

College Admission

PSAT

PSAT/NMSQT Exam

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Question: 1

Which choice gives the best summary of the problems presented in this passage?

- A. A man is injured and the others are arguing.
- B. Several men are stranded in a small lifeboat with an injured captain.
- C. There is a disagreement about life-saving stations vs. houses of refuge.
- D. Multiple people are sailing on a sea with a storm in the early morning.

Answer: B

Explanation:

Choices A, C, and D all contain truth but do not do a good job of summarizing all the problems. Lines 22-24 indicate that the boat is small. We learn in the very first words that the captain is injured and can infer that the men are stranded from their discussion of being rescued.

Question: 2

Which of the following selections provides the best evidence that the men were working very hard?

- A. Lines 18-19 ("Keep 'er ... said he")
- B. Lines 22-24 ("A seat... much smaller")
- C. Lines 43-46 ("But the... their minds")
- D. Lines 55-58 ("In disjointed... of refuge")

Answer: C

Explanation:

The paragraph in lines 38-54 describes how the sun was rising but the men did not notice because they were so focused on keeping the boat afloat that they "had no time to see it" (lines 43-44). The captain's directive to Billie (A) notes that at least one person was actively steering the boat but does not give evidence of the hard work. The description of the boat tossing on the waves (B) explains why the men had to work so hard, but does not show that they were. In lines 55-58 (D), it could possibly be extrapolated that they were speaking in "disjointed sentences" because of the effort they were expending on maneuvering the boat, but this is not certain.

Question: 3

Based on what is stated in the passage, what do you know to be true about the captain?

- A. He is greatly upset at the loss of his ship.

- B. He has been captain of his ship for at least a decade.
- C. He is usually the one rowing, but cannot because of his injury.
- D. His voice was damaged in the accident.

Answer: A

Explanation:

The first paragraph describes the captain's distress over his lost ship as he lies in the lifeboat, describing its sinking ("a stump... and down," lines 11-14). It mentions that this distress comes whether "he commanded for a day or a decade" (lines 8-9) but does not specify his actual time as a captain (B). There is no indication that he would be rowing if he were not injured (C). Line 7 describes his voice as "strange" and "deep with mourning," but this is due to emotions and not physical damage.

Question: 4

Which of the men does NOT join in the discussion about a house of refuge?

- A. The oiler
- B. The cook
- C. The correspondent
- D. The captain

Answer: D

Explanation:

The other men all join the discussion. The cook and correspondent argue about what they will find at a house of refuge, while the oiler reminds them that "we're not there yet" (lines 72, 78). Only the captain is silent during this exchange.

Question: 5

As used in line 27, the word "making" most nearly means

- A. Creating
- B. Preparing for
- C. Heading toward
- D. Fleeing

Answer: C

Explanation:

The sentence describes the boat moving like a horse heading toward a fence. It does not use the literal meaning of "creating" (A), nor does it indicate preparation (B) or fleeing (D).

Question: 6

Which of the following illustrations is used to describe the small boat?

- A. An army losing
- B. A firm failing
- C. A horse running
- D. Snow tumbling

Answer: C

Explanation:

Choices A and B (lines 5-6) are descriptive of the original ship that sank. Choice D (line 50) describes the water. Only choice C (lines 22-37) describes the small boat that is currently stranded on rough water.

Question: 7

Which of the following literary devices is used in lines 24-28 ("The craft ... outrageously high.")?

- A. Metaphor
- B. Simile
- C. Alliteration
- D. Foreshadowing

Answer: B

Explanation:

A simile compares two things with "like" or "as." These two sentences say that the boat is "like an animal" and "like a horse." A metaphor (A) directly compares two things, such as "the boat was a horse." Alliteration (C) uses multiple words with the same consonant. Foreshadowing (D) hints at future events.

Question: 8

When the author states that the captain has been "injured" in line 1, this most likely refers to what kind of injury, based on context?

- A. Emotional
- B. Physical
- C. Mental
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

Explanation:

The captain is described as lying in the boat and directing others, which can be inferred to mean that he is physically injured and unable to help maneuver the boat. The first paragraph also contains a

description of the emotional effect of the shipwreck on the captain, as his mind was "rooted deep in the timbers of her" (lines 7-8) and his voice was "deep with mourning" (line 16), but it is unlikely that the author is referring to this when he describes "the injured captain, lying in the bow."

Question: 9

Which of the following sentences best describes the theme of this passage?

- A. In an emergency, no one is better than others and all must work together to survive.
- B. It is important to have a plan for emergencies so one does not find oneself in a situation with no escape.
- C. No one should be in a small boat when weather is uncertain.
- D. It is dangerous to argue in perilous times rather than working to save each other.

Answer: A

Explanation:

The passage shows that the men in the boat (a captain, an oiler, a cook, and a passenger correspondent) must all work to get the boat to land. In an emergency, status, wealth, and power are irrelevant. There is no mention of having or needing an emergency plan (B), and while the small boat is not ideal it was necessary due to the larger ship's wreck (C). Arguing instead of working together (D) is doubtless unwise but the passage does not show that this resulted in danger.

Question: 10

They are milked, their meat is a staple part of the diet, their fur is sold or used for clothing, and even its antlers can be powdered for a nutritional supplement.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. it's
- C. their
- D. his









Answer: C

Explanation:

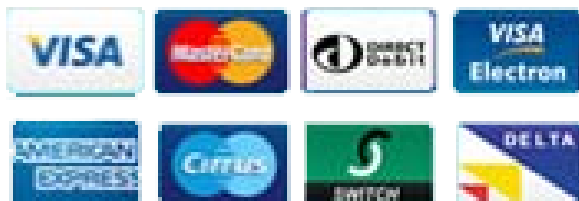
The sentence is using plural terms for each of the other items in the list, so "their" is correct. "Its" (A) is singular and "it's" (B) is possessive. "His" (D) is also singular.

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