

Answer Key

Exciting Colleges

1. A
2. C
3. B
4. B
5. Ivy League schools are a group of prestigious and academically renowned institutions in the United States. They are known for their excellence in various fields and are often associated with high academic standards, strong programs, and a legacy of producing successful graduates.
6. MIT is considered a “superhero school for science and technology” because it attracts highly intelligent individuals who aspire to invent amazing things and solve significant problems. The university serves as a hub for innovation, bringing together bright minds to contribute to advancements in science and technology.
7. Ivy League schools are known for providing a high-quality education and fostering an environment that encourages academic and creative achievements. These institutions attract top-tier faculty and students, offering a platform for intellectual growth, research opportunities, and the development of creative thinking.
8. A student’s choice of university may be influenced by factors such as the strengths of programs, location, campus atmosphere, and reputation. The chosen university can impact their future career path by providing specific academic opportunities, networking possibilities, and exposure to resources and industries relevant to their field of study.
9. N/A

Reading Comprehension

10. B
11. A

12. C
13. C
14. D
15. The conflicts included the civil war in Russia, the Greece-Turkey conflict, Jewish-Arab tensions in the Middle East, and Indian aspirations for self-rule under British rule.
16. The Paris Peace Conference set the peace terms for the defeated nations and established the League of Nations, but its outcomes fell short of achieving lasting peace.
17. The epidemic led to a significant reduction in populations, adding to the complexities and difficulties faced by nations in the post-war era.
18. American isolationism hindered the League of Nations’ goals of achieving world disarmament and preventing invasions, as the U.S. was reluctant to engage in international political situations.
19. The aftermath of World War I illustrates that the end of a war does not guarantee lasting peace, and addressing geopolitical, cultural, and ideological conflicts requires sustained efforts and cooperation among nations.

Reading Comprehension

20. B
21. B
22. A
23. A
24. C
25. The mast was the first part of a ship to appear over the horizon and the last to disappear, indicating a curved Earth.
26. The North Star’s position changing as ships sailed north or south suggested a spherical Earth.

27. Different constellations becoming visible when sailing south indicated a curved surface.
28. Orbiting spacecraft and photographs from the moon have captured Earth's round shape.
29. Magellan's circumnavigation provided tangible proof of Earth's round shape, challenging the prevailing flat Earth beliefs and influencing future scientific understanding.

Reading Comprehension

30. C
31. B
32. D
33. B
34. C
35. The canyon is inhabited by strange marine life, including colonies of clams, tube worms, and bacteria feeding on chemical-rich fluids from underwater springs.
36. Turbidity currents, powerful underwater debris flows, were discovered to be a mechanism capable of carving undersea canyons over time.
37. The port of Moss Landing is mentioned because it is located within yards of the head of Monterey Canyon, making it easily accessible for researchers.
38. While the geologic history of Monterey Canyon is generally understood, the details of how it was carved out of the continental shelf remain incompletely known, posing a challenge for researchers.
39. The study of Monterey Canyon can provide insights into unique marine ecosystems, the impact of turbidity currents on geological formations, and the interplay between land and underwater features, enhancing our understanding of Earth's processes.

There Always Some Way Out!

40. accord
candid
41. fundamental
ghastly

42. dialogue
speculate
43. opponent
assistant
44. howled
weigh

Words needed in the passage:

- ghastly
candid
speculation
howled
accord
fundamental
dialogue
weighed
assistant
opponents

45. B
46. D
47. C
48. A
49. B
50. He cut it in half with scissors and handed a piece to each side.
51. He howled with joy.
52. The shift from animosity and aggression to dialogue and cooperation.
53. They shook hands and agreed to work towards a peaceful solution.
54. The outcome of the conflict was a peaceful resolution and a sense of hope for the future emerged.

