

Practice Test 1

Question 1



Passage 1

A City Night Piece

by Oliver Goldsmith


London, the epicenter of Great Britain, has been in existence for thousands of years. In the nineteenth century, the two authors below—Oliver Goldsmith and William Wordsworth—wrote descriptions of this great industrial city.

The clock has just struck two, the expiring taper rises and sinks in the socket, the watchman forgets the hour in slumber, the laborious and the happy are at rest, and nothing wakes but meditation, guilt, revelry, and despair. . . .

Let me no longer waste the night over the page of antiquity or the sallies of contemporary genius, but pursue the solitary walk, where Vanity, ever changing, but a few hours past walked before me, where she kept up the pageant, and now, like a [froward](#)  child, seems hushed with her own [importunities](#) .

What a gloom hangs all around! The dying lamp feebly emits a yellow gleam; no sound is heard but of the chiming clock, or the distant watch-dog. All the bustle of human pride is forgotten; an hour like this may well display the emptiness of human vanity.

There will come a time when this temporary solitude may be made continual, and the city itself, like its inhabitants, fade away, and leave a desert in its room.

What cities, as great as this, have once triumphed in existence! had their victories as great, joy as just and as Unbounded, and, with short-sighted presumption, promised themselves immortality! Posterity can hardly trace the situation of some; the sorrowful traveller wanders over the lawful ruins of others; and, as he beholds, he learns wisdom, and feels the transience of every [sublunary](#)  ³ possession.

“Here,” he cries, “stood their citadel, now grown over with weeds; there, their senate house, but now the haunt of every noxious reptile; temples and theatres stood here, now only an undistinguished heap of ruin. They are fallen: for luxury and avarice first made them feeble. The rewards of the state were conferred on amusing and not on useful members of society. Their riches

and opulence invited the invaders, who, though at first repulsed, returned again, conquered by perseverance, and at last swept the defendants into undistinguished destruction.”

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Why was this heart of mine formed with so much sensibility! or why was not my fortune adapted to its impulse! Tenderness, without a capacity of relieving, only makes the man who feels it more wretched than the object which sues for assistance. Adieu.

¹froward: disobedient

²importunities: constant demands

³sublunary: pertaining to the Earth and the things of this world

“A City Night Piece,” by Oliver Goldsmith. In the public domain.

Passage 2

Composed upon Westminster Bridge, September 3, 1802

by William Wordsworth

1. Earth has not anything to show more fair:
2. Dull would he be of soul who could pass by
3. A sight so touching in its majesty:
4. This City now doth, like a garment, wear
5. The beauty of the morning; silent, bare,
6. Ships, towers, domes, theatres, and temples lie
7. Open unto the fields, and to the sky;
8. All bright and glittering in the smokeless air.
9. Never did sun more beautifully steep ①

10. In his first splendour, valley, rock, or hill;
11. Ne'er saw I, never felt, a calm so deep!
12. The river glideth at his own sweet will:
13. Dear God! the very houses seem asleep;
14. And all that mighty heart is lying still!

¹steep: immerse itself

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Which sentence from "A City Night Piece" best reflects central ideas of the passage?

- A "The dying lamp feebly emits a yellow gleam; no sound is heard but of the chiming clock, or the distant watch-dog." (paragraph 3)
- B "How few appear in those streets which, but some few hours ago, were crowded! and those who appear now no longer wear their daily mask, . . ." (paragraph 7)
- C "But who are those who make the streets their couch, and find a short repose from wretchedness at the doors of the opulent?" (paragraph 8)
- D "Tenderness, without a capacity of relieving, only makes the man who feels it more wretched than the object which sues for assistance." (paragraph 10)

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Part A

What is the author’s perspective in passage 1?

- A The author wants people to understand history more fully.
- B The author believes that too few people take walks at night.
- C The author thinks that solitude cannot bring calm to troubled people.
- D The author feels frustrated that he cannot help those in need.

Student's answer

Part B

Select the sentence from paragraph 9 that supports the author’s perspective.

