

ECAT English Chapter 8 Comprehension

Sr	Questions	Answers Choice
1	<p>Q.1 The history of literature really began was the earliest of the arts. Man danced for joy round his primitive camp fire after the defeat and slaughter of his enemy. He yelled and shouted as he danced and gradually the yells and shouts became coherent and caught the measure of the dance and thus the first war song was sung. As the idea of God developed prayers were framed. The songs and prayers became traditional and were repeated from one generation to another each generation adding something of its own. As man slowly grew more civilized he was compelled to invent some method of writing by three urgent necessities. There were certain things that it was dangerous to forget and which therefore had to be recorded. It was often necessary to communicate with persons who were some distance away and it was necessary to communicate with persons who were some distance away and it was necessary to protect one's property by making tools, cattle and so on in some distinctive manner so man taught himself to write and having learned to write purely for utilitarian reasons he used this new method for preserving his war songs and his prayers of course among these ancient peoples there were only a very few individuals who learned to write and only a few could read what was written.</p> <p>E. Man invented writing because he wanted</p>	<p>A. To be artistic B. To write war song C. To write literature D. To record and communicate</p>
2	<p>The year 2006 was the golden anniversary, or the 50th birthday, of the Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways. This system, usually referred to as The Interstate Highway System, is a system of freeways named after the U.S. President who supported it. The system is the largest highway system in the world, consisting of 46,876 miles (75,440 km) of freeways. The construction of the interstate highway system is an important part of American history. It has played a major role in preserving and maintaining the American way of life.</p> <p>The interstate highway system has several major functions. One of its major functions is to facilitate the distribution of US goods. Because the interstate passes through many downtown areas, it plays an important role in the distribution of almost all goods in the United States. Nearly all products travel at least part of the way to their destination on the Interstate System. Another major function of the interstate is to facilitate military troop movement to and from airports, seaports, rail terminals and other military destinations. The Interstate highways are connected to routes in the Strategic Highway Network, which is a system of highways that are vital to the U.S. Department of Defense.</p> <p>Today, most of the Interstate system consists of newly constructed highways. The longest section of the Interstate system runs from Boston, Massachusetts to Seattle, Washington. It covers 3,020.54 miles. The shortest two-digit interstate is from Emery, North Carolina to Greensboro, North Carolina. It covers only 12.27 miles. All state capitals except five are served by the system. The five that are not directly served are Juneau, AK, Dover, DE, Jefferson City, MO, Carson City, NV, and Pierre, SD. The Interstate Highway System serves almost all major U.S. cities.</p> <p>EACH Interstate highway is marked with a red, white, and blue shield with the word "Interstate," the name of the state, and the route number. Interstate highways are named with one or two-digit numbers. North-south highways are designated with odd numbers; east-west highways are named with even numbers. The north-south Interstate highways begin in the west with the lowest odd number; the east-west highways begin in the south with the lowest even numbers. There are all mile markers at each mile of the interstate system, starting at the westernmost or southernmost point on the highway. Every Interstate highway begins with the number "0". Interchanges are numbered according to their location on the highway in relation to mileage; an exit between milepost 7 and milepost 8 would be designated "Exit 7." This system allows drivers estimate the distance to a desired exit, which a road is leading off the highway. Despite the common acceptance of the numbering system on the Interstate highways, some states have adopted different numbering systems. For example, a portion of the Interstate 19 in Arizona is measured in kilometers instead of miles since the highway goes south to Mexico.</p> <p>Since the Interstate highways are freeways-highways that do not have signs and cross streets – they have the highest speed limits in the nation. Most interstate highways have speed limits between 65 – 75 miles per hour (105 – 120 kilometers per hour), but some areas in Texas and Utah have an 80 mile-per-hour (130 kilometer-per-hour) speed limit.</p>	<p>A. In the Eastern U.S. B. In the Western U.S. C. In the Southern U.S. D. In the Northern U.S.</p>

The federal government primarily funds interstate highways. However, they are owned and operated by the individual states or toll authorities in the states. The federal government generally funds up to 90% of the cost of an Interstate highway, while the states pay the remainder of the cost.

Where are the highest-numbered East-West Interstate highways located?

