1. The Constitution of the United States has worked well for over 200 years, but sometimes it needs some changes. There have been a total of 27 amendments, or changes, to the Constitution. If an amendment is needed it takes two steps. First, someone has to ask for it. This can be done either through a 2/3 vote in Congress, or by 2/3 of the states asking for it at a National Constitutional Convention. Next the amendment has to be ratified, or agreed to. This takes either 3/4 of the state legislatures voting for it, or by 3/4 of the states voting yes in a state convention.

What percentage of state legislatures must agree to ratify any new Constitutional amendment?
A. 2/3
B. 3/4
C. 1/2
D. 100%

2. Becoming a veterinarian is very exciting, but it takes a lot of work. There are 30 veterinarian schools in the United States. Each year 6,800 people apply to get into these schools. Only 2,700 get in. The more prepared you are, the more likely you can get in! If you want to be a veterinarian take courses in biology and the physical sciences. It is also a good idea to volunteer to do free work with a local veterinarian to see what the job is really like.

What inference can you draw from the following sentences?
"Each year 6,800 people apply to get into these schools. Only 2,700 get in."
A. Many people want to be veterinarians
B. Not everyone who wants to get into veterinary school is able to do so.
C. More veterinarians are needed.
D. Being a veterinarian is exciting.

3. Martha was really tired and it was late at night. She could hardly stay awake. She had been reading a book about flying saucers. All of a sudden she saw one come racing into her window! A strange little green man was inside. She jerked up, rubbed her eyes and yawned. There was no spaceman in sight.

The statement that "She jerked up, rubbed her eyes and yawned" most strongly suggests that:
A. The spaceman is still in her room.
B. She needs to go to sleep.
C. She dreamed that there was a spaceman.
D. There is a spaceman outside.

4. Jack wished he had read the manual. He was trying to fix his friend's washing machine. He had told his friend there was nothing to it! What was he thinking?

The statement that "Jack wished he had read the manual" most strongly suggests that:
A. Jack had done something wrong.
B. His friend's washing machine could not be fixed.
C. His friend is angry.
D. He didn't need the manual.
5. Knights were soldiers who fought for their king. To become a knight a boy as young as seven would become a page. They would work, learn archery, horsemanship and sword-fighting. At about 10 to 14 years old he would become a squire and help one particular knight. He would clean stables, polish armor, and keep the weapons ready. At about the age of 21 the squire could vow to protect and serve the king, and would be knighted.

Which sentence below best summarizes the text above?

A. It's hard to be a knight.
B. A knight must be strong.
C. The hardest job for a squire is cleaning the stables.
D. To become a knight a boy must work for many years.

6. On television a cowboy’s life looks very exciting, however a real cowboy of the old west had a very hard life. Many cowboys worked on cattle drives. They would move a large herd of cattle from the ranch to the place where they would be sold. Some cowboys became cooks for the men on a cattle drive. Many of these drives went from Texas to Kansas. Cowboys also would work on ranches. There they would fix fences, find stray animals and brand cows.

Cowboys did all of the following except:

A. herd cattle
B. fix fences
C. grow corn
D. cook on cattle drives

7. Space flight is always dangerous. Apollo 13 in 1970 had a big problem that could have killed all of the astronauts on board. An oxygen tank exploded while the ship was in space. They had very little power, lost heat, and didn’t have enough water. The next issue was that they could only fix the problem with things that were already on the ship! With the help of the ground crew, they found a way! The mission was supposed to land on the moon, instead everyone was happy that it could get back to earth!

According to the passage, what were the two Problems Apollo 13 had?

A. An oxygen tank exploded, and they could only use items on board to fix the problem.
B. They had no heat, and they had no oxygen.
C. They didn’t have 2 items they needed to fix the problem.
D. The astronauts were not trained well, and the ground crew didn’t know what to do.

8. Logrolling is a sport that started with lumberjacks. The men would often have a contest to see which lumberjack could stay on a rolling log the longest. Logs are put in the river and then the fun begins. Two men stand on the log. Then one starts “walking” or rolling the log in the water. The idea is to get the other person to lose his balance and fall off. There are still logrolling contests today!

Which of the following best summarizes the main idea of the text above?