Reading Comprehension

55. C
56. C
57. C
58. C
59. D
60. Small plants like lichens and mosses contribute by growing on rocks, wedging their roots into pores and crevices, which can split the rock when they grow.
61. Ice heaving occurs when water in the ground freezes and lifts the pavement. The subsequent thaw leads to pavement collapse, creating potholes.

62. When rocks on top of granite are worn away, it reduces pressure on the granite, allowing it to expand. This upward expansion leads to exfoliation.
63. Ice wedging is more damaging in such areas because the repeated freezing and thawing cycles enhance the process, especially in porous rocks.
64. Mechanical weathering processes like ice wedging and exfoliation contribute to the formation of features like exfoliated domes by breaking down rocks and causing the peeling of surface layers.

The Secession of a Small Island Nation

65. secession
66. erosion
67. occupation
68. diction
69. aspiration
70. Admission
71. Calculation
72. Accommodations
73. Exertion
74. Petition

Words needed in the passage:

secession
erosion
occupation
aspirations
petition
diction
calculations
admission
accommodations
exertion

75. B
76. B
77. C
78. B
79. C
80. The erosion of trust created a strong desire for independence as the people felt their voices were stifled by the government and foreign powers.
81. The passage does not provide specific details about the accommodations, but it

- implies that the people received favorable terms or conditions that allowed them to pursue their independence.
82. They hoped to build a new future and enjoy the freedom and independence they had fought for.
83. The secession can serve as an inspiration by demonstrating that when people unite in pursuit of their dreams and work for their aspirations, they can achieve freedom and independence even against challenging odds.
84. Common challenges may include erosion of trust, foreign occupation, and the struggle to gain international recognition and support for their independence. The success of this nation teaches the importance of determination, unity, and presenting a strong case to the world in achieving independence. It also shows the power of hope and renewed effort in building a better future.

Answer Key

Selecting Backpacks

1. B
2. C
3. A
4. A
5. Durability is essential in a backpack because it ensures the bag can withstand wear and tear, lasting for a long time. A durable backpack provides a reliable and consistent experience, preventing issues like tears or breakages, and ensures that it can handle the weight and demands of daily use.
6. Eco-friendly and sustainable features contribute to the appeal of backpacks by addressing environmental concerns. These features make the backpacks attractive to individuals who prioritize environmentally conscious choices, offering them a product that aligns with their values.
7. Versatility in backpacks refers to their ability to adapt to different situations and purposes. A versatile backpack can be used for various activities, from school and work to outdoor adventures. It's an important factor as it allows individuals to have a single backpack that meets multiple needs, enhancing convenience and practicality.
8. A person's choice in selecting a specific brand might be influenced by factors such as design preferences, durability needs, environmental values, and intended usage (school, outdoor adventures, sports, etc.). The chosen brand reflects their lifestyle, values, and the specific features that matter most to them in a backpack.
9. N/A

Reading Comprehension

10. B
11. C
12. C

13. A
14. D
15. Mrs. Miller was an older woman with well-cut white hair, carefully made up but not overly, wearing a stylish suit and small earrings.
16. The narrator felt a sinking heart, imagining the potential challenges and worries Mrs. Miller might face being separated from her son and grandson.
17. The passage suggests that Mrs. Miller's confusion might be related to the effects of aging, a common phenomenon among older people.
18. The cabin attendant consulted the flight officers and then informed Mrs. Miller that she needed to deplane, with the expectation that airport personnel would assist her in finding her son.
19. Airlines could consider implementing additional support services, such as dedicated personnel for elderly passengers, clearer communication procedures, and enhanced assistance for those who may experience confusion or memory challenges.

Reading Comprehension

20. B
21. C
22. A
23. B
24. A
25. Landforms affect accessibility and cost, influencing how towns and cities grow.
26. Outposts of western Newfoundland, limited by mountains and the ocean.
27. Improved transportation enabled long-distance shipping of food, allowing urban areas to expand into agricultural regions.
28. Pleasant climates in Florida, Arizona, and southern California contributed to urban growth, attracting tourists and industries.

