

Directions: Read the following three passages. Each passage is followed by several questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A, B, C, and D. Choose the one that fits best according to the information given in the passages you have just read:

A

"Click!" That's the sound of safety. That's the sound of survival. That's the sound of a seat belt locking in place. Seat belts save lives and that's a fact. That's why I don't drive anywhere until mine is on tight. Choosing to wear your seat belt is as simple as choosing between life and death. Which one do you choose?

Think about it. When you're driving in a car, you may be going 60 MPH or faster. That car is zipping down the road. Then somebody ahead of you locks up his or her brakes. Your driver doesn't have time to stop. The car that you are in crashes. Your car was going 60 miles per hour. Now it has suddenly stopped. Your body, however, is still going 60 MPH. What's going to stop your body? Will it be the windshield or your seat belt? Every time that you get into a car you make that choice. I choose the seat belt.

Some people think that seat belts are uncool. They think that seat belts cramp their style, or that seat belts are uncomfortable. To them I say, what's more uncomfortable? Wearing a seat belt or flying through a car windshield? What's more uncool? Being safely anchored to a car, or skidding across the road in your jean shorts? Wearing a seat belt is both cooler and more comfortable than the **alternatives**.

Let's just take a closer look at your choices. If you are not wearing your seat belt, you can hop around the car and slide in and out of your seat easily. That sounds like a lot of fun. But, you are also more likely to die or suffer serious injuries. If you are wearing a seat belt, you have to stay in your seat. That's no fun. But, you are much more likely to walk away unharmed from a car accident. Hmm... A small pleasure for a serious pain. That's a tough choice. I think that I'll avoid the serious pain.

How about giving money away? Do you like to give your money away? Probably not. And when you don't wear your seat belt, you are begging to give your money away. That's because kids are required to wear seat belts in every state in America. If you're riding in a car, and you don't have a seat belt on, the police can give you or your driver a ticket. Then you will have to give money to the city. I'd rather keep my money, but you can spend yours how you want.

Wearing a seat belt does not make you **invincible**. You can still get hurt or killed while wearing your seat belt. But wearing them has proven to be safer than driving without them. You are much less likely to be killed in a car wreck if you are wearing a seat belt. You are much less likely to get seriously injured if you are wearing one. So why not take the safer way? Why not go the way that has been proven to result in fewer deaths? You do want to live, don't you?

1. Which title best expresses the main idea of this text?

a. *Car Accidents: Ways That We Can Prevent Them*

b. *Slow Down: Save Lives By Driving Slower*

c. *Seat Belts: Wear Them to Survive Any Wreck*

d. *Why Not? Improve Your Odds with Seat Belts*

2. Which best expresses the author's main purpose in writing this text?

a. To inform readers about seat belt laws

b. To persuade readers to wear seat belts

c. To entertain readers with stories and jokes about seat belts

d. To describe what car accidents are like without seat belts

3. Which best describes the text structure in the fourth paragraph?

a. Compare and contrast

b. Chronological order

c. Sequential order

d. Problem and solution

4. Which best defines the word *alternatives* as it is used in the third paragraph?

a. Being safe

b. Being unsafe

c. Other choices

d. Driving fast

5. Which best expresses the main idea of the fifth paragraph?

a. Seat belts are a waste of money.

b. People don't like to give money away.

c. Not wearing a seat belt may cost you.

d. Seat belt laws save lives.

6. Which best defines the word *invincible* as it is used in the last paragraph?

a. Uncool

b. Difficult or impossible to see

c. Glow-in-the-dark

d. Unable to be harmed

7. Which statement would the author most likely **agree** with?

a. Being safe is more important than being cool.

b. Moving freely around a car is worth the risks.

c. Seat belts will keep you safe in any car accident.

d. You should be most concerned with your comfort.

8. Which argument is **not** made by the author?

a. Not wearing a seat belt can be expensive.

b. Penalties for not wearing a seat belt should increase.

c. Seat belts keep you from flying through the windshield.

- d. Wearing a seat belt is cooler than suffering an injury.
9. Which statement would the author most likely **disagree** with?
- a. Seat belts save lives.
  - b. Every state in America has seat belt laws.
  - c. You shouldn't drive anywhere until you are wearing your seat belt.
  - d. Seat belts increase your chances of being injured in a car wreck.
10. Which best explains why the author starts his essay with the word *click*?
- a. He is trying to scare readers.
  - b. He is trying to get the reader's attention.
  - c. He is trying to remind readers how seat belts sound when clasped.
  - d. He is trying to describe what it's like to ride in a car.

## B

Do you like video games? Lots of people do. There are many types of video games. Some people like action games. Other people like driving games. But the most popular game of all time is a puzzle game.

Tetris is a game about making lines. Blocks fall from the top of the screen. They fall one at a time. The player moves the blocks. Once the blocks hit the bottom, they are locked in place. Players try to make lines go across the screen with no gaps. Complete lines disappear. This gives players more room. The blocks pile up during the game. The game ends when the blocks get to the top of the screen.

A man named Alexey made Tetris in 1984. All the pieces in Tetris have four blocks. The word "tetra" means four. Alexey named his game after tetra and tennis. He made Tetris while working at a science academy in Moscow. Moscow is in Russia.

