

• Beginning Critical Reading - Water

Water is the most common liquid in the world. Lakes contain water. Rivers contain water. Ponds contain water. Canals contain water. Oceans contain water. The water in rivers, ponds, and canals is fresh water. The water in oceans is salt water.

5 About 70% of the world is covered by water. About 97% of water in the world is salt water. Only 3% of the world's water is fresh water. Fresh water is not salty.

People usually think of water as a liquid. But water freezes to form a solid. The solid is called ice. And water boils to form a gas. The gas is called steam or vapor.

10 Clouds are made of water. Water falls from clouds as rain. When it is cold, water falls as snow. Sometimes water falls as sleet. Sleet is partly water and partly ice. Sometimes water falls as hail. Hail is ice.

People need water to live. Animals need water to live. Insects need water to live. Plants need water to live. All living things in the world need water to live.

15 People all over the world need to drink clean water to live. About one billion people in the world do not have clean drinking water. The largest cause of preventable human death in the world is drinking water that is *unsanitary*.

Questions

1. According to the passage, which of the following statements is/are true?

- I) Ninety-seven percent of snow is made of salt water.
- II) The largest cause of preventable human death is drinking water that is unsanitary..
- III) About 1,000,000,000 people in the world do not have clean water to drink.

- A) I only
- B) II only
- C) III only
- D) I and II only
- E) II and III only

2. What is the main idea of the first paragraph?

- A) Fresh water is necessary for life.
- B) Most water in the world is salt water.
- C) Water is the most common liquid in the world.
- D) People cannot drink most of the world's water.
- E) Only 3% of the world's water is not salt water.

3. In line 15, *unsanitary* most closely means

- A) not available
- B) not clean
- C) not in liquid form
- D) used for another purpose
- E) salty

Answers and Explanations

1. The correct answer is **E**.

- I) Incorrect. While line 3 states that 97% of the world's water is salty, there is **no** information in the passage concerning the amount of salt, if any, in snow.
- II) Correct. Lines 13-14 state that the largest cause of *preventable* human death is drinking water that is unsanitary. *Unsanitary* means not clean.
- III) Correct. Lines 12-13 state that one billion people in the world do not have clean drinking water. *One billion* is the written form of the number 1,000,000,000.

- A) I only
- B) II only
- C) III only
- D) I and II only
- E) II and III only

2. The correct answer is **C**.

- A) Incorrect. While the last paragraph states that water is necessary for life, this information is **not** given in the first paragraph.
- B) Incorrect. While line 3 states that most of the world's water is salt water, this is **not** the main idea of the paragraph.
- C) Correct. The first sentence of the paragraph states that water is the most common liquid in the world. Lines 2-4 expand that idea. Therefore, it is the *main idea* of the paragraph.
- D) Incorrect. While it is true that people do not drink salt water, and it is true that 97% of the world's water is saltwater, as stated in line 3, this information is **not** stated in paragraph 1.
- E) Incorrect. While lines 3-4 state that only 3% of the world's water is not salty, this information is given as *support* for the main idea – that water is the most common liquid in the world.

3. The correct answer is **B**.

- A) Incorrect. While it is possible that water is not available to people in many places in the world because only 3% of the world's water is not salty, there is **no** mention in the passage that water is not available.
- B) Correct. *Unsanitary* water is *not clean*.
- C) Incorrect. While lines 5-9 give information about water that is not in liquid form, there is **no** mention that these forms of water would cause death.
- D) Incorrect. Although it is true that water is used for many purposes other than drinking, there is **no** mention of these purposes in the passage.
- E) Incorrect. While lines 2-4 discuss salt water, and while drinking salt water may cause death, there is **no** mention in the passage that salt water causes death.