29. Environmental factors such as climate, accessibility, and landforms will likely continue to influence where and how cities grow, impacting their development and sustainability.

Reading Comprehension

30. C
 31. A
 32. C
 33. C
 34. C
 35. The atmosphere is tense, with the twins whispering hopefully about James, and Steiner feeling remorse and dazed by the unusual behavior of James.
 36. Steiner experiences a sense of loss and grief for his son as he looks at his aging house, realizing he hadn't seen it in two weeks.
 37. Steiner was looking for a shatterproof, full-length mirror, and an exercise mat recommended by the physical therapist.
 38. James's silence becomes a focal point of concern and hope for the family during the drive home, especially for the twins.
 39. Steiner's internal conflict, involving remorse, grief, and a desire for more children, contributes to a poignant and emotional tone, adding depth to the narrative as it explores themes of family and loss.

A Hunter in the Forest

40. Although camouflage
 41. coincide emerged
 42. commend uncoiled
 43. scissors gratify
 44. peace inherited

Words needed in the passage:

- camouflage
 uncoiled
 emerged
 scissors

- commendable
 inherited
 gratification
 peace
 Although
 coincidence

45. B
 46. C
 47. A
 48. D
 49. B
 50. The scissors are an unexpected object that catch the predator's attention and symbolize the hunter's weapon of choice.
 51. The predator offers no resistance and surrenders to the hunter.
 52. The hunter feels a sense of gratification.
 53. The predator and the hunter share a mutual respect.
 54. The hunter is skilled, relentless, and has a sense of respect for the prey they hunt.

Reading Comprehension

55. B
 56. B
 57. B
 58. B
 59. B
 60. General Weyler's policy led to the relocation of the native population into camps, causing thousands of deaths due to unsanitary conditions, overcrowding, and disease.
 61. The yellow press printed sensational stories of Spanish atrocities, creating a wave of sympathy for the Cuban insurgents among the American public.
 62. The grim conditions in Cuba, including the hit-and-run scorched-earth policy by insurgents and the brutal tactics of General Weyler, prompted the establishment of an insurgent military organization in New York City.
 63. The insurgents faced initial failures due to Spanish resistance. General Weyler's arrival marked a shift, as his relentless and brutal tactics intensified the conflict.

64. The larger conflicts, not solely caused by yellow journalism, involved policy differences between Spain and the United States, creating an environment that led to increased tension and eventually contributed to the outbreak of the Spanish-American War.

A Remarkable Musical Performance

- 65. gracious
- 66. obvious
- 67. contagious
- 68. tremendous
- 69. pious
- 70. conscious
- 71. harmonious
- 72. serious
- 73. jealous
- 74. precious

Words needed in the passage:

- graciousness
- obvious
- contagious
- tremendous
- pious
- conscious
- harmonious
- serious
- precious
- jealous

- 75. C
- 76. B
- 77. D
- 78. C
- 79. B

80. The harmonious sound of music, the serious expression of the performers, and the beauty of the music created an intense and awe-inspiring atmosphere, making the performance special and memorable to the audience.

81. The audience was eagerly anticipating the performance, and their excitement was tremendous. However, after witnessing the performance, even those who had initially felt jealous were completely

engrossed and deeply moved by the experience.

82. The setting contributed to the sense of graciousness and added to the atmosphere of the event, creating a serene and beautiful backdrop for the musical performance.

83. The crowd's eruption into thunderous applause reflects the profound impact the performance had on them, demonstrating that it was a moment they would never forget and that the memory would remain with them for years to come.

84. A remarkable musical performance can evoke emotions such as joy, inspiration, and awe in the audience. The power of music to create intense and awe-inspiring moments can be harnessed for various events or experiences by carefully selecting and arranging music to match the atmosphere and purpose of the event, creating memorable and emotionally charged experiences for the audience.

