

MCHE
ENGLISH TEST

SECTION THREE
READING COMPREHENSION

MORNING



SCHOLARSHIP NO. :
SEAT NO. :
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Questions 1-10

Are organically grown foods the best food choices? The advantages claimed for such foods over conventionally grown and marketed food products are now being debated. Advocates of organic foods - a term whose meaning varies greatly - frequently proclaim that such products are safer and more nutritious than others.

Line

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The growing interest of consumers in the safety and nutritional quality of the typical North American diet is a welcome development. However, much of this interest has been sparked by sweeping claims that the food supply is unsafe or inadequate in meeting nutritional needs. Although most of these claims are not supported by scientific evidence, the preponderance of written material advancing such claims makes it difficult for general public to separate fact from fiction.

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As a result, claims that eating a diet consisting entirely of organically grown foods prevents or cures disease or provides other benefits to health have become widely publicized and form the basis for folklore.

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Almost daily the public is besieged by claims for "no-aging" diets, new vitamins, and other wonder foods. There are numerous unsubstantiated reports that natural vitamins are superior to synthetic ones, that fertilized eggs are nutritionally superior to unfertilized eggs, that untreated grains are better than fumigated grains, and the like.

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One thing that most organically grown food products seem to have in common is that they cost more than conventionally grown foods. But in many cases consumers are misled if they believe organic foods can maintain health and provide better nutritional quality than conventionally grown foods. So there is real cause for concern if consumers, particularly those with limited incomes, distrust the regular foods supply and buy only expensive organic foods instead.

1. The word "choices" in line 1 is closest in meaning to

- (A) actions
- (B) selections
- (C) relations
- (D) nations

2. In Line 4, the word "others" refers to

- (A) advantages
- (B) advocates
- (C) products
- (D) organic foods

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3. The "welcome development" mentioned in line 6 is an increase in
- (A) interest in food safety and nutrition among North Americans
 - (B) the nutritional quality of the typical North American diet
 - (C) the amount of healthy food grown in North America
 - (D) the number of consumers in North America
4. According to the first paragraph, which of the following is true about the term "organic foods"?
- (A) It is accepted by most nutritionists.
 - (B) It has been used only in recent years.
 - (C) It has no fixed meaning.
 - (D) It is seldom used by consumers.
5. The word "sparked" in line 7 is closest in meaning to
- (A) scavenged
 - (B) scintillated
 - (C) scarred
 - (D) scourged
6. The word "entirely" in line 11 is closest in meaning to
- (A) really
 - (B) never
 - (C) before
 - (D) totally
7. The author implies that there is cause for concern if consumers with limited incomes buy organic foods instead of conventionally grown foods because
- (A) Organic foods can be more expensive but are often no better than conventionally grown foods
 - (B) many organic foods are actually less nutritious than similar conventionally grown foods
 - (C) conventionally grown foods are more readily available than organic foods
 - (D) too many farmers will stop using conventional methods to grow food crops
8. The word "disease" in line 12 is closest in meaning to
- (A) compeer
 - (B) compendium
 - (C) consternation
 - (D) complain
9. The word "limited" in line 22 is closest in meaning to
- (A) circumstantiated
 - (B) circumscribed
 - (C) clobbered
 - (D) circumvented
10. What's the author's attitude toward the claims made by advocates of health foods?
- (A) Skeptical
 - (B) Somewhat favorable
 - (C) Neutral
 - (D) Very enthusiastic

Questions 11-20

Broad-tailed hummingbirds often nest in quaking aspens, slender deciduous trees with smooth, gray-green bark found in the Colorado Rockies of the western United States. After flying some 2,000 kilometers north from where they have wintered in Mexico, the hummingbirds need six weeks to build a nest, incubate their eggs, and raise the chicks.

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A second nest is feasible only if the first fails early in the season. Quality, not quantity, is what counts in hummingbird reproduction.

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A nest on the lowest intact branch of an aspen will give a hummingbird a good view, a clear flight path, and protection for her young. Male hummingbirds claim feeding territories in open meadows where, from late May through June, they mate with females coming to feed but take no part in nesting. Thus when the hen away to feed, the nest is unguarded.

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While the smooth bark of the aspen trunk generally offers a poor grip for the claws of a hungry squirrel or weasel, aerial attacks, from a hawk, owl, or gray jay, are more likely.

