



Level 4 Samples

3 Reading Comprehension Assessments

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• Reading Comprehension Sample 4.1

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

Materials

A material is what something is made of. There are 5 basic materials. Most things are made with these materials. Some things are made of metal. Some things are made of glass. Some things are made of wood. Some things are made of cloth. And some things are made of plastic. There are some other materials. But they are not used as much as these 5 materials.

Let's talk about metal first. Metal is very heavy. And it is very hard and strong. It usually feels cool if you touch it. We use metal to make lots of things. We use it for forks and knives. We use it for keys. We use it for cars. We use it for these things because it is very strong.

Next, let's talk about glass. Glass is very smooth. It feels cool to touch. It is not as heavy as metal. It is hard. But it is not strong. It breaks very easily! Then why do we use it? We use it because it is clear! You can see through glass! That's why we use it for windows. That's also why we use it for glasses.

Now, let's talk about wood. Wood is lighter than metal and glass. It is not as strong as metal. But it is much stronger than glass. We use wood to make lots of things. Things made from wood are usually light and hard and strong. Chairs and tables are made from wood. Pencils are made from wood.

Now let's talk about cloth. Cloth is very light. It is much lighter than wood. And it is very soft. We use cloth to make lots of things. For example, it is used to make clothing. And it is used to make blankets.

Last, let's talk about plastic. Plastic is also very light. But it is different from cloth. Sometimes it is soft. And sometimes it is hard. Plastic can be used to make thin plastic bags. These are light, soft, and strong. But plastic can also be used to make bicycle helmets. These are light, hard, and strong. A helmet and a bag seem different. But they are both made from plastic.



Questions

- 1) Which sentence from the passage best describes the main idea?
 - A. "We use cloth to make lots of things."
 - B. "Metal is very heavy."
 - C. "There are 5 basic materials."
 - D. "A helmet and a bag seem different."

- 2) According to the passage, which of these things is a material?
 - A. chairs
 - B. clothing
 - C. windows
 - D. wood

- 3) According to the passage, how does glass feel?
 - A. smooth and cool
 - B. warm and soft
 - C. light and hard
 - D. sharp and heavy

- 4) In paragraph 4, the passage says, "Wood is lighter than metal and glass." What is the main purpose of this sentence?
 - A. to explain something
 - B. to recommend something
 - C. to compare something
 - D. to demonstrate something

- 5) Which material would you use if you wanted to make something that was strong and very light?
 - A. plastic
 - B. wood
 - C. metal
 - D. glass

- 6) In this passage, the author talks about
 - A. hard things first, then soft things
 - B. heavy things first, then light things
 - C. strong things first, then weak things
 - D. cool things first, then warm things

• Reading Comprehension Sample 4.2

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

By the Water

I live in a house by the water. I sit by the water each day. I take my bag with me. In it, I pack a book and a blanket. I also carry a chair and a basket of food. I walk down my back steps and sit in the same spot along the sand.

When I go out to the water in the morning, I am alone. I hear the water. I see the boats. I feel calm. It is the part of the day I like best.

Later, some children come to play by the water. It is afternoon. I hear them laughing. I see them play ball.

"Nestor, Nestor!" the children yell when they see me on the beach. I wave and smile. "Play ball with us, Nestor!" the children shout.

"No, thanks," I say. "I am too old to play ball. I walk with a cane and my hands are no longer good at catching." I try to read my book, but it is hard with all the noise.

I watch mothers and fathers fish along the shore. I am happy. I hear the water. I see the boats. I eat my lunch.

Later, the sky gets dark. I gather all of my things and go back to the house. I get in bed. I hear the water through my open window. The sound puts me to sleep.



Questions

1) Where does the narrator live?

- A. on a farm
- B. on a mountaintop
- C. in a boat on the water
- D. in a house by the water

2) Which of the following things does the narrator bring with him to the water?