Why, why was I born a man, and yet see the sufferings of wretches I cannot relieve! Poor houseless creatures! the world will give you reproaches, but will not give you relief. The slightest misfortunes of the great, the most imaginary uneasinesses of the rich, are aggravated with all the power of eloquence, and held up to engage our attention and sympathetic sorrow. The poor weep unheeded, persecuted by every subordinate species of tyranny; and every law, which gives others security, becomes an enemy to them.

Correct answer

Part B

Select the sentence from paragraph 9 that supports the author’s perspective.

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10. In his first splendour, valley, rock, or hill;
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Part A

In the poem, how does the sight of the city affect the speaker?

- A The speaker is speechless with awe at the beauty of the city.
- B The speaker mainly feels shock that the city is so quiet and seems so empty in the early morning.
- C The speaker feels a sense of immense power as he looks at the size of the city.
- D The speaker experiences a profound peace at his early morning view of the city.

Student's answer

Part B

Click on the line that best supports the answer to Part A.

Never did sun more beautifully steep
In his first splendour, valley, rock, or hill;
Ne'er saw I, never felt, a calm so deep!
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Correct answer

Part B

Click on the line that best supports the answer to Part A.

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In paragraph 6 of Passage 1, what is the main reason that Goldsmith quotes the traveller?

- A to create an air of mystery about the future of the city
- B to teach moral lessons about the reason a city would decline
- C to give details about the appearance of a city that is in ruin
- D to provide a chronological account of a city descending into ruin

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What is the purpose of paragraph 4 in the structure of passage 1?

- A Paragraph 4 gives examples of the claims the author has made in paragraphs 1 through 3.
- B Paragraph 4 changes from the point of view of the narrator to the point of view of a visitor to the city.
- C Paragraph 4 introduces an extended prediction about the possible future of the city.
- D Paragraph 4 begins a description of the sights the narrator observes as he walks through the city.

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Student's answer

Drag to the box under each title the two sentences that best describe differences between the essay and the poem. Choose two sentences for each title.

The narrator in the essay describes the quietness of the city but sees quietness as desolation.

The narrator in the essay despairs of the ugliness of the city in near darkness.

The narrator in the essay predicts that conditions in the city will improve.

The narrator in the essay sees the desire for amusement as a force of life within the city.

The speaker in the poem celebrates the beauty of the city at sunrise.

The speaker in the poem sees the river as a force of life within the city.

The speaker in the poem believes that

“A City Night Piece”



“Composed upon Westminster Bridge”



conditions in the city will deteriorate as the day goes on.

The speaker in the poem focuses on the stillness of the city as a lovely moment.

Correct answer

The narrator in

the essay describes the narrator in the poem. Choose two sentences for each title.

The narrator in the poem

describes the narrator in the poem.

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The narrator in the poem

"A City Night Piece"

The narrator in the poem

describes the narrator in the poem.

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"Composed upon Westminster Bridge"

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The narrator in the poem

Question 7

Passage 1

A City Night Piece

by Oliver Goldsmith

London, the epicenter of Great Britain, has been in existence for thousands of years. In the nineteenth century, the two authors below—Oliver Goldsmith and William Wordsworth—wrote descriptions of this great industrial city.

The clock has just struck two, the expiring taper rises and sinks in the socket, the watchman forgets the hour in slumber, the laborious and the happy are at rest, and nothing wakes but meditation, guilt, revelry, and despair. . . .

Let me no longer waste the night over the page of antiquity or the sallies of contemporary genius, but pursue the solitary walk, where Vanity, ever changing, but a few hours past walked before me, where she kept up the pageant, and now, like a froward ⓘ child, seems hushed with her own importunities ⓘ .

What a gloom hangs all around! The dying lamp feebly emits a yellow gleam; no sound is heard but of the chiming clock, or the distant watch-dog. All the bustle of human pride is forgotten; an hour like this may well display the emptiness of human vanity.

There will come a time when this temporary solitude may be made continual, and the city itself, like its inhabitants, fade away, and leave a desert in its room.

What cities, as great as this, have once triumphed in existence! had their victories as great, joy as just and as Unbounded, and, with short-sighted presumption, promised themselves immortality! Posterity can hardly trace the situation of some; the sorrowful traveller wanders over the lawful ruins of others; and, as he beholds, he learns wisdom, and feels the transience of every sublunary ⓘ³ possession.