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The choice of where to build the nest is based not only on the branch itself but also on what hangs over it. A crooked deformity in the nest branch, a second, unusually close branch overhead, or proximity to part of a trunk bowed a past ice storm are features that provide shelter and make for an attractive nest site. Scarcely larger than a halved golf ball, the nest is painstakingly constructed of spiderwebs and plant down, decorated and camouflaged outside with paper-like bits of aspen bark held together with more strands of spider silk. By early June it will hold two pea-sized eggs, which each weigh one-seventh of the mother's weight,

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and in sixteen to nineteen days, two chicks.

11. According to the passage, in what circumstances do hummingbirds build a second nest?

- (A) If the winter is unusually warm
- (B) If the chicks in the first nest hatch early
- (C) If there is an unusually large supply of food
- (D) If the eggs are destroyed early in the season

12. What aspect of broad-tailed hummingbird behavior does the passage mainly discuss?

- (A) Migration routes
- (B) Selection of nest sites
- (C) Caring for the young
- (D) Mating habits

13. The word "often" in line 1 is closest in meaning to
- (A) seldom
 - (B) after
 - (C) lastly
 - (D) frequently
14. The word "meadows" in line 10 is closest in meaning to
- (A) parlances
 - (B) pastures
 - (C) pawns
 - (D) perorations
15. According to the passage, which of the following is true of the male broad-tailed hummingbird?
- (A) It finds food for the female and the chicks.
 - (B) It protects the nest while the female searches for food.
 - (C) It is not involved in caring for the chicks.
 - (D) It shares nesting duties equally with the female.
16. The word "Thus" in line 12 is closest in meaning to
- (A) So
 - (B) Always
 - (C) actually
 - (D) Slowly
17. Which of the following would be a good location for a broad-tailed hummingbird to build its nest?
- (A) A protected branch
 - (B) The longest branch of a tree
 - (C) A branch near the top of a tree
 - (D) A thick branch
18. The word "bark" in line 13 is closest in meaning to
- (A) peen
 - (B) peep
 - (C) peel
 - (D) perusal
19. Where in the passage does the author mention the number of eggs generally found in the nests of broad-tailed hummingbirds?
- (A) Line 6
 - (B) Line 12
 - (C) Lines 17-20
 - (D) Lines 23-25
20. The word "shelter" in line 19 is closest in meaning to
- (A) leech
 - (B) lee
 - (C) leak
 - (D) lease

Questions 21 -30

The United States Constitution makes no provision for the nomination of candidates for the presidency. As the framers of the Constitution set up the system, the electors would, out of their own knowledge, select the "wisest and best" as President. But the rise of political parties altered that system drastically -- and with the change came the need for nominations.

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The first method that the parties developed to nominate presidential candidates was the congressional caucus, a small group of members of Congress. That method was regularly used in the elections of 1800 to 1824. But its closed character led to its downfall in the mid-1820's. For the election of 1832, both major parties turned to the national convention as their nominating device. It has continued to serve them ever since.

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With the convention process, the final selection of the President is, for all practical purposes, narrowed to one of two persons: the Republican or the Democratic party nominee. Yet there is almost no legal control of that vital process.

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The Constitution is silent on the subject of presidential nominations. There is, as well, almost no statutory law on the matter. The only provisions in federal law have to do with the financing of conventions. And in each state there is only a small body of laws that deal with issues related to the convention, such as the choosing of delegates and the manner in which they may cast their votes. In short, the convention is very largely a creation and a responsibility of the political parties themselves.

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In both the Republican and Democratic parties, the national committee is charged with making the plans and arrangements for the national convention. As much as a year before it is held, the committee meets (usually in Washington, D.C.) to set the time and place for the convention. July has been the favored month; but each party has met in convention as early as mid-June and also as late as the latter part of August.

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Where the convention is held is a matter of prime importance. There must be an adequate convention hall, sufficient hotel accommodations, plentiful entertainment outlets, and efficient transportation facilities.

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21. Which of the following motivated a change in the original method of selecting a President of the United States?