- I. food
- II. a blanket
- III. a fishing pole

- A. I only
- B. I and II only
- C. II and III only
- D. I, II, and III

- 3) What do the children do by the water?
- I. fish
 - II. laugh
 - III. play ball
- A. I only
 - B. I and II only
 - C. II and III only
 - D. I, II, and III
- 4) According to the narrator, when do the children come to the water?
- A. in the morning
 - B. in the afternoon
 - C. in the evening
 - D. at night
- 5) The narrator can best be described as
- A. *reserved*, meaning self-restrained or quiet
 - B. *melancholy*, meaning sad or depressed
 - C. *lonely*, meaning affected by a feeling of being alone
 - D. *venerable*, meaning respected because of age or dignified appearance
- 6) According to the narrator, who fishes?
- A. Nestor
 - B. the children
 - C. mothers and fathers
 - D. all of the above
- 7) Why does the narrator not play with the children?
- I. He is too tired.
 - II. He cannot catch.
 - III. He feels he is too old.
- A. I only
 - B. I and II only
 - C. II and III only
 - D. I, II, and III
- 8) How do the narrator's feelings change during the passage?
- A. from calm to sleepy to happy
 - B. from sleepy to calm to happy
 - C. from calm to happy to sleepy
 - D. from happy to sleepy to calm
- 9) When does the narrator hear the water?
- A. In the morning
 - B. In the afternoon
 - C. at night
 - D. all of the above

• Reading Comprehension Sample 4.3

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

Fruit or Vegetable?

What is a fruit? What is a vegetable? Both fruits and vegetables grow from plants. They are both very healthy. But how can we tell them apart?

A fruit is usually very sweet. An apple is a fruit, and it is very sweet. A strawberry is a fruit, and it is very sweet. An orange is a fruit, and it is very sweet. But not all fruits are very sweet. A tomato is a fruit, but it is not very sweet.



So what is a fruit? A fruit grows from a flower. And it contains seeds inside of it. An apple grows from the flower of an apple tree. And it contains seeds. A strawberry grows from the flower of a strawberry bush. And it contains seeds. An orange grows from the flower of an orange tree. And it contains seeds. A tomato grows from the flower of a tomato plant. And it contains seeds. All of these grow from flowers and contain seeds. That is why they are fruits.

Now let's talk about vegetables. A vegetable usually isn't sweet. Broccoli is a vegetable, and it is not sweet. Lettuce is a vegetable, and it is not sweet. A radish is a vegetable, and it is not sweet. But not all vegetables are not sweet. A sweet potato is a vegetable, and it is very sweet.

So what is a vegetable? A vegetable grows from the earth. And it does not contain seeds inside of it. Broccoli grows from the earth. And it does not contain seeds. Lettuce grows from the earth. And it does not contain seeds. A radish grows from the earth. And it does not contain seeds. A sweet potato grows from the earth. And it does not contain seeds. All of these grow from the earth and do not contain seeds. That is why they are vegetables.

So, next time you see a red, round tomato, maybe you'll think twice about calling it a vegetable. Although it may look like an apple, you'll find it's quite different!

Questions

- 1) According to the passage, why is a tomato a fruit?
 - A. It grows from the earth and is not sweet.
 - B. It is red and round like an apple, which is also a fruit.
 - C. It is very healthy and it is very sweet.
 - D. It grows from a flower and it contains seeds.

- 2) Based on the information in the passage, which of these is a vegetable?
 - A. a pumpkin, which contains seeds and grows from a flower
 - B. a squid, which is an animal that comes from the ocean
 - C. a carrot, which does not contain seeds and grows from the earth
 - D. a hamburger, which comes as a product of livestock

- 3) A cucumber grows from a flower and contains seeds. This means it is a
 - A. nut
 - B. grain
 - C. vegetable
 - D. fruit

- 4) In this passage, the author
 - I. questions and answers
 - II. identifies and defines
 - III. argues and defends
 - A. I only
 - B. I and II only
 - C. II and III only
 - D. I, II, and III

- 5) According to the passage, which sentence is NOT true about vegetables?
 - A. They are very sweet.
 - B. They do not grow from flowers.
 - C. They do not contain seeds.
 - D. They are very healthy.

- 6) What is the main purpose of this passage?
 - A. to show why some fruits are sweet and some are not
 - B. to explain the difference between fruits and vegetables
 - C. to prove that a tomato is a fruit
 - D. to tell us how to pick out a healthy snack

- 7) Which of the following aphorisms fits the main idea communicated in this passage?
 - A. An apple a day keeps the doctor away.
 - B. Ask a silly question you'll get a silly answer.
 - C. Don't judge a book by its cover.
 - D. A thing of beauty is a joy forever.