“Here,” he cries, “stood their citadel, now grown over with weeds; there, their senate house, but now the haunt of every noxious reptile; temples and theatres stood here, now only an undistinguished heap of ruin. They are fallen: for luxury and avarice first made them feeble. The rewards of the state were conferred on amusing and not on useful members of society. Their riches and opulence invited the invaders, who, though at first repulsed, returned again, conquered by perseverance, and at last swept the defendants into undistinguished destruction.”

How few appear in those streets which, but some few hours ago, were crowded! and those who appear now no longer wear their daily mask, nor attempt to hide their lewdness or their misery.

But who are those who make the streets their couch, and find a short repose from wretchedness at the doors of the opulent? These are strangers, wanderers, and orphans, whose circumstances are too humble to expect redress, and whose distresses are too great even for pity. . . .

Why, why was I born a man, and yet see the sufferings of wretches I cannot relieve! Poor houseless creatures! the world will give you reproaches, but will not give you relief. The slightest misfortunes of the great, the most imaginary uneasinesses of the rich, are aggravated with all the power of eloquence, and held up to engage our attention and sympathetic sorrow. The poor weep unheeded, persecuted by every subordinate species of tyranny; and every law, which gives others security, becomes an enemy to them.

Why was this heart of mine formed with so much sensibility! or why was not my fortune adapted to its impulse! Tenderness, without a capacity of relieving, only makes the man who feels it more wretched than the object which sues for assistance. Adieu.

¹froward: disobedient

²importunities: constant demands

³sublunary: pertaining to the Earth and the things of this world

“A City Night Piece,” by Oliver Goldsmith. In the public domain.

Passage 2

Composed upon Westminster Bridge, September 3, 1802

by William Wordsworth

1. Earth has not anything to show more fair:
2. Dull would he be of soul who could pass by
3. A sight so touching in its majesty:
4. This City now doth, like a garment, wear
5. The beauty of the morning; silent, bare,
6. Ships, towers, domes, theatres, and temples lie
7. Open unto the fields, and to the sky;
8. All bright and glittering in the smokeless air.
9. Never did sun more beautifully steep ①
10. In his first splendour, valley, rock, or hill;
11. Ne'er saw I, never felt, a calm so deep!

12. The river glideth at his own sweet will:

13. Dear God! the very houses seem asleep;

14. And all that mighty heart is lying still!

¹steep: immerse itself

"Composed upon Westminster Bridge, September 3, 1802," by William Wordsworth. In the public domain.

Select two sentences that express similarities between the essay and the poem.

- Both portray their own unique vision of the city.
- Both believe that the city may not survive indefinitely.
- Both see the city as a place of opportunity and promise.
- Both describe the city as its inhabitants are lying asleep.
- Both use the description of the city as an opportunity to teach a lesson.
- Both provide a balanced picture of good and bad aspects of the city.

Question 8

Passage 1

A City Night Piece

by Oliver Goldsmith

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In line 4 of the poem, what does the metaphor of a “garment” suggest about the city?

- A The beauty of the city is on its outside, like a piece of clothing.
- B The silence of the city is covered up by its beauty, like a piece of clothing.
- C The city may look beautiful, but it is worn out like a piece of clothing.
- D The fields are covered by the city, like a piece of clothing covers a person.

Question 9

Excerpt from "Is It a Crime for a Citizen of the United States to Vote?"

by Susan B. Anthony

Friends and Fellow-citizens: I stand before you tonight, under indictment for the alleged crime of having voted at the last Presidential election, without having a lawful right to vote. It shall be my work this evening to prove to you that in thus voting, I not only committed no crime, but, instead, simply exercised my citizen's right, guaranteed to me and all United States citizens by the National Constitution, beyond the power of any State to deny.

