

INFERENCES: Level 8, Test 4

A. Read each passage and then check (✓) the **three** inferences that are most firmly based on the given information.

1–3. ¹In the past, turnips were often eaten by the poor, so other people refused to eat them. ²Another “underground” vegetable, the carrot, was also once looked down upon. ³Carrots grew wild in ancient times. ⁴They were used as medicine. ⁵But they weren’t considered fit for the table until a thousand years later. ⁶In the same way, in the 17th and 18th centuries, Europeans considered potatoes fit only for animals. ⁷Potatoes were thought to cause disease in humans.

- _____ A. Vegetables are a healthy addition to any diet.
- _____ B. Potatoes and carrots were once unhealthy for humans.
- _____ C. Through the centuries, people have had mistaken ideas about some vegetables.
- _____ D. People typically dislike the taste of carrots, turnips, and potatoes.
- _____ E. Attitudes towards certain foods can change over time.
- _____ F. People used to be suspicious of vegetables that grew underground.

4–6. ¹“Most people don’t believe me when I tell them that reading aloud is the single most important factor in reading success,” author Jim Trelease says as he prepares to speak to an audience of parents and teachers. ²“They don’t believe me for three reasons: One, it’s simple; two, it’s free; and three, the child enjoys it. ³But if reading required a \$149 vending machine, we’d have it in half the homes of America. ⁴And if kids hated it, we’d have it in every classroom.”

- _____ A. The use of a machine is the best way to teach a child to read.
- _____ B. If something is simple, free, and enjoyable, people believe it’s too good to be true.
- _____ C. Jim Trelease has probably written a book about children and reading.
- _____ D. Jim Trelease is a parent.
- _____ E. Jim Trelease believes that children do not enjoy being forced to learn.
- _____ F. Learning to read is a complex and difficult challenge for any child.

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- B.** Put a check (✓) by the **two** inferences that are most logically based on each of the sentences below.

7–8. When the going gets tough, the tough get going.

- ___ A. Hard times often reveal who has the most strength to stand up to difficulties.
- ___ B. People should give up when things become difficult.
- ___ C. Most of us try to appear tough, but underneath it all, we're not.
- ___ D. Tough times call for tough people.

9–10. "You've got to do your own growing, no matter how tall your grandfather was."

—Abraham Lincoln

- ___ A. People with successful relatives have an easier time in life.
- ___ B. Whatever your family background, no one can live your life for you.
- ___ C. Family background is more important than character.
- ___ D. The effort you make as an individual is more important than your family background.

INFERENCES: Level 9, Test 2

A. (1–3.) Put a check (✓) by the **three** inferences that are most logically based on the information given in the following cartoon.



- ____ A. The parents have several children in school.
- ____ B. Junior is not doing well in most of his subjects.
- ____ C. The parents are angry about Junior's grades.
- ____ D. The wife is trying to be positive about a bad situation.
- ____ E. The parents were both excellent students when they were in school.
- ____ F. Junior may be more interested in sports than he is in his academic subjects.

B. (4–6.) Read the following passage and then check (✓) the **three** inferences that are most firmly based on the given information.

¹I once hired a roofer to put a new roof on my home. ²He checked the roof and then quoted me a price of \$1,000, a price I felt was reasonable, so I agreed. ³He tore the old roof off, then came back down to speak to me with a barely hidden smile on his face.

⁴"Sorry," he said, "it's gonna cost you \$1,800. ⁵I didn't know it needed so much work."

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⁶"No way," I said, folding my arms.

⁷"Whatever you say," the roofer said. ⁸He looked up at the sky and commented, "You know, it looks like rain."

⁹I sighed, shook my head, and said, "With my luck, it will rain for three days.

¹⁰Finish the job."

- ___ A. At first, the author did not want to spend the extra \$800.
- ___ B. The author's old roof would have held up for another year or two.
- ___ C. The roofer may have planned all along to raise the price after the old roof was torn off.
- ___ D. The author believes that all roofers are con men.
- ___ E. The author had just watched the weather forecast for the next three days.
- ___ F. The author realizes that rain would cause more than \$800 worth of damage to a roofless home.