Sample 4.1
1) C
Question Type: Global

In order to answer this question correctly, we need first to figure out what the main idea of the passage is. Then we need to say which sentence from the passage serves as the best description of that main idea. In this passage, we read about 5 materials. We read about metal, glass, wood, cloth, and plastic. The passage tells us about each of these materials. It tells us what each material feels like, and gives some examples of what each material is used for. Because the passage tells us equally about all 5 materials, we can tell that the main idea of the passage does not have to do with any single material, but instead has to do with all 5 materials. From this we can tell that the main idea of the passage is to tell about these 5 materials. The sentence, "There are 5 basic materials," tells us that the passage is going to tell us about 5 basic materials. This agrees with what we said the main idea of the passage was, which was to tell about 5 materials. From this we can tell that the sentence, "There are 5 basic materials," best describes the main idea of this passage. Therefore **(C)** is correct. Using the above information, we can tell that the main idea of this passage is to tell us about 5 basic materials. The sentence, "We use cloth to make lots of things," only talks about one of the 5 materials discussed by the passage. From this we can tell that the sentence, "We use cloth to make lots of things," does not describe the main idea of this passage. This eliminates **(A)**. Using the above information, we can tell that the main idea of this passage is to tell us about 5 basic materials. The sentence, "Metal is very heavy," only talks about one of the 5 materials discussed by the passage. From this we can tell that the sentence, "Metal is very heavy," does not describe the main idea of this passage. This eliminates **(B)**. Using the above information, we can tell that the main idea of this passage is to tell us about 5 basic materials. The sentence, "A helmet and a bag seem different," only talks about two of the 5 materials discussed by the passage. From this we can tell that the sentence, "A helmet and a bag seem different," does not describe the main idea of this passage. This eliminates **(D)**.

2) D
Question Type: Detail

In order to answer this detail question correctly, we need to find where the passage says what a material is and which things are materials. A good way to do this is to scan the topic sentence (the first sentence) of each paragraph, since this will likely tell us what information can be found in the rest of that paragraph. The topic sentence of paragraph 1 reads: "A material is what something is made of." This lets us know that this paragraph is going to talk about what a material is, and may also tell us which things are materials. From this we can understand that the details we are looking for will likely be in this paragraph. This first sentence also lets us know that a material is what something is made of. In the next sentence, we read: "There are 5 basic materials." This lets us know that the passage is likely going to tell us what the 5 materials are. As we read through the rest of the paragraph, we are told that the 5 basic materials are metal, glass, wood, cloth, and plastic. From this we can understand that wood is a material. Therefore **(D)** is correct. According to this passage, a material is "what something is made of." Although this passage does talk about chairs, it does not say that chairs are something that another thing is made of. Instead, it says what wood is a material, and that we use wood to make chairs. Also, the passage does not say that a chair is a material. This lets us know that, according to this passage, chairs are not a material. This eliminates **(A)**. According to this passage, a material is "what something is made of." Although this passage does talk about clothing, it does not say that clothing is something that another thing is made of. Instead, it says that cloth is a material, and that we use cloth to make clothing. Also, the passage does not say that clothing is a material. This lets us know that, according to this passage, clothing is not a material. This eliminates **(B)**. According to this passage, a material is "what something is made of." Although this passage does talk about windows, it does not say that windows are something that another thing is made of. Instead, it says that glass is a material, and that we use glass to make windows. Also, the passage does not say that windows are a material. This lets us know that, according to this passage, windows are not a material. This eliminates **(C)**.