A. Logrolling is a contest between two people.
B. Logrolling is dangerous.
C. Logrolling is no longer done.
9. Windmills are becoming an important part of energy production. The wind turns the large blades of the windmill. That spins a turbine inside of a generator, and that makes electricity. If you have seen a wind farm before, you may have noticed that there can be a few, or many of these large windmills. When it comes to making electricity, bigger is better! The more wind the blades can pick up, the more electricity is made. A typical large windmill from the base to the tip of the blade can be 406 feet. This size can support very large blades needed for producing more energy.

What are the most important features that determine how much energy a wind turbine will produce?
A. how fast the turbine spins inside the generator
B. the size of the windmill, size of the blades
C. the size of the generator, thickness of blades
D. weather, number of windmills used

10. Socrates is known as a great philosopher, or thinker. He lived in Athens, Greece. He believed that people should ask many questions, and challenge everything about their thinking. Many young men in Athens liked the way Socrates questioned everything. He became their teacher. Many rich people in Athens thought Socrates was making fun of the gods. They were very unhappy that he was putting “foolish ideas” in the heads of the young men of the city. They put Socrates on trial, and he was found guilty. His sentence was death.

An important contrast in the text above is between
A. the young men of Athens and Socrates
B. Socrates and the women of Athens
C. Socrates and the men of Troy
D. the rich people in Athens and Socrates

11. In 1940 it looked like the bald eagle, our national bird, would soon become extinct. A law was passed called the Bald Eagle Protection Act. This made it illegal to kill or sell bald eagles. By 1960 there were only 450 nesting pairs left. Why were they still in trouble? It was discovered that a chemical called DDT, that was used by farmers, was making the shells of eagle eggs so thin, they broke before the baby chicks could hatch. Once DDT was taken off the market things started getting better. A special breeding program was started by the Wildlife Service, and today, eagles are back and healthy!

How did DDT hurt bald eagles?
A. It made the shells of the eggs too thin to hatch.
B. It made adult eagles sick.
C. It poisoned eagle nests.
D. It made the eagles stop laying eggs.

12. John Adams and Thomas Jefferson were part of the group of 7 founding fathers who wrote the Declaration of Independence. They soon became best friends. It was through their work together that the United States had its start. However in 1800 they both ran for president. It got very ugly with nasty things said on both sides. They didn’t speak again until 1812, when they renewed their friendship. They were so close that on his deathbed, John Adams’ last words were “Jefferson still survives.” He was wrong, Jefferson had died five hours earlier. They both died on July 4th, exactly 50 years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

How are Adams and Jefferson alike?
A. They could never forgive the wrong done to them.
B. They loved their country.
C. They enjoyed a good fight.
D. They both wanted to be vice president.
13. The Biltmore house in North Carolina is very grandiose. It has 33 bedrooms and 43 bathrooms. The staircase is so big it would fill up any normal house! It is filled with beautiful furniture and paintings. Some ceilings even have murals on them!

What is the meaning of “grandiose” in the text above?

A. pretty  
B. extravagant, impressive  
C. humble  
D. empty

14. The monarch of Great Britain wanted more taxes from the colonists. He was determined that they would help pay the cost of the French and Indian War!

Which word below is a synonym for “monarch”?

A. government  
B. legislature  
C. citizens  
D. king

15. The process of becoming a citizen often seemed sluggish to many new immigrants to the United States in the 1900s. They wanted to become citizens as soon as possible, but it took time.

What is the meaning of “sluggish” in the text above?

A. hard  
B. slow  
C. easy  
D. filled with problems

16. The entire situation was absurd! How could Great Britain expect the colonists to actually allow soldiers to live in their homes! If it wasn’t so unthinkable, it would be laughable! To demand that it be done was something no colonist could stand. Something had to be done!

Which word below is a synonym for “absurd”?

A. illegal  
B. unkind  
C. ridiculous, foolish  
D. demanding
17. Text 1: Travel by covered wagon in the 1800s was very difficult. It took two months to travel from New York to California. A wagon train could only go 5 to 20 miles a day. Many people walked beside the wagon, because riding in the wagon could be very uncomfortable. It was dirty, difficult and often dangerous.

Text 2: Once the transcontinental railroad was finished, it quickly replaced the wagon trains. On a railroad train it only took a few days to get from New York to California! Trains were much more comfortable, and much safer for travelers.

What overall structure do you notice in the two selections above?
A. chronological
B. compare/contrast
C. cause/effect
D. order of importance

18. Text 1: The potato famine in 1845 caused widespread hunger in Ireland. Many families saved whatever money they could to leave Ireland. They could only hope to find a better life in another country.

