



ASVAB-SECTION-8^{Q&As}

ASVAB Section Eight : Paragraph comprehension

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**QUESTION 1**

We think of chitchat and small talk as the things people say to pass the time or kill an awkward silence. But new research suggests these idle conversations could be a social-bonding tool passed down from our ape-like ancestors. Scientists with Princeton University studied ring tailed lemurs, animals that are considered among the more ancestral forms of primates – the evolutionary lineage that includes humans, apes and monkeys. The study concludes that lemurs call to each other essentially as a replacement for mutual grooming, or cleaning each other's fur, a widespread social-bonding behavior among non-human primates.

From the above passage, the reader can conclude that _____.

- A. chatting cannot be used to pass time
- B. lemurs would rather groom each other than call out to each other
- C. lemurs are more like monkeys than apes
- D. some human behaviors may have evolved from those of our primate ancestors

Correct Answer: D

QUESTION 2

The process by which the Roman legions came to serve so far from the Roman army's birthplace began in earnest during the Punic wars with Carthage. The Phoenician colony first clashed with the Romans when Rome's success in subduing its Italian neighbors drew it south to Sicily, which Carthage regarded as within its sphere of influence. In 265 B.C., after Rome's expensive victory over Pyrrhus, Rome and Carthage found themselves at war over Sicily. The war rapidly extended by both land and sea until the Carthaginians had to admit defeat and allow the establishment of Roman control over the island. Rome soon after added Corsica and Sardinia to these beginnings of its overseas empire.

What area were the Romans and Carthaginians fighting over in 265 B.C.?

- A. Phoenicia
- B. Carthage
- C. Sicily
- D. Corsica

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The passage states, "In 265 B.C. ...Rome and Carthage found themselves at war over Sicily."

QUESTION 3



The fierce and warlike tribe, called the Huns, who'd driven the Goths to seek new homes, came from Asia into Southeastern Europe and took possession of a large territory lying north of the River Danube. During the first half of the fifth century, the Huns had a famous king named Attila. He was only 21 years old when he became their king. But although he was young, he was very brave and ambitious, and he wanted to be a great and powerful king. As soon as his army was ready, he marched with it into countries, which belonged to Rome. He defeated the Romans in several great battles and captured many of their cities. The Roman Emperor Theodosius had to ask for terms of peace. Attila agreed that there should be peace, but soon afterwards he found out that Theodosius had formed a plot to murder him. He was so enraged at this that he again began war. He plundered and burned cities wherever he went, and at last the emperor had to give him a large sum of money and a portion of the country south of the Danube.

A good title for the above paragraph would be _____.

- A. The Burning of Rome
- B. Emperor Theodosius
- C. Attila the Hun
- D. Rome for Dummies

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The primary theme of this paragraph is about Attila, who was King of the Huns.

QUESTION 4

The U.S. Department of Justice has prepared a report about hate crimes in the United States between 1997 and 1999. In 60% of hate crime incidents, the most serious offense was a violent crime, most commonly intimidation or simple assault. The majority of incidents motivated by race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or disability involved a violent offense, while two-thirds of incidents motivated by religion involved a property offense, most commonly vandalism. Younger offenders were responsible for most hate crimes. Thirty-one percent of violent offenders, and 46% of property offenders were under age 18.

Most property offense hate crimes were motivated by _____.

- A. religion
- B. race
- C. sexual orientation
- D. abortion

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The second sentence states that most violent crimes were motivated by such factors as race and sexual orientation, while most property crimes were motivated by religion.

**QUESTION 5**

The United States has carried out intelligence activities since the days of George Washington, but only since World War II have they been coordinated on a government-wide basis. President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed New York lawyer and war hero, William J. Donovan, to become first the Coordinator of Information, and then, after the US entered World War II, head of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in 1942. The OSS – the forerunner to the CIA – had a mandate to collect and analyze strategic information.

What is the best title for this passage?

- A. "War Changes the Role of Intelligence Organizations"
- B. "Roosevelt Creates COI Job"
- C. "Joint Chiefs of Staff Conduct Special Operations"
- D. "America's Entry into World War II"

Correct Answer: A

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