- 3 Nepal, a small, mountainous country tucked between India and China, may seem completely foreign to many Americans. Cows milk down busy streets unharmed, 24 different languages are spoken, and people eat two meals of rice and lentils every day. Nepali holidays, many of which are related to the Hindu religion, can seem especially bizarre to Americans unfamiliar with the culture. However, if we look beyond how others celebrate to consider the things they are celebrating, we find surprising similarities to our own culture. The biggest holiday in Nepal is Dashain, a ten-day festival for the Hindu goddess Durga that takes place in September or October. According to Hindu beliefs, Durga defeated the evil demons of the world. To thank the goddess, people visit temples in her honor and sacrifice goats or sheep as offerings. Throughout the year, most Nepalis do not eat much meat because it is expensive, but Dashain is a time to enjoy meat every day. Children fly colorful, homemade kites during Dashain. People also construct enormous bamboo swings on street corners and in parks. Every evening people gather at these swings and take turns swinging. Nepalis is a time for people to eat good food, relax and enjoy themselves. Aside from eating and enjoying themselves, during Dashain people also receive blessings from their elders. Schools and offices shut down so people can travel to be with their families. Reuniting with family reminds people of the importance of kindness, respect, and forgiveness. People also clean and decorate their homes for Dashain. And, like many holidays in the United States, it is a time for shopping. Children and adults alike get new clothes for the occasion. People express appreciation for all that they have, while looking forward to good fortune and peace in the year to come. During American holidays, people may not sacrifice goats or soar on bamboo swings, but we do often travel to be with family members and take time off work or school to relax. No matter how we celebrate, many people around the world spend their holidays honoring family, reflecting on their blessings, and hoping for good fortune in the future.
- Question:

The author suggests that although people in different cultures celebrate holidays differently, one similarity is that many people

- A. ask for blessings from their elders during holidays
- B. agree that holidays reveal a lot about a culture
- C. believe that holidays must be celebrated
- D. think of holidays as a time to spend with their families

- 4 The hammer may be oldest tool we have record of. Stone hammers-some of the oldest human artifacts ever discovered-date back as early as 2,600,000 BCE. Not only is the hammer the oldest tool, but it is also the greatest. What makes the hammer so great is its simplicity, power, and usefulness. The structure of the hammer is relatively simple-a fact largely responsible for its early invention and widespread distribution across cultures and geographic regions. The hammer is composed of two main parts: a handle and a head. The handle is used to swing the hammer. The head is used to hit other objects. While the hammer is a very simple tool, it is still able to generate tremendous power. This power results from two factors: the weight of the head, and the speed at which the hammer is swung. Every hammer (though some more than others) has a large distribution of weight at the head. When a hammer is swung, this weight pivots about the hand, which acts as a fulcrum. The handle carries the weight at a distance, acting as a lever arm, so a longer handle means increased speed. The weight of the head together with the speed generated by the lever arm is what gives the hammer so much power. The heavier the head and the faster it is swung, the more power a hammer produces. In addition to the hammer's great power, it also has an exceptionally wide range of useful applications. The purpose of the hammer -- to hit -- is a universal action that can accomplish many tasks. Let's start with the obvious: a hammer can be made to pound nails. But a hammer has many other uses as well. It can break apart hard objects such as brick or concrete. It can bend and shape metal or steel. It can gently tap objects to make small adjustments. It can be used to make sculpture or pottery. It can be used in the hot, harsh business of blacksmithing as well as in delicate operations like crafting jewelry. In times of desperation, it can even be used as a weapon. The hammer truly is a great tool. It is simple, powerful, and useful. A quintessential symbol of labor, the hammer has come to represent hard work and embody the spirit of human industry.

Question:

Which of the following best describes the organization of this passage?

- A. introduction, supporting paragraphs, conclusion
- B. introduction, examples, supporting paragraphs, conclusion
- C. history, examples, conclusion
- D. history, introduction, supporting paragraphs

- 5 Q.1 The history of literature really began was the earliest of the arts. Man danced for joy round his primitive camp fire after the defeat and slaughter of his enemy. He yelled and shouted as he danced and gradually the yells and shouts became coherent and caught the measure of the dance and thus the first war song was sung. As the idea of God developed prayers were framed. The songs and prayers became traditional and were repeated from one generation to another each generation adding something of its own. As man slowly grew more civilized he was compelled to invent some method of writing by three urgent necessities. There were certain things that it was dangerous to forget and which therefore had to be recorded. It was often necessary to communicate with persons who were some distance away and it was necessary to communicate with persons who were some distance away and it was necessary to produce ones property by making tools cattle and so on in some distinctive manner so man taught himself to write and having learned to write purely for utilitarian reasons he used this new method for preserving his war songs and his prayers of course among these ancient peoples there were only a very few individuals who learned to write and only a few could read what was written.

