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Verbal Reasoning

Refer to the following for questions 1 - 10:

This passage is adapted from George Eliot's *The Mill on the Floss*, originally published in 1860.

Now, good Mr. Glegg himself was stingy in the most amiable manner; his neighbors called him "near," which always means that the person in question is a lovable skinflint. If you expressed a preference for cheese-parings, Mr. Glegg would remember to save them for you, with a good-natured delight in gratifying your palate, and he was given to pet all animals which required no appreciable keep.

There was no humbug or hypocrisy about Mr. Glegg; his eyes would have watered with true feeling over the sale of a widow's furniture, which a five-pound note from his side pocket would have prevented; but a donation of five pounds to a person "in a small way of life" would have seemed to him a mad kind of lavishness rather than "charity," which had always presented itself to him as a contribution of small aids, not a neutralizing of misfortune. And Mr. Glegg was just as fond of saving other people's money as his own; he would have ridden as far round to avoid a turnpike when his expenses were to be paid for him, as when they were to come out of his own pocket, and was quite zealous in trying to induce indifferent acquaintances to adopt a cheap substitute for blacking.

This inalienable habit of saving, as an end in itself, belonged to the industrious men of business of a former generation, who made table-napkins with the same tightness and emphasis as Mrs. Glegg did, if their pastry had a less leathery consistence, and their damson cheese a less venerable hardness than hers; nay, even the peculiar combination of grocery and druglike odors in Mrs. Glegg's private cupboard impressed him as the only right

*A reference to Moliere's play *The Miser*, in which Harpagon is devoted to accumulating money.

their fortunes slowly, almost as the tracking of the fox belongs to the harrier,—it constituted them a "race," which is nearly lost in these days of rapid money-getting, when lavishness comes close on the back of want. In old-fashioned times an "independence" was hardly ever made without a little miserliness as a condition, and you would have found that quality in every provincial district, combined with characters as various as the fruits from which we can extract acid. The true Harpagons* were always marked and exceptional characters; not so the worthy taxpayers, who, having once pinched from real necessity, retained even in the midst of their comfortable retirement, with their wallfruit and wine-bins, the habit of regarding life as an ingenious process of nibbling out one's livelihood without leaving any perceptible deficit, and who would have been as immediately prompted to give up a newly taxed luxury when they had had their clear five hundred a year, as when they had only five hundred pounds of capital.

Mr. Glegg, being of a reflective turn, and no longer occupied with wool, had much wondering meditation on the peculiar constitution of the female mind as unfolded to him in his domestic life; and yet he thought Mrs. Glegg's household ways a model for her sex. It struck him as a pitiable irregularity in other women if they did not roll up their thing in the way of cupboard smells. I am not sure that he would not have longed for the quarrelling again, if it had ceased for an entire week; and it is certain that an acquiescent, mild wife would have left his meditations comparatively jejune and barren of mystery.

Question: 1

Which choice best describes the tone of the passage?

- A. Carefully drawing a dark portrait of a selfish, morose man.
- B. Humorously poking fun at a middle-aged man's eccentricities.
- C. Romanticizing the thriftiness of a hard-working laborer.
- D. Admiration of the longsuffering nature of a downtrodden husband.

Answer: B

Explanation:

The tone of this passage is light-hearted as it describes Mr. Glegg's extreme thriftiness, to the point of absurdity. Along with thriftiness, the passage points out Mr. Glegg's view of his marriage—he is so used to the "leathery" pastry that he considers it the standard for cooking, and has come to expect frequent quarrels as a normal part of life. While his actions may be characterized at times as selfish or morose (A), the tone is not dark. And while Mr. Glegg is described as thrifty (C), the author does not romanticize his efforts. Finally, while he could possibly be considered downtrodden as a result of the quarrels and questionable housekeeping, the author writes with satire rather than admiration, to provoke laughter rather than sympathy.

Question: 2

The word "near" in Paragraph 1, Sentence 1 most nearly means

- A. close by
- B. dear
- C. stingy
- D. upcoming

Answer: C

Explanation:

The word "near" is used to describe Mr. Glegg's character as a miserly or stingy man. It is not the literal meaning of being physically close (A) or being "near and dear" (B), or of being about to appear on the scene.

