

Instructions: Choose the option that best completes the passage.

1. People are often confused about whether a tomato is a fruit or a vegetable. Scientifically, it is a fruit as it consists of the ovary of a plant and the seeds contained therein. However, it is almost always sold in the vegetable section of grocery stores. It is also the designated state "vegetable" of New Jersey. The US Supreme Court even ruled that it was a vegetable and was subject to applicable taxes. So despite what science determines it to be, the tomato \_\_\_\_\_.

- ☐ (a) belongs in a food category all its own
- ☐ (b) counts as a vegetable for practical purposes
- ☐ (c) more closely resembles a fruit than a vegetable
- ☐ (d) is classified primarily based on its taste

2. Before I came to college I didn't realize how hard it would be to \_\_\_\_\_. In high school, everything was simple. I lived with my parents, and everything had a clear time and place. I knew when to study, do extracurricular activities, or spend time with friends. But since I started living in the dorms, I've met a lot of new people who are constantly inviting me to various events. I don't want to refuse, but at the same time, I also have to make time for studying.

- ☐ (a) balance academics and social life
- ☐ (b) make friends with complete strangers
- ☐ (c) keep in touch with my friends back home
- ☐ (d) find worthwhile events to attend

3. A slew of reboot of films designed to restart old franchises has led to disappointment for movie studios. Viewers were treated to several blockbuster movies based on old hits, including an updated Atom Man, and a modern take on the 1970s' sci-fi classic Space Masters. Despite the movies' impressive special effects, however, moviegoers mostly stayed away from theaters this summer. Many claimed they were uninterested in seeing the same stories all over again. It appears movie studios looking to make a profit should consider\_\_\_\_\_.

- ☐ (a) making films that have better special effects
- ☐ (b) sticking to stories that audiences are familiar with
- ☐ (c) offering up new and original concepts
- ☐ (d) staying away from the sci-fi genre

4. Some parents surround their children with mountains of toys to stimulate their development. But this tendency might not be wise. Some studies have shown that too many toys can actually cause kids to have shorter attention spans. Having a relatively small number of toys forces kids to be resourceful, fosters creativity, and leads to interpersonal skills such as negotiation and sharing. Therefore, it might be best for parents to \_\_\_\_\_.

- ☐ (a) show their children how to use toys properly
- ☐ (b) carefully consider what types of toys to buy
- ☐ (c) refrain from giving their kids excessive toys
- ☐ (d) limit the amount of time kids get to play

5. Recent research on the body mass index (BMI) of girls \_\_\_\_\_. A study of over 1,200 girls in three major US cities confirmed that girls are reaching puberty earlier than in previous decades, as other studies have shown that this is true for girls and boys alike. The study also revealed that overweight girls, those with a high BMI, are entering puberty up to a year-and-a-half before those with a lower BMI. Scientists speculate that extra body weight may be triggering this change.

- ☐ (a) implies that girls lose weight during puberty
- ☐ (b) suggests that puberty raises the BMI of girls
- ☐ (c) links body weight to the early onset of puberty in girls
- ☐ (d) shows that a high BMI affects girls and boys differently

6. Since their introduction in several states, the Common Core Standards have \_\_\_\_\_. Teachers who are for them argue that they have led to improvements over traditional curricula and that they encourage critical thinking and problem solving skills in students. Other instructors, however, complain that the Common Core Standards encourage overreliance on standardized testing to gauge student progress. Many have even gone back and forth seemingly unable to make up their minds on the issue.

- ☐ (a) been a source of contention among educators
- ☐ (b) seen a steady growth in popularity
- ☐ (c) been revised due to complaints
- ☐ (d) minimized the need for standardized testing

7. To the Editor:

Your paper's recent article on the effects of the media had serious flaws. You stated that the negative influence of the media is grossly overstated, but you offered little proof to support your claim. The fact is that many studies show that people are harmed by the more negative aspects of the media. Lack of diversity, high levels of violence, and other aspects of the media are harmful to viewers, especially younger ones. In the future, I hope your paper considers the facts before \_\_\_\_\_.

- ☐ (a) advocating restrictions on media content
- ☐ (b) dismissing criticisms about the media as groundless
- ☐ (c) criticizing studies of the media's negative impacts
- ☐ (d) exaggerating the effects of media bias

8. In 1860, the Bureau of Indian Affairs established the first Indian boarding school, whose main priority was to \_\_\_\_\_. The schools promoted a vision of the "American way of life", which was essentially that of white Christians. They instructed Indian students in the values of individual property, monogamy, and material wealth. It was hoped that these Indian youngsters would eventually conform to the norms of the predominant culture. However, many reverted to their traditional cultural beliefs and practices once they returned to their communities.