C. Put a check (✓) by the **two** inferences that are most logically based on each of the sentences below.

7–8. "Discipline is the bridge between goals and accomplishment."—Jim Rohn

- ___ A. Reaching one's dreams requires consistent hard work.
- ___ B. Many of us want to experience accomplishment without putting in the work.
- ___ C. It is unusual for many of us to actually have the discipline needed to reach a goal.
- ___ D. You cannot accomplish a goal simply by setting a goal.

9–10. "The opinion which other people have of you is their problem, not yours."

—Elisabeth Kübler-Ross

- ___ A. Don't worry about what others think about you.
- ___ B. People mostly have negative opinions of others.
- ___ C. Do not be afraid to be yourself.
- ___ D. When we form opinions of others, we create difficult problems for ourselves.

INFERENCES: Level 10, Test 1

- A.** (1–2.) Look at the following poster. Then put a check (✓) by the **two** inferences that are most logically based on the information shown.



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- ___ A. The woman has been handcuffed by the police.
- ___ B. The woman is a former addict.
- ___ C. The woman is addicted to food, cigarettes, and alcohol.
- ___ D. Alcohol is more addictive than cigarettes or food.
- ___ E. People who are addicted are not free.

- B.** Read each passage and then check (✓) the **three** inferences that are most firmly based on the given information.

3–5. ¹"You're just like an ostrich, burying your head in the sand!" we may say to a person who foolishly pretends not to notice danger approaching. ²Actually, the ostrich does not do anything quite as ridiculous as actually "burying" its head in the sand. ³When threatened, an ostrich may sit down and stretch its long neck against the ground since, in that position, the bird resembles a grassy mound of earth. ⁴This is also the ostrich's position while guarding its nest. ⁵During the day,

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the dull-brown-colored female stretches out across the nest, and at night, the black male takes over.

- ___ A. During the day, the natural environment of the ostrich is probably a dull brown color.
- ___ B. Ostriches are among the most intelligent animals on the planet.
- ___ C. If they mistake the ostrich for a mound of earth, unfriendly animals will ignore it.
- ___ D. Ostriches are an endangered species.
- ___ E. We have many things to learn from ostriches.
- ___ F. For a long time, people have assumed that ostriches bury their heads in the sand.

6–8. "I can't imagine I could have become the person I am now without books. How could I know there was another world beyond my small, isolated, feeling-abandoned world? Books became synonymous with freedom. They showed that you can open doors and walk through."—Oprah Winfrey

- ___ A. The author probably had a difficult childhood.
- ___ B. Reading can show people how to achieve success.
- ___ C. Everyone who reads can accomplish great things.
- ___ D. Books can open doors to new possibilities in one's life.
- ___ E. The main reason people read is that they feel isolated and abandoned by others.
- ___ F. The author values and encourages reading.

C. (9–10.) Read the passage below and then check (✓) the **two** inferences that are most firmly based on the given information.

"The teacher who is indeed wise does not bid you to enter the house of his wisdom, but rather leads you to the threshold of your mind."—Khalil Gibran

- ___ A. We learn best when we make discoveries ourselves as opposed to being told what we should know.
- ___ B. There are far too many teachers that do not really know how to teach well.
- ___ C. Good teachers encourage students to think for themselves and be creative.
- ___ D. It is better to memorize information than it is to simply think about information.

INFERENCES: Level 11, Test 2

A. (1–5.) Read the table below. Then put a check by the **five** statements that are most logically based on the table.

Voter Turnout among the World's Democracies

Country	Approximate Voter Turnout	Automatic Registration	Election Day a Holiday or Weekend Day?
Belgium	90%	Yes	Yes
Italy	90%	Yes	Yes
Denmark	85%	Yes	No
Austria	80%	Yes	Yes
France	80%	No	Yes
Germany	80%	Yes	Yes
Great Britain	70%	Yes	No
Canada	65%	Yes	No
Japan	60%	Yes	Yes
United States	50%	No	No

Source: Thomas E. Patterson, *The American Democracy*, 2001.

