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Question: 1

What is the author's purpose in the first paragraph?

- A. To criticize Buddhist notions of the self.
- B. To criticize contemporary Western notions of the self.
- C. To introduce the tension between individuality and collectivity in Western society.
- D. To introduce the idea of "egolessness."

Answer: C

Explanation:

This is a good answer because it stresses that the purpose of the first paragraph is to introduce a tension and not to make judgments one way or another. In general, the first paragraph in an essay (of any length) introduces the discussion at hand or frames a particular debate. Most introductory paragraphs do not introduce extensive content. In this paragraph, there is no clear stance taken on either Buddhist or Western notions of the self. The term egolessness is not discussed until the second paragraph, so that answer choice is incorrect.

Question: 2

While this term may seem to imply the absence of the individual ego or selfhood, this is not the case: consequently, "egolessness" is a prioritization of the relationships between and among people over selfish concerns.

- A. A NO CHANGE
- B. not the case; rather, "egolessness" is a prioritization
- C. not the case; therefore, "egolessness" is a prioritization
- D. not the case; accordingly, "egolessness" is a priority

Answer: B

Explanation:

The clause after the semicolon reflects a contrast to the first clause (as while implies a contrast). Only the correct answer choice uses the transition rather, which also reflects contrast.

Question: 3

"Egolessness" may also be thought of as an antonym of "ego-toxicity," that condition where an individual places his or her concerns before any other person or group's concerns

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. places his or her concerns before any other person's concerns.
- C. places his or her concerns before any other person's or group's concerns.
- D. places his or her concerns before any other person or group concern.

Answer: C

Explanation:

When using possessives for compounds, you need to be sure that the apostrophe works with the meaning of the sentence. The concerns of a person may be different from the concerns of a group, making the answer choice "places his or her concerns before any other person's or group's concerns" correct. Opting not to change the sentence is incorrect because person should be person's. The word group's should not be deleted, so that answer choice is incorrect.

Question: 4

Which of the following best describes the purpose of the second paragraph?

- A. It introduces the distinction between egolessness and ego-toxicity.
- B. It makes light of the conflicts that Buddhists in Western societies experience.
- C. It praises egolessness as the only moral way of living.
- D. It harshly denounces ego-toxicity.

Answer: A

Explanation:

This question is easy to over think In the second paragraph, "egolessness" and "ego-toxicity" are defined and contrasted. The purpose of this paragraph, then, should mention this in some form. This answer choice is correct because it captures the fact that these terms are distinguished in the paragraph. The paragraph only mentions the conflict that Buddhists feel—there is no judgment made on the conflict, so the answer choice "It makes light of the conflicts that Buddhists in Western societies experience" is incorrect. The paragraph also does not praise one perspective over another.

Question: 5

While a Western perspective might find it difficult to understand-how-a Buddhist can keep egolessness; in Western society, Buddhists are able to maintain such a as a natural consequent of their beliefs.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. understand how a Buddhist could maintain egolessness,
- C. understand how a Buddhist could stay egolessness
- D. believe what a Buddhist could maintain egolessness

Answer: B

Explanation:

This is the only revision of the phrase that uses proper grammar and punctuation.

Question: 6

The Western perspective expects moral actions to be quid pro quo; to put it another way, a Westerner assumes that if he or she does something considered "good," then rewarded.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. then he or she will be rewarded.
- C. then he or she should be rewarded.
- D. then he or she were to be rewarded.

Answer: B

Explanation:

This is the best choice as the pronouns agree with the introductory clause and the future tense follows up on the hypothetical statement earlier in the sentence.

Question: 7

Buddhists, on the other hand, believe that good should be done out of compassion for all beings. and to do good is to do good for all beings. including the self.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. beings, and to do good is good for all beings, including
- C. beings and to do good is to do good for all beings including
- D. beings, and this is done for all beings including

Answer: B

Explanation:

The original underlined portion has awkward phrasing that can be revised for clarity. Only "beings, and to do good is good for all beings, including" revises this phrasing to be clearer and more concise, while retaining the intended meaning—doing good to others is also good for you.

Question: 8

When ego-toxicity is abandoned. it is possible to care for one's self in the rest of the world through compassionate. egoless behavior

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. When ego-toxicity can be abandoned it is possible for one's self to care for the rest of the world through compassionate, egoless behavior.

- C. When ego-toxicity is abandoned it could be possible to care for one's self and the rest of the world through compassionate, egoless behavior.
- D. When ego-toxicity is abandoned, it is possible to care for one's self and the rest of the world through compassionate, egoless behavior.

Answer: D

Explanation:

This statement is an explanation of the previous sentence, which states that a person can do good both to the world and him or herself. Opting not to change the sentence is incorrect because the word in does not make sense in this context. Removing the phrase care for one's-self incorrectly implies that a person can care only for the world, rather than caring for both self and the world. Stating that it could be possible to accomplish this is incorrect because the previous sentence states that it is possible.

Question: 9

In this passage, which sentence in the first paragraph states a main idea that is developed in subsequent paragraphs?

- A. The second sentence
- B. The fourth sentence
- C. The third sentence
- D. J. The first sentence

Answer: C

Explanation:

In the first paragraph, the third sentence identifies increased tension in recent decades between individualism and collectivism in the West. This is developed in subsequent paragraphs by the discussion of ego-toxicity vs. egolessness that reflects individualism vs. collectivism. The second sentence provides evidence supporting the first sentence, not a main idea. The fourth sentence provides evidence supporting the third sentence. The first sentence focuses only on Western emphasis of individualism over collectivism, not on the tension between the two that is a main idea on which the following paragraphs elaborate.

Question: 10

Which of these accurately describes a pattern in the first and/or last sentences of all the paragraphs in this passage?

- A. The last sentence of each paragraph identifies half a main conflict; the final sentence in the passage completes it.
- B. The first sentence of each paragraph identifies a main conflict, with the final sentence in the passage reiterating.

- C. The first sentence of each paragraph identifies a main conflict, with the final sentence in the passage resolving it.
- D. The last sentence in all but the final paragraph identifies a main conflict with the final sentence in the passage resolving it.

Answer: D

Explanation:

The last sentence in each paragraph of this passage identifies "struggles," "caught between," and "The referring to a main conflict between individualism and collectivism. The final sentence resolves these struggles by stating that abandoning ego-toxicity enables compassionate caring for self and others. Hence none of these sentences identifies only half of this conflict, and the final sentence does not complete these conflicts. The first sentence of each paragraph does not identify this main conflict; only the first sentence of the third paragraph does this. In the first paragraph, the first sentence identifies the Western emphasis of one over the other, not the conflict between them. In the second paragraph, the first sentence identifies the idea of "egolessness" central to Buddhist belief, not its conflict with ego-toxicity identified later in the paragraph. The final sentence does not simply reiterate the conflict but resolves it.

Question: 11

The struggle between the ego and the collective continues: however.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. continues, however
- C. continues: however
- D. continues however

Answer: B

Explanation:

Ending a sentence with a conjunctive adverb requires a comma to precede it. As written, this sentence is incorrectly using a semicolon. The other choices either lack or misuse punctuation.

Question: 12

Buddhist practitioners show through they're actions that it is possible to do good in the world without giving up one's personhood.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. show through their actions that
- C. show thru their actions that
- D. show threw they/re actions that

Answer: B

Explanation:

As written, this sentence uses the conjunction for they are where it should use the possessive their. "Show thru their actions that" uses an informal, idiomatic form of through. "Show threw they re actions that uses the homophone threw (which is the past tense of throw) as well as the contraction for they are.

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