

Reading Comprehension : Interpretation

Passage 1

From where does a flower get its smell? It gets its smell from an oil that the plant produces. The oil is volatile. Long ago, volatile meant flying. The oil seems to be flying, for it escapes into the air. Insects that smell the oil fly to the flower, where they leave behind them the pollen that the flower needs to grow seeds. Some plants do not need insects to bring pollen. They depend on the wind to bring it. These plants usually have little smell or no smell at all.

1. According to the passage, something that is volatile _____.
 - a) is carried on wings
 - b) leaves pollen
 - c) is necessary for seed growth
 - d) escapes into the air
 - e) is smelly
2. This excerpt is mainly about _____.
 - a) volatile oils
 - b) the smell of flowers
 - c) insects and flowers
 - d) insects that fly to flowers
 - e) how flowers get pollen
3. It can be inferred that flowers which lack of smell _____.
 - a) need insects to bring pollen to them
 - b) depend on volatile oils.
 - c) reproduce themselves naturally
 - d) do not need pollen.
 - e) duplicate themselves
4. Due to the passage, insects are attracted to a flower by _____.
 - a) pollen
 - b) wind
 - c) volatile oil
 - d) the beauty of the flower
 - e) air

Passage 2

Have you ever thought, when looking through a window, that at one time there was not a pane of glass in the world? Then a man dug things out of the earth, mixed them, and heated them, and he found he had made something hard, smooth, and clear, so that he could see through it. Who was he? We do not know. We do know, though, that we owe him a great debt, and we owe a debt, also, to other discoverers and inventors whose names are no longer known.

1. This selection is mainly about _____.
 - a) how to make a clear glass
 - b) things dug out of the earth
 - c) people to whom we owe a debt
 - d) unknown discoverers and inventors
 - e) a well-known inventor
2. What is the reason why we owe this unknown man a great debt?
 - a) Because he spent much money making his discovery.
 - b) Because his name is no longer known.
 - c) Because he discovered glass.
 - d) Because he did not ask for any reward.
 - e) Because he worked so hard to create unknown thing.
3. The names of other discoverers and inventors are no longer known because _____.
 - a) they lived hundreds of years ago
 - b) they didn't know their worth
 - c) their discoveries and inventions were unimportant
 - d) no record was kept of their names
 - e) no one recognizes them

Passage 3

Researcher suggest that there are creatures that do not know what light means at the bottom of the sea. They don't have either eyes or ears; they can only feel. There is no day or night for them. There are no winters, no summers, no sun, no moon, and no stars. It is as if a child spent its life in darkness in bed, with nothing to see or hear. How different our own life is! Sight shows us the ground beneath our feet and the heavens above us - the sun, moon, and stars, shooting stars, lightning, and the sunset. It shows us day

and night. We are able to hear voices, the sound of the sea, and music. We feel, we taste, we smell. How fortunate we are!

1. Judging from the passage, we can say that this story is mainly about _____.
 - a) life of sea creatures at the bottom of the sea
 - b) how changes in the seasons are perceived by the deep-sea creatures
 - c) how wonderful our lives were and will be
 - d) the differences among creatures of the earth and those of the sea
 - e) the superiority of human beings over some creatures in terms of senses
2. According to the passage, we discover that the sea creatures in the story _____.
 - a) have the same senses that we do
 - b) have no sense of hearing as well as sight
 - c) hear the sounds of the ocean
 - d) live in darkness because no light reaches to the bottom
 - e) do not hear the sound of sea as they are accustomed to it
3. In the passage, a child in darkness is likened to _____.
 - a) someone who lives where there are no seasons
 - b) an animal without the sense of touch
 - c) a sea creature with no seeing or hearing ability
 - d) a deaf child unaffected by the environment
 - e) a perfect sleeper, for there is no sound around to hear

Passage 4

Official records state that the Pueblo Indians lived in New Mexico and Arizona. The word "Pueblo" comes from the Spanish word "pueblo," meaning town or village. The Spaniards found these Indians living in apartment houses, some of them on the side of a cliff in order that they could be reached only by ladders. Whenever they were attacked by Apaches, the Pueblos would pull up the ladders. They grew corn, which they watered with water flowing down in ditches. They wove cloth, made wonderful baskets, and created jars and pots out of clay proving how skilful they were at hand-craft.