Text 2: The Irish immigrants to America were feared by many Americans. The Irish were willing to work for less money, because they badly needed the work. Many people were afraid the Irish would take their jobs away. This caused many Irish people to be discriminated against.

What overall structure is used in the two selections above?
A. problem/solution
B. compare/contrast
C. cause/effect
D. description

19. Text 1: The scientific method is a process that helps scientists do a successful experiment. First a question must be asked. This is called a hypothesis. Then research is done to test their question. Finally scientists make a conclusion, and tell others about their results.

Text 2: In 1798 Edward Jenner wondered if getting a disease called cow pox, would keep people from getting small pox that killed thousands of people. First he gave a boy cow pox. When he recovered, he then exposed him to small pox. He did not get it! This finally led to a small pox vaccine that saved lives.

What overall structure is used in the two selections above?
A. chronological
B. compare/contrast
C. cause/effect
D. description

20. Text 1: The surface of the moon is cold and dry. Craters, rocks and dust cover the surface. Craters are holes in the surface of the moon that were made when falling meteors hit the surface.

Text 2: Water on the moon? That’s one thing we didn’t think we would find, but in 2009 water molecules were found in the polar region of the moon. There’s not much of it, but it’s there!

What overall structure is used in the two selections above?
A. chronological
B. compare/contrast
C. cause/effect
D. description
21. Text 1: In the 1800s the American South needed slaves to keep its economy strong. It wasn't a matter of right or wrong, but of economic necessity. Harvesting cotton took a great deal of labor to do. If farmers had to pay workers, they simply could not have afforded it. In fact, when the Civil War was lost, the economy in the South crashed.

Text 2: All slavery is wrong no matter what the reason! It is true that the economy in the South was dependent upon slave labor, however that is no excuse for forcing people into slavery.

What do the two authors agree upon?
A. Slavery is wrong.
B. The Southern economy was dependent upon slavery.
C. The Civil War was important.
D. Slavery is sometimes needed, then it is ok.

22. Text 1: Direct democracy means that every person of voting age in a population votes for everything that will, or will not be done. This is the best form of democracy, because the will of the people is shown in every vote.

Text 2: Representative democracy means one person is elected to represent many voters, and vote for them as their representative. This form of democracy is much better than direct democracy, because it is impossible for a large population to vote almost daily. The representative is responsible to the voters who elected him/her.

What do the two authors agree upon?
A. All people must vote on each issue.
B. Only a representative should vote on each issue.
C. Voting can be difficult.
D. Voting is important in a democracy.

23. Text 1: Sharks are dangerous, so there is no problem hunting them for food and other uses. Many cultures around the world eat shark meat. Shark blood is used in medicine, and shark corneas are used as a transplant for human eyes.

Text 2: Sharks are being hunted to extinction. As the top predators of the ocean food chain, they keep populations of prey animals in check. Without them the entire ocean ecosystem will be thrown out of balance. Right now, sharks are being fished at a rate faster than they can recover.

What do the two authors disagree upon?
A. how to save sharks
B. how to keep people safe from sharks
C. the value of sharks
D. the problems sharks cause people

24. Text 1: Mountain climbing is a terrific sport for many people! All of the bending and stretching is very good for flexibility and stability. Rock climbing also builds strong leg muscles that help with daily activities outside of climbing.

Text 2: Mountain climbing can really hurt your body! Some climbers suffer tendon injuries in their fingers because they try to support their entire body weight with only two fingers. If a tendon that goes from the elbow to the fingers is torn, it could cause many joints in the fingers to be immovable.

What do the two authors disagree upon?
A. the effect climbing has on the human body
B. the danger of avalanches
C. how to protect the body when climbing
D. the value of exercise
25. The most dangerous jellyfish in the ocean is the box jellyfish, which is found in tropical and subtropical oceans. Its stinger is thought to be the most deadly on earth. They have caused over 5,500 deaths since 1954. Their 15 tentacles can be up to 10 feet long, and each jellyfish has enough venom to kill 60 adult humans.