b. As the war songs and prayers each generation

- A. Added something of its own to the stock
- B. Blindly repeated the songs and prayers
- C. Composed its own songs and prayers
- D. سوا

Q.3 Democratic societies from the earliest times have expected their governments to protect the weak against the strong. No era of good feeling can justify discharging the police force or giving up the idea of public control over concentrated private wealth. On the other hand it is obvious that a spirit of self denial and moderation on the part of those who hold economic

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obvious that a spirit of self denial and moderation on the part of those who hold economic power will greatly soften the demand for absolute equality Men are more interested in freedom and security than in an equal distribution of wealth the extent to which Government must interfere with business therefore is not exactly measured by the extent to which economic power is concentrated into few hands The required degree of government interference depends mainly on whether economic powers are oppressively used and on the necessity of keeping economic factors in a tolerable state of balance However with the necessity of meeting all these dangers and threats to liberty the powers of government are unavoidably increased whichever political party may be in office The growth of government is a necessary result of the growth of technology and of the problems that go with the use of machines and science since the Government in our nation must take on more powers to meet its problems there is no way to preserve freedom except by making democracy more powerful.

a. The advent of science and technology has increase the

- A. Freedom of people
- B. Tyranny of the political parties
- C. Powers of the government
- D. Chances of economic inequality

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Q.4 Educational planning should aim at meeting the educational needs of the entire population of all age groups while the traditional structure of education as a three layer hierarchy from the primary stage to the university represents the core we should not overlook the periphery which is equally important Under modern conditions workers need to rewind or renew their enthusiasm or strike out in a new direction or improve their skills as much any university professor the retired and the aged have their needs as well Educational planning in their words should take care of the needs of everyone. Our structures of education have been built up on the assumption that there is a terminal point to education This basic defect has become all the more harmful today. A UNESCO report entitled Learning to be prepared by Edgar Faure and others in 1973 asserts that the education of children must prepare the future should consist of modules with different kinds of functions serving a diversity of constituent And performance not the period of study should be the basis for credentials the writing is already on the wall In view of the fact that the significance of a commitment of lifelong learning and lifetime education is being discussed only in recent years even in educationally advanced countries the possibility of the idea becoming an integral part of the idea becoming an integral part of educational thinking seems to be a far cry For to move in that direction means such more than some simple rearrangement of the present organization of education but a good beginning can be made by developing open university programs for older learners of different categories and introducing extension services in the conventional colleges and schools also these institutions should learn to cooperate with the numerous community municipal recreational programs health services etc.

h. Which of the following is not true in context of the given passage

- A. Lifelong learning is a recent concept
- B. Workers knowledge and skills also need to be updated constantly
- C. Learning to Be defends that there is a terminal point to education
- D. Schools and colleges should open extension services

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In the early 1920's, settlers came to Alaska looking for gold. They traveled by boat to the coastal towns of Seward and Knik, and from there by land into the gold fields. The trail they used to travel inland is known today as the Iditarod Trail, one of the National Historic Trails designated by the congress of the United States. The Iditarod Trail quickly became a major thoroughfare in Alaska, as the mail and supplies were carried across this trail. People also used it to get from place to place, including the priests, ministers, and judges who had to travel between villages down this trail was via god sled.

Once the gold rush ended, many gold-seekers went back to where they had come from, and suddenly there was much less travel on the Iditarod Trail. The introduction of the airplane in the late 1920's meant dog teams were mode of transportation, of course airplane carrying the mail and supplies, there was less need for land travel in general. The final blow to the use of the dog teams was the appearance of snowmoniles.

By the mid 1960's most Alasknas didn't even know the Iditarod Trail existed, or that dos teens had played a crucial role in Alaska's early settlements. Dorothy G. Page, a self-made historian, recognized how few people knew about the former use of sled dogs as working animals and about the Iditarod Trail's role in Alaska's colorful history. To she came up with the idea to have a god sled race over the Iditarod Trail. She presented her idea to an

enthusiastic musher, as dog sled drivers are known, named Joe Redington, Sr. Soon the pages and the Redintons were working together to promote the idea of the Iditarod race.

Many people worked to make the first Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race a reality in 1967. The Aurora Dog Mushers Club, along with men from the Adult Camp in Sutton, helped clear years of overgrowth from the first nine miles of the Iditarod Trail. To raise interest in the race, a \$25,000 purse was offered, with Joe Redington donating one acre of his land to help raise the funds. The short race, approximately 27 miles long, was put on a second time in 1969.