- _____ A. About a third of voters in the United States do not vote.
- _____ B. Election Day holidays tend to increase voter turnout rates.
- _____ C. Voter turnout might increase if the United States had automatic voter registration and an Election Day holiday.
- _____ D. Low voter turnout in the United States probably has little to do with automatic voter registration or Election Day holidays.
- _____ E. Factors that have increased voter participation in other countries have not worked as well in Japan.
- _____ F. Compared to the United States, other countries make it easier for voters to participate in elections.
- _____ G. Voter turnout would be better if elections were held on weekend days rather than on holidays.
- _____ H. Voter turnout would be better if elections were held on holidays rather than on weekend days.
- _____ I. Half of eligible voters in the U.S. do not exercise their right to vote.

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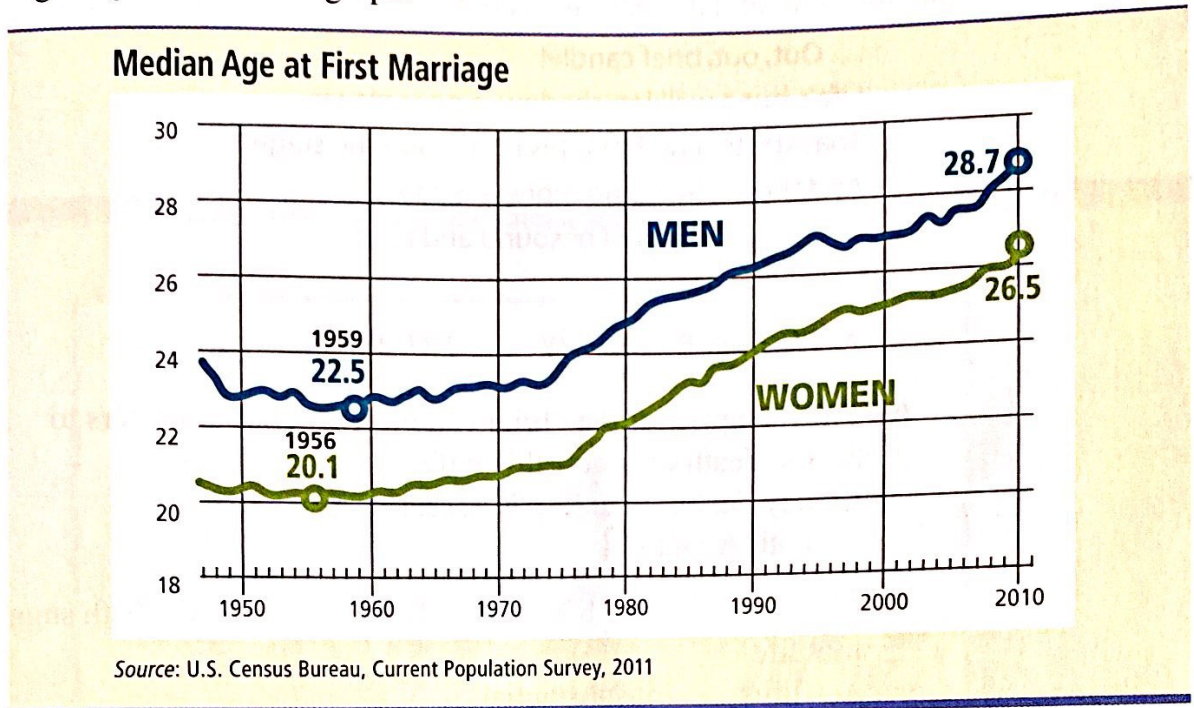
B. (6–10.) Read the passage below, and then choose the inferences that are most logically supported by the information given.

