

English Assessment Reading Practice

Read the passage and then choose the best answer to the question.

1. When she opened the door, Maria sighed and settled down in her chair. Reading over her work, she tried to get some spark of inspiration. Still, the question in her mind lately bothered her. Why couldn't she write anymore?

What is the intended effect of this passage on the reader?

- a. It creates tension in the reader.
- b. It pushes the reader to action.
- c. It presents ambivalent emotions.
- d. It calms the reader down.

2. It is believed that cultures have the same basic, underlying emotions. The basic emotions common to all cultures include: happiness, sadness, anger, fear, disgust, and shock. However, in different cultures these emotions are expressed differently, both linguistically and in terms of actions. In addition, the same event can elicit very different emotions from people of two different cultures. For example, death elicits sadness and grief in many people, but in some cultures death is a happy event meant to be celebrated.

The main idea of this paragraph is that...

- a. Death is a joyous event.
- b. Emotions are felt differently depending on what culture one is socialized into.
- c. There are emotions common to all cultures, but the expression of those emotions differs.
- d. Shock is an emotion unique to Americans and people from other western cultures.

3. Aristotle said, "It is the mark of an educated man to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it." In high school classes today, teachers often simply lecture to students and teach them to answer multiple choice questions to tests. However, there are places students can go to in order to discuss the concepts and facts that they are given in class.

From this passage, it seems safe to conclude that Aristotle...

- a. Would be satisfied with the education youth are currently receiving
- b. Would consider the student who learned these ideas while still questioning them educated.
- c. Would support a student in being rebellious by choosing to skip classes and fail them.
- d. Would expect teachers to hold students accountable for agreeing with everything they learned in class.

Answers: Question 1 (a), Question 2 (c), Question 3 (b)

4. Every day, I look out at the two trees in this yard, the brown grass, and the lack of plants. I can't help remembering home: a place where the trees grow tall, the plants are in abundance, and the grass is bright green. I remember the voice of my sister rising above the quietness of home to comfort me when I was sad, reassure me when I was scared, and join in my laughter.

The tone of this passage is...

- a. nostalgic
- b. jubilant
- c. sad
- d. ambivalent

Two sentences are followed by a question or statement about them. Reach each pair of sentences and then choose the best answer to the question or the best completion of the statement.

5. Rural community members tend to focus on connections to one another. Members of the urban community tend to focus more strongly on connections to organizations and businesses than personal connections.

What does the second sentence do?

- a. It gives an example of the first sentence
- b. It states a contrast to the first sentence
- c. It explains the first sentence in more detail
- d. It sets up a comparison to the first sentence

6. The amount of rainfall on April 21st was 5' more than predicted. It was reported that drivers got in a higher than average number of accidents that day.

What does the second sentence do?

- a. It gives an example of the first sentence.
- b. It analyzes the statement made in the first sentence
- c. It states a contrast to the first sentence.
- d. It states an effect of the first sentence.

Answers: Question 4 (a), Question 5 (b), Question 6 (d)

7. There are studies showing that nurses are more exhausted when they work the night shift than when they work the day shift. Lisa, a nurse who works the night shift, is too tired to make and pack her children's lunches for school when she gets home in the morning.

What does the second sentence do?

- a. It states a contrast to the first sentence.
- b. It states an effect of the first sentence.
- c. It gives an example of the first sentence.
- d. It defines the word tired.

Answers: Question 7 (c)

