

Level A - Form 1 - Reading: Construct Meaning

Sample Question

Read the paragraph. Then choose the best answer to the question.

At the club, Bob sang in a band. While he was onstage, he would look into the crowd. Some people danced, and others just listened. Bob felt good when the people cheered.

How did Bob feel when he sang?

- A ugly
- B happy
- C scared
- D untalented

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Here is a passage that describes the career of a remarkable woman, Wilma Mankiller. Read the passage. Then do Numbers 1 through 8.

Leader of the Cherokee Nation

Wilma Mankiller has earned her place in American history as the first female chief of the Cherokee Nation. She gained prominence across the country for revitalizing the Nation, which increased from 55,000 to 156,000 members under her leadership.

Named after an eighteenth-century warrior ancestor, Wilma was born in Stilwell, Oklahoma, in 1945 to a Cherokee father and a Dutch-Irish mother. She grew up with ten brothers and sisters on a poor farm with no electricity or running water. When Wilma was eleven years old, her family moved to San Francisco as part of a program sponsored by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The program relocated Native Americans from the reservations to the cities. Her family had to adjust to a new way of life in the city, and Wilma had difficulty making the leap from rural life to city life. She was used to hearing the sounds of roosters and crickets in Oklahoma, so the police sirens and traffic noises of the city frightened her. In school, students teased her because of her Cherokee name, but her father taught her to be proud of her family's heritage.

In 1969, Wilma took part in the occupation of Alcatraz Island when Native Americans joined together to protest the government's treatment of them. After spending time with the people there, Wilma was inspired to devote her time to improving the quality of life for Native Americans. She studied at San Bruno College and at San Francisco State College. She returned to Oklahoma in the 1970s and began to work for the Cherokee Nation. At that time it had fewer than 10,000 members.

After graduating from college in 1977, Wilma worked as a community development director for the Cherokee Nation, which was based in Tahlequa, Oklahoma. She helped build water systems so people could have running water in their homes. She also showed people in the community how to renovate old homes and build new ones. In 1983, she was elected to be the Cherokee Nation's deputy and principal chief. Wilma was appointed tribal chief in 1985, thus becoming the first woman to lead the Cherokee, the second largest nation in the United States after the Navajo.

Years earlier, in 1839, the Cherokees had been forced to relocate to reservations in Oklahoma. During her years as chief from 1985 to 1995, Wilma oversaw these 45,000 acres of Oklahoma. As part of the tribal government, Wilma's role was valuable to the Cherokee residents who no longer live on reservations in Oklahoma. The tribal government's job was to run social programs and support the development of the Cherokee community. Wilma believed that the local residents could help solve problems in the community. She listened to their ideas and recruited them as volunteers. She created many jobs for residents and improved educational opportunities for Cherokee children.

As a top authority on Native American affairs, Wilma testified before congressional committees about tribal rulership and met with Presidents Reagan, Bush, and Clinton. In 1986, she was inducted into the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame, won reelection as tribal chief the following year, and later became president of the InterTribal Council of Oklahoma. Although she did not seek reelection as chief of the Cherokee Nation in 1995, she remains a lasting symbol of Native-American pride.