Our democratic-republican government is based on the idea of the natural right of every individual member thereof to a voice and a vote in making and executing the laws. We assert the province of government to be to secure the people in the enjoyment of their unalienable rights. We throw to the winds the old dogma that governments can give rights. Before governments were organized, no one denies that each individual possessed the right to protect his own life, liberty and property. And when 100 or 1,000,000 people enter into a free government, they do not barter away their natural rights; they simply pledge themselves to protect each other in the enjoyment of them, through prescribed judicial and legislative tribunals. They agree to abandon the methods of brute force in the adjustment of their differences, and adopt those of civilization.

Nor can you find a word in any of the grand documents left us by the fathers that assumes for government the power to create or to confer rights. The Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, the constitutions of the several states and the organic laws of the territories, all alike propose to protect the people in the exercise of their God-given rights. Not one of them pretends to bestow rights.

"All men are created equal, and endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights. Among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

Here is no shadow of government authority over rights, nor exclusion of any from their full and equal enjoyment. Here is pronounced the right of all men, and "consequently," as the Quaker preacher said, "of all women," to a voice in the government. And here, in this very first paragraph of the declaration, is the assertion of the natural right of all to the ballot; for, how can "the consent of the governed" be given, if the right to vote be denied. Again:

"That whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundations on such

principles, and organizing its powers in such forms as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.”

Surely, the right of the whole people to vote is here clearly implied. For however destructive in their happiness this government might become, a disfranchised class could neither alter nor abolish it, nor institute a new one, except by the old brute force method of insurrection and rebellion. One-half of the people of this nation to-day are utterly powerless to blot from the statute books an unjust law, or to write there a new and a just one. The women, dissatisfied as they are with this form of government, that enforces taxation without representation, — that compels them to obey laws to which they have never given their consent, — that imprisons and hangs them without a trial by a jury of their peers, that robs them, in marriage, of the custody of their own persons, wages and children, — are this half of the people left wholly at the mercy of the other half, in direct violation of the spirit and letter of the declarations of the framers of this government, every one of which was based on the immutable principle of equal rights to all. By those declarations, kings, priests, popes, aristocrats, were all alike dethroned, and placed on a common level politically, with the lowliest born subject or serf. By them, too, men, as such, were deprived of their divine right to rule, and placed on a political level with women. By the practice of those declarations all class and caste distinction will be abolished; and slave, serf, plebeian, wife, woman, all alike, bound [leap] from their subject position to the proud platform of equality.

In the public domain.

Anthony begins the speech by declaring that she will prove that she did not commit a crime. What kind of evidence does she then use as the basis of a persuasive argument?

- A She retells historical events in a way that makes them understandable and engaging.
- B She builds a logical argument based on the interpretation of founding documents.
- C She cites pertinent research on her topic to increase the credibility of her ideas.
- D She refers to statements by other women who were working for the right to vote.

Question 10

Excerpt from "Is It a Crime for a Citizen of the United States to Vote?"

by Susan B. Anthony

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In the public domain.

Student's answer

The first part of Anthony's argument has been provided in the chart.

Choose three sentences that best delineate the other significant claims in her argument.

The supposed crime is voting in a presidential election because women cannot legally vote.

The Declaration of Independence makes it clear people have innate rights, including the right to vote.

It is important to remember that the judiciary and the legislature are meant to protect people's rights.

Everyone should have the vote because citizens need to make peaceful changes to government.



The fact that women are treated unfairly by the government violates the intent of the Declaration.

Women today are paying taxes even though they have no representation in the government.

Half of the population of the country is completely at the mercy of the other half's decisions.

Government does not give people their rights but is meant to protect their rights.

Correct answer

The supposed crime is the Declaration of Independence. The first part of Anthony's argument has been provided in the chart. Choose three sentences that best delineate the other significant claims in her argument.

It is the Declaration of Independence.

Every one who depends on the government should have the vote.

Half of the population of the country is completely at the mercy of the other half's decisions.

Government does not give people their rights but is meant to protect their rights.

Women today are paying taxes even though they have no representation in the government.

The fact that women are treated unfairly by the government violates the intent of the Declaration.

Everyone should have the vote because citizens need to make peaceful changes to government.

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Question 11

Excerpt from "Is It a Crime for a Citizen of the United States to Vote?"

by Susan B. Anthony

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In the public domain.

Part A

Which statement best describes Anthony's primary point of view regarding the role of government?