Answer Key

Reading Comprehension

1. B
2. C
3. D
4. C
5. D
6. Bothersome cockroach species, like the American and German cockroaches, live in kitchens and bathrooms, prefer darkness, and can be unnerving when encountered at night.
7. Cockroaches' adaptability to various habitats, temperatures, scavenging behavior, and their flat bodies providing easy concealment contribute to their unchanged form over millions of years.
8. Unlike some insects, cockroaches do not undergo metamorphosis; instead, they shed their skins several times before reaching adulthood.
9. The unchanged form of cockroaches over many eons suggests that their existing traits and characteristics are well-suited for survival, aligning with the principles of natural selection.
10. Being scavengers with a diverse diet allows cockroaches to exploit various food sources, increasing their chances of survival and adaptability in different environments.

Reading Comprehension

11. B
12. B
13. D
14. A
15. C
16. Tinne's explorations provided valuable information about the region's geography, flora, and fauna, contributing to scientific knowledge.

17. Tinne and her group faced challenges such as illness, with one scientist dying, and the death of Tinne's mother.
18. Tinne developed a fascination with the desert and its people during her travels in Algeria and Tunisia.
19. According to the passage, it was reported that the inhabitants believed Tinne's iron water tanks were filled with gold, possibly motivating the murder.
20. Alexandrine Tinne's explorations contributed to scientific knowledge, but her tragic end underscores the challenges and risks faced by early explorers, especially in unfamiliar and sometimes hostile environments.

Reading Comprehension

21. C
22. C
23. D
24. C
25. C
26. Enlightenment thinkers applied Newtonian methods to psychology, education, government, religion, law codes, treatment of criminals, the slave trade, and economic life.
27. The Enlightenment's optimistic outlook was based on the belief that individuals, using reason, could discover natural laws and progress toward a better life.
28. Some thinkers acknowledged that there were limits to human reasoning powers and that emotion, or feelings, also played a significant role in human behavior.
29. One example is the crusade for the elimination of slavery.
30. The emphasis on reason during the Enlightenment could have influenced movements for human rights, democracy, and social justice in the following

centuries, as people sought rational solutions to societal problems.

Reading Comprehension

- 31. C
- 32. A
- 33. C
- 34. C
- 35. C
- 36. Carthage became a center of industry, learning, and luxury, arguably the second greatest city of the Roman Empire.
- 37. No pages or lines of the great libraries of books in the Punic language remain.
- 38. The Greeks and Romans, who made war on Carthage, presented a biased picture, making it necessary to question the objectivity of historical accounts.
- 39. After the first war, Carthage became powerful; after the second, it became rich; and after the third, it vanished.
- 40. The passage emphasizes challenges such as biased historical accounts, the loss of the Punic language, and the reliance on external sources for information on Carthage, making it difficult to present an unbiased and complete history.

A Battle of Wills: The Redemption of Rivals

- 41. accord
- 42. candid
- 43. evidence
- 44. fundamental
- 45. ghastly
- 46. dialogue
speculate
- 47. magnificent
- 48. vengeance
- 49. fatigue
- 50. satellite
- 51. Although
- 52. camouflage
- 53. opponent

Words needed in the passage:

- 54. A
- 55. B
- 56. B

- 57. C
- 58. B
- 59. The opponents initially had tension between them, and their faces displayed a mask of determination.
- 60. The presence of the satellite provided a moment of respite and contrasted with the hostility in the air, reminding the rivals of the world beyond their rivalry.
- 61. Introspection and candid dialogue led the rivals to recognize the futility of their animosity and the transformative power of dialogue.
- 62. The encounter became a turning point, symbolizing the capacity for growth and redemption through empathy, dialogue, and reconciliation.
- 63. The passage suggests that empathy, dialogue, and a willingness to see beyond differences can lead to personal and collective growth, ultimately triumphing over the desire for vengeance.