3) A
Question Type: Detail

In order to answer this detail question correctly, we need to find where the passage talks about glass. A good way to do this is to scan the topic sentence (the first sentence) of each paragraph, since this will likely tell us what information can be found in the rest of that paragraph. The topic sentence of paragraph 3 reads: "Next, let's talk about glass." This lets us know that paragraph 3 is going to talk about glass, and that the details we are looking for can likely be found in this paragraph. The next two sentences read: "Glass is very smooth. It feels cool to touch." This lets us know that, according to this passage, glass feels smooth and cool. Therefore **(A)** is correct. In paragraph 3, we read: "Glass is very smooth. It feels cool to the touch." This lets us know that, according to this passage, glass is cool, not warm. We also read, in the same paragraph: "[Glass] is hard." This lets us know that glass is hard, and not soft. From this we can tell that, according to this passage, we cannot say that glass feels warm and soft. This eliminates **(B)**. In paragraph 3, we read: "[Glass] is not as heavy as metal." This lets us know that glass does not feel as heavy as metal. But this does not mean that it feels light. Also, the passage does not say that glass feels "light." From this we can tell that, according to this passage, we cannot say that glass feels light and hard. This eliminates **(C)**. In paragraph 3, we read: "[Glass] is not as heavy as metal" This lets us know that, compared to metal, glass is not heavy. Yet a large piece of glass may still be heavy. In addition, although we know that glass is sometimes sharp, we also know that glass does not always feel sharp. More importantly, the passage does not say that glass feels sharp. From this we can tell that, according to this passage, we cannot say that glass feels sharp and heavy. This eliminates **(D)**.

4) C
Question Type: Inference

The topic sentence (the first sentence) of paragraph 4 reads: "Now, let's talk about wood." This lets us know that paragraph 4 is going to tell us about the material wood. The next sentence reads: "Wood is lighter than metal and glass." This lets us know that wood is not as heavy as metal or glass. From this we can understand that, when the passage says that wood is lighter than metal and glass, it is telling us that wood is different from metal and glass. Because we know that when you compare something you are saying that it is like something else or different from something else, we can now understand that, when the passage says, "Wood is lighter than metal and glass," it is comparing wood with metal and glass. From this we can tell that the main purpose of this sentence is to compare something. Therefore **(C)** is correct. In paragraph 4, we read: "Wood is lighter than metal and glass." Using

the above information, we can tell that this sentence is comparing wood with metal and glass by saying that wood is different from metal and glass. But is this sentence also trying to explain something? When you explain something, you give reasons for why something is true. This sentence does not give any reasons for why wood is different from metal or glass. It only tells us that they are different. From this we can tell that the main purpose of this sentence cannot be to explain something. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. In paragraph 4, we read: "Wood is lighter than metal and glass." Using the above information, we can tell that this sentence is comparing wood with metal and glass by saying that wood is different from metal and glass. But is this sentence also recommending something? When you recommend something, you say that someone would like something. This sentence does not tell us that we would like wood. It only tells us that it is different from metal and glass. From this we can tell that the main purpose of this sentence cannot be to recommend something. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. In paragraph 4, we read: "Wood is lighter than metal and glass." Using the above information, we can tell that this sentence is comparing wood with metal and glass by saying that wood is different from metal and glass. But is this sentence also demonstrating something? When you demonstrate something, you show that something is true by showing some evidence that it is true. But this sentence does not show any evidence that something is true. It only tells that wood is different from metal and glass. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

5) **A**

Question Type: Inference

In paragraph 6, we read about plastic. The passage tells us that plastic is "very light," and that it can be "soft" or "hard." It then gives us an example of a soft plastic thing and an example of a hard plastic thing. It tells us that plastic can be used to make thin plastic bags, which it describes as "light, soft, and strong." This lets us know that plastic can be light, soft, and strong. It then tells us that plastic can be used to make bicycle helmets, which it describes as "light, hard, and strong." This lets us know that plastic can be light, hard, and strong. Because both the plastic bag and the bicycle helmet are described as light and strong, we can understand that plastic can be used to make something that is both very light and strong. This lets us know that, if you wanted to make something that was strong and very light, you would use plastic. Therefore **(A)** is correct. In paragraph 4, we read about wood. The passage tells us that it is "lighter than metal and glass." But this does not mean that wood is light. It only means that it is not as heavy as metal and glass. In fact, in paragraph 5, we read that cloth is "very light," and is "much lighter than wood." This lets us know that we cannot describe wood as "very light," because it is not nearly as light as cloth. All of this lets us know that, although wood is strong, it cannot be described as very light. From this we can tell that if you wanted to make something that was strong and very light, you would not use wood. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. In paragraph 2, we read about metal. The passage tells us that it is "very heavy" and "strong." This lets us know that, although metal is strong, it cannot be described as very light. From this we can tell that if you wanted to make something that was strong and very light, you would not use metal. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect. In paragraph 3, we read about glass. The passage tells us that it is "not as heavy as metal." From this we can tell that glass is not as heavy as metal, but this does not mean that it is very light. In fact, later in the passage, we learn that other materials are much lighter than glass. Paragraph 3 also lets us know that glass "is not strong," and even that it "breaks very easily." This lets us know that we cannot describe glass as strong. From all of this we can understand that if you wanted to make something that was strong and very light, you would not use glass. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