After these first two successful races, the goal was to lengthen the race a little further to the ghost town of Iditarod by 1973. However in 1972, the U.S. Army reopened the trail as a winter exercise, and so in 1973, the decision was made to take the race all the way to the city of Nome-over 1,000 miles. There were who believed it could bot be done and that it wad crazy to send a bunch out into vast, uninhabited Alaskan wilderness. But the race went! 22 mushers finished that year, and to date over 400 people have completed it.

As used in paragraph-3, the phrase "self-made historian" implies that Dorothy G. Page

- A. Was employed by the state to keep its dog sled history alive
- B. Was determined to honor the glories of the gold rush in spite of her questionable credentials
- C. Had pursued the study of Alaska's history out of her own interest
- D. Had personally educated others about Alaska's history

Philadelphia is a city known for many things. It is where the Declaration of independence was signed in 1776, and it was also the first capital of the United States. But one fact about Philadelphia is not so well-known: it is home to nearly

3,000 murals painted on the sides of homes and buildings around the city. In fact, it is said that Philadelphia has more murals than any other city in the world, with the exception of Rome. How did this come to be?

More than 20 years ago, a New Jersey artist named Jane Golden started a program pairing troubled youth with artists to paint murals on a few buildings around the city. From this small project, something magical happened. The young people involved helped to create magnificent pieces of art, but there were other, perhaps more important benefits. The young people learned to collaborate and get along with many different kinds of people during the various steps required to paint and design a mural. They learned to be responsible, because they needed to follow a schedule to make sure the murals were completed. They also learned to take pride in their community. It is hard for any resident to see the spectacular designs and not feel proud to be a part of Philadelphia.

Take a walk around some of the poorest neighborhoods in Philadelphia, neighborhoods full of broken windows and littered front steps, and you will find beautiful works of art on the sides and fronts of buildings. Of course the murals are not just in poor neighborhoods, but more affluent ones as well. Special buses take tourists to different parts of the city to see the various murals, which range from huge portraits of historical heroes, to cityscapes, to scenes depicting the diverse ethnic groups that call Philadelphia home.

As a result of its success, the mural program created by Jane Golden has now become the nation's largest public art program and a model for troubled youth.

As used in paragraph 1, the phrase "it is said" suggests that the author is

- A. Knowingly misleading the reader
- B. Using a quote from someone else
- C. Referring to something that is widely believed, but may be untrue
- D. Referring to something that he or she does not personally believe

Educational planning should aim at meeting the educational needs of the entire population of all age groups. While the traditional structure of education as a three layer hierarchy from the primary stage to the university represents the core, we should not overlook the periphery which is equally important. Under modern conditions, workers need to rewind, or renew their enthusiasm, or strike out in a new direction, or improve their skills as much as any university professor. The retired and the aged have their needs as well. Educational planning, in their words, should take care of the needs of everyone.

Our structures of education have been built up on the assumption that there is a terminal point to education. This basic defect has become all the more harmful today. A UNESCO report entitled 'learning to Be' prepared by Edgar Faure and others in 1973 asserts that the education of children must prepare the future adult for various forms of self-learning. A viable education system of the future should consist of modules with different kinds of functions serving a diversity of constituents. And performance, not the period of study, should be the basis for credentials. The writing is already on the wall.

In view of the fact that the significance of a commitment of lifelong learning and lifetime education is being discussed only in recent years even in educationally advanced countries, the possibility of the idea becoming an integral part of educational thinking seems to be a far cry. For, to move in that direction means much more than some simple rearrangement of the present organization of education. But a good beginning can be made by developing Open University programs for older learners of different categories and introducing extension services in the conventional colleges and schools. Also these institutions should learn to cooperate with the numerous community organizations such as libraries. Museums, municipal recreational programs, health services etc.

Which of the following is most nearly the same in meaning as the word 'meeting' as used in the passage?