- A Government should define and provide basic human rights to all.
- B Government should enforce the law even when citizens are dissatisfied.
- C Government should classify different roles for different groups of people.
- D Government should ensure that basic human rights are not infringed upon.

Part B

Which two quotations from the speech provide the best evidence for Anthony's point of view?

"We assert the province of government to be to secure the people in the enjoyment of their unalienable rights." (paragraph 2)

"And when 100 or 1,000,000 people enter into a free government, they do not barter away their natural rights; they simply pledge themselves to protect each other in the enjoyment of them, through prescribed judicial and legislative tribunals." (paragraph 2)

"That whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new government . . ."
(paragraph 6)

"For however destructive in their happiness this government might become, a disfranchised class could neither alter nor abolish it, nor institute a new one, except by the old brute force method of insurrection and rebellion." (paragraph 7)

"By them, too, men, as such, were deprived of their divine right to rule, and placed on a political level with women." (paragraph 7)

"By the practice of those declarations all class and caste distinction will be abolished; and slave, serf, plebeian, wife, woman, all alike, bound from their subject position to the proud platform of equality." (paragraph 7)

Question 12

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In the public domain.

In paragraph 5, what does the word "shadow" suggest in the phrase "shadow of government authority over rights"?

- A observing rights
- B blotting out rights
- C pursuing rights
- D tracking rights

Question 13

Excerpt from "Is It a Crime for a Citizen of the United States to Vote?"

by Susan B. Anthony

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In the public domain.

Why does Anthony provide, in paragraph 7, a list of the wrongs government commits against women?

- A to illustrate that change is needed to fulfill the intentions of the founding documents
- B to urge women to take their rightful place as rulers instead of dependents
- C to ask women to forgive past actions in hopes of forging a stronger nation
- D to justify the fact that when women have power they will replace the existing government

Question 14

Excerpt from "Is It a Crime for a Citizen of the United States to Vote?"

by Susan B. Anthony

Friends and Fellow-citizens: I stand before you tonight, under indictment for the alleged crime of having voted at the last Presidential election, without having a lawful right to vote. It shall be my work this evening to prove to you that in thus voting, I not only committed no crime, but, instead, simply exercised my citizen's right, guaranteed to me and all United States citizens by the National Constitution, beyond the power of any State to deny.

Our democratic-republican government is based on the idea of the natural right of every individual member thereof to a voice and a vote in making and executing the laws. We assert the province of government to be to secure the people in the enjoyment of their unalienable rights. We throw to the winds the old dogma that governments can give rights. Before governments were organized, no one denies that each individual possessed the right to protect his own life, liberty and property. And when 100 or 1,000,000 people enter into a free government, they do not barter away their natural rights; they simply pledge themselves to protect each other in the enjoyment of them, through prescribed judicial and legislative tribunals. They agree to abandon the methods of brute force in the adjustment of their differences, and adopt those of civilization.

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In the public domain.

Read the sentence from paragraph 7.

"By the practice of those declarations all class and caste distinction will be abolished; and slave, serf, plebeian, wife, woman, all alike, bound [leap] from their subject position to the proud platform of equality.

How does the concept of a “platform” of equality relate to the central idea of Anthony’s speech?

- A A platform is wide and deep; there is room for everyone, which symbolizes Anthony's argument that the Constitution addresses rights for all.
- B A platform is flat and elevated; oppressed people rise to one level, which reflects Anthony's argument that men and women have equal rights.
- C A platform is hard to reach; equality for everyone is an exalted ideal, which illustrates Anthony's argument that the right to vote is a privilege and should be held in high regard.
- D A platform is long-lasting; everyone should have permanent equality, which describes Anthony's vision of how long unalienable rights have existed.

Question 15

Excerpt from "Is It a Crime for a Citizen of the United States to Vote?"

by Susan B. Anthony

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In the public domain.

What is the meaning of the phrase "disfranchised class" as it is used in paragraph 7?

- A people uninterested in politics
- B people unfit for decision making
- C people deprived of the right to vote
- D people disgusted with the current regime

Question 16

Excerpt from "Is It a Crime for a Citizen of the United States to Vote?"

by Susan B. Anthony

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In the public domain.