- ☐ (a) facilitate the assimilation of Indians into mainstream society
- ☐ (b) educate Indians in traditional tribal values
- ☐ (c) shield Indian youths from discrimination
- ☐ (d) give equal educational opportunities to Indian children

9. Many companies have resisted making changes to become more environmentally sustainable because of the costs involved. These companies should not focus so much on the costs that they lose sight of the benefits of changing. For starters, customers are more attracted to ethical firms. Additionally, companies that invest in technologies to become environmentally sustainable will be more competitive in the long run. In all, companies will benefit if they view steps to becoming sustainable as \_\_\_\_\_.

- ☐ (a) essentially duties apart from financial considerations
- ☐ (b) investment opportunities rather than just expenses
- ☐ (c) best left for a time when profits are not at risk
- ☐ (d) primarily the responsibility of consumers

10. The Internet has given momentum to a relatively new genre of fiction. Termed fan-fiction, it consists of new stories written by fans based on the works of their favorite authors. These stories, which use the characters or settings of the originals, are shared online with other fans. Even when the original author has stopped writing, fans can enjoy a steady stream of works about their favorite characters or settings. There is really no limit on what they can share on the Internet. In this way, the genre

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- ☐ (a) helps fans discover new original authors
- ☐ (b) keeps original authors' fictional worlds alive
- ☐ (c) allows famous authors to engage with fans
- ☐ (d) lets original authors reach a new audience

11. Psychologist Jean Piaget pioneered the idea that all learning is the result of two processes: assimilation and accommodation. When people have new experiences that do not conform to their conceptions of the world, they feel a sense of discomfort that Piaget dubbed "disequilibrium." They then move to bring their new experience into line with their existing knowledge. They can assimilate this experience, explaining it through their existing mental framework without changing that framework. Or they can accommodate it, allowing the new experience to change their mental framework. Either way, these processes serve to minimize

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- ☐ (a) changes to our existing mental framework
- ☐ (b) differences between beliefs and experiences
- ☐ (c) the chance of having novel experiences
- ☐ (d) reflection on preexisting knowledge

12. Candidates use every means at their disposal to reach out to voters before elections. But perhaps no way of communicating is more effective, or as dangerous, as television. It allows voters to put a face to candidates' names and leaves a deeper impression than the one left by print media. It has also been shown that voters who are less informed on the issues base their votes heavily on candidates' television appearances. To get an edge, candidates should therefore be keenly aware of

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- ☐ (a) how they come across to TV viewers
- ☐ (b) the effect of politics on the TV industry
- ☐ (c) the merits of print-based and TV ads
- ☐ (d) how TV presenters describe their policies

13. Multitasking has become routine, but it can have surprising effects on our \_\_\_\_\_. Researchers asked people to perform various mental math problems while simultaneously engaging in simple physical exercise. Surprisingly, scans revealed that this combination activated the part of the brain responsible for physical movement more than pure exercise did. They found that this could easily translate to reduced endurance. Research also showed that as mental tasks increased in difficulty, physical speed slowed. This clearly demonstrates that it is not only our focus that is reduced through multitasking.

- ☐ (a) ability to perform physical tasks
- ☐ (b) long-term mental capabilities
- ☐ (c) mind's capacity to focus
- ☐ (d) body's need to be physically active

14. Dear Customer,

We at HomeCreations are writing to see if you could take the time to \_\_\_\_\_. We saw that you recently made a purchase from our online store. We hope you found the site easy to navigate and located all the items you needed. To help us better serve you, we have a few questions about your experience shopping with us. If you're able to answer, we'll give you a coupon for 10% off your next purchase.

Sincerely,  
The HomeCreations team

- ☐ (a) visit our store in person
- ☐ (b) fill out a short survey
- ☐ (c) register with us online
- ☐ (d) browse our new website

15. Choose the option that the best completes the passage.

Although it has become common for both parents to work outside of the home, mothers and fathers often find it difficult to do so. Some parents feel guilty for not spending enough time with their children and fear that their children will suffer for lack of time with their mother and father. \_\_\_\_\_, today's children are largely accustomed to seeing both parents work, and as long as they receive parental support and good care when their parents are away they will grow up to be well-adjusted adults.

- ☐ (a) However
- ☐ (b) For instance
- ☐ (c) As a result
- ☐ (d) Subsequently

16. The Pax Romana, which means Roman peace, lasted from approximately 27 BC to 180 AD. During this period, the Roman Empire covered a considerable amount of area from England to modern-day Iraq, and its population consisted of nearly 70 million people from diverse regions and cultures. With such a heterogeneous composition, there was much potential for social and political unrest. \_\_\_\_\_, Rome and its citizens remained quite stable, orderly, and prosperous.

- ☐ (a) Nevertheless
- ☐ (b) Therefore
- ☐ (c) Consequently
- ☐ (d) Granted