

Accuplacer Reading Comprehension Practice

Part I

For the first part of the Reading Comprehension practice, read the following paragraph excerpted from the United Nation's website. After reading the paragraph, answer the questions that follow. Answer the question based on what is stated or implied in the passage.

1. This is the first time in human history that most of the world's populations live in cities: 3.3 billion people ...and the urban landscape continues to grow. 38% of the growth is represented by expanding slums, while the city populations are increasing faster than city infrastructure can adapt. The objective of World Water Day 2011 is to focus international attention on the impact of rapid urban population growth, industrialization and uncertainties caused by climate change, conflicts and natural disasters on urban water systems. This year's theme, *Water for cities: responding to the urban challenge*, aims to spotlight and encourage governments, organizations, communities, and individuals to actively engage in addressing the challenges of urban water management.

(Excerpted from the United Nations' World Water Day Official Site)

What is the main idea of the passage above?

- a. The majority of the world's population should not live in cities.
- b. The urban population must ensure they will have clean water in the future.
- c. Governments are unwilling to bring clean water to the world's cities.
- d. City infrastructures cannot cope with the expanding urban population.

The world's urban population

- a. needs more water to survive than the world's rural population.
- b. is growing too fast for the cities' infrastructures to keep up.
- c. is declining as necessary resources are being used up.
- d. is declining in the wake of devastating natural disasters.

Based on the passage above, we can safely conclude that

- a. in previous eras, the majority of people did not live in cities.
- b. World Water Day 2011 is an effort to prevent global warming.
- c. many governments do not care enough about their urban populations.
- d. the population of rural areas continues to increase.

2. In the past fifty years, our world has been ravaged by violent conflicts that have claimed the lives of many millions of civilians and left tens of millions more permanently displaced. These civilians have been expelled from their homes, and are often denied access to life-saving food, medicine and shelter. Grave violations of international humanitarian and human rights law and blatant disrespect for the normative framework of humanity that has emerged over the past 50 years is common to many of these conflicts. Civilians have become the primary target of attack motivated by ethnic or religious hatred, political confrontation or simply ruthless pursuit of economic interests. This stark picture has led the United Nations, the International Committee for the Red Cross, regional organizations and many other international agencies to dedicate greater attention to protecting civilians in ongoing armed conflicts.

(Excerpted from the United Nations' OCHA site)

Which is the main idea of the paragraph above?

- a. Ethnic or religious hatred, politics, and ruthlessness have caused many civilians to be attacked.
- b. Denying access to food, medicine, and shelter causes great harm to many civilians.
- c. Because civilians are increasingly targeted as victims in warfare, certain organizations are mobilizing to protect them.
- d. Attacking civilians is an effective, ethical means of conducting modern warfare.

Based on the passage above, we can safely conclude that

- a. over fifty years ago, civilians were not attacked as often during war.
- b. attacks on civilians will only increase over the next fifty years.
- c. human rights laws are the most effective means of protecting civilians.
- d. civilians should take up arms to defend their ethnic and religious heritages.

The purpose of this passage is to

- a. encourage civilians to disguise their religion or ethnicity.
- b. draw attention to the inhumane practice of targeting civilians in war.
- c. praise the accomplishments of international organizations like the United Nations and the Red Cross.
- d. describe how warfare has changed over the past fifty years.

3. Climate change is not just a distant future threat. It is the main driver behind rising humanitarian needs, and we are seeing its impact. The number of people affected and the damages inflicted by extreme weather have been unprecedented. People who are particularly vulnerable include those whose lives are already threatened by abject poverty, HIV/AIDS, environmental degradation, inadequate housing and insecurity. Those living in disaster hot spots – such as flood plains or cyclone tracks - are exposed to repeated climatic shocks that compound their vulnerability. With the threat of extreme weather in the future, the demand for disaster response can only rise, as will the costs. Tackling climate change needs a global and comprehensive response: curbing greenhouse gases, helping people adapt to changing weather, and investing in risk reduction. But for humanitarians, there is one clear-cut challenge: to ensure an effective disaster response.

(Excerpted from the United Nations' OCHA site)

According to the passage, climate change

- a. cannot be prevented or slowed.
- b. threatens the wealthy and the poor equally.
- c. is causing some serious problems now.
- d. is mainly caused by the conditions of impoverished peoples.

Which of the following is NOT a consequence of climate change?