Anthony repeatedly uses the words “right” and “rights” in the speech. Which statement best describes how the concept of “right” is linked to her central ideas?

- A Because the national government gave Anthony the right to vote, the state government cannot take it away.
- B Because the right to vote is necessary for full equality, Anthony urges changes to the documents written by the Founding Fathers.
- C Because women are denied the right to vote and many other rights, Anthony believes women should revolt against the government.
- D Because Anthony has always possessed the right to vote, she could not commit a crime by voting.

Question 17

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In the public domain.

Which statement best expresses two of the central ideas of Anthony’s argument and the relationship between these ideas?

- A People rely on the government to provide justice under the law; therefore, the government should not arrest women for voting.
- B People already had their rights, which include voting, before the government was formed; therefore, the government cannot take those rights away.
- C The people who wrote the founding documents of the government did not mention voting; therefore, it is up to people who come later to interpret these documents correctly.
- D The people who are charged with crimes against the government usually are citizens; it is wrong to violate citizens’ rights by arresting them for voting.

Question 18

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Eight Million Tons of Trash Added to Ocean From Land Each Year

by Douglas Main

For the first time, scientists have estimated how much plastic in the ocean comes from the land, as opposed to from ships and fishing vessels. And it's not a small number.

A study published in the journal *Science* calculates that 8 million tons of plastic trash makes its way into the ocean each year.

"This is equivalent to five large trash bags full of plastic trash, for every foot of coastline in the world," says study co-author Jenna Jambeck, an environmental engineer at the University of Georgia.

That number is the middle of the range of estimates the researchers came up with; the total may be as low as 4.8 million tons but could be as high as 12.7 million. And it could get worse: Under a "business as usual" scenario where no major waste management changes are made, that number is set to double by 2025, Jambeck adds.

This "ground breaking study" shows that "the oceans are likely to be even more contaminated than we have previously considered based on counting litter at sea and on shorelines," says Richard Thompson, a marine biologist at Plymouth University.

The top 20 waste contributors are all developing countries with densely populated coasts—with one notable exception: The United States comes in at number 20 on the list. Approximately 75,000 tons of American plastic waste enters the oceans via the land each year, the study noted. To put that in context, the U.S. recycles 2.8 million tons of plastic annually, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

China is far and away the largest contributor to the problem, producing about 2.4 million tons of plastic waste each year, accounting for 28 percent of the world's total.

But Jambeck was quick to say that this study isn't about pointing fingers or assigning blame. It's a problem that everybody contributes to and can help improve, she says.

Previous studies have shown that there are 270,000 tons of microplastics—tiny particles and fibers of plastic—floating on the surface of the world's oceans. And there's even more plastic trash on the

ocean bottom. In one area of seafloor in the remote Indian Ocean that is about one-third the size of Central Park, scientists recently counted an estimated 4 billion plastic fibers. They believe that the ocean is equally polluted in many other places.

Plastic pollution is a problem for many reasons. Most obviously it can entangle and choke animals like sea turtles, birds and mammals like dolphins. Plastics can also both soak up and leach out toxins that can make their way into sea animals' bodies, potentially accumulating in the food web and finally ending up in seafood that humans eat, says Chelsea Rochman, an ecotoxicologist at the University of California-Davis who wasn't involved in the study.

Jambeck says the solution to this marine problem lies on land. Marcus Eriksen, the director of research at 5 Gyres, an environmental and research organization, concurs. "It's not sensible to go to the ocean with nets to capture trash, but rather to focus on mitigation strategies on land," says Eriksen.

To reduce waste, countries have to come up with better "collection, capture and containment" methods, Jambeck says. Much of the plastic that ends up in the ocean from the land is carried by water, and also the wind. So a properly managed waste stream is important, she says.

But to really solve the problem, plastic producers should design products that can be reused or easily reprocessed, Eriksen says. "If all plastic products and packaging were designed with a recovery incentive, then very little would likely make its way to the ocean," he says. "Design matters as much as waste management."

"Eight Million Tons of Trash Added to Ocean From Land Each Year," by Douglas Main, from newsweek.com, February 12, 2015. Copyright © 2015 Newsweek LLC via Copyright Clearance Center.

