlantic seaboard. From the summit, you can gaze back toward the mainland or out over the Atlantic Ocean and contemplate the beauty created by a retreating glacier.

27. Which of the following lists of topics best outlines the information in the

 selection?

a. Ice-Age glacial activity—The Islands of Casco Bay—Formation of Cadillac

 Mountain—Summer residents of Mt. Desert Island

b. Formation of a drowned coastline—The topography of Mt. Desert Island—The

 environment of Mt. Desert Island—Tourist attractions on Mt. Desert Island

c. Mapping the Maine coastline—The arts community at Bar Harbor—History of

 the National Park system—Climbing Cadillac Mountain

d. The effect of glaciers on small islands—Stone-Age dwellers on Mt. Desert

 Island—The importance of biodiversity—Hiking in Acadia National Park

28. Which of the following statements best expresses the main idea of paragraph 4 of the selection?

a. The wealthy residents of Mt. Desert Island selfishly kept it to themselves.

b. Acadia National Park is one of the smallest of the national parks.

c. On Mt. Desert Island, there is great tension between the year-round residents

 and the summer tourists.

d. Due to its location and environment, Mt. Desert Island supports an incredibly

 diverse animal and plant life.

29. According to the selection, the large number of small islands along the coast of Maine are the result of….

a. glaciers forcing a mountain range into the sea.

b. Maine’s location between the temperate and subarctic zones.

c. the irregularity of the Maine coast.

d. the need for summer communities for wealthy tourists and artists.

30. The content of paragraph 5 indicates that the writer believes that

a. the continued existence of national parks is threatened by budget cuts.

b. the best way to preserve the environment on Mt. Desert Island is to limit the

 number of visitors.

c. national parks allow large numbers of people to visit and learn about interesting

 wilderness areas.

d. Mt. Desert Island is the most interesting tourist attraction in Maine.

31. According to the selection, the coast of Maine is……

a. 2,500 miles long. b. 3,500 miles long.

c. 225 miles long. d. 235 miles long.

32. What is the meaning of the underlined phrase flora and fauna in paragraph 4 of this passage?

a. insects and plants b. plants and animals

c. deer and coyote d. birds and beaches

**Text 8**

The immune system is equal in complexity to the combined intricacies of the brain and nervous system. The success of the immune system in defending the body relies on a dynamic regulatory communications network consisting of millions and millions of cells. Organized into sets and subsets, these cells pass information back and forth like clouds of bees swarming around a hive. The result is a sensitive system of checks and balances that produces an immune response that is prompt, appropriate, effective, and self-limiting.

At the heart of the immune system is the ability to distinguish between self and non-self. When immune defenders encounter cells or organisms carrying foreign or non-self-molecules, the immune troops move quickly to eliminate the intruders. Virtually every body cell carries distinctive molecules that identify it as self. The body’s immune defenses do not normally attack tissues that carry a self-marker. Rather, immune cells and other body cells coexist peaceably in a state known as self-tolerance. When a normally functioning immune system attacks a non-self-molecule, the system has the ability to “remember” the specifics of the foreign body. Upon subsequent encounters with the same species of molecules, the immune system reacts accordingly. With the possible exception

of antibodies passed during lactation, this so called immune system memory is not inherited. Despite the occurrence of a virus in your family, your immune system must “learn” from experience with the many millions of distinctive non-self-molecules in the sea of microbes in which we live. Learning entails producing the appropriate molecules and cells to match up with and counteract each non-self-invader.

Any substance capable of triggering an immune response is called an antigen. Antigens are not to be confused with allergens, which are most often harmless substances (such as ragweed pollen or cat hair) that provoke the immune system to set off the inappropriate and harmful response known as allergy. An antigen can be a virus, a bacterium, a fungus, a parasite, or even a portion or product of one of these organisms. Tissues or cells from another individual (except an identical twin, whose cells carry identical self-markers) also act as antigens; because the immune system recognizes transplanted tissues as foreign, it rejects them. The body will even reject nourishing proteins unless they are first broken down by the digestive system into their primary, non-antigenic building blocks. An antigen announces its foreignness by means of intricate and characteristic shapes called epitopes, which protrude from its surface. Most antigens, even the simplest microbes, carry several different kinds of epitopes on their surface; some may even carry several hundred. Some epitopes will be more effective than others at stimulating an immune response. Only in abnormal situations does the immune system wrongly identify self as non-self and execute a misdirected immune attack. The result can be a so-called autoimmune disease such as rheumatoid arthritis or systemic lupus erythematosis. The painful side effects of these diseases are caused by a person’s immune system actually attacking itself.

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33. What is the analogy used to describe the communications network among the cells in the immune system?

a. the immune system’s memory b. immune troops eliminating intruders

c. bees swarming around a hive d. a sea of microbes

34. The immune cells and other cells in the body coexist peaceably in a state known as….

a. equilibrium. b. self-tolerance.

c. harmony. d. tolerance

35. What is the specific term for the substance capable of triggering an inappropriate or harmful immune response to a harmless substance such as ragweed pollen?

a. antigen b. microbe

c. allergen d. autoimmune disease

36. How do the cells in the immune system recognize an antigen as “foreign” or “non-self?”

a. through an allergic response

b. through blood type

c. through fine hairs protruding from the antigen surface

d. through characteristic shapes on the antigen surface

37. After you have had the chicken pox, your immune system will be able to do all of the following EXCEPT…

a. prevent your offspring from infection by the chicken pox virus.

b. distinguish between your body cells and that of the chicken pox virus.

c. “remember” previous experiences with the chicken pox virus.

d. match up and counteract non-self-molecules in the form of the chicken pox

 virus.

38. Which of the following best expresses the main idea of this passage?

a. An antigen is any substance that triggers an immune response.

b. The basic function of the immune system is to distinguish between self and

 non-self.

c. One of the immune system’s primary functions is the allergic response.

d. The human body presents an opportune habitat for microbes.

39. Why would tissue transplanted from father to daughter have a greater risk of being detected as foreign than a tissue transplanted between identical twins?

a. The age of the twins’ tissue would be the same and therefore less likely to be

 rejected.

b. The identical twin’s tissue would carry the same self-markers and would

 therefore be less likely to be rejected.

c. The difference in the sex of the father and daughter would cause the tissue to be

 rejected by the daughter’s immune system.

d. The twins’ immune systems would “remember” the same encounters with

 childhood illnesses.

40. What is the meaning of the underlined word intricacies as it is used in the first sentence of the passage?

a. elaborate interconnections

b. confusion of pathways

c. inherent perplexity

d. comprehensive coverage

-------------------------***This is the end of the Posttest Section***-------------------

**Posttest Answer Key**

1. C 2. B 3. C 4. A

5. D 6. A 7. B 8. C

9. C 10. C 11. A 12. B

13. B 14. A 15. D 16. B

17. D 18. A 19. A 20. B

21. C 22. D 23. D 24. C

25. C 26. A 27. B 28. D

29. A 30. C 31. A 32. B

33. C 34. B 35. C 36. D

37. A 38. B 39. B 40. A

*---------------------Read Carefully, Think Critically, Act Positively-------------------*