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ACCUPLACER Reading Sample Questions

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Sample Questions

Directions for questions 1-18

Read the passage(s) below and answer the question based on what is stated or implied in the passage(s) and in any introductory material that may be provided.

In this passage, an amateur theater group called the Laurel Players is putting on its stronger restriction.

- (1) e Players, coming out of their various kitchen doors and hesitating for a minute to button their coats or pull on their gloves, would see a landscape in which only a few very old, weathered houses seemed to belong; it made their own homes look as weightless and impermanent, as foolishly misplaced as a great many bright new toys that had been le outdoors overnight and rained on. (2) automobiles didn't look right either—unnecessarily wide and gleaming in the colors of candy and ice cream, seeming to wince at each splatter of mud, they crawled apologetically down the broken roads that led from all directions to the deep, level slab of Route Twelve. (3) Once there the cars seemed able to relax in an environment all their own, a long bright valley of colored plastic and plate glass and stainless steel-KING KONE, MOBILGAS, SHOPORAMA, EAT but eventually they had to turn o , one by one, and make their way up the winding country road that led to the central high school; they had to pull up and stop in the quiet parking lot outside the high-school auditorium.
- (4) "Hi!" the Players would shyly call to one another.
- (5) "Hi! . . ." (6) "Hi! . . ." (7) And they'd go reluctantlh9(e t)-30.8(h)4.8(e.7(o3MCID 8 BDC T1_2 1 10Tf-0.036 Tc -1.121 -1.29)-7.9(d)-(8.3(er)f0 Tc 1.142 0 Td[")51(n)6.2(d C)-16.1

Passage 1

Green Bank, West Virginia, is a tech-savvy teenager's nightmare. In this tiny town in Pocahontas County—population 143—wireless signals are illegal. No cell phones. No WiFi. No radio. No Bluetooth. No electronic transmitters at all. You're not even allowed to cozy up to an electric blanket.

e remote town is smack in the center of the National Radio Quiet Zone, a 13,000 square mile stretch of land designated by the Federal Communications Commission to protect two government radio telescopes from human-made interference. e rules are most strict in Green Bank. So strict that a police o cer roves the streets listening for forbidden wireless signals.

It's necessary, though. e town is home to the Green Bank Telescope, the largest steerable radio telescope in the world—and arguably our most powerful link to the cosmos. Scientists there listen to radio energy that has journeyed light years, unlocking secrets about how the stars and galaxies formed. A rogue radio signal could prevent potential discoveries, discoveries that could answer big questions about how the universe ticks.

Adapted from Lucas Reilly, " e West Virginia Town Where Wireless Signals Are Illegal." ©2013 by Mental Floss, Inc.

Passage 2

fen-9.225ae-A8.8(m)4s2.1(g85(g)-9r)-2.8(g0.4 (n)-24.71 M15.6((e ti22.6(.3-33.39l3-2.76(-O4.8d)-7.7(s)-11.34e)-9.1(t c4.9(610 .34e)-at0.t)8

As soon as I saw the Manhattan map, I wanted to draw it. I should be able to draw the place where I lived. So I asked Mom for tracing paper and she got it for me and I brought it into my fort and I pointed the light right down on the rst map in the Hagstrom Atlas—downtown, where Wall Street was and the stock market worked. e streets were crazy down there; they didn't have any kind of streets and avenues; they just had names and they looked like a game of Pick-Up Sticks. But before I could even worry about the streets, I had to get the land right. Manhattan was actually built on land. Sometimes when they were digging up the streets you saw it down there—real dirt! And the land had a certain curve to it at the bottom of the island, like a dinosaur head, bumpy on the right and straight on the le, a swooping majestic bottom.

> From Ned Vizzini, *It's Kind of a Funny Story*. ©2006 by Ned Vizzini.

- 9. In the passage, the use of "crazy," "dinosaur head," "bumpy," "straight," and "swooping" serve mainly to emphasize the
 - A. narrator's serious approach to mapmaking
 - B. narrator's frustration with drawing
 - C. irregularity of downtown Manhattan
 - D. ways in which a landscape can change over time

e life of Edith Wharton is not an inspiriting rags-to-riches saga, nor is it a cautionary tale of riches to rags—riches to riches, rather. Born Edith Newbold Jones, in January of 1862, into one of the leading families of New York, the author maintained multiple establishments and travelled in the highest style, with a host of servants, augmenting her several inheritances by writing best-selling ction. In the Depression year of 1936, when two thousand dollars was a good annual income, her writing earned her a hundred and thirty thousand, much of it from plays adapted from her works. Yet her well-padded, auspiciously sponsored life was not e aristocratic social set into which an easy one. she was born expected its women to be ornamental, well-sheltered, intellectually idle agents of their interwoven clans, whereas Edith was an awkward, red-haired bookworm and dreamer, teased by her two older brothers about her big hands and feet and out of sympathy with her intensely conventional mother, née Lucretia Stevens Rhinelander—a motherdaughter disharmony that rankled in Edith's ction to the end.