- A. Approaching
- B. Contacting
- C. Introducing
- D. Satisfying

Elephants on the coast of Thailand are acting strange. They stamp their feet and motion toward the hulls. The sea draws back from the beaches. Fish flop in the mud. Suddenly, a huge wave appears. This is no ordinary wave. It is a tsunami (pronounced "soo-nah-mee") waves are larger and faster than normal surface waves. A tsunami wave can travel as fast as a jet plane and can be as tall as a ten-story building. Imagine dropping a stone into a pond. The water on the surface ripples. A tsunami is like a very powerful ripple. Tsunamis begin when the ocean rises or falls very suddenly. Large amounts of seawater are displaced. This movement causes huge waves. For a tsunami to occur, there must be some kind of force that causes the ocean water to become displaced. Most tsunamis are caused by underwater earthquakes. However, volcanoes, landslides, large icebergs, and even meteorites are capable of causing one of these mighty waves. Tsunamis are extremely powerful. Ordinary waves lose power when they break. Tsunami waves can remain powerful for several days. Because tsunami waves are so strong, they can kill people, damage property, and completely ruin an ecosystem in just one hour. Scientists have no way of predicting when a tsunami will hit. However, if a powerful enough earthquake occurs, scientists can issue a warning or a watch. A warning means that a tsunami will very likely hit soon. A watch means that conditions are favorable for a tsunami. When people are

- A. are not used to seeing fish
- B. dislike the water
- C. can sense something out of the ordinary
- D. see the ocean drawing back from the beaches

notified about a watch or a warning, they have more time to prepare. It is best not to get caught unaware when a tsunami is on the way. In paragraph, the elephants are most likely acting strange because they

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Q.4 Educational planning should aim at meeting the educational needs of the entire population of all age groups while the traditional structure of education as a three layer hierarchy from the primary stage to the university represents the core we should not overlook the periphery which is equally important Under modern conditions workers need to rewind or renew their enthusiasm or strike out in a new direction or improve their skills as much any university professor the retired and the aged have their needs as well Educational planning in their words should take care of the needs of everyone. Our structures of education have been built up on the assumption that there is a terminal point to education This basic defect has become all the more harmful today. A UNESCO report entitled Learning to be prepared by Edgar Faure and others in 1973 asserts that the education of children must prepare the future should consist of modules with different kinds of functions serving a diversity of constituent And performance not the period of study should be the basis for credentials the writing is already on the wall In view of the fact that the significance of a commitment of lifelong learning and lifetime education is being discussed only in recent years even in educationally advanced countries the possibility of the idea becoming an integral part of the idea becoming an integral part of educational thinking seems to be a far cry For to move in that direction means such more than some simple rearrangement of the present organization of education but a good beginning can be made by developing open university programs for older learners of different categories and introducing extension services in the conventional colleges and schools also these institutions should learn to cooperate with the numerous community municipal recreational programs health services etc b. Which of the following best describes the purpose of the author

- A. To criticize the present educational system
- B. To strengthen the present educational practices
- C. To support non-conventional educational organization
- D. To present a pragmatic point of view

Fleas are perfectly designed by nature to feast on anything containing blood. Like a shark in the water or a wolf in the woods, fleas are ideally equipped to do what they do, making them very difficult to defeat. The bodies of these tiny parasites are extremely hardy and well-suited for their job.

A flea has a very hard exoskeleton, which means the body is covered by a tough, tile-like plate called a sclerite. Because of these plates, fleas are almost impossible to squish. The exoskeletons of fleas are also waterproof of fleas are also waterproof and shock resistant, and therefore fleas are highly resistant to the sprays and chemicals used to kill them.

Little spines are attached to his plate. The spine the flea scurries through an animal's fur in – search of grooming pet tries to pull a flea off through the hair coat, these spines will extend and stick to the fur like Velcro.

Fleas are some of the best jumpers in the natural world. A flea can jump seven inches, or 150 times its own length, either vertically or horizontally. An equivalent jump for a person would be 555 feet, the height of the Washington Monument. Fleas can jump 30,000 times in a row without stopping, and they are able to accelerate through the air at an incredibly high rate – a rate which is over ten times what humans can withstand in an airplane.

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Fleas have very long rear legs with huge thigh muscles and multiple joints. When they get ready to jump. They fold their long legs up and crouch like a runner on a starting block. Several of their joints contain a protein called resilin, which helps catapult fleas into the air as they jump, similar to the way a rubber band provides momentum to a slingshot. Outward facing claws on the bottom of their legs grip anything they touch when they land.

The adult female flea mates after her first blood meal and begins producing eggs in just 1 to 2 days. One flea can lay up to 50 eggs in one day and over 2,000 in her lifetime. Flea eggs can be seen with the naked eye, but they are about the size of a grain of salt. Shortly after being laid, the eggs begin to transform into cocoons. In the cocoon state, fleas are fully developed adults, and will hatch immediately if conditions are favorable. Fleas can detect warmth, movement, and carbon dioxide in exhaled breath, and these three factors stimulate them to emerge as new adults. If the flea does not detect appropriate conditions, it can remain dormant in the cocoon state for extended periods. Under ideal conditions, the entire life cycle may only take 3 weeks, so in no time at all, pets and homes can become infested.