6) **B**

Question Type: Global

In this passage, the author first tells us what a material is, and then tells us what the 5 most basic materials are. In the next paragraph, the author talks about metal, which is described as "very heavy." In the 3rd paragraph, the author talks about glass, which is described as "not as heavy as metal." In the 4th paragraph, the author talks about wood, which is described as "lighter than metal and glass." In the 5th paragraph, the author talks about cloth, which is described as "very light," and as "much lighter than wood." In the final paragraph, the author talks about plastic, which is also described as "very light." From all of this we can tell that the author talks first about metal, which is the heaviest, then about glass, which is less heavy, then about wood, which is even less heavy, and then about cloth and plastic, which are the least heavy. This lets us know that the author talks first about heavy things (metal, glass, wood) and then about light things (cloth and plastic). Therefore **(B)** is correct. In this passage, the author talks first about metal, second about glass, third about wood, fourth about cloth, and last about plastic. Does the author talk first about hard things and then about soft things? In paragraph 6, we are told that plastic is sometimes hard and sometimes soft. Because plastic is sometimes hard, and because it is the last material discussed in the passage, we cannot say that the author talks about hard things first and then soft things. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. In this passage, the author talks first about metal, second about glass, third about wood, fourth about cloth, and last about plastic. Does the author talk first about strong things and then about weak things? The first material, metal, is described as strong. This lets us know that the author starts with a strong thing. The second material, glass, is described as "not strong." This lets us know that the author talks about a strong thing first and a weak thing second. The third material, wood, is described as strong, again. This lets us know that the author talks first about a strong thing, then about a weak thing, and then about another strong thing. The fourth material, cloth, is not described as either strong or weak. And the fifth material, plastic, is described as "strong." This lets us know that the last thing the author discusses, plastic, is a strong thing. From all this we can tell that the author does not talk about strong things first and then weak things. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect. Although the author does describe some materials as "cool," he or she does not describe any materials as "warm." From this we can understand that we cannot say that the author talks about cool things first and then warm things. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

Sample 4.2

1) **D**

Question Type: Detail

In paragraph 1, the narrator says, "I live in a house by the water." Therefore **(D)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)** and **(B)**. Therefore they are incorrect. Nestor says, "I see the boats," but he does not live on a boat. This means **(C)** is incorrect.

2) **B**

Question Type: Detail

In paragraph 1, we learn that Nestor packs a “basket of food.” This supports **option (I)**. In paragraph 1, we learn that Nestor packs a “blanket.” This supports **option (II)**. Even though Nestor lives beside the water and he watches other people “fish along the shore,” Nestor does not bring a fishing pole. This eliminates **option (III)**. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

3) C
Question Type: Detail

In paragraph 6, Nestor watches the “mothers and fathers fish.” The children do not fish. This eliminates **option (I)**. In paragraph 3, Nestor hears children “laughing.” This supports **option (II)**. In paragraph 3, Nestor sees the children “play ball.” This supports **option (III)**. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

4) B
Question Type: Detail

In paragraph 3, Nestor says, “Later, some children come to play by the water.” The second sentence states, “It is afternoon.” This lets us know that the children come to the water in the afternoon, so **(B)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

5) A
Question Type: Global

Throughout the passage, Nestor is alone. From his place by the water, he observes men, women, and children, yet does not have much interactivity with them. In the middle of the passage, Nestor briefly talks to the children, and declines their invitation to come “play ball” with them. Towards the end of the passage, Nestor watches “mothers and fathers fish along the shore.” He only watches them; he does not talk to them. At the end of the passage, Nestor goes home alone. Using this information, we can understand that Nestor can best be described as reserved. Therefore **(A)** is correct. While it may seem as though Nestor would be melancholy or lonely because he is always alone, Nestor himself says otherwise. In paragraph 2, he says, “When I go out to the water in the morning, I am alone. I hear the water. I see the boats. I feel calm. It is the part of the day I like best.” Although Nestor is alone, he feels calm and likes this part of the day best. This rules out choices **(B)** and **(C)**. Although Nestor is old, and seems to be respected by others on the beach, this is not necessarily the case, nor is it the most defining feature of his personality. This means **(D)** is incorrect.