1. According to the extract, we understand that the Pueblo Indians were afraid of _____.
 - a) cliff dwelling
 - b) Apache Indians
 - c) Spaniards
 - d) water flowing down in ditches
 - e) solitary life
2. The reason why the Spaniards called these Indians "Pueblos" is they _____.
 - a) were close to the Apaches
 - b) lived together in a town or village
 - c) farmed and brought down water in ditches
 - d) used ladders as their self-defense
 - e) achieved fame thanks to their hand-craft
3. The Pueblo Indians lived on the side of a cliff _____.
 - a) to occupy some space for their agriculture
 - b) to observe the stars in the sky for rain season
 - c) to protect themselves from their enemy
 - d) to stay together in their community
 - e) to be away from the Spaniards

Passage 5

It was a man who lived before the time of Christopher Columbus that was the world's first great traveler. His name was Marco Polo. With his father and his uncle, he traveled from Italy to China, crossing mountains and deserts to get there. In China a king called Kublai Khan was satisfied to see the Polos and had them live near to him. They stayed for twenty-three years. Kublai Khan sent Marco to other countries to do business for him. When Marco finally returned to Italy, he wrote all about his adventures in a book, which was read by Columbus and many other people, who also became interested in traveling to strange countries.

1. This story is mainly about _____.
 - a) the world's first great traveler
 - b) a journey from Italy to China
 - c) why Polo went to the far east
 - d) Marco Polo and Kublai Khan
 - e) in what ways Columbus affected Polo

2. What is NOT the reason why Marco Polo is considered as a great man?
- a) He traveled very far to reach China for a new world.
 - b) He wrote about his adventures in a book, which many people read.
 - c) He was so well liked by the king of China.
 - d) He crossed mountains and deserts to reach China.
 - e) He had a long journey to do business for the king of China.
3. It can be inferred that after he turned back _____.
- a) Marco brought out a book inspiring new voyages
 - b) Marco stayed in Italy for twenty-three years
 - c) Kublai Khan knew that Marco had crossed mountains and deserts
 - d) Kublai Khan sent Columbus to other countries for business
 - e) Marco set out for a new adventure

Passage 6

Have you ever wondered whether fishes drink or not? All living things must drink, and they require a fresh supply of water often. A person can go without food for many days, but he or she cannot survive without water. Fishes drink, and fishes that live in salt water must drink salt water. However, when we watch them in an aquarium and see them opening and closing their mouths, we must not assume that they are drinking. Fishes need water for its oxygen. The water that they seem to be gulping gives them oxygen, which is in the water. On the other hand, when a fish drinks, it swallows water, just in the way we do.

1. It is stated in the passage that a fish opens and closes its mouth _____.
- a) in order to get oxygen
 - b) so as to gulp
 - c) to drink to stay alive
 - d) to swim in an aquarium
 - e) so that it can suffice salt
2. We are informed by the passage that a person _____.
- a) can live for a long time without water
 - b) can live for a long time without food
 - c) has no need for food and water
 - d) has no need for a fresh supply of water
 - e) does need water to get oxygen

3. When a fish drinks water, _____.

- a) it requires fresh water
- b) it swallows water just like us
- c) it requires salt water
- d) it drinks water for its oxygen
- e) it stays motionless for a while to swallow

Passage 7

The world's nuclear plants have accumulated vast stocks of highly radioactive waste. Worldwide, high-level waste is currently stored above ground, and no government has a clear policy on its eventual disposal. While most experts believe that burying the waste is the safest bet in the long term, the problem is finding sites that everyone can agree are geologically stable. Decaying radioactive isotopes release heat. As a result, high-level waste must be constantly cooled; otherwise, it becomes dangerously hot. This is why many experts want to store waste above ground until it has decayed and is cool enough to be stored safely in sealed repositories several hundreds of metres below ground. According to one recent theory, however, waste should be lowered down boreholes drilled to 4 kilometres. The trick is to exploit heat generated by the waste to fuse the surrounding rock and contain any leaking radioactivity.

1. It is clear from the passage that the safe disposal of radioactive waste _____.

- a) has been satisfactorily dealt with by scientists in conjunction with governments
- b) is a problem that each government must decide on for its own country
- c) remains a global problem of great magnitude
- d) is a problem that has not attracted enough attention
- e) will in all likelihood soon be resolved, and a clear policy agreed on by concened governments

2. As it is pointed out in the passage, many experts are of the opinion that radioactive waste

_____.

- a) should never be stored underground as it cannot then be monitored
- b) should not be stored underground while the radioactive isotopes continue to let off substantial amounts of heat
- c) does not require to be cooled when stored above ground
- d) cannot be safely disposed of anywhere and the problem of what to do with it intensifies as the amount increases
- e) can be safely left to cool down underground in sealed repositories

3. The passage describes a new method, still only a theoretical one, for the disposal of radioactive waste,

_____.

- a) which uses boreholes so that all sites are suitable
- b) at a depth considerably less than that normally recommended but the chosen site must meet certain geological requirements
- c) which, unfortunately, increases the time needed for cooling the waste before final disposal
- d) in which the radioactive isotopes are prevented from releasing heat
- e) whereby the heat produced by that waste will serve to seal it safely into the rock under which it has been buried