Select two statements that best express central ideas from the passage.

- Developing countries like China contribute the largest quantity of plastic waste.
- There is more plastic pollution in the ocean than previously thought.
- Seafood from the Indian Ocean contains high levels of toxins.
- Plastic trash on both the surface and seabed of the ocean causes the extinction of many marine species.
- The best way to solve the problem presented by plastics is to restrict the number of products made of plastic.
- Various strategies should be employed to reduce pollution from plastic.

Question 19

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That number is the middle of the range of estimates the researchers came up with; the total may be as low as 4.8 million tons but could be as high as 12.7 million. And it could get worse: Under a "business as usual" scenario where no major waste management changes are made, that number is set to double by 2025, Jambeck adds.

This "ground breaking study" shows that "the oceans are likely to be even more contaminated than we have previously considered based on counting litter at sea and on shorelines," says Richard Thompson, a marine biologist at Plymouth University.

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ocean bottom. In one area of seafloor in the remote Indian Ocean that is about one-third the size of Central Park, scientists recently counted an estimated 4 billion plastic fibers. They believe that the ocean is equally polluted in many other places.

Plastic pollution is a problem for many reasons. Most obviously it can entangle and choke animals like sea turtles, birds and mammals like dolphins. Plastics can also both soak up and leach out toxins that can make their way into sea animals' bodies, potentially accumulating in the food web and finally ending up in seafood that humans eat, says Chelsea Rochman, an ecotoxicologist at the University of California-Davis who wasn't involved in the study.

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How does the author use information from experts, researchers, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to advance his purpose?

- A He uses the information to explain the research methods used to determine the extent of the plastic trash problem.
- B He uses the information to present credible sources to verify that the plastic trash problem is both real and serious.
- C He uses the information to link the plastic trash problem to consumers' dependence on plastic goods.
- D He uses the information to provide the evidence necessary for developed countries to take action against the main contributors to the problem.

Question 20

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The following item has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.

Part A

What does the phrase "mitigation strategies" mean as it is used in paragraph 10?

- A efforts to find cheaper material from which to make plastics
- B approaches to lessen the problem of plastic trash
- C methods to retrieve plastic trash
- D plans to implement a ban on plastics

Part B

Select two details from paragraphs 10–12 that best help the reader determine the meaning of “mitigation strategies.”

- “Jambeck says the solution to this marine problem lies on land.”
- “It’s not sensible to go to the ocean with nets to capture trash. . . .”
- “To reduce waste, countries have to come up with better ‘collection, capture and containment’ methods. . . .”
- “Much of the plastic that ends up in the ocean from the land is carried by water, and also the wind.”
- “. . . plastic producers should design products that can be reused or easily reprocessed. . . .”

Question 21

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Eight Million Tons of Trash Added to Ocean From Land Each Year

by Douglas Main

For the first time, scientists have estimated how much plastic in the ocean comes from the land, as opposed to from ships and fishing vessels. And it's not a small number.

A study published in the journal *Science* calculates that 8 million tons of plastic trash makes its way into the ocean each year.

"This is equivalent to five large trash bags full of plastic trash, for every foot of coastline in the world," says study co-author Jenna Jambeck, an environmental engineer at the University of Georgia.

That number is the middle of the range of estimates the researchers came up with; the total may be as low as 4.8 million tons but could be as high as 12.7 million. And it could get worse: Under a "business as usual" scenario where no major waste management changes are made, that number is set to double by 2025, Jambeck adds.

This "ground breaking study" shows that "the oceans are likely to be even more contaminated than we have previously considered based on counting litter at sea and on shorelines," says Richard Thompson, a marine biologist at Plymouth University.

The top 20 waste contributors are all developing countries with densely populated coasts—with one notable exception: The United States comes in at number 20 on the list. Approximately 75,000 tons of American plastic waste enters the oceans via the land each year, the study noted. To put that in context, the U.S. recycles 2.8 million tons of plastic annually, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

China is far and away the largest contributor to the problem, producing about 2.4 million tons of plastic waste each year, accounting for 28 percent of the world's total.