Adapted from John Updike, " e Changeling," a review of the biography *Edith Wharton* by Hermione Lee. ©2007 by Condé Nast.

- 10. Which choice best describes the overall structure of the passage?
 - A. Biographical incidents are recounted chronologically.
 - B. An author's life is connected to various themes in her work.
 - C. e works of two authors are compared and contrasted.
 - D. A list of advantages is followed by a list of disadvantages.

Bones found in South America reveal a bizarre new dinosaur. Based on an ancestry that links it to *Tyrannosaurus rex*, this reptile should have been a meat eater. Instead, it preferred plants. Researchers described the new species in *Nature*.

Its genus name—*Chilesaurus*—re ects that it was found in what's now Chile. e team that discovered the fossils gave it a species name of *diegosuarezi* to honor Diego Suarez. While just 7 years old, Diego found the rst dinosaur bones in the same general area of Chile. It's a place known as the Toqui Formation.

C. diegosuarezi roamed South America 150 million years ago. It measured about 3 meters (roughly

e rst album that singer Leehom Wang bought as an adolescent was the Beastie Boys' Licensed to Ill; his rst concert was Heart, at the War Memorial in Rochester, New York. As for Chinese pop music, though, Wang says he recalls hearing it only once as a youngster when his singer uncle, Li Jian-fu, paid a visit in the 1980s and played his nationalistic-patriotic hit "Descendants of the Dragon" in Wang's living room. Wang didn't know it then, but he would go on to remix "Descendants of the Dragon" for a new generation, adding new lyrics about his parents' own immigrant experience. Over the last decade, Wang's songs have frequently emphasized his dedication to and pride in his Chinese heritage—themes that re ect his personal journey and have a powerful commercial appeal, particularly on the mainland. At the same time, Wang has demonstrated a strong interest in incorporating traditional Chinese music and instruments into his hip-hop and R&B-based tunes. Adapted from Julie Makinen, "Can Leehom Wang Transcend China and America's Pop Cultures?" ©2014 by Los Angeles Times. e second paragraph marks a shi in the passage from a discussion of Leehom Wang's A. family members to Leehom Wang himself B. early musical in uences to his later musical career C. interest in the United States to his interest in China D. fondness for pop music to his fondness for traditional music Technology has scrambled the lines between public and private. Cellphones make our most intimate conversations available to anyone within earshot, while headphones create zones of pure solitude even in the midst of the liveliest crowd. Smartphones and tablets allow us to spend time with art without ever

12.

Answer Key

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Rationales

- Choice B is the best answer. GYbhbbW%bchYgh Ui]b hY `UbXgWdYz` cb`m UZk j Yfmc Xzk YUh YfYX\ci gYg gYYa YXhc VYcb[/VmWbhfUghzh\YD`UnYfg \ci gYg gYYa YX` k Y][\hYggz`]a dYfa UbYbhz UbX` a]gd`UWXz`]_Y Vf][\hbYk hcmg" GYbhbbW &YgfUV]g\Yg h\Uh\YD`UnYfg U hca cV] Yg XJXb h`cc_ f][\hi Y]h\Yiz h\Uh\Ym\UhYX` i bbYWggUf]mk JXYUbX[`YUa]b[]b h\YW`cfgcZ WbXmUbX]W WYUa z` h\Uh\YmgYYa YX` hc k]bWUhYUW gd`Uh\f`cZa i Xz` UbX` h\Uh\Ym WUk `YXUdc`c[YhW`mXck b h\YVfc_Yb fcUXg" 7\c]W*5]g]bWffYWh VYWi gYh\YD`Un\fg \ca Yg UbXU hca cV] YgUYYbY]h\Yf`c Xbcf bY] `YWhX\']b ZM\zh\Yd\gUY hYbXJWhYgh\Uh\Y\ca YgUbXU hca cV] YgUYYa cXYfb]b fYUhcb hc h\Y `UbXgWdY UbX` fcUXg `fgYbh\bWg% &UbXh\Uh\YD`Un\fg \ca Yg UbXU hca cV] YgUYY i bbYWggUf]m k JXY fgYbh\bW*&".7\c]W*8]g]bWffYWhVYWi gYh\YD`Un\fg \ca Yg UbXU hca cV] YgUYY i bbYWggUf]m k JXY fgYbh\bW*&".7\c]W*8]g]bWffYWhVYWi gYh\YD`Un\fg \ca Yg UbXU hca cV] YgUYY i bbYWggUf]m k JXY fgYbh\bW*&".7\c]W*8]g]bWffYWhVYWi gYh\YD\Uh\X"