**What information does the sidebar give, that the paragraph does not give?**

A. the number of deaths since 1954  
B. the length of the tentacles  
C. what to wear when swimming near box jellyfish  
D. where it is found

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tips for Swimmers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Swimmers who swim in waters where box jellyfish are found need to do a few things:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1. Wear a full body lycra body suit  
2. Avoid swimming in infested waters  
3. Follow lifeguard rules |

26. Benjamin Franklin was an amazing man! Not only was he involved in writing the Declaration of Independence, but he was a diplomat to France and an inventor. He started the first insurance company and the first post office. He even drew the first cartoon in an American newspaper!

**What information does the text give that the sidebar does not give?**

A. the inventions for which Ben Franklin is responsible  
B. Franklin's involvement with the war  
C. Franklin's variety of accomplishments  
D. why he was involved in many things

27. Hurricanes are large tropical storms with strong circular winds that form over the ocean. They are found in oceans all over the world, but go by the name hurricane in the oceans on each coast of North America. Winds can be over 200 miles per hour and cause much damage. The storm surge of water is often the greatest cause of damage.

**How to Prepare for a hurricane**

1. Listen to weather reports.  
2. Have a plan.  
3. Leave the area if directed to do so.  
4. Have an emergency kit.

**Both the passage and the sidebar imply that hurricanes are:**

A. serious storms  
B. rare, and not likely to happen  
C. found in only a few places on Earth  
D. storms that cause little damage

28. When the Russians sent up the first satellite in 1957, the U.S. knew it was falling behind! The space race had begun! The space race was a competition between two Cold War rivals, the Soviet Union and the United States, for supreme spaceflight ability. The U.S. goal was to get the first man on the moon. This happened in 1969! To read more click on this link.

**Where could a reader find a video of the first moon landing?**

A. in the main text  
B. in the sidebar  
C. click on the "this link" section in the main text  
D. there is no video in either selection

**Space Race Timeline**

- 1957: USSR launches Sputnik  
- 1958: U.S. launches first satellite  
- 1961: Alan Shepard first American in Space  
- 1962: John Glen orbits Earth  
- 1965: Russian does 1st space walk  
- 1968: Apollo 8 goes around the moon  
- 1969: Neil Armstrong walks on the moon  

See the video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RMNSD7MmT4
29. If you like big, really big, dinosaurs you won’t want to miss learning about Dreadnaughtus Shrani. It’s the largest land animal ever found! Its name means “fear nothing”. It was 85 feet long and weighed as much as a dozen African elephants. That’s more than seven T. Rex would have weighed! It got rid of predators with a swipe of its huge tail and three large claws on each back foot. However, this massive creature was a peaceful herbivore that spent its days eating plants.

The information about the tail and claws was included to show that:

A. It had good ways to escape danger.
B. It was too big to fight.
C. It didn’t run fast.
D. It had many predators.

30. Owls are made to be silent hunters. They hear unusually well. Some species even have ears of different sizes located at different heights on the head. This allows the owl to better pinpoint where any sound is coming from. Special serrated hooks all along each feather, act like silencers. These hooks distribute the rushing air sound that is usually heard with birds, and results in silence. Owl feathers are also coated in a type of velvety surface on top and a downy surface on the bottom. This helps absorb more turbulence from the air. The result is near silent flight!

Which sentence below offers the best evidence that owl flight is almost silent?

A. Owls are made to be hunters.
B. They hear unusually well.
C. Special serrated hooks all along each feather act like silencers.
D. The result is near silent flight.

31. The Emancipation Proclamation was signed by Abraham Lincoln in 1863. It said that all slaves in the Confederacy were now free. How did this affect all slaves? It did not free slaves in border states that sided with the Union. All slavery was not illegal until 1865 when the 13th amendment to the Constitution was passed. That amendment made all slavery everywhere in the United States illegal.

Which sentence best supports the author’s point that the Emancipation Proclamation did not end the slavery problem?

A. The Emancipation Proclamation was signed by Abraham Lincoln in 1863.
B. It said that all slaves in the Confederacy were now free.
C. What effect did this have?
D. All slavery was not illegal until the 13th amendment to the Constitution was passed.

32. The founding fathers of the United States explained how the government would work in the Constitution, however it was the Bill of Rights that put their ideas about individual rights into law. These first 10 amendments to the Constitution put limits on governmental power. Many people at the time didn’t think they were needed. Others would not ratify the Constitution until they knew the Bill of Rights would be added soon after. It was the citizens that made it happen. They had just gotten rid of one oppressive monarchy, they didn’t want another one!