- (A) The framers of the Constitution
- (B) The rise of the congressional caucus
- (C) The emergence of the party system
- (D) The establishment of national conventions

22. What can be inferred about why the congressional caucus system was terminated?
- (A) It was too expensive.
 - (B) It took too much time.
 - (C) It did not include enough citizens.
 - (D) It did not conform to the Constitution.
23. The word "need" in line 5 is closest in meaning to
- (A) requirement
 - (B) assortment
 - (C) basket
 - (D) event
24. The word "convention" in line 11 is closest in meaning to
- (A) concussion
 - (B) colossus
 - (C) confrere
 - (D) concordat
25. According to the passage, the only aspect of political conventions addressed by federal law involves
- (A) organization
 - (B) funding
 - (C) voting procedures
 - (D) choosing delegates
26. In paragraph 4, the author compares
- (A) nominations and conventions
 - (B) finances and the Constitution
 - (C) federal and state laws
 - (D) delegates and candidates
27. The word "almost" in line 18 is closest in meaning to
- (A) approximately
 - (B) rapidly
 - (C) finally
 - (D) exactly
28. The passage refers to all of the following as necessary in the city where the convention is held EXCEPT
- (A) an acceptable meeting place
 - (B) politically aware citizens
 - (C) an easy way of traveling around the city
 - (D) sufficient amusement opportunities
29. The word "delegates" in line 21 is closest in meaning to
- (A) endowments
 - (B) emoluments
 - (C) extenuations
 - (D) emissaries
30. The word "entertainment" in line 34 is closest in meaning to
- (A) diversion
 - (B) divan
 - (C) divulgence
 - (D) drought

Questions 31-40

There are two basic types of glaciers, those that flow outward in all directions with little regard for any underlying terrain and those that are confined by terrain to a particular path.

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The first category of glaciers includes those massive blankets that cover whole continents, appropriately called ice sheets. There must be over 50000 square kilometers of land covered with ice for the glacier to qualify as an ice sheet. When portions of an ice sheet spread out over the ocean, they form ice shelves.

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About 20000 years ago the Cordilleran Ice Sheet covered nearly all the mountains in southern Alaska, western Canada, and the western United States. It was about 3 kilometers deep at its thickest point in northern Alberta. Now there are only two sheets left on Earth, those covering Greenland and Antarctica.

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Any domelike body of ice that also flows out in all directions but covers less than 50000 square kilometers is called an ice cap. Although ice caps are rare nowadays, there are a number in northeastern Canada, on Baffin Island, and on the Queen Elizabeth Islands.

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The second category of glaciers includes those of a variety of shapes and sizes generally called mountain or alpine glaciers. Mountain glaciers are typically identified by the landform that controls their flow. One form of mountain glacier that resembles an ice cap in that it flows outward in several directions is called an ice field. The difference

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between an ice field and an ice cap is subtle. Essentially, the flow of an ice field is somewhat controlled by surrounding terrain and thus does not have the domelike shape of a cap. There are several ice fields in the Wrangell, St. Elias, Chugach mountains of Alaska and northern British Columbia.

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Less spectacular than large ice fields are the most common types of mountain glaciers: the cirque and valley glaciers. Cirque glaciers are found in depressions in the surface of the land and have a characteristic circular shape. The ice of valley glaciers, bound by terrain, flows down valleys, curves around their corners, and falls over cliffs.

31. What does the passage mainly discuss?

- (A) Where major glaciers are
- (B) How glaciers shape the land
- (C) The different kinds of glaciers
- (D) How glaciers are formed

32. The word "portions" in line 7 is closest in meaning to

- (A) canals
- (B) emotions
- (C) seats
- (D) sections

33. It can be inferred that ice sheets are so named for which of the following reasons?
- (A) They are confined to mountain valleys.
 - (B) They cover large areas of land.
 - (C) They are thicker in some areas than in others.
 - (D) They have a characteristic circular shape.
34. According to the passage, ice shelves can be found
- (A) covering an entire continent
 - (B) spreading into the ocean
 - (C) buried within the mountains
 - (D) filling deep valleys
35. The word "covering" in line 13 is closest in meaning to
- (A) shrivelling
 - (B) shuddering
 - (C) sidling
 - (D) shrouding
36. The word "sizes" in line 19 is closest in meaning to
- (A) gauges
 - (B) garlands
 - (C) galls
 - (D) glimpses
37. The word "it" in line 21 refers to
- (A) difference
 - (B) cap
 - (C) glacier
 - (D) terrain
38. The word "types" in line 28 is closest in meaning to
- (A) pictures
 - (B) cells
 - (C) feats
 - (D) kinds
39. The word "circular" in line 31 is closest in meaning to
- (A) angular
 - (B) angular
 - (C) abysmal
 - (D) avuncular
40. Which of the following types of glaciers does the author use to illustrate the two basic types of glaciers mentioned in line 1?
- (A) Ice fields and cirques
 - (B) Cirques and alpine glaciers
 - (C) Ice sheets and mountain glaciers
 - (D) Ice sheets and ice shelves