Question: 3

What purpose does the hypothetical situation of the widow in Paragraph 2 serve?

- A. To illustrate Mr. Glegg's ruling passion of frugality.
- B. To give a glimpse of the community in which the Gleggs lived.
- C. To show that the Gleggs were well-to-do.

D. To show the value of money in the time period in which the book is set.

Answer: A

Explanation:

The situation of the widow, in which Mr. Glegg expresses "true feeling but is unwilling to make a small donation to help, shows that frugality is the ruling virtue of his life. The story does not give much insight into the Gleggs' community (B), as it is merely a hypothetical situation. It shows that the Gleggs have enough money to help a destitute widow, but does not give a clear picture of their monetary worth (C). And while we may gain some insight into the value of money at a time when five pounds would settle a widow's small debt, it does not give us an accurate idea of monetary value in this time period (D).

Question: 4

Which of the following selections best illustrates Mr. Glegg's passion for frugality?

- A. Paragraph 1, Sentence 1 ("good Mr. Glegg ... lovable skinflint")
- B. Paragraph 2, Sentence 2 ("just as fond ... cheap substitute for blacking")
- C. Paragraph 3, Sentence 2 ("In old-fashioned times ... as a condition")
- D. Paragraph 4, Sentence 2 ("It struck him ... hardness than hers")

Answer: B

Explanation:

The anecdote in paragraph 2, in which Mr. Glegg not only tries to save his own money but is "quite zealous" in helping others live more cheaply, illustrates how passionate he is about frugality. Calling him a "lovable skinflint" (A) refers to his frugality but does not illustrate it. The selection from paragraph 3 (C) makes a general statement about miserliness but does not give a specific illustration of Mr. Glegg's frugality. His admiration for his wife's housekeeping (D) is not directly linked to frugality.

Question: 5

The examples in Paragraph 3 show which of the following views of men like Mr. Glegg?

- A. Scorn at the quick and easy way they made their money.
- B. Appreciation for the hard work that led to their wealth.
- C. Disdain for the way they hoarded their fortunes.
- D. Confusion at the variety of personalities that are drawn to be miserly.

Answer: B

Explanation:

While the author pokes fun at Mr. Glegg for his eccentricities, in paragraph 3 she describes

men like him as "industrious" and "marked and exceptional." She points out his lack of generosity in paragraph 2, but in this paragraph, she notes the hard work that went into slowly accumulating wealth by diligent industry and self-denial. The mention of quickly making money (A) is referring to a different set of people. The author does not show disdain (in this paragraph) for the hoarding of hard-won fortunes. And though she mentions the variety of characters that fall into this category, she does not appear to be confused by this (D).

Question: 6

The term "independence" in Paragraph 3, Sentence 2 refers to

- A. political freedom
- B. freedom from dependence on relatives
- C. the state of making one's own decisions
- D. sufficient savings to live on

Answer: D

Explanation:

Paragraph 3 is referring to those who carefully save to build up a sufficient amount to live comfortably, by their various standards. It is not referring to independence in a political or legal sense (A), or to being free from dependence on relatives (B), though that would be a natural side effect. Nor does it refer to independently making choices for oneself (C).

Question: 7

What is the effect of using "pinched" instead of merely "saved" in Paragraph 3, Sentence 3?

- A. To show the physical suffering required to save money.
- B. To show the miserly attitude that gave pain to others in order to save.
- C. To show that people often stole to be able to save money.
- D. To show that saving money was difficult and required giving up comforts.

Answer: D

Explanation:

The use of "pinched" illustrates the challenges and self-denial involved in saving money. This could possibly have caused physical suffering with some of the sacrifices (A), but that is not the intended meaning. Pinched does not refer to pain caused to others by saving (B), though this doubtless happened on occasion, as in the hypothetical widows situation in paragraph 2. The term "pinched" has been used as slang for "stole" (C), but that is not the intent here.

Question: 8

What can be deduced about Mr. Glegg's character from his opinion of his wife's cooking and cupboard, described in Paragraph 4?

