

READING COMPREHENSION EXERCISES

Read the following passages and mark the letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct answer to each of the questions

I. The search for alternative sources of energy has led in various directions. Many communities are burning garbage and other biological waste products to produce electricity. Converting waste products to gases or oil is also an efficient way to dispose of wastes. Experimental work is being done to derive synthetic fuels from coal, oil shale, and coal tars. But to date, that process has proven expensive. Other experiments are underway to harness power with giant windmills. Geothermal power, heat from the earth, is also being tested. Some experts expect utility companies to revive hydroelectric power derived from streams and rivers. Fifty years ago hydroelectric power provided one third of the electricity used in the United States, but today it supplies only four percent.

The oceans are another potential source of energy. Scientists are studying ways to convert the energy of ocean currents, tides, and waves to electricity. Experiments are also underway to make use of temperature differences in ocean water to produce energy.

1. Which of the following is the best title for the passage?
 - A. The use of water products for energy.
 - B. The search for alternative sources of energy.
 - C. Efficient ways of disposing of wastes.
 - D. New discoveries in geothermal power.
2. Which of the following is **not** mentioned as an efficient way to dispose of wastes?
 - A. burning garbage
 - B. deriving synthetic fuels from coals, oil shale, and coal tars
 - C. converting waste products to gases or oil
 - D. burning biological waste products
3. Which of the following has already been in use rather than under experiment?
 - A. synthetic fuels from coal and coal tars
 - B. power from giant windmills
 - C. hydroelectric power from streams and rivers
 - D. electricity derived from ocean currents, tides and waves
4. What can be inferred about hydroelectric power?
 - A. It provides 4 percent of the electricity used in theUS.
 - B. It provides over 30 percent of the electricity used in theUS.
 - C. It provides one-third of the electricity used in theUS.
 - D. It supplies more electricity today than it did fifty years ago.
5. According to the text, deriving synthetic energy from coals, oil shale, and coal tars is impractical because.....

- A. it is money-consuming.
- B. it is time-consuming.
- C. sources are scarce and hard to find.
- D. of the lack of technology.

II. Scientists have established that influenza viruses taken from man can cause disease in animals.

In addition, man can catch the disease from animals. In fact, a greater numbers of wild birds seem to carry the virus without showing any evidences of illness. Some scientists conclude that a large family of influenza virus may have evolved in the bird kingdom, a group that has been on earth 100 million years and is able to carry the virus without contracting the disease. There is even convincing evidence to show that virus strain are transmitted from place to place and from continent to continent by migrating birds.

It is known that two influenza viruses can recombine when both are present in an animal at the same time. The result of such recombination is a great variety of strains containing different H and N spikes. This raises the possibility that a human influenza virus can recombine with an influenza virus from a lower animal to produce an entirely new spike. Research is underway to determine if that is the way major new strains come into being. Another possibility is that two animal influenza strains may recombine in a pig, for example, to produce a new strain which is transmitted to man.

1. According to the passage, scientists have discovered that influenza viruses _____.
 - A. cause ill health in wild animals
 - B. do not always cause symptoms in birds
 - C. are rarely present in wild birds
 - D. change when transmitted from animals to man
2. What is known about the influenza virus?
 - A. It was first found in a group of very old birds.
 - B. All the different strains can be found in wild birds.
 - C. It existed over 100 million years ago.
 - D. It can survive in many different places.
3. According to the passage, a great variety of influenza strains can appear when _____.
 - A. H and N spikes are produced
 - B. animal and bird viruses are combined
 - C. dissimilar types of viruses recombine
 - D. two viruses of the same type are contracted
4. New strains of viruses are transmitted to man by _____.
 - A. a type of wild pig
 - B. diseased lower animals
 - C. a group of migrating birds
 - D. a variety of means
5. It can be inferred from the passage that all of the following are ways of producing new strains of influenza EXCEPT _____.
 - A. two influenza viruses in the same animal recombining
 - B. animal viruses recombining with human viruses
 - C. two animal viruses recombining
 - D. two animal viruses recombining in a human

III. Plants and animals will find it difficult to escape from or adjust to the effect of global

warming, Scientists have already observed shifts in the lifecycles of many plants and animals, such as flowers blooming earlier and birds hatching earlier in the spring. Many species have begun shifting where they live or their annual migration patterns due to warmer temperatures.