6) C
Question Type: Detail

In paragraph 6, Nestor says, “I watch mothers and fathers fish along the shore.” This makes **(C)** correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

7) C
Question Type: Detail

The passage does not provide information to suggest that Nestor is tired. This eliminates **option (I)**. In paragraph 5, we learn that the children ask Nestor to play ball. Nestor says, “I am too old to play ball. I walk with a cane and my hands are no longer good at catching.” This information tells us he cannot catch. This supports **option (II)** and **option (III)**. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

8) C
Question Type: Global

In paragraph 2, Nestor says, “I feel calm.” Later, in paragraph 6, Nestor says, “I am happy.” In the final paragraph, Nestor goes to bed. He says that the “sound of the water” puts him to sleep. We can understand that this means that he is sleepy. So Nestor’s feelings change from calm to happy to sleepy. This means **(C)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, or **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

9) D
Question Type: Global

In paragraph 2, Nestor goes “out to the water in the morning.” He says, “I hear the water.” In paragraph 3, “It is afternoon,” and while Nestor watches the children playing and the parents fishing, he remarks in paragraph 6 that “I hear the water.” The final paragraph takes place at night. Nestor is in bed and can hear the water through his open window. Therefore, Nestor hears the water in the morning, during the afternoon, and at night. Since choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)** are all true, this means choice **(D)** is correct.

Sample 4.3
1) D
Question Type: Global

In paragraph 3, we are told that “a fruit grows from a flower,” and that it “contains seeds inside of it.” We are also told that “A tomato grows from the flower of a tomato plant,” and that it “contains seeds.” From this we can tell that a tomato is a fruit because it comes from a flower and it contains seeds. Therefore **(D)** is correct. In paragraph 2, we read: “A fruit is usually very sweet.” Later, in paragraph 5, we read: “A vegetable grows from the earth.” Choice (A) describes a vegetable, not a fruit. From this we can understand that, according to this passage, a tomato cannot be called a fruit because it grows from the earth and is very sweet. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. Although a tomato can be red and round like an apple, the passage does not tell us that something can be called a fruit just because it is red and round. For example, the passage tells us that an apple is a fruit because it grows from a flower and contains seeds, not because it is red and round. From this we can understand that, according to this passage, a tomato cannot be called a fruit just because it is red and round. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. In paragraph 1, we read that fruits and vegetables are “both very healthy.” This lets us know that we cannot call something a fruit just because it is very healthy, since

vegetables are also very healthy. In paragraph 2, we read that a tomato is “not very sweet.” From all this we can understand that we cannot call a tomato a fruit just because it is very healthy and very sweet. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.

2) **C**

Question Type: Inference

In paragraph 5, we read, “So what is a vegetable? A vegetable grows from the earth. And it does not contain seeds inside of it.” Since a carrot does not contain seeds and grows from the earth, we can understand that it must be a vegetable. This means choice **(C)** is correct. Although a pumpkin may commonly be thought to be a vegetable, it is actually a fruit. That’s because it contains seeds and grows from a flower. This makes choice **(A)** incorrect. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(B)** and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

3) **D**

Question Type: Inference

In paragraph 3, we read: “A fruit grows from a flower.” We also read: “And it contains seeds inside of it.” This lets us know that something that grows from a flower and that contains seeds is a fruit. From this we can understand that a cucumber, which grows from a flower and contains seeds, is a fruit. Therefore **(D)** is correct. The passage does not provide any information to support choice **(A)**. Therefore it is incorrect. The passage does not provide any information to support choice **(B)**. Therefore it is incorrect. In paragraph 5, we read that vegetables do not grow from flowers and do not contain seeds. From this we can understand that, although we usually think of cucumbers as vegetables, a cucumber, which grows from a flower and contains seeds, is not a vegetable. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.