) " Choice B is the best answer. H\Y fghilk c dUfU fUd\gcZDUggU Y%XYgW]VY k\Uha][\hgYa ``]_YYl hYa Ym\Ufg\ fYghf]Whcbg cb k]fYYgg hfUbga]gg]cbg bc YYWfcb]WfUbga]lhhfg UhU`z nci fYbchYj Yb U`ck YXhc Wmni d hc Ub YYWf]WWUb_Yhz Udc`]Wc Wff fcj Yg h\YghfYhg`]ghhb]b[Zcf ZcfV]XXYb k]fYYgg g][bU'g" H\Y`UghdUfU fUd\ cZDUggU Y%gYfj Yg a U]b`mhc c Yf 'i gh Whlcb. h\YfYghf]Whcbg UfY bYWggUfm VYWi gY h\Yhck b]g\ca Yhc h\Y; fYYb 6Ub_ HYYgWdYz UbX Ufc[i YfUX]c g][bU`Wi `XdfYj YbhdchYbh]U`X]gWj Yf]Yg" 7\c]Wf5]g]bWffYWiVYWi gYh\Y`UghdUfU fUd\ cZDUggU Y% XcYgbchHU_YUW]h\W hcbYhck UfXh\YYYWfcb]VgfYghf]Whcbg]b; fYYb 6Ub_z`]bghYUXXYgW]V]b[h\Ya Ug c `U]b A A q f b 6Ub_z`bWfb_z`

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- " Choice C is the best answer.

% Choice D is the best answer.

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- % " Choice B is the best answer. H\YdUggU YZ\WgYga UJb`mcb dfYgYbHb[h\Y W]Hei YcZh\Y=bhfbYhic YfYXVmG\YffmHi f_`Yzk\c`\UgVY\wa Y]b\WYUglb[m k UfmcZh\Y\WdU\MmcZcb`]bYgdU\Wg hc Z````i g]b h\Yk Ung k YgYYa hc k Ubh h\Ya hc UbXZYYgh\Uhl\Y=bhfbYhiYb\Wi fU Yg UgYXi \Mj YVi hXUb[Yfci g`\U]hicZa]bX" 7\c]\W5]g]b\WffY\MiVY\Wi gYcb`mG\YffmHi f_`Yg UggYgga Ybh |g dfYgYbhX\]b h\YdUggU Y"7\c]\W7]g]b\WffY\MiVY\Wi gYh\YdUggU YXcYg bch dfcdcgYUfYa YXm/]hicb`mdfYgYbhg Hi f_`Yg UggYgga YbhicZUdfcVYa "7\c]\W8 |g]b\WffY\MiVY\Wi gYk\] Yh\YdUggU YXcYg dfYgYbhgca YX\HJ] g h\Uha][\hiVY\Wbg]XYfYX\VU\M[fci bXfh\"["zh\Uhli f_`Yk cf_g Uhl\YA UggU\wi gYhg =bgHhi hY cZh\Y\bc\Y\duggU YZc\WgYga UJb`mcb Hi f_`Yg \W]Hei YcZh\Y=bh\fbYhg U\]]|mhc gi ddcfhgYZ]bj Ybh]cb"
- % " Choice C is the best answer. K cfh\mcZ a YUbg\XYgYfj]b[fYgdYWicf dfU]gYz k\]W]g\Wbg]gh\bhk]h\ h\ Y]XYU]b h\ YgYbh\bWh\ Uih\ Y \a \ Wa a]h\YYY] Ub\ cc_]b[\(\frac{1}{2}\text{f}\text{b}\text{W}\text{WbX]XUh'g\ Zef h\ YUk\ UfXk\ Yb\ h\ Yef][]bU\ bca]bYYg\ dfcj YX\ i\ bgUhg\Mbfm'7\c]\Wg\5\zef\Zef\UX\8\ UfY]b\WffY\WiVY\Wi\ gY]ha\ U_Yg\ bc\ gYbgY]b\ Wbh\h\ h\ \cap Xyg\V]\VYi\ bgUhg\Mbfmbca]bYYg\ Zef\Ub\ Uk\ UfX\Ug\Y]b[\ _bck\ b\ Zef\ cf\ d\ YUg\Xk\]h\ \ h\ YUk\ UfX\fg]b\WbcbYcZh\ Ya\ \Ug\ fY\W]\ Y\Zef\ [bh\fYg\hX\]b\h\fYg\X\]b\h\fYg\ng\]K\ \[b\ h\ YUk\ UfX\fg]b\Wh\fyg\ng\]g\ [ffYY]\ Ub\h\f\ fei\ U]\ \Wh\cbg\".
- &\$" Choice D is the best answer. CbYXY b]lfcb cZ VYb][b]g` \U j]b[bc g][b] WbhY YWi \Ufa `Yggž k \]W]g Wbg]ghbhk]h\ \ck \VYb][b]g` gYX]b h\ YgYbhYbWhr fYZYf hr UhYWbc c[mh\ UhcdYfUh'g` k]h\ YggYbh]U `mbc Ya]gg]cbg" 7\c]Wg 5 \(\tilde{c}\) \(\tilde{c}\) mh\ UhcdYfUh'g` k]h\ YggYbh]U `mbc Ya]gg]cbg \(\tilde{c}\) \(\tilde{c}\) TuhYWbc `c[mh\ UhcdYfUh'g` k]h\ YggYbh]U `mbc Ya]gg]cbg \(\tilde{c}\)