¹People interrupt for various reasons. ²One is believing that what they have to say is more important than what the other person is saying. ³Another reason people interrupt is that they believe they know what the other person is going to say, and they want the person to know that they already know. ⁴People may also interrupt when they are not paying close attention. ⁵The interruption communicates a lack of sensitivity, a superior attitude, or both. ⁶People need to be able to verbalize their ideas and feelings fully; inappropriate interruptions are bound to damage their self-concepts or make them hostile—and possibly both. ⁷Simply stated, whatever you have to say is seldom so important that it requires you to interrupt a person. ⁸When you do interrupt, you should realize that you may be perceived as putting a person down. ⁹The more frequent the interruptions, the greater the potential harm.

- _____ 6. The author of the passage suggests that people
- A. feel good if others listen carefully to their ideas.
 - B. who interrupt don't mind being interrupted themselves.
 - C. should learn not to feel insulted when they are interrupted.
- _____ 7. The author suggests that people may interrupt because they
- A. don't realize that the speaker is in the middle of a point.
 - B. are nervous and want the speaker to like and respect them.
 - C. are angry at the speaker.
- _____ 8. The author implies that
- A. it is okay to interrupt others if you feel you are superior to them.
 - B. you will never be interrupted if you don't interrupt others.
 - C. interruptions can make people feel that their ideas are not worth listening to.
- _____ 9. We can conclude from this passage that
- A. it is okay for a parent to interrupt a child, but not another adult.
 - B. a boss will gain more cooperation by not interrupting workers.
 - C. the author of the passage has never been interrupted in a conversation.
- _____ 10. We can infer that people who interrupt
- A. usually are able to predict what others will think about their behavior.
 - B. don't always realize how the other person will view the interruption.
 - C. should not worry about trying to guess what others are thinking about them.

INFERENCES: Level 12, Test 5

A. (1–5.) Read the graph below. Then check (✓) the **five** statements that are most logically based on the graph.



- ___ A. The median age for first marriage has been increasing gradually since the mid-1950s.
- ___ B. The median age for first marriage has been increasing gradually since the mid-1960s.
- ___ C. Overall, the median age for first marriage rose steadily from 1960 to 2010.
- ___ D. The median age for first marriage has risen with dramatic quickness over the years.
- ___ E. In the period shown, men have always married at an older age than women.
- ___ F. In the 1950s, women married at an age more than five years younger than they did sixty years later.
- ___ G. In the 1950s, women married at an age almost ten years younger than they did sixty years later.
- ___ H. Based on the graph, there is probably more pressure for young people to marry now than there was over sixty years ago.
- ___ I. Based on the graph, remaining single has become a more acceptable lifestyle.
- ___ J. Based on the trends shown, women and men will probably marry at about the same age within the next 20 years.

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- B.** (6–10.) Following is one of the most famous passages in the English language, from the play *The Tragedy of Macbeth*, by William Shakespeare. Macbeth, the king, gives this speech upon hearing that his wife has died. Her death adds to the despair Macbeth already feels as his power over the kingdom slips away from him.

... Out, out, brief candle!
Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player
That struts^o and frets^o his hour upon the stage
And then is heard no more. It is a tale
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
Signifying nothing.

strut: walk pompously *fret*: worry

- _____ 6. The metaphor of the “brief candle” that goes out refers to
A. the death of Macbeth’s wife.
B. any death, including Macbeth’s.
C. both A and B.
- _____ 7. In the metaphor of life as “a walking shadow,” Macbeth suggests mainly that life is
A. flimsy and insubstantial.
B. ghostly and scary.
C. too mysterious to understand.
- _____ 8. By saying life is a “poor player/That struts and frets his hour upon the stage/And then is heard no more,” Macbeth implies that
A. each person’s life is too brief to be very significant.
B. each person’s life is of enormous value.
C. he expects to die young.
- _____ 9. By saying that life “struts and frets” upon the stage, Macbeth suggests that humanity is
A. full of life and contentment.
B. troubled and vain.
C. important and special.
- _____ 10. When he then says that life is “a tale/Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury/Signifying nothing,” Macbeth implies that
A. life is meaningless.
B. people often pretend to care about things when they really do not.
C. people of low intelligence are often angry.