Because of these characteristics, fleas are intimidating opponents. The best way to control fleas, therefore, is to take steps to prevent an infestation from ever occurring.

According to the passage, which of the following statements is true?

- A. Fleas extend their little spines if threatened
- B. Fleas have the ability to jump higher than humans
- C. Humans can jump higher if they consume foods containing resilin
- D. The resilin found in fleas is used to make rubber bands

Although cynics may like to see the government's policy for women in terms of the party's internal power struggles, it will nevertheless be churlish to deny that it represents a pioneering effect aimed at bringing about sweeping social reforms. In its language, scope and strategies, the policy documents displays a degree of understanding of women's needs that is uncommon in government pronouncements.

This is due in large part to the participatory process that marked its formulation, seeking the active involvement right from the start of women's groups, academic institutions and non-government organizations with grass roots experience. The result is not just a lofty declaration of principles but a blueprint for a practical program of action. The policy delineates a series of concrete measures to accord women a decision-making role in the political domain and greater control over their economic status. Of especially far-reaching impact are the devolution of control of economic infrastructure to women, notably at the gram panchayat level, and the amendment proposed in the Act of 1956 to give women coparcenary rights.

- 14 And enlightened aspect of the policy is its recognition that actual change in the status of women cannot be brought about by the mere enactment of socially progressive legislation. Accordingly, it focuses on reorienting development programs and sensitizing administrations to address specific situations as, for instance, the growing number of households headed by women, which is a consequence of rural-urban migration. The proposal to create an equal-opportunity police force and give women greater control of police stations is an acknowledgement of the biases and callousness displayed by the generally all-male law-enforcement authorities in case of dowry and domestic violence. While the mere enunciation of such a policy has the salutary effect of sensitizing the administration as a whole, it does not make the task of its implementation any easier. This is because the changes it envisages in the political and economic status of woman strike at the root of power structures in society and the basis of man-woman relationship. There is also the danger that reservation for women in public life, while necessary for their greater visibility, could lapse into tokenism or become a tool in the hands of vote seeking politicians. Much will depend on the dissemination of the policy and the ability of elected representatives and government agencies to reorder their priorities.

A. Coparcenary right to women
B. Decision making role in political area
C. Greater control over economic status
D. Enactment of socially progressive legislation

According to the passage, which of the following aspects has been identified as, it alone would not bring change in the status of women?

- 15 Speech is great blessings but it can also be great curse, for while it helps us to make out intentions and desires known to our fellows, it can also if we use it carelessly, make our attitude completely misunderstood. A slip of the tongue, the use of unusual word, or of an ambiguous word, and so on, may create an enemy where we had hoped to win a friend. Again, different classes of people use different vocabularies, and the ordinary speech of an educated may strike an uneducated listener as pompous. Unwittingly, we may use a word which bears a different meaning to our listener from what it does to men of our own class. Thus speech is not a gift to use lightly without thought, but one which demands careful handling. Only a fool will express himself alike to all kinds and conditions to men.
Question:
A 'slip of the tongue' means something said

A. wrongly by choice
B. unintentionally
C. without giving proper thought
D. to hurt another person

The year 2006 was the golden anniversary, or the 50th birthday, of the Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways. This system, usually referred to as The Interstate Highway System, is a system of freeways named after the U.S. President who supported it. The system is the largest highway system in the world, consisting of 46,876 miles (75,440 km) of freeways. The construction of the interstate highway system is an important part of American history. It has played a major role in **preserving** and maintaining the American way of life.

The interstate highway system has several major functions. One of its major functions is to **facilitate** the distribution of US goods. Because the interstate passes through many downtown areas, it plays an important role in the **distribution** of almost all goods in the United States. Nearly all products travel at least part of the way to their destination on the Interstate System. Another major function of the interstate is to facilitate military troop movement to and from airports, seaports, rail terminals and other military destinations. The Interstate highways are connected to route in the Strategic Highway Network, which is a system of highways that are **vital** to the U.S. Department of Defense.

Today, most of the Interstate system consists of newly constructed highways. The longest section of the Interstate system runs from Boston, Massachusetts to Seattle, Washington. It covers 3,020.54 miles. The shortest two-digit interstate is from Emery, North Carolina to Greensboro, North Carolina. It covers only 12.27 miles. All state capitals except five are served by the system. The five that are not directly served are Juneau, AK, Dover, DE, Jefferson City, MO, Carson City, NV, and Pierre, SD. The Interstate Highway System serves almost all major U.S. cities.

