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Questions 1-10

A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon moves in front of the Sun and hides at least some part of the Sun from the earth. In a partial eclipse, the Moon covers part of the Sun; in an annular eclipse, the Moon covers the center of the Sun, leaving a bright ring of light around the Moon; in a total eclipse, the Sun is completely covered by the Moon.

Line (5)

It seems rather improbable that a celestial body the size of the Moon could completely block out the tremendously immense Sun, as happens during a total eclipse, but this is exactly what happens. Although the Moon is considerably smaller in size than the Sun, the Moon is able to cover the Sun because of their relative distances from Earth. A total eclipse can last up to 7 minutes, during which time the Moon's shadow moves across Earth at a rate of about .6 kilometers per second.

1. This passage mainly

- (A) describes how long an eclipse will last
- (B) gives facts about the Moon
- (C) explains how the Sun is able to obscure the Moon
- (D) informs the reader about solar eclipses

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5. What is the meaning of "block out" in line 5?

- (A) Square
- (B) Cover
- (C) Evaporate
- (D) Shrink

2. In which type of eclipse is the Sun obscured in its entirety?

- (A) A partial eclipse
- (B) An annular eclipse
- (C) A total eclipse
- (D) A celestial eclipse

✓

3. The word "ring" in line 3 could best be replaced by

- (A) piece of gold
- (B) circle
- (C) jewel
- (D) bell

✓

4. A "celestial body" in line 5 is most probably one that is found

- (A) within the Moon's shadow
- (B) somewhere in the sky
- (C) on the surface of the Sun
- (D) inside Earth's atmosphere

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6. According to the passage, how can the Moon hide the Sun during a total eclipse?

- (A) The fact that the Moon is closer to Earth than the Sun makes up for the Moon's smaller size.
- (B) The Moon can only obscure the Sun because of the Moon's great distance from the earth.
- (C) Because the Sun is relatively close to Earth, the Sun can be eclipsed by the Moon.
- (D) The Moon hides the Sun because of the Moon's considerable size.

✓

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7. The word "relative" in line 8 could best be replaced by

- (A) familial
- (B) infinite
- (C) comparative
- (D) paternal

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9. The word "rate" in line 9 is closest in meaning to

- (A) form
- (B) speed
- (C) distance
- (D) rotation

8. The passage states that which of the following happens during an eclipse?

- (A) The Moon hides from the Sun.
- (B) The Moon is obscured by the Sun.
- (C) The Moon begins moving at a speed of .6 kilometers per second.
- (D) The Moon's shadow crosses Earth.

10. Where in the passage does the author mention the rate of a total eclipse?

- (A) Lines 1-2
- (B) Lines 2-4
- (C) Lines 5-6
- (D) Lines 8-9

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Questions 11–20

While the bald eagle is one national symbol of the United States, it is not the only one. Uncle Sam, a bearded gentleman costumed in the red, white, and blue stars and stripes of the nation's flag, is another well-known national symbol. According to legend, this character is based on Samuel Wilson, the owner of a meat-packing business in Troy, New York. During the War of 1812, Sam Wilson's company was granted a government contract to supply meat to the nation's soldiers; this meat was supplied to the army in barrels stamped with the initials U.S., which stood for United States. However, the country was at that time relatively young, and the initials U.S. were not commonly used. Many people questioned what the initials represented, and the standard reply became "Uncle Sam," for the owner of the barrels. It is now generally accepted that the figure of Uncle Sam is based on Samuel Wilson, and the U.S. Congress has made it official by adopting a resolution naming Samuel Wilson as the inspiration for Uncle Sam.

11. The paragraph preceding this passage most probably discusses

- (A) the War of 1812
- (B) the bald eagle, which symbolizes the United States
- (C) Sam Wilson's meat-packing company
- (D) the costume worn by Uncle Sam

12. Which of the following is the most appropriate title for this passage?

- (A) The Bald Eagle
- (B) The Symbols of the United States
- (C) Samuel Wilson
- (D) Uncle Sam—Symbol of the Nation

13. Which of the following is NOT mentioned about Uncle Sam's appearance?

- (A) He wears facial hair.
- (B) There is some blue in his clothing.
- (C) He is bald.
- (D) His clothes have stripes in them.