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| <p>1. What in the passage indicates that Wilma had influence outside the Cherokee Nation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A Wilma's family moved to San Francisco.B She took part in the occupation of Alcatraz Island.C Congress and certain U.S. presidents have met with her.D She studied at San Bruno College and at San Francisco State College. | <p>2. Which of the following best paraphrases Wilma's experience when her family moved to San Francisco?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">F She was frightened by police sirens.G She had a hard time adjusting to city life.H She missed the sounds of roosters and crickets.J She was embarrassed by her Cherokee name. |
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3. Which of the following best describes Wilma?
- A an impressive speaker
 - B a Native-American president
 - C a female protestor at Alcatraz Island
 - D a pioneering and effective leader
4. Which of the following statements is best supported by the passage?
- F Wilma was plagued by illness throughout her life.
 - G All U.S. presidents rely on the advice of Native American chiefs.
 - H Wilma believed that the Cherokee people could solve the problems in their community.
 - J Because of Wilma's leadership, Native Americans no longer face prejudice and injustice.
5. Which of these was probably the main way Wilma managed to triple membership in the Cherokee Nation during her ten years as chief?
- A by allowing non-Cherokee people to join the tribe
 - B by reducing the death rate among the Cherokee
 - C by encouraging the Cherokee to have more children
 - D by getting Cherokee who were not involved in the Nation to join it
6. Which of these best summarizes the passage?
- F Wilma saved the Cherokee Nation from disaster.
 - G Wilma has had a long and highly successful career serving the Cherokee people.
 - H Wilma had a stormy childhood, but as an adult she resolved most of her problems.
 - J The story of Wilma's family reveals many of the problems faced by Native Americans.
7. According to the article, what made Wilma decide on a career working for the Cherokee people?
- A classes she took at college
 - B her parents' pride in their heritage
 - C her childhood experiences trying to adjust to city life
 - D conversations with protestors at the occupation of Alcatraz Island
8. Which of the following seems to have concerned Wilma the most?
- F women's rights
 - G ancient Cherokee land claims
 - H the quality of life among the Cherokee
 - J the Cherokee's need for more political power

These two letters were written in response to a newspaper article about rising health-care costs. Read both letters. Then do Numbers 9 through 15.

Clifford Wilke's Letter

A major concern among Americans today is the ever-increasing cost of health care. Yet many people turn to the emergency room or their local hospital, even for minor medical problems, as the first and only solution. Statistics reveal that using a hospital emergency room in non-emergency situations only drives up these already high costs.

Mahalia Crawford, of the American Doctors' Association, recently completed a study of this problem. She found it easy to see the reasoning behind this choice. According to Crawford, patients who have no regular doctor may use the emergency room for all of their medical needs. Emergency rooms have all the necessary equipment for tests and other treatments. An emergency room has a doctor on duty 24 hours a day, which appeals to people who cannot see a doctor during regular office hours. In addition, some insurance plans make payment easier for patients who receive medical care at a hospital instead of in a doctor's office.

I sympathize with these people, but I think their reasoning is shortsighted; it's time that hospitals and insurance companies cracked down on the practice. Emergency room visits should be rare and should be an option only after a patient has consulted his or her regular doctor. Establishing a relationship with a doctor or health-care professional has valuable long-term benefits for patients. An emergency room doctor may see a patient only once and make no provision for follow-up care. A doctor or health-care professional who knows a patient considers his or her entire medical history and is therefore better able to prescribe an appropriate treatment plan. In a busy emergency room, a person may have to wait several hours to be seen by a doctor, who may be very rushed.

I urge all readers to arrange for health care before illness strikes. Many communities now have medical offices that are open eighteen or even twenty-four hours a day. These offices not only relieve a lot of pressure from high-salaried emergency room staff, but they may, in the long run, also take the sting out of health-care costs. Most importantly, these clinics can provide the thoughtful, quality care patients and their families deserve.

Dr. William Davis's Letter

I agree that the high cost of health care needs to be addressed. However, I am concerned about the quality of care provided at many of the managed-care organizations. As a doctor formerly employed by a health maintenance organization (HMO), I would like to caution the public about some of the practices taking place in the medical community.

Several of these organizations are cutting costs in a variety of troubling ways. HMO physicians are forced to monitor the costs involved when considering such issues as time spent with patients, length of hospital stays, number of consultations, and prescription medicines. Such pressure to curtail care leaves patients shortchanged.

Because of this unfortunate reality, many physicians are trapped between what they consider the best care for their patients and the constraints of the organization.