4) **B**

Question Type: Global

In paragraph 1, the author asks, “What is a fruit? What is a vegetable?...How can we tell them apart?” In paragraph 3, the author asks, “So what is a fruit?” In paragraph 5, the author asks, “So what is a vegetable?” After asking each of these questions, the author provides an answer. This supports **option (I)**. In paragraph 2, the author identifies a number of fruits: an apple, a strawberry, an orange, and a tomato. The paragraph 3, the author gives a definition of these, and a way in which they can be classified. In paragraph 4, the author identifies a number of vegetables: broccoli, lettuce, a radish, and a sweet potato. The paragraph 5, the author gives a definition of these, and a way in which they can be classified. Here, the author identifies and defines. This supports **option (II)**. The author never presents an argument, as this is not the author’s purpose. Rather, the author wants to communicate information. So, the author never argues and defends a position. This eliminates **option (III)**. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

5) **A**

Question Type: Detail

In order to answer this question correctly, we have to say which sentence is NOT true about vegetables. To do this, it is helpful to use the process of elimination to eliminate all of the sentences that ARE true of vegetables. In paragraph 5, we read, “So what is a vegetable? A vegetable grows from the earth. And it does not contain seeds inside of it.” This eliminates **(B)** and **(C)**. In paragraph 1, we read that both fruits and vegetables “are very healthy.” This lets us know that vegetables are very healthy. This eliminates **(D)**. We have now eliminated 3 of the 4 choices. Although some vegetables may be sweet, like sweet potatoes, the passage does not say that vegetables are sweet. This lets us know that, according to this passage, the sentence that says that vegetables are very sweet is NOT true of vegetables. Therefore **(A)** is correct.

6) **B**

Question Type: Global

In paragraph 1, the author of this passage first tells us that both fruits and vegetables grow from plants and are very healthy, and then asks how we can tell them apart. In the next paragraph, the author tells us that fruit is usually very sweet, but that this is not necessarily true for all fruits. This lets us know that we cannot classify fruits by how sweet they are. In the third paragraph, the author tells us how to tell if something is a fruit. We are told that a fruit comes from a flower and contains seeds. In paragraph 4, the author tells us that vegetable is usually not sweet, but that this is not necessarily true for all vegetables. This lets us know that we cannot classify vegetables by how sweet they are. In paragraph 5, the author tells us how to tell if something is a vegetable. In paragraph 5, we read, “So what is a vegetable? A vegetable grows from the earth. And it does not contain seeds inside of it.” From this we can understand that the main purpose of this passage must be to explain the difference between fruits and vegetables. Therefore **(B)** is correct. Although this passage does tell us that not all fruits are sweet, it does not tell us why some are sweet and some are not. This lets us know that the main purpose of this passage cannot be to show why some fruits are sweet and some are not. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. Although this passage does explain why a tomato is a fruit, it also does many other things. For example, it tells us how to figure out if other things are fruits or vegetables, and it gives us several examples of things that are fruits and things that are vegetables. This lets us know that the main purpose of this passage cannot be to prove that a tomato is a fruit. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect. Although this passage does tell us that both fruits and vegetables are healthy, it does not tell us that they should be eaten as snacks. Instead, it explains to us how to tell the difference between fruits and vegetables. This lets us know that the main purpose of this passage cannot be to tell us how to pick out a healthy snack. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

7) **C**

Question Type: Global

In paragraph 1, the author asks, “What is a fruit? What is a vegetable?...How can we tell them apart?” These questions are intended to illustrate the difficulty involved in distinguishing fruits from vegetables; from the outside, many of them look very similar. The author concludes the passage by saying, “So, next time you see a red, round tomato, maybe you’ll think twice about calling it a vegetable. Although it may look like an apple, you’ll find it’s quite different!” Here, the author reiterates the idea that, at first glance, fruits and vegetables are hard to tell apart. This idea is aptly communicated by the aphorism, “You can’t judge a book by its cover.” Therefore choice **(C)** is correct. Although the author does suggest that fruits and vegetables “are both very healthy” in paragraph 1, this is not the main idea of the passage. This means choice **(A)** is incorrect. In paragraph 1, the author asks, “What is a fruit? What

is a vegetable?...How can we tell them apart?" These questions are not intended to be silly. Rather, they are intended to illustrate how difficult it can be to distinguish fruits and vegetables. Likewise, the answer the author gives is supposed to be serious, or genuine, not silly. This eliminates choice **(B)**. The idea that "A thing of beauty is a joy forever" has no relation to the ideas put forth in this passage. Therefore choice **(D)** is incorrect.