14. The word "costumed" in line 2 could most easily be replaced by

- (A) dressed
- (B) nationalized
- (C) hidden
- (D) seen

15. Sam Wilson was the proprietor of what type of business?

- (A) A costume company
- (B) A meat-packing company
- (C) A military clothier
- (D) A barrel-making company

16. The word "granted" in line 5 means

- (A) refused
- (B) underbid for
- (C) told about
- (D) given

17. According to the passage, what was in the barrels stamped U.S.?

- (A) Sam Wilson
- (B) Food for the army
- (C) Weapons to be used in the war
- (D) Company contracts

18. The word "initials" in line 6 means

- (A) nicknames
- (B) family names
- (C) first letters of words
- (D) company names

19. The word "official" in line 10 is closest in meaning to

- (A) authorized
- (B) professional
- (C) dutiful
- (D) accidental

20. In 1812, people most probably answered that the letters "U.S." written on the barrels stood for "Uncle Sam" because

- (A) Congress required it
- (B) Samuel Wilson was their favorite uncle
- (C) Sam Wilson preferred it
- (D) they were not exactly sure what the letters meant

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Questions 21-31

Line (5) Most people think of deserts as dry, flat areas with little vegetation and little or no rainfall, but this is hardly true. Many deserts have varied geographical formations ranging from soft, rolling hills to stark, jagged cliffs, and most deserts have a permanent source of water. Although deserts do not receive a high amount of rainfall—to be classified as a desert, an area must get less than twenty-five centimeters of rainfall per year—there are many plants that thrive on only small amounts of water, and deserts are often full of such plant life.

(10) Desert plants have a variety of mechanisms for obtaining the water needed for survival. Some plants, such as cactus, are able to store large amounts of water in their leaves or stems; after a rainfall these plants absorb a large supply of water to last until the next rainfall. Other plants, such as the mesquite, have extraordinarily deep root systems that allow them to obtain water from far below the desert's arid surface.

- 21. What is the main topic of the passage?
(A) Deserts are dry, flat areas with few plants.
(B) There is little rainfall in the desert.
(C) Many kinds of vegetation can survive with little water.
(D) Deserts are not really flat areas with little plant life.
- 22. The passage implies that
(A) the typical conception of a desert is incorrect
(B) all deserts are dry, flat areas
(C) most people are well informed about deserts
(D) the lack of rainfall in deserts causes the lack of vegetation
- 23. The passage describes the geography of deserts as
(A) flat
(B) sandy
(C) varied
(D) void of vegetation
- 24. The word "source" in line 3 means
(A) supply
(B) storage space
(C) need
(D) lack
- 25. According to the passage, what causes an area to be classified as a desert?
(A) The type of plants
(B) The geographical formations
(C) The amount of precipitation
(D) The source of water
- 26. The word "thrive" in line 5 means
(A) suffer
(B) grow well
(C) minimally survive
(D) decay
- 27. The word "mechanisms" in line 7 could most easily be replaced by
(A) machines
(B) pumps
(C) sources
(D) methods
- 28. Which of the following is mentioned in the passage about cacti?
(A) They have deep root systems.
(B) They retain water from one rainfall to the next.
(C) They survive in the desert because they do not need water.
(D) They get water from deep below the surface of the desert.
- 29. "Mesquite" in line 10 is probably
(A) a type of tree
(B) a desert animal
(C) a type of cactus
(D) a geographical formation in the desert
- 30. The word "arid" in line 11 means
(A) deep
(B) dry
(C) sandy
(D) superficial
- 31. Where in the passage does the author describe desert vegetation that keeps water in its leaves?
(A) Lines 1-2
(B) Lines 3-6
(C) Lines 7-9
(D) Lines 9-11

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