

• Reading Comprehension 5 Level 8

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

According to Greek mythology, Atlas was a Titan of enormous strength. After being defeated by the god Zeus, Atlas was forced to carry the earth and the sky for an eternity. In depictions of Atlas, he is shown as a stooped figure carrying the globe on his shoulders. Because of his association with the globe, maps began to be decorated with this image of Atlas. **Accordingly**, the word “atlas” became a nickname for a collection of maps. Today, an atlas refers to any book that consists of a bound collection of maps. For example, an atlas can be made up of maps of the countries of the world or of the states of the United States. Sometimes an atlas will also contain graphs and charts with other statistical information about the culture, religion, climate, or government of the population of a given area.

Questions

- 1) Based on information in the passage, it can be inferred that Atlas supported the earth and the sky because he was
- A. a Titan of enormous strength
 - B. punished after losing to Zeus
 - C. associated with maps and globes
 - D. a slave to the god Zeus
- 2) Based on information in the passage, it can be inferred that which of the following people or groups might use an atlas?
- I. a group of explorers on the Nile River
 - II. a backpacker planning a tour of Europe
 - III. army generals preparing for battle
- A. I only
 - B. I and II only
 - C. II and III only
 - D. I, II, and III
- 3) *Conjunctions* (or conjunctive phrases) are used to indicate or emphasize the existence of a relationship between ideas. As used in the passage, which of the following conjunctions could be used in place of the conjunction **Accordingly**?
- I. Although
 - II. As a result
 - III. Consequently
- A. I only
 - B. I and II only
 - C. II and III only
 - D. I, II, and III
- 4) Based on the information in the passage, it can be inferred that the additional charts and graphs in an atlas could include information about
- I. major languages
 - II. average temperatures
 - III. historical events
- A. I only
 - B. I and II only
 - C. II and III only
 - D. I, II, and III

Answers and Explanations

1) **B**

The passage states, "After being defeated by the god Zeus, Atlas was forced to carry the earth and the sky for an eternity." From this information we can infer that Atlas was "forced" to support the earth and the sky as a punishment after losing to Zeus. Therefore **(B)** is correct. Although the passage states that Atlas was a Titan of enormous strength, this is not the reason that Atlas supported the earth and the sky, so **(A)** is incorrect. Atlas did become associated with maps and globes, but this happened after he was forced to support the earth and the sky, so it was not the reason why he had to support them. This means **(C)** is incorrect. While the passage tells us that Atlas was "defeated by the god Zeus" and "forced to carry the earth and the sky," it does not imply that Atlas was Zeus' slave. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

2) **D**

The passage tells us that "an atlas refers to any book that consists of a bound collection of maps." A group of explorers would likely need maps to determine where to explore, so this supports **option (I)**. A backpacker planning a trip would be likely to consult maps so that he or she would know where to go. This supports **option (II)**. Military commanders such as army generals would also be likely to consult maps when preparing for battles, so they would know where to direct soldiers. This supports **option (III)**. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

3) **C**

accordingly (*adverb*): because of the reason given; consequently.

The passage states, "Because of his association with the globe, maps began to be decorated with this image of Atlas. Accordingly, the word 'atlas' became a nickname for a collection of maps." Using this information we can understand that the word "atlas" became associated with books of maps because the image of Atlas had so frequently appeared as a figure on maps. This tells us that the association between the word "atlas" and a book of maps was a consequence of a previous action, specifically Atlas' frequent appearance on maps. Since the conjunction *although* is used to introduce a contradiction or to show that something happens in spite of something else (and we need to indicate a consequence or result), it could not be used in place of *accordingly*. This eliminates **option (I)**. Given the reasons outlined above, we can infer that *accordingly* must be used to introduce a statement that comes as a result or consequence of something else. This means that the conjunctions *As a result* and *Consequently* work well in place of *accordingly*, as they, too, are used to introduce a statement that comes as a result or consequence of something else. This means the conjunctions *As a result* and *Consequently* could be used in place of *accordingly*. This supports **options (I) and (II)**. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

4) **B**

The last sentence of the passage states, "Sometimes an atlas will also contain graphs and charts with other statistical information about the culture, religion, climate, or government of the population of a given area." The major languages of a population could be included in statistical information about culture. This supports **option (I)**. The average temperatures could be included in statistical information about climate. This supports **option (II)**. Historical events would not be considered "statistical information about the culture, religion, climate or government" of a population. The passage implies that this statistical information about a "given population" is current factual information, not that it tells the history of a place. This eliminates **option (III)**. Therefore **(B)** is correct.