- A. His stinginess prevents him from appreciating any but the most economical housekeeping.
- B. He has very fastidious tastes, and his wife has learned to cater to them specifically.
- C. He finds comfort in the familiar, even when it would be considered unpleasant by others.
- D. He is intimidated by his wife and has been brainwashed into thinking that everything she does is perfect.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The entire selection shows that Mr. Glegg is a man of habit, whether of saving money or his household routine. The passage points out that although Mrs. Glegg's cooking is less than excellent (leathery pastry and hard damson cheese), Mr. Glegg prefers it to any other because he has grown accustomed to it. The passage does not state whether Mrs. Glegg's housekeeping is economical (A), nor does it give any indication that his wife tailors her cooking and housekeeping to Mr. Gleggs tastes (B). Finally, there is no evidence from this passage that Mr. Glegg has been brainwashed into thinking that his wife's housekeeping is perfect (D).

Question: 9

Mr. Glegg Harpagon ::

- A. saving : hoarding
- B. generosity : stinginess
- C. adventure : security
- D. training : relaxation

Answer: A

Explanation:

In the passage, Mr. Glegg is compared with industrious men of a former generation, characterized by the name Harpagon. These men are described in the third paragraph as having an "inalienable habit of saving" depicting a miserly obsession with money. Mr. Glegg is described as very interested in saving money for himself or for others and is much more moderate with saving, making an apt comparison between saving and hoarding.

Question: 10

Mrs. Glegg's house : disorder

- A. pig: mud
- B. painter : creativity
- C. flower: aroma
- D. library: noise

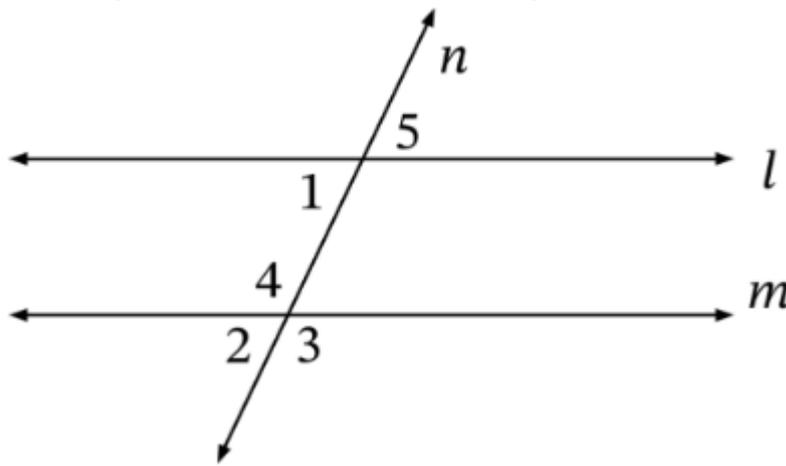
Answer: D

Explanation:

In the passage, Mrs. Glegg is described as being extremely accomplished at cooking and keeping her house in order. The passage provides several examples of how excellent her work is. Mrs. Gleggs house is to disorder as a library is to noise.

Question: 11

The diagram shows two lines, l and m , with line n , a transversal, crossing them. Which of the following additional pieces of information would allow you to deduce that lines l and m are parallel to each other?



- A) $m\angle 1 + m\angle 2 = 180^\circ$
- B) $m\angle 1 + m\angle 3 = 180^\circ$
- C) $\angle 1 \cong \angle 4$
- D) $\angle 1 \cong \angle 5$

- A. Option A
- B. Option B
- C. Option C
- D. Option D

Answer: B

Explanation:

Suppose it is true that $m\angle 1 + m\angle 3 = 180^\circ$. We note that $\angle 3 \cong \angle 4$ since they are vertical angles, and thus $m\angle 3 = m\angle 4$ since congruent angles have the same measure. By substitution, then, we have $m\angle 1 + m\angle 4 = 180^\circ$. This makes consecutive interior angles $\angle 1$ and $\angle 4$ supplementary. That is, they sum to 180° . This demonstrates that lines l and m are parallel.

Question: 12

Put the following numbers in order from the least to greatest 2^3 , 4^2 , 6^0 , 9 , 10^1 .