9. Clifford Wilke's letter is mainly about
- A the disadvantages of using emergency rooms for routine medical care
 - B the outrageously high salaries of emergency room doctors
 - C the necessity of a 24-hour medical clinic
 - D the impersonal care patients receive in emergency rooms
10. According to Mahalia Crawford, which of the following is one common reason why people use the emergency room for minor medical problems?
- F There are no other doctors in their area.
 - G It's easier to get their insurance to pay for hospital visits.
 - H They don't realize that their medical problems are minor.
 - J They want to make their insurance companies pay as much as possible.
11. According to the first letter, how are regular doctors different from emergency room doctors?
- A Regular doctors are less thorough.
 - B Regular doctors have less training.
 - C Regular doctors have better equipment for diagnosis.
 - D Regular doctors can establish relationships with patients.
12. How are the perspectives of these two letter writers different?
- F Mr. Wilke writes as a supporter of HMOs, while Dr. Davis is an opponent of them.
 - G Dr. Davis represents the medical profession, while Mr. Wilkes represents insurance companies.
 - H Dr. Davis writes from personal experience, while Mr. Wilkes's points are mainly based on research.
 - J Mr. Wilke writes as a victim of poor medical care, while Dr. Davis tries to defend the medical profession.

13. Which of these is the kind of situation Dr. Davis suggests that HMOs create?
- A A family with a sick child cannot get insurance.
 - B A doctor leaves the profession because there's too much paperwork.
 - C A poor person without insurance can't get treatment for a serious illness.
 - D A newborn baby gets a serious infection because it was sent home from the hospital too early.
14. Mahalia Crawford gives several reasons why people use emergency rooms for routine medical care. Which of the following is **not** one of those reasons?
- F Emergency rooms are better equipped than some clinics.
 - G Emergency rooms are closer than medical clinics.
 - H Doctors are available at all hours in the emergency room.
 - J Some insurance plans do not pay for doctor's office visits.
15. What is the main concern that Dr. Davis discusses in his letter?
- A Medical care is too expensive.
 - B Emergency room doctors are too rushed to give quality care.
 - C HMOs pressure doctors to cut the quality of treatment.
 - D HMOs are putting too many hospitals and clinics out of business.

Here is a poem about a baseball game. Read the poem. Then do Numbers 16 through 20.

Casey at the Bat

The outlook wasn't brilliant for the Mudville nine that day;
The score stood four to two, with but one inning more to play;
And so when Cooney died at first, and Burrows did the same,
A sickly silence fell upon the patrons of the game.

- 5 Then from the gladdened multitude went up a joyous yell;
It bounded from the mountaintop, and rattled in the dell;
It struck upon the hillside, and recoiled from the flat;
For Casey, mighty Casey, was advancing to the bat.

- 10 There was ease in Casey's manner as he stepped into his place;
There was pride in Casey's bearing, and a smile on Casey's face;
And when, responding to the cheers, he lightly doffed his hat,
No stranger in the crowd could doubt 'twas Casey at the bat.

—excerpted from the poem by Ernest Lawrence Thayer

16. Which of the following statements best describes Casey?

- F He is not sure of his skills.
- G He is proud and confident.
- H He cares about how he looks.
- J He is used to cheering crowds.

17. Which of the following words best summarizes how the fans felt when Casey came to bat?

- A anxious
- B unhappy
- C hopeful
- D scared

18. Which of the following is the main idea of the first stanza?
- F There was only one more inning to play.
 - G Cooney and Burrows did not reach first base.
 - H The fans could not cheer the team's performance.
 - J The Mudville baseball team is about to lose the game.

19. What do lines 11 and 12 suggest about Casey?
- A He always wears a hat.
 - B Fans recognize his mannerisms.
 - C He is bothered by cheering fans.
 - D Strangers are not welcome in the game.

20. Compared to the second stanza, the first stanza is
- F gloomier and quieter
 - G lonely and unpopular
 - H routine and uninteresting
 - J angrier and more irritating