Reading Comprehension

- 64. C
- 65. D
- 66. B
- 67. C
- 68. C
- 69. Cultural relativism is crucial as it allows anthropologists to understand and interpret a culture based on its own values and practices, avoiding ethnocentric judgments.
- 70. An example is the consumption of insects as part of the human diet in some cultures.
- 71. Anthropologists strive to understand cultures on their own terms by considering the purpose and meaning of behaviors, without imposing their own cultural values.
- 72. Ethnocentrism is the tendency to judge other cultures by the standards of one's own culture. It is problematic as it hinders objective understanding and can lead to biased interpretations.

73. Studying practices like human sacrifice allows anthropologists to comprehend the cultural context, beliefs, and roles such practices played in ancient societies, contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of human cultures throughout history.

An Investigation of the Haunted Mansion

- 74. assistant
- 75. coincide
- 76. commend
- 77. uncoiled
- 78. gratify
- 79. petunia
- 80. seaboard
- 81. flawless
- 82. slaughter
- 83. notorious

Words needed in the passage:

seaboard
notorious
slaughter
flawless
commend
uncoiled
coincide
assistant
gratifying
petunia

- 84. D
- 85. A
- 86. C
- 87. C
- 88. B

89. They found a dialogue that provided a candid account of what had truly happened, revealing that one opponent sought vengeance, leading to the ghastly tragedy.

90. Marcus realized that the opponent responsible for the tragedy had never been caught and was still a potential threat, so he needed to ensure the culprit's capture.

91. They captured the still-at-large opponent and brought him to justice, which gratified the families who had lost their loved ones.

92. The petunia symbolized resilience and hope amid a dark history and served as a reminder of the closure Marcus had brought to the affected families.

93. Marcus's determination to uncover the truth suggests that he is driven by a strong sense of justice and a commitment to solving mysteries, even when faced with dark and daunting histories.

Answer Key

Reading Comprehension

1. C
2. B
3. D
4. D
5. C
6. Many food-producing plants and animals did not develop as expected, resulting in a limited diet, mainly consisting of beans and sweet potatoes.
7. The biospherians faced challenges as the oxygen levels dropped below the Earth's standard, and carbon dioxide levels were about twice as high.
8. The biospherians experienced fatigue, weakness, and hunger, partially due to reduced oxygen levels, which dropped as low as 14.5% in Biosphere 2.
9. The passage suggests that Biosphere 2, originally designed for space exploration, now serves as a tool to understand the effects of increased carbon dioxide on Earth's atmosphere.
10. Biosphere 2 may offer insights into developing strategies to adapt and survive in a changing and polluted environment on Earth, given its original purpose of testing self-sustainability and the current mission focused on understanding the impact of increased carbon dioxide.

Reading Comprehension

11. B
12. B
13. C
14. B
15. D
16. The invention of the printing press made books more accessible by allowing large-scale production, reducing costs, and increasing availability.
17. Movable type allowed for the arrangement and reuse of individual letters in printing,

revolutionizing the production of written material.

18. Books were copied by hand on expensive parchment, a time-consuming process often done by monks, making books scarce and costly.
19. The introduction of paper made books cheaper compared to parchment, although they were still scarce.
20. The printing press revolutionized communication by making printed material more widely available, affordable, and accessible, leading to a significant increase in literacy and knowledge dissemination.

Reading Comprehension

21. C
22. D
23. B
24. B
25. B
26. Soil depletion occurs when nutrients are removed from the soil during crop harvesting, leading to decreased fertility. It can result in soil no longer supporting usable crops.
27. In Japan, where 85% of the land is mountainous, the conflict arises as most of the population, including farmers, resides in the limited 15% of flat land suitable for farming.
28. Good farming practices include allowing fields to rest, returning a crop to the soil, or changing the type of crop grown on a field from year to year.
29. Salinization occurs when minerals, such as salt, are left on the soil surface due to the evaporation of irrigated water in desert areas. The increased mineral content makes the soil unsuitable for crop growth.
30. These issues can lead to decreased agricultural productivity, increased

pressure on arable land, and challenges in sustaining food production, potentially affecting global food security.