What sentence offers the best evidence that the Bill of Rights was needed?

A. The founding fathers of the United States explained how the government would work in the Constitution.
B. They had just gotten rid of one oppressive monarchy, they didn’t want another one.
C. It was the citizens that made it happen.
D. Many people at the time didn’t think they were needed.
33. Text 1: Wars are always the cause of many deaths to both soldiers and civilians. The war that has killed the most people in history is World War II. Over 70 million people died in WWII.

Text 2: In the 13th century the Mongol Empire expanded to cover most of Asia and Eastern Europe. It is estimated that over 60 million people died during the conflict.

**What is the theme of both passages?**
A. War is often needed.
B. Someone always fails in war.
C. War is the cause of many deaths.
D. War is a show of power.

34. Text 1: The pack leader style of dog training says that the dog must understand that the human is in control. Another name for this is dominance training. It attempts to use the methods dogs use on each other to teach acceptable behavior.

Text 2: The positive training method relies on changing the way dogs think and feel. Poor behavior is either ignored, or dogs are redirected. Good behavior receives positive praise that encourages new ways to behave.

**How are the methods in text 1 and text 2 the same?**
A. They both show the dog that the human is dominant.
B. They both rely on professionals.
C. They both work to change dog behavior.
D. They both force dogs to submit.

35. Text 1: Many people are afraid of snakes. While there are some poisonous snakes, most are very helpful to people and the environment. Snakes prey on animals that cause people a lot of problems. They eat insects and many rodents. When snake populations go down, these prey animals get out of control.

Text 2: Some snakes use venom to kill their prey. This venom has been found to be very helpful to sick people if prepared and given carefully. Venoms from snakes are used to treat cancers, heart and stroke victims, and even Parkinson's disease.

**What is the theme of both passages?**
A. Snakes have a will to survive.
B. All snakes are dangerous.
C. Avoid all snakes at all times.
D. Snakes can be helpful to people.

36. Text 1: For many centuries the kind of life you led in Europe was determined by the wealth of the family you were born into. If you were born into a poor family, there was no way to get out of poverty. The wealthy enjoyed a life of ease, while 97% of all other people struggled just to survive.

Text 2: After centuries of poverty, the poor revolted in France in 1776. They wanted a chance to get out of poverty. The remarkable thing is, the poor won! They won against a very strong army! This gave hope to poverty-stricken people all over Europe.

**What was the problem in Europe for many centuries?**
A. The majority of people were very poor.
B. The rich had all of the food.
C. The poor were revolting.
D. There was no money in France.
37. What is condensation? Condensation is when water changes from water vapor, (which is a gas) into the liquid form of water droplets. This happens in the atmosphere when warm air rises, then condenses into water droplets to form clouds. You often see condensation form on the outside of your water glass.

What is condensation?
A. when a gas changes into a liquid  
B. when a liquid changes into a gas  
C. when water droplets rise  
D. when a solid changes into a gas

38. A census is done in many countries all over the world. It is the best information countries can get about their population. During a census everyone in a population is counted at the same time. Other questions can also be asked, such as income, job, and place of birth. This information gives local governments information that allows them to make plans for housing, education, health and transportation.

What is a census?
A. a count of some people  
B. a listing of all people and animals by neighborhood  
C. a count of all people in a country  
D. a way to determine reading level

39. There are many differences between great apes and monkeys. The first thing you notice is size. Great apes are much larger than monkeys. Apes also do not have a tail. Monkeys usually walk on four legs, but apes often walk on only two. Some great apes have been taught to use sign language to communicate with humans. This is something a monkey can not do.

Which of the following is not included in the above text?
A. Apes can be taught sign language.  
B. Monkeys can be dangerous.  
C. Monkeys usually walk on four legs.  
D. Monkeys are smaller than great apes.

40. The cheetah is the fastest mammal on land. It can reach speeds of up to 70 miles per hour over short distances. The cheetah crashes into its prey, and knocks it to the ground. It then kills with a quick bite to the throat. After catching its prey, the cheetah needs almost half an hour to catch its breath before it can even eat! The cheetah’s prey include impalas, rabbits and wildebeeste calves.

According to the text above, which statement is true?
A. There are too many cheetahs.  
B. Cheetahs rely on speed to catch prey.  
C. A cheetah can run for long distances.  
D. Only one other animal is faster on land than a cheetah.