- 16 EACH Interstate highway is marked with a red, white, and blue shield with the word "Interstate," the name of the state, and the route number. Interstate highways are named with one or two-digit numbers. North-south highways are **designated** with odd numbers; east-west highways are named with even numbers. The north-south Interstate highways begin in the west with the lowest odd number; the east-west highways begin in the south with the lowest even numbers. There are mile markers at

A. 1946
B. 1956
C. 1957
D. 2000

each mile of the interstate system, starting at the westernmost or southernmost point on the highway. Every Interstate highway begins with the number "0". Interchanges are numbered according to their location on the highway in relation to mileage; an exit between milepost 7 and milepost 8 would be designated "Exit 7." This system allows drivers estimate the distance to a desired exit, which a road is leading off the highway. Despite the common acceptance of the numbering system on the Interstate highways, some states have adopted different numbering systems. For example, a portion of the Interstate 19 in Arizona is measured in kilometers instead of miles since the highway goes south to Mexico.

Since the Interstate highways are freeways-highways that do not have signs and cross streets – they have the highest speed limits in the nation. Most interstate highways have speed limits between 65 – 75 miles per hour (105 – 120 kilometers per hour), but some areas in Texas and Utah have an 80 mile-per-hour (130 kilometer-per-hour) speed limit.

The federal government primarily funds interstate highways. However, they are owned and operated by the individual states or toll authorities in the states. The federal government generally funds up to 90% of the cost of an Interstate highway, while the states pay the remainder of the cost.

When did the interstate Highway System begin?

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Have you ever wondered what keeps a hot air balloon flying? The same principal that keeps food frozen in the open chest freezers at the grocery store allows hot air balloons to fly. It's very basic principle: Hot air rises and cold air falls. So while the super-cooled air in the grocery store freezer settles down around the food, the hot air in a hot air balloon pushes up, keeping the balloon floating above the ground. In order to understand more about how this principal works in hot air balloons, it helps to know more about hot air balloons themselves. A hot air balloon has three major parts: the basket, the burner, and the envelope. The basket is where passengers ride. The basket is usually made of wicker. This ensures that it will be comfortable and add little extra weight. The burner is positioned above the passenger's heads and produced a huge flame to heat the air inside the envelope. The envelope is the colorful fabric balloon that holds the hot air. When the air inside the envelope is heated, the balloon rises. The pilot can control the up-and-down movements of the hot air balloon by regulating the heat in the envelope. To ascend, the pilot heats the air in the envelope. When the pilot is ready to land, the air in the balloon is allowed to cool and the balloon becomes heavier than air. This make the balloon descend. Before the balloon is launched, the pilot knows which way the wind is blowing. This means that she has a general idea about which way the balloon will go. But, sometimes the pilot can actually control the direction that the balloon flies while in flight. This is because the air above the ground is sectioned into layers in which the direction of the wind may be different. So even though the pilot can't steer the balloon, she can fly higher or lower into a different layer of air. Some days the difference between the directions of the wind between layers is negligible. But other days the difference is so strong that it can actually push the balloon in a completely different direction. As used in paragraph 3, which is the best synonym for 'ascend'?

- A. move
- B. fly
- C. sink
- D. climb

18

Nepal, a small, mountainous country tucked between India and China, may seem completely foreign to many Americans. Cows milk down busy streets unharmed, 24 different languages are spoken, and people eat two meals of rice and lentils every day. Nepali holidays, many of which are related to the Hindu religion, can seem especially bizarre to Americans unfamiliar with the culture. However, if we look beyond how others celebrate to consider the things they are celebrating, we find surprising similarities to our own culture. The biggest holiday in Nepal is Dashain, a ten-day festival for the Hindu goddess Durga that takes place in September or October. According to Hindu beliefs, Durga defeated the evil demons of the world. To thank the goddess, people visit temples in her honor and sacrifice goats or sheep as offerings. Throughout the year, most Nepalis do not eat much meat because it is expensive, but Dashain is a time to enjoy meat every day. Children fly colorful, homemade kites during Dashain. People also construct enormous bamboo swings on street corners and in parks. Every evening people gather at these swings and take turns swinging. Nepalis is a time for people to eat good food, relax and enjoy themselves. Aside from eating and enjoying themselves, during Dashain people also receive blessings from their elders. Schools and offices shut down so people can travel to be with their families. Reuniting with family reminds people of the importance of kindness, respect, and forgiveness. People also clean and decorate their homes for Dashain. And, like many holidays in the United States, it is a time for shopping. Children and adults alike get new clothes for the occasion. People express appreciation for all that they have, while looking forward to good fortune and peace in the year to come. During American holidays, people may not sacrifice goats or soar on bamboo swings, but we do often travel to be with family members and take time off work or school to relax. No matter how we celebrate, many people around the world spend their holidays honoring family, reflecting on their blessings, and hoping for good fortune in the future. Question:

