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Subjects

1. Reading Comprehension
2. Word Knowledge
3. Mathematics
4. Science

Topic: 1

Reading Comprehension

Refer to the following for questions 1 —6:

The Bermuda Triangle

The area known as the Bermuda Triangle has become such a part of popular culture that it can be difficult to separate fact from fiction. The interest first began when five Navy planes vanished in 1945, officially resulting from "causes or reasons unknown." The explanations about other accidents in the Triangle range from the scientific to the supernatural. Researchers have never been able to find anything truly mysterious about what happens in the Bermuda Triangle, if there even is a Bermuda Triangle. What is more, one of the biggest challenges in considering the phenomenon is deciding how much area actually represents the Bermuda Triangle. Most consider the Triangle to stretch from Miami out to Puerto Rico and to include the island of Bermuda. Others expand the area to include all of the Caribbean islands and to extend eastward as far as the Azores, which are closer to Europe than they are to North America.

The problem with having a larger Bermuda Triangle is that it increases the odds of accidents. There is near-constant travel, by ship and by plane, across the Atlantic, and accidents are expected to occur. In fact, the Bermuda Triangle happens to fall within one of the busiest navigational regions in the world, and the reality of greater activity creates the possibility for more to go wrong. Shipping records suggest that there is not a greater-than-average loss of vessels within the Bermuda Triangle, and many researchers have argued that the reputation of the Triangle makes any accident seem out of the ordinary.

In fact, most accidents fall within the expected margin of error. The increase in ships from East Asia no doubt contributes to an increase in accidents. And as for the story of the Navy planes that disappeared within the Triangle, many researchers now conclude that it was the result of mistakes on the part of the pilots who flew into storm clouds, likely became discomposed, and then simply got lost.

Question: 1

Which of the following describes this type of writing?

- A. Narrative
- B. Persuasive
- C. Expository
- D. Technical

Answer: C

Explanation:

The passage is expository because it communicates information about the mysteries of the Bermuda

Triangle and what researchers have studied and now believe. The author includes facts to inform the reader, which is the goal of expository writing. The passage does not tell a story or describe one event, so it is not a narrative. The passage also does not seek to lead the reader to take action or accept a particular conclusion, so this passage is not persuasive. The passage also does not give technical information and does not aim to help the reader understand a technical concept, so this passage is not technical.

Question: 2

Which of the following sentences most accurately summarizes this passage?

- A. The problem with having a larger Bermuda Triangle is that it increases the odds of accidents.
- B. The area that is called the Bermuda Triangle happens to fall within one of the busiest navigational regions in the world, and the reality of greater activity creates the possibility for more to go wrong.
- C. One of the biggest challenges in considering the phenomenon is deciding how much area actually represents the Bermuda Triangle.
- D. Researchers have never been able to find anything truly mysterious about what happens in the Bermuda Triangle, if there even is a Bermuda Triangle.

Answer: D

Explanation:

Choice D is the best summary statement for the entire passage because it clearly describes what the author is saying about the results of studies on the Bermuda Triangle. Each paragraph in the passage includes details that support the statement that researchers have never found anything truly mysterious about the Bermuda Triangle. Choices A, B, and C are all details found in the passage, but none of these choices give a summary of the whole passage. Each of these answer choices support the statement in choice D, as do the rest of the details in the passage.

Question: 3

With which of the following statements would the author most likely agree?

- A. There is no real mystery about the Bermuda Triangle because most events have reasonable explanations.
- B. Researchers are wrong to expand the focus of the Triangle to the Azores because this increases the likelihood of accidents.
- C. The official statement of "causes or reasons unknown" in the loss of the Navy planes was a deliberate concealment from the Navy.
- D. Reducing the legends about the mysteries of the Bermuda Triangle will help to reduce the number of reported accidents or shipping losses in that region.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Of all the sentences provided, choice A is the one with which the author would most likely agree. The passage suggests that most of the "mysteries" of the Bermuda Triangle can be explained in a reasonable way. The passage mentions that some expand the Triangle to the Azores, but this is a point of fact, and the author

makes no mention of whether or not this is in error. The author quotes the Navy's response to the disappearance of the planes, but there is no reason to believe the author questions this response. The author raises questions about the many myths surrounding the Triangle, but at no point does the author claim that these myths are to blame for the accidents that fall "within the expected margin of error."

Question: 4

Which of the following represents an opinion statement on the part of the author?

- A. The problem with having a larger Bermuda Triangle is that it increases the odds of accidents.
- B. The area known as the Bermuda Triangle has become such a part of popular culture that it can be difficult to sort through the myth and locate the truth.
- C. The increase in ships from East Asia no doubt contributes to an increase in accidents.
- D. Most consider the Triangle to stretch from Miami to Puerto Rico and include the island of Bermuda.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The inclusion of the statement about the ships from East Asia is an opinion statement, as the author provides no support or explanation. The other statements within the choices offer supporting evidence and explanatory material, making them acceptable for an expository composition.

Question: 5

Which of the following is the most compelling argument that researchers make about the validity of the Bermuda Triangle's reputation?