- a. increased greenhouse gases
- b. rising costs of disaster response

- c. extreme weather that particularly affects impoverished peoples
- d. the need for more humanitarian aid

Based on the evidence in this passage, what can we safely conclude?

- a. Climate change will begin to cause major problems in the future.
 - b. Extreme weather events are more disastrous than ever before.
 - c. Poverty, inadequate housing, and disease are contributing to global climate change.
 - d. Today's floods, cyclones, and storms are all caused by climate change.
4. Half the world's 48 least developed countries (LDCs) can "graduate" out of their impoverished status within 10 years if they benefit from better targeted development aid, duty- and quota-free access for exports and doubled farm productivity and school enrolment, according to a United Nations report released today.... The report shows upward progress in category after category of economic and human well-being indicators by developed and dynamic developing countries, while LDC trends are close to flat-lining. Pointing to the high incidence of conflicts in countries with extreme poverty and weak institutions, it says "increasing marginalization of the LDCs is creating a future that we, as a global community, cannot afford." ... Also since 2001, LDC governments have progressed in terms of adopting democratic constitutions, increasing women's role in government, and instituting economic reforms and new legal frameworks. While dependence on primary commodities remains a problem, the LDCs' significant share of the world's strategic minerals, oil, arable land and eco-resources gives them an inside track on attracting trade and investment and diversifying economies, the study says.

(Excerpted from the United Nations News Centre)

According to the passage, trends in LDCs suggest that

- a. economic and humanitarian conditions are improving dramatically.
- b. democracy and women's rights are on the decline.
- c. economic and humanitarian conditions are not improving at the same rates as in developed countries.
- d. high school graduates are not enjoying the benefits of their education as in developed countries.

Based on this passage, we can safely conclude that

- a. LDCs must become more democratic if they are to thrive.
- b. LDCs need assistance from the global community to improve their situation.
- c. LDCs need more oil, minerals, and land to survive in the global economy.
- d. LDCs have very little to offer the global economy.

Which of the following is NOT true about LDC governments over the past decade?

- a. Women have been getting more rights.
- b. Their economic structures are being reformed.
- c. Democracy is on the decline.
- d. Their legal structures are improving.

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Part II

For the second part of the Reading Comprehension practice, read the sentence pairings. Each pairing will be followed by a question with answering statements. Choose the statement that best answers the question.

1. Psychology is the study of human behavior.
Because of the broad range of human behaviors, psychology has many subfields.

What does the second sentence do?

- a. It proposes a solution
 - b. It makes a contrast
 - c. It analyzes the statement made in the first
 - d. It provides an effect
2. Tornados have been destroying cities and towns out west.
Many housing contractors are starting to move out to the west.

What does the second sentence do?

- a. It restates the idea found in the first
 - b. It gives an effect
 - c. It states an example
 - d. It analyzes the statement made in the first
3. Research shows that colorful and vivid advertisements tend to attract more people.
Marketers use many different research studies when developing their advertisements.

How are the sentences related?

- a. The second sentence provides background for the first
 - b. The first sentence contradicts the second
 - c. They present a contrast
 - d. They repeat the same idea
4. Most students believe that tutors are very intelligent.
Some tutors develop egos and feel they are better than the students they help.

How are the sentences related?

- a. The second proposes a solution
- b. They present cause and effect
- c. The second analyzes the statement made in the first
- d. They make a comparison

5. Henry and his family eat spaghetti regularly—even when they go out to a restaurant. When planning what to eat, Henry rarely chooses a restaurant that serves spaghetti.

How are the sentences related?

- a. They contradict
 - b. They establish a contrast
 - c. They repeat
 - d. They present cause and effect
6. Pop-tarts are considered junk food, which causes numerous health problems. Cavities, diabetes, and other chronic lifestyle illnesses are related to the consumption of junk foods, such as Pop-tarts and other sweets.

What does the second sentence do?

- a. It restates the idea found in the first
 - b. It analyzes the statement made in the first
 - c. It proposes a solution
 - d. It makes a contrast
7. Drinking at least three liters of water a day can help maintain personal health. People who drink a lot of water tend to feel happy and more awake.

What does the second sentence do?

- a. It restates the idea found in the first
 - b. It analyzes the statement made in the first
 - c. It gives an effect
 - d. It states an example
8. Health insurance for overweight people is more expensive because of the health factors related to obesity. Many employers are offering exercise packages to their employees.

What does the second sentence do?

- a. It restates the idea found in the first
- b. It states an example
- c. It proposes a solution
- d. It makes a contrast