Alexey made his game on a screen that only showed letters. He could not use blocks. The blocks were made out of letters in the first game of Tetris. Still, all Alexey's friends loved his game. It was easy to learn and fun to play. Soon the game spread across the world. It was on every computer. It was in arcades. It came with every one of Nintendo's Game Boy. More than 100 million Game Boys were sold. Tetris was all over the place. Even today Tetris comes with many phones.

Dr. Richard Haier has studied Tetris players. He ran many tests. He found that playing Tetris boosts mental activity. Dr. Haier thinks Tetris is good for the

brain. I agree with this finding. Now go and play some Tetris. It's just what the doctor ordered.

1. What is this article about?

- a. Video games
- b. Tetris
- c. Alexey
- d. Blocks

2. What is the goal of Tetris?

- a. To make tall piles of blocks
- b. To match the colors of blocks
- c. To make complete lines
- d. To get blocks to the top of the screen

3. After which is Tetris named?

- a. Fish
- b. The number ten
- c. Paris
- d. Tennis

4. Where was Alexey when he created Tetris?

- a. Paris
- b. Russia
- c. The United States of America
- d. Germany

5. What is the highest selling game of all time?

- a. A driving game
- b. Call of Duty
- c. Tetris
- d. An action game

6. Which event happened first?

- a. Tetris was played with letters instead of blocks
- b. Tetris was released on the phone
- c. Tetris was released in the arcade
- d. Tetris was brought to the Game Boy

7. What is the main idea of the second paragraph?

- a. To persuade readers to play Tetris
- b. To explain how Tetris is played
- c. To describe different types of games
- d. To compare Tetris to other puzzle games

8. According to Dr. Richard Haier, which is true about Tetris?

- a. Tetris lowers blood pressure
- b. Tetris increases physical strength
- c. Tetris boosts mental activity
- d. Tetris has no positive side effects

9. What happens to a block that hits the bottom and does not form a complete line in Tetris?

- a. It disappears and reappears at the top.
- b. It is locked in place.
- c. The player moves the block.
- d. It gives the player more room.

10. Why did the first game of Tetris use letters instead of blocks?

- a. Alexey did not think to use blocks
- b. Alexey thought letters were more fun
- c. Alexey's screen could only show letters
- d. Alexey wanted to teach people to read

## C

The Coliseum is an ancient stadium in the center of Rome. It is the largest of its kind. It is very old. They started building it in the year 70. It took ten years to build. It is still around today.

The Coliseum has been used in many ways. In ancient Rome, men fought each other in it. They fought against lions, tigers, and bears. Oh my! It was dreadful. But most of the people loved it. As many as 80,000 Romans would pack inside to watch. These gruesome events went on until 523.

The Coliseum has been damaged many times over the years. It was struck by lightning in the year 217. This started a fire. Much of the Coliseum is made of stone. But the fire damaged the upper levels. They were made of wood. This damage took many years to repair. It was not finished until the year 240.

The worst damage happened in 1349. A mighty earthquake shook Rome and the Coliseum. The south side of the building collapsed. Pieces of the arena were all over the ground. Many people took the fallen stones. Others took stones from the seating areas. They used them to repair houses and churches.

The Romans of those days were not connected to the Coliseum. It had last been used as a castle. Before that it was a graveyard. It has been hundreds of years since the games. The damage to the Coliseum was never repaired. It's a good thing the outer wall of it still stands strong.

Today the Coliseum is one of Rome's most popular attractions. People from all over the world come to Italy to see it. The Pope leads a big march around it every Good Friday. It is a symbol that many know. It has even appeared on the back of a coin. I guess that makes it a symbol that many people want too.

- 1. Which happened first?
  - a. An earthquake damaged the Coliseum.
  - b. The Coliseum was struck by lightning.
  - c. The Coliseum appeared on the back of a coin.

d. The Coliseum was used as a castle.

2. When did the Romans finish building the Coliseum?

a. The year 70

b. The year 523

c. The year 80

d. The year 240

3. What caused the fire that damaged the upper levels of the Coliseum?

a. A bolt of lightning

b. Rowdy people who came to watch the events

c. An attacking army

d. An angry mob

4. For which purpose was the Coliseum **not** used?

a. People fought other people in it.

b. It was a private castle.

c. People fought animals in it.

d. It was a meeting place for the government.

5. Which caused the most damage to the Coliseum?

a. Fires

b. Earthquakes

c. Wars

d. Hurricanes

6. What did the people do with the stones that they took from the Coliseum?

a. They repaired buildings.

b. They sold them.

c. They used them as weapons.

d. They used them as tombstones.

7. Which best defines the word *gruesome* as it is used in the second paragraph?

a. Exciting

b. Funny

c. Horrifying

d. Boring

8. Which best describes the main idea in the last paragraph?

a. This is about all the things the Coliseum has been used for throughout history.

b. This is about how the Coliseum is a popular place to visit today.

c. This is about how the Coliseum is a symbol that many people know.

d. This is about how the Coliseum is used today.

9. Which was **not** a way in which the Coliseum was damaged over the years?

a. Earthquake

b. Tornado

c. Lightning

d. Fire

10. Which statement would the author most likely **agree** with?

a. The Coliseum should be replaced with a building that is not damaged.

b. The Coliseum has its place in history but it is not useful today.

c. The Coliseum should be used for fighting once again.

d. The Coliseum is very old and has been used for many purposes.

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