**ACCUPLACER Sample Questions—Panola College Developmental Reading Department**

**READING COMPREHENSION—NARRATION**

**Question 1**

Computer vision syndrome is another harmful effect of lengthy computer use. It is a medically acknowledged condition marked by tired, sore eyes, blurred vision, headaches, and even neck, shoulder, and back pain. The American Optometric Association estimates that it afflicts nearly 90 percent of workers who use computers. It is also a rapidly growing diagnosis among children and students, regardless of age. Symptoms result from repeatedly stressing some aspect of the visual system, but they often disappear as soon as the person stops working at the computer.

--Adapted from Hales, *An Invitation to Health*. 12th ed., p. 552.

In this passage, the author argues that:

1. The American Optometric Association warns against using computers.
2. Extended computer use can cause vision problems.
3. Children and students should use computers only when necessary.
4. Symptoms from the vision syndrome often disappear when computer use is stopped.

**Question 2**

Besides their roles as workers, wives, and mothers, women in particular guarded Mexican cultural traditions within the family-not consciously, but as a matter of practice (Garcia 1980:128). Certain customs practiced during the 1920s by Mexican immigrant families throughout the Southwest promoted Mexican tradition. These customs included folklore, songs and ballads, birthday celebrations, saints' days, baptisms, weddings, and funerals in the traditional Mexican style. Through the family, Mexican culture was nurtured.

--Adapted from Taylor, *Minority Families in the United States, A Multicultural Perspective*. 3rd ed., p. 8.

In this paragraph, the author contends that:

1. In Mexican immigrant families, women nurtured the Mexican culture.
2. Mexican culture includes folklore, music, and religion.
3. Mexican women fulfilled traditional roles in immigrant families.
4. Immigration from Mexico was widespread in the American Southwest.

**Question 3**

People almost always think they are too smart for Prof. Brian Wansink’s quirky experiments in the psychology of overindulgence. When it comes to the slippery issues of snacking and portion control, no one thinks he or she is the schmo who digs deep into the snack bowl without thinking, or orders dessert just because a restaurant plays a certain kind of music. “To a person, people will swear they aren’t influenced by the size of a package or how much variety there is on a buffet or the fancy name on a can of beans, but they are,” Dr. Wansink said. “Every time.”

--From Dole and Taggart, *Connect, College Reading*. P. 272.

The main idea of this paragraph is that:

1. Prof. Brian Wansink studies the psychology of overindulgence.
2. Playing music can influence people to eat more than they realize.
3. People do not want to admit that they are influenced by sales techniques.
4. Outside factors such as portion size and environmental elements affect how much people eat.

**Question 4**

For centuries, artists have offered their full resources, their lives, to their work. Orlan has also offered a pound of flesh—to the surgeon’s scalpel. Orlan is a French multimedia performance artist who has been undergoing a series of cosmetic operations to create, in herself, a composite sketch of what Western art has long set forth as the pinnacle of human beauty: the facial features that we find in classic works such as Botticelli’s *The Birth of Venus*, Leonardo’s *Mona Lisa* and, *Boucher Europa*, or, more specifically, Venus’s chin, the Mona Lisa’s forehead, and Europa’s mouth.

--From Dole and Taggart, *Connect, College Reading*. P. 174.

The author’s main point in this paragraph is:

1. Orlan is a French performance artist who has undergone multiple facial surgeries.
2. Botticelli and da Vinci include in their works idealized versions of the human figure.
3. Orlan has tried through surgery to create facial features that match the classic ideal of beauty.
4. Artists often have to suffer for their work.

**Question 5**

“If I see something on Style.com, all I have to do is e-mail the picture to my factory and say, ‘I want something similar, or a silhouette made just like this,’” Anand said. The factory, in Jaipur, India, can deliver stores a knockoff months before the designer version. Anand compared a gold sequined tunic she created with a nearly identical one by the designer Tory Burch. Bloomingdale’s had asked her to make several hundred of the dresses for its private label Aqua, she said. The Tory Burch dress sells for $750; Anand’s is $260.

--Adapted from Dole and Taggart, Connect, College Reading. P. 212.

What is the author’s purpose in writing this paragraph?

1. To define the process and purpose of creating copies of designer originals.
2. To persuade the reader to buy knockoff clothing at lower prices.
3. To describe the problems designers face when other companies steal their designs.
4. To inform readers of the options available in the current fashion merchandising environment.

**READING COMPREHENSION—SENTENCE RELATIONSHIPS**

**Question 6**

Summer is one of the noisiest seasons.

Fireworks, trains, concerts and road construction can be harmful to your hearing.

--Adapted from “Sounds of Summer Can Be a Danger to Hearing,” *ScienceDaily* (June 25, 2012)

What does the second sentence do?

1. The second sentence is a summary of the first sentence.
2. The second sentence lists causes for the problem outlined in the first sentence.
3. The second sentence gives examples of the idea described in the first sentence.
4. The first sentence offers an analysis of the second sentence.

**Question 7**

Need to do some serious multitasking? Some training in meditation beforehand could make the work smoother and less stressful, new research from the University of Washington shows.

Work by UW Information School professors David Levy and Jacob Wobbrock suggests that meditation training can help people working with information stay on tasks longer with fewer distractions and also improves memory and reduces stress.

--From “Meditation Can Calm Stress, Aid Concentration, Aid Multitasking, “ *Medical News Today* (June 16, 2012)

What is the relationship between these two paragraphs?

1. The first paragraph states the cause of the effects listed in the second paragraph.
2. The second paragraph restates and extends the information given in the first paragraph.
3. The second paragraph is an analysis of the information from the first paragraph.
4. The second paragraph is a contradiction of the first paragraph.

**Question 8**

Research shows that kids who are spanked or hit with an object have lower IQs; they shut down their learning powers.

They are also more aggressive, particularly boys, and get in more trouble than kids who are not spanked.

--From Oz and Roizan, “ Spanking can lower a child's IQ,” *The Province* (June 17, 2012)

What does the second sentence do?

1. The second sentence is in contrast to the first sentence.
2. The second sentence gives examples of a term defined in the first sentence.
3. The second sentence restates the first sentence.
4. The second sentence offers supporting evidence for an idea stated in the first sentence.

**Question 9**

The American family largely marginalizes the elderly--we, for the most part, live separately from our grandparents or send them to live in retirement homes.

The Japanese family not only includes the grandparents as an essential part of the household, but they also respect them as the voice of tradition.

How are these two sentences related?

1. The second sentence provides a contrast to the first sentence.
2. The second sentence restates the first sentence.
3. The second sentence describes an effect of the first sentence.
4. The second sentence is an example of the idea described in the first sentence.

**Question 10**

King advocated nonviolent civil disobedience as a means to achieve racial justice.

He used tactics such as demonstrations and marches, as well as nonviolent, public disobedience to unjust laws.

--Adapted from Dole and Taggart, *Connect, College Reading*. P. 190.

How are these two sentences related?

1. The first sentence gives a summary of the second sentence.
2. The second sentence contradicts the first sentence.
3. The second sentence shows an effect of the actions described in the first sentence.
4. The second sentence gives examples of the idea described in the first sentence.

**Answers:**

1. B
2. A
3. D
4. C
5. A
6. C
7. B
8. D
9. A
10. D