- A. It cannot be scientifically verified since accidents happen for "causes or reasons unknown."
- B. The boundaries of the area must be established and agreed upon before any test of the reputation would be possible.
- C. The supernatural nature of the Bermuda Triangle is well established in popular culture.
- D. Since the number of accidents attributed to the area is within a normal margin of error, there is nothing extraordinary about the Bermuda Triangle.

Answer: D

Explanation:

The most compelling argument from researchers stated in the passage is about the fact that the number of accidents in the Bermuda Triangle is within expected margins.

Topic: 2

Mathematics

Question: 6

What is 20% of $\frac{12}{5}$, expressed as a percentage?

- A. 48%
- B. 65%
- C. 72%
- D. 76%

Answer: A

Explanation:

To find 20% of $\frac{12}{5}$, multiply 20% by $\frac{12}{5}$. Since a percentage can't be multiplied by a fraction, start by converting 20% to a fraction.

$$20\% \times \frac{12}{5} = \frac{20}{100} \times \frac{12}{5} = \frac{240}{500} = \frac{12}{25}$$

Next, convert $\frac{12}{25}$ to a percentage. Do this by converting the fraction to have a denominator of 100, then the value of the numerator will be the percentage.

$$\frac{12 \times 4}{25 \times 4} = \frac{48}{100}$$

Therefore, 20% of $\frac{12}{5}$ is 48%.

Question: 7

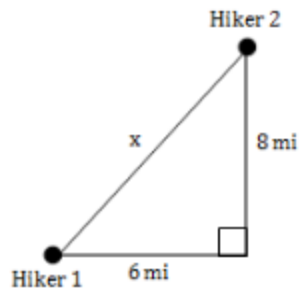
Two hikers start at a ranger station and leave at the same time. One hiker heads due west at 3 mph. The other hiker heads due north at 4 mph. How far apart are the hikers after 2 hours of hiking?

- A. 5 miles
- B. 7 miles
- C. 10 miles
- D. 14 miles

Answer: C

Explanation:

Hiking due west at 3 mph, the first hiker will have gone 6 miles after 2 hours. Hiking due north at 4 mph, the second hiker will have gone 8 miles after 2 hours. Since one hiker headed west and the other headed north, their distance from each other can be drawn as:



Since the distance between the two hikers is the hypotenuse of a right triangle, and since we know the lengths of the two legs of the right triangle, we can use the Pythagorean theorem ($a^2 + b^2 = c^2$) to find the value of x .

$$6^2 + 8^2 = x^2$$

$$36 + 64 = x^2$$

$$100 = x^2$$

$$10 = x$$

Therefore, the hikers are 10 miles apart after 2 hours of hiking.

Question: 8

The average of six numbers is 4. If the average of two of those numbers is 2, what is the average of the other four numbers?

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

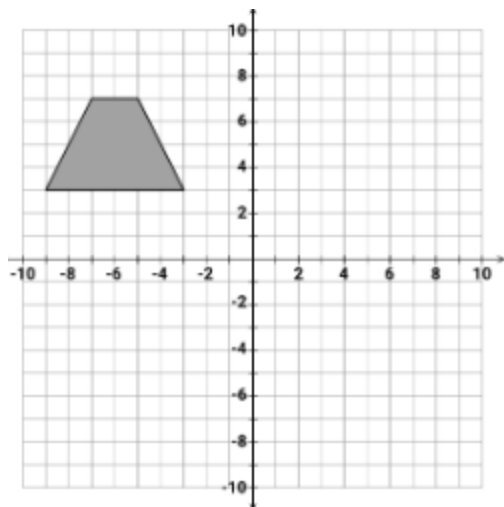
Answer: A

Explanation:

A set of six numbers with an average of 4 must have a collective sum of 24 because $6 \times 4 = 24$. The two numbers that average 2 will add up to 4 ($2 \times 2 = 4$), so the remaining numbers must add up to 20 ($24 - 4 = 20$). The average of these four numbers can be calculated by dividing the sum by the amount of numbers: $20 \div 4 = 5$. Therefore, the average of the other four numbers is 5.

Question: 9

What is the perimeter of the trapezoid graphed below?



- A.
 $6 + \sqrt{10}$
- B.
 $8 + 4\sqrt{5}$
- C.
 $8 + 2\sqrt{5}$
- D.
 $7 + 2\sqrt{10}$

Answer: B

Explanation:

The perimeter is equal to the sum of the lengths of the two bases, 6 and 2 units, and the diagonal distances of the other two sides. Using the distance formula, each side length may be represented as $d = \sqrt{20} = 2\sqrt{5}$. Thus, the sum of the two sides is equal to $2\sqrt{20}$, or $4\sqrt{5}$. The whole perimeter is equal to $8 + 4\sqrt{5}$.

Question: 10

Solve the following equation for x if y = 2.

$$3x - 4y = 25$$

- A. x = 10
- B. x = 11
- C. x = 12
- D. x = 13

Answer: B

Explanation:

Start by substituting 2 for y.

$$3x - 4(2) = 25$$

Then, solve for x using standard algebra techniques. Start by simplifying on the left side.

$$3x - 8 = 25$$

Next, add 8 to both sides.

$$3x = 33$$

Finally, divide both sides by 3.

$$x = 11$$

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