With further warming, animals will tend to migrate toward the poles and up mountainsides toward higher elevations. Plants will also attempt to shift their ranges, seeking new areas as old habitats grow too warm. In many places, however, human development will prevent these shifts. Species that find cities or farmland blocking their way north or south may become extinct. Species living in unique

ecosystems, such as those found in polar and mountantop regions, are especially at risk because migration to new habitats is not possible. For example, polar bears and marine mammals in the Arctic are already threatened by dwindling sea ice but have nowhere farther to go.

Projecting species extinction due to global warming is extremely difficult. Some scientists have estimated that 20 to 50 percent of species could be committed to extinction with 2 to 3 Celsius degrees of further warming. The rate of warming, not just the magnitude, is extremely important for plants and animals. Some species and even entire ecosystems, such as certain types of forest, many not be able to adjust quickly enough and may disappear.

Ocean ecosystems, especially fragile ones like coral reefs, will also be affected by global warming. Warmer ocean temperatures can cause coral to “bleach”, a state which if prolonged will lead to the death of the coral. Scientists estimate that even 1 Celsius degree of additional warming could lead to widespread bleaching and death of coral reefs around the world. Also increasing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere enters the ocean and increases the acidity of ocean waters. This acidification further stresses ocean ecosystems.

- 1: Scientists have observed that warmer temperatures in the spring cause flowers to_____.
A. die instantly B. bloom earlier C, become lighter D. lose color
- 2: According to paragraph 2, when their habitats grow warmer, animal tend to move____.
A. south – eastwards and down mountainsides toward lower
B. north – westwards and up mountainsides toward higher
C. toward the North Pole and down mountainsides toward lower
D. toward the poles and up mountainsides toward higher
- 3: The pronoun “those” in paragraph 2 refers to_____.
A. species B. ecosystems C. habitats D. areas
- 4: The phrase “dwindling sea ice” in paragraph 2 refers to_____.
A. the frozen water in the Artie. C. the violent Arctic Ocean.
B. the melting ice in the Arctic. D. the cold ice in the Arctic.
- 5: It is mentioned in the passage that if the global temperature rose by 2 or 3 Celcius degrees,_____.
A. half of the earth’s surface would be B. the sea level would rise by 20
C. water supply would decrease by 50 D. 20 to 50 percent of species could become
- 6: According to the passage, if some species are not able to adjust quickly to warmer temperatures,____.
A. they may be endangered B. they can begin to develop
C. they will certainly need water. D. they move to tropical forests.
- 7: The word “fragile” in paragraph 4 most probably means_____.
A. very large B. easily damaged
C. rather strong D. pretty hard
- 8: The bleaching of coral reefs as mentioned in paragraph 4 indicates_____.
A. the water absorption of coral reefs. B. the quick growth of marine mammals.
C. the blooming phase of sea weeds. D. the slow death of coral reefs.
- 9: The level of acidity in the ocean is increased by_____.
A. the rising amount of carbon dioxide entering the
B. the decrease of acidity of the pole
C. the extinction of species in coastal
D. the lose of acidity in the atmosphere around the
- 10: What does the passage mainly discuss?
A. Influence of climate changes on human

- B. Effects of global warming on animals and
- C. Global warming and possible solutions
- D. Global warming and species

IV. Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, which is primarily a result of mankind's burning of fuels, is thought to act like the glass of a greenhouse. It absorbs heat radiation from the earth and its atmosphere, heats that otherwise would dissipate into space. The possibility that the greenhouse effect could alter the earth's temperature has been debated for many years. Scientists have agreed that carbon dioxide is increasing but there has been uncertainty about whether temperatures are also increasing. The major difficulty in accepting the greenhouse effect has been the absence of observed warming coincident with the historic carbon dioxide increase.

1. What does the scientific community think about the greenhouse effect?
 - A. It regards it as an established scientific fact.
 - B. It considers it a promising scientific issue.
 - C. It finds it an important mechanism for removing carbon dioxide from greenhouse.
 - D. It sees it as a useful agricultural technique.
2. One thing that all atmospheric scientists apparently agree about is that _____.
 - A. global temperatures are continually rising.
 - B. greenhouse affects the earth's temperature significantly.
 - C. the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is increasing.
 - D. the glass of greenhouses has reduced the need to burn fuel.
3. The carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is believed to produce the greenhouse effect by _____.
 - A. preventing heat radiation from escaping the earth's atmosphere.
 - B. dissipation into outer space.
 - C. being burned on the ground.
 - D. being widely used for agricultural purposes in greenhouse.
4. Doubts about the greenhouse effect seem to center on the fact that _____.
 - A. past increase in carbon dioxide volume and global temperatures have often not corresponded.
 - B. it is difficult to locate and identify carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
 - C. growing produce in greenhouses has been only marginally profitable.
 - D. the earth is steadily cooling down.
5. The principal consequence of the greenhouse effect is assumed to be an increase in _____.
 - A. the building of fossil fuels.
 - B. the sun's radiation reaching earth.
 - C. global temperatures.
 - D. the building of greenhouse.