But Jambeck was quick to say that this study isn't about pointing fingers or assigning blame. It's a problem that everybody contributes to and can help improve, she says.

Previous studies have shown that there are 270,000 tons of microplastics—tiny particles and fibers of plastic—floating on the surface of the world's oceans. And there's even more plastic trash on the

ocean bottom. In one area of seafloor in the remote Indian Ocean that is about one-third the size of Central Park, scientists recently counted an estimated 4 billion plastic fibers. They believe that the ocean is equally polluted in many other places.

Plastic pollution is a problem for many reasons. Most obviously it can entangle and choke animals like sea turtles, birds and mammals like dolphins. Plastics can also both soak up and leach out toxins that can make their way into sea animals' bodies, potentially accumulating in the food web and finally ending up in seafood that humans eat, says Chelsea Rochman, an ecotoxicologist at the University of California-Davis who wasn't involved in the study.

Jambeck says the solution to this marine problem lies on land. Marcus Eriksen, the director of research at 5 Gyres, an environmental and research organization, concurs. "It's not sensible to go to the ocean with nets to capture trash, but rather to focus on mitigation strategies on land," says Eriksen.

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But to really solve the problem, plastic producers should design products that can be reused or easily reprocessed, Eriksen says. "If all plastic products and packaging were designed with a recovery incentive, then very little would likely make its way to the ocean," he says. "Design matters as much as waste management."

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What kinds of evidence does the author mainly use to support the central idea in the passage?

- A quotations from experts, including an author of a recent study
- B personal experience with the effects of pollution on the earth
- C eyewitness testimonies, including reports by environmental observers
- D counter-arguments to previously accepted opinions

Question 22

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

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The following item has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.

Part A

What is the meaning of the term "food web" as it is used in paragraph 9?

- A net used to capture fish
- B plants and animals that are interconnected through diet
- C toxic organisms linked to food poisoning
- D mesh created by accumulated plastic pollution

Part B

How does the author's use of this term affect the meaning of paragraph 9?

- A It is a symbolic way of describing the physical structure of plastic fibers on the seafloor.
- B It stresses the dangers sea turtles, birds, and mammals face when they become entangled in plastic pollution.
- C It alludes to the complicated, tangled nature of the problem of plastic pollution.
- D It emphasizes how all living organisms are interdependent and therefore affected by plastic pollution.

Question 23

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

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Select the two sentences that together summarize the passage.

- For every foot of coastline in the world, five trash bags full of plastic trash are discarded each year.
- A study published in *Science* reveals that the problem of plastic trash in the ocean is more serious than previously realized.
- Plastics break down into tiny particles and fibers that float on the ocean's surface and settle to the bottom.
- The largest plastic waste contributor is China.
- Better methods of collecting plastic waste on land and designs that encourage reuse and recycling are keys to reducing plastic pollution in the ocean.
- Plastic trash is carried to the ocean from land by water and wind.

Question 24

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

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The following item has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.

Part A

Select two central ideas of the passage.

- Most plastic pollution in the ocean originates on ships and fishing vessels.
- Millions of tons of plastic trash enter the ocean each year.
- Most plastic pollution is created by developed countries.
- Plastic pollution negatively impacts sea animals, birds, and humans.
- Scientists are unable to determine exactly how much plastic trash is dumped in the ocean annually.
- A remote area of seafloor in the Indian Ocean is one of the most polluted places in the world.

Part B

Consider the correct answers in Part A. What is the relationship between the ideas?

- A The ideas represent a problem-and-solution relationship.
- B The ideas illustrate opposite sides of an ongoing debate.
- C The ideas represent a cause-and-effect relationship.
- D The ideas illustrate a general principle supported by a specific reason.

Question 25

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Which statement best describes the structure of the passage?

- A The findings of a study are debated. The merits of the findings are weighed. Two experts offer contrasting opinions.
- B Two experts offer opinions. The opinions are discussed. Other experts refute their conclusions.
- C Two solutions for a problem are offered. The solutions are analyzed. One conclusion is drawn.
- D The findings of a study are presented. The findings are elaborated upon. Two solutions are offered.