According to the passage, Hindus believe that the goddess Durga

- A. sacrifices goats and sheep
- B. defeated the evil demons of the world
- C. visits temples
- D. enjoys meat every day

Nepal, a small, mountainous country tucked between India and China, may seem completely foreign to many Americans. Cows milk down busy streets unharmed, 24 different languages are spoken, and people eat two meals of rice and lentils every day. Nepali holidays, many of which are related to the Hindu religion, can seem especially bizarre to Americans unfamiliar with the culture. However, if we look beyond how others celebrate to consider the things they are celebrating, we find surprising similarities to our own culture. The biggest holiday in Nepal is Dashain, a ten-day festival for the Hindu goddess Durga that takes place in September or October. According to Hindu beliefs, Durga defeated the evil demons of the world. To thank the goddess, people visit temples in her honor and sacrifice goats or sheep as offerings. Throughout the year, most Nepalis do not eat much meat because it is expensive, but

- A. "Cows walk busy streets unharmed, 24 different languages are spoken, and people eat rice"

19

Throughout the year, most Nepalis do not eat much meat because it is expensive, but Dashain is a time to enjoy meat every day. Children fly colorful, homemade kites during Dashain. People also construct enormous bamboo swings on street corners and in parks. Every evening people gather at these swings and take turns swinging. Nepalis is a time for people to eat good food, relax and enjoy themselves. Aside from eating and enjoying themselves, during Dashain people also receive blessings from their elders. Schools and offices shut down so people can travel to be with their families. Reuniting with family reminds people of the importance of kindness, respect, and forgiveness. People also clean and decorate their homes for Dashain. And, like many holidays in the United States, it is a time for shopping. Children and adults alike get new clothes for the occasion. People express appreciation for all that they have, while looking forward to good fortune and peace in the year to come. During American holidays, people may not sacrifice goats or soar on bamboo swings, but we do often travel to be with family members and take time off work or school to relax. No matter how we celebrate, many people around the world spend their holidays honoring family, reflecting on their blessings, and hoping for good fortune in the future.

Question:

Which of the following sentences from the passage best indicates why the author thinks Nepal would seem very foreign to many Americans?

are spoken, and people eat two meals of rice and lentils every day."

B. "Every evening people gather at these swings and take turns swinging."

C. "People also clean and decorate their homes for Dashain."

D. "During American holidays, people may not sacrifice goats or soar on bamboo swings, but we do often travel to be with family members and take time off work or school to relax."

20

Herschel was a Great Dane, which was a big dog. He was actually a puppy, but he was big enough that he looked like a full-size dog. He was bigger than Todd, his owner. The problem with Herschel was that he wasn't housebroken yet. He was six months old, but his original owner had kept him on a porch, where he could go to the bathroom whenever he wanted. That owner hadn't had a lot of time to take care of a dog, but he'd wanted one anyway. When he'd moved to another state for work, he'd given up his untrained puppy. It was sad story, but it looked like it might have a good end. Todd loved dogs, and he liked to spend time with them. He liked to train them, so he'd adopted Herschel. If it was going to work out, it would take lots of patience, love, and training. So, Todd woke up early every day. He walked Herschel immediately. They went for a long walk so Herschel could empty his bladder and use the bathroom. While Todd was at school, his mother let the dog out in the back yard every hour. When he returned home, Todd walked Herschel again. He'd put in another walk before they went to bed, too. With enough opportunities to go to the bathroom outside, Herschel didn't need to go inside. Still, he had accidents. He wasn't used to going only outside. It took a lot of patience to clean up his messes, but Todd did it anyway. Dedication was needed with an animal. They walked and walked every day, and Herschel started walking better on a leash. He respected his owner. They got along well together, and there were less and less messes inside. After several weeks, Herschel made it through a day without any trouble. Todd gave Herschel a hug and a special treat. Then, they went for another walk. It was great exercise for both of them, and it gave them time together. Todd hoped they would have many years together. His new friend meant a lot to him.

Question:

Who helps Todd train Herschel?

A. brother

B. sister

C. mother

D. father