- A) $2^3, 4^2, 6^0, 9, 10^1$
- B) $6^0, 9, 10^1, 2^3, 4^2$
- C) $10^1, 2^3, 6^0, 9, 4^2$
- D) $6^0, 2^3, 9, 10^1, 4^2$

- A. Option A
- B. Option B
- C. Option C
- D. Option D

Answer: D

Explanation:

When a number is raised to a power, you multiply the number by itself by the number of times of the power. For example, $2^3 = 2 \times 2 \times 2 = 8$. A number raised to the power of 0 is always equal to 1. So, 6^0 is the smallest number shown. Similarly, for the other numbers:

$$9 = 9; 10^1 = 10; 4^2 = 4 \times 4 = 16$$

Since $1 < 8 < 9 < 10 < 16$, we can write the order as $6^0, 2^3, 9, 10^1, 4^2$.

Question: 13

A round table has six chairs, labeled H—M. If the chairs were set in a straight line in the same order that they have around the table, chair H would be on one end and chair K on the other. Chair J would be between chairs H and I, chair L would be between posts I and M, and chair M would be between chairs L and K. Which of these statements is (are) necessarily true?

- I) The distance between chairs H and L is greater than the distance between chairs I and M.
- II) Chair I is between chairs J and L.
- III) The distance between chairs M and K is less than the distance between chairs H and L.

- A. I, II, and III
- B. I and III
- C. II only
- D. None of these is necessarily true

Answer: C

Explanation:

The problem does not give any information about the size of the table or the spacing between any of the chairs. Nevertheless, creating a simple illustration that shows the order of the chairs will help when approaching this problem. The line below shows the row of chairs and possible positions based on the parameters.

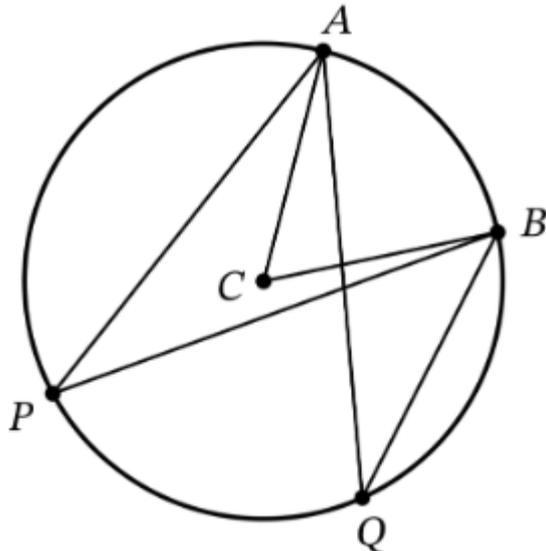


Statements I and III seem to be true from the drawing but since we are not given any information about the spacing between chairs, we cannot say definitively that H and L are farther apart than I

and M, or that M and K are closer together than H and L. However, we do know that chair I is between chairs J and L, so the only statement that is necessarily true is statement II.

Question: 14

The diagram shows a circle with center C and with points A, B, P, and Q lying on the circle. Which of the following statements is true?



- A) $m\angle APB + m\angle AQB < m\angle ACB$
- B) $m\angle APB + m\angle AQB = m\angle ACB$
- C) $m\angle APB + m\angle AQB > m\angle ACB$
- D) The problem does not give enough information to determine how the values of $m\angle APB + m\angle AQB$ and $m\angle ACB$ compare.

- A. Option A
- B. Option B
- C. Option C
- D. Option D

Answer: B

Explanation:

Since the points P and Q lie on the circle, the angles $\angle APB$ and $\angle AQB$ are inscribed angles. The degree measure of an inscribed angle is half the measure of the arc that subtends it, so $m\angle APB = m\angle AQB = \frac{1}{2}m\widehat{AB}$. Since point C is the center of the circle, the angle $\angle ACB$ is a central angle. The degree measure of a central angle equals the degree measure of the arc that subtends it, so $m\angle ACB = m\widehat{AB}$. Putting these equations together gives us $m\angle APB + m\angle AQB = \frac{1}{2}m\widehat{AB} + \frac{1}{2}m\widehat{AB} = m\widehat{AB} = m\angle ACB$.

Question: 15

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