V. Culture is a word in common use with complex meanings, and is derived, like the term broadcasting, from the treatment and care of the soil and of what grows on it. It is directly related to cultivation and the adjectives cultural and cultured are part of the same verbal complex. A person of culture has identifiable **attributes**, among them are knowledge of and interest in the arts, literature, and music. Yet the word culture does not refer solely to such knowledge and interest nor, indeed, to education. At least from the 19th century onwards, under the influence of anthropologists and sociologists, the word culture means has come to be used generally both in the singular and the plural (cultures) to refer to a whole way of life of people, including their customs, laws, conventions, and values.

Distinctions have consequently been drawn between primitive and advanced culture and cultures, between elite and popular culture, between popular and mass culture, and most recently between

national and global cultures. Distinctions have been drawn too between culture and civilization; the latter is a word derived not, like culture or agriculture, from the soil, but from the city. The two words are sometimes treated as synonymous. Yet this is misleading. While civilization and barbarism are pitted against each other in what seems to be a perpetual behavioural pattern, the use of the word culture has been strongly influenced by conceptions of evolution in the 19th century and of development in the 20th century. Cultures evolve or develop. They are not **static**. They have twists and turns. Styles change. So do fashions. There are cultural processes. What, for example, the word cultured has changed substantially since the study of classical (that is, Greek and Roman) literature, philosophy, and history ceased in the 20th century to be central to school and university education. No single alternative focus emerged, although with computers has come electronic culture, affecting kinds of study, and most recently digital culture. As cultures express themselves in new forms not everything gets better or more civilized.

The multiplicity of meanings attached to the word made and will make it difficult to define. There is no single, unproblematic definition, although many attempts have been made to establish one. The only non-problematic definitions go back to agricultural meaning (for example cereal culture or strawberry culture) and medical meaning (for example, bacterial culture or penicillin culture). Since in anthropology and sociology we also acknowledge culture clashes, culture shock and counter-culture, the range of reference is extremely wide,

- 1: According to the passage, the word culture ____ .
 - A. is related to the preparation and use of land for farming
 - B. comes from a source that has not been identified
 - C. develops from Greek and Roman literature and history
 - D. derives from the same root as broadcasting
- 2: It is stated in paragraph 1 that a cultured person ____ .
 - A. has a job related to cultivation
 - B. does a job relevant to education
 - C. takes care of the soil and what grows on it
 - D. has knowledge of arts, literature, and music
- 3: The author remarks that culture and civilization are the two words that ____
 - A. share the same word formation pattern
 - B. have nearly the same meaning
 - C. are both related to agriculture and cultivation
 - D. do not develop from the same meaning
- 4: it can be inferred from the passage that since the 20th century
 - A. schools and universities have not taught classical literature, philosophy, and history
 - B. classical literature, philosophy, and history have been considered as core subjects
 - C. classical literature, philosophy, and history have not been taught as compulsory subjects
 - D. all schools and universities have taught classical literature, philosophy, and history
- 5: The word "attributes" in paragraph 1 most likely means .
 - A. fields
 - B. qualities
 - C. aspects
 - D. skills
- 6: The word "static" in paragraph 2 could best be replaced by ____
 - A. unchanged
 - B. balanced
 - C. regular
 - D. dense
- 7: Which of the following is NOT stated in the passage?
 - A. Anthropology and sociology have tried to limit the references to culture.
 - B. Distinctions have been drawn between culture and civilization.
 - C. The use of the word culture has been changed since the 19th century.
 - D. The word culture can be used to refer to a whole way of life of people.

8: It is difficult to give the definitions of the word culture EXCEPT for its_____ .

- A. agricultural and medical meanings
- B. philosophical and historical meanings
- C. historical and figurative meanings
- D. sociological and anthropological meanings

9: Which of the following is NOT true about the word culture?

- A. It differs from the word civilization.
- B. It evolves from agriculture.
- C. Its use has been considerably changed.
- D. It is a word that cannot be defined..

10: The passage mainly discusses _____ .

- A. the multiplicity of meanings of the word culture
- B. the distinction between culture and civilization
- C. the figurative meanings of the word culture
- D. the derivatives of the word culture