Reading Comprehension

- 31. C
- 32. C
- 33. D
- 34. A
- 35. C
- 36. Costa Rica boasts diverse wildlife, including various bird species, mammals, and plants, contributing to its natural beauty and making it a prime destination for nature enthusiasts.
- 37. The Monteverde forest is called a tropical cloud forest because it derives moisture not only from rain but also from the misty touch of clouds, creating a unique and rich ecosystem.
- 38. Sunlight is crucial for the forest's order; large trees block sunlight from reaching the forest floor, leading ground-level plants to grow large leaves to collect available light.
- 39. The author perceives the forest as an organism itself, growing at a fantastic pace. The analogy used is that of vines weaving into the complex fabric of the forest.
- 40. The presence of diverse species likely contributes to a balanced and resilient ecosystem within the national parks and nature reserves, fostering ecological stability and enhancing the overall health of the environment.

What Lies Beneath the Haunted Mansion?

- 41. haunted
- 42. appall
- 43. thoughtful
- 44. precaution
- 45. authentic
- 46. audible
- 47. status
- 48. minimum
- 49. percentage
- 50. vigor

51. stability

Words needed in the passage:

- appallingly
- thoughtful
- precaution
- Authentic
- audible
- status
- minimum
- percentage
- vigor
- stability
- haunted

- 52. C
- 53. A
- 54. B
- 55. B
- 56. A
- 57. The narrator felt uneasy due to the haunted aura of the mansion, and they experienced fear and surprise when a door slammed shut.
- 58. The narrator was determined to uncover the truth about the mansion, even though it gave them an eerie feeling.
- 59. The narrator made a dash for the exit, and a bright light from a satellite emerged, causing the figures to vanish.
- 60. The narrator realized that the fundamental truth of the house was beyond their comprehension, and they could only speculate about what had happened.
- 61. The passage suggests that some mysteries are better left unsolved, as attempting to uncover the truth can lead to dangerous and unexplainable encounters.

Reading Comprehension

- 62. C
- 63. D
- 64. C
- 65. C
- 66. B
- 67. The passage implies that Hamlet's lack of a rigorous type of causal logic is part of its point, making it more closely aligned with the illogical logic of life.

68. The passage characterizes them as numerous, ongoing, and related to various aspects of the play, including Hamlet's delay, madness, and treatment of other characters.
69. The passage suggests that the controversies might be related to Shakespeare's artistic choices and revisions, which may have smudged the motivations in the play.
70. Mysteriousness is considered a notable attribute that contributes to Hamlet's brilliance and variety, making it the most elusive of Shakespeare's tragic worlds.
71. The mysteriousness and lack of a clear causal logic in Hamlet may create a space for multiple interpretations, allowing the play to resonate with the complexity and unpredictability of human experience, contributing to its enduring fascination and almost mythic status.

The courtroom proceedings

72. exceedingly
73. antecedent
74. procedure
75. accede
76. superseding
77. cede
78. secedes
79. proceeds
proceeds
80. conceding
81. intercede
82. exceed

Words needed in the passage:

- exceedingly
antecedent
procedure
accede
superseding
conceded
seceded
proceeds
intercede
exceed

83. D

84. C
85. D
86. C
87. D
88. The defendant's lawyer suggested that his client would accede to the plaintiff's demands, thereby avoiding a lengthy trial.
89. The plaintiff's lawyer realized that the defendant's lawyer's proposal was a wise move and agreed to it, ending the legal proceedings.
90. The courtroom was in a state of shock, but they also admired the authenticity and skill of the defendant's lawyer.
91. The defendant's decision allowed him to find a way out of the legal trouble and exceeded expectations, ultimately leading to his freedom.
92. The passage suggests that sometimes, making unexpected decisions and showing authenticity and skill in legal matters can lead to favorable outcomes and resolution of legal issues.