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Question: 1

Which of the following describes this type of writing?

- A. Narrative
- B. Persuasive
- C. Expository
- D. Technical

Answer: C

Explanation:

The passage is expository in the sense that it looks more closely into the mysteries of the Bermuda Triangle and exposes information about what researchers have studied and now believe.

Question: 2

Which of the following sentences is most representative of a summary sentence for this passage?

- A. The problem with having a larger Bermuda Triangle is that it increases the odds of accidents.
- B. The area that is called the Bermuda Triangle happens to fall within one of the busiest navigational regions in the world, and the reality of greater activity creates the possibility for more to go wrong.
- C. One of the biggest challenges in considering the phenomenon is deciding how much area actually represents the Bermuda Triangle.
- D. Researchers have never been able to find anything truly mysterious about what happens in the Bermuda Triangle, if there even is a Bermuda Triangle.

Answer: D

Explanation:

This sentence is the best summary statement for the entire passage, because it wraps up clearly what the author is saying about the results of studies on the Bermuda Triangle.

Question: 3

With which of the following statements would the author most likely agree?

- A. There is no real mystery about the Bermuda Triangle because most events have reasonable explanations.
- B. Researchers are wrong to expand the focus of the Triangle to the Azores, because this increases the likelihood of accidents.
- C. The official statement of "causes or reasons unknown" in the loss of the Navy planes was a deliberate concealment from the Navy.
- D. Reducing the legends about the mysteries of the Bermuda Triangle will help to reduce the number of reported accidents or shipping losses in that region.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Of all the sentences provided, this is the one with which the author would most likely agree. The passage suggests that most of the "mysteries" of the Bermuda Triangle can be explained in a reasonable way. The passage mentions that some expand the Triangle to the Azores, but this is a point of fact, and the author makes no mention of whether or not this is in error. The author quotes the Navy's response to the disappearance of the planes, but there is no reason to believe the author questions this response. The author raises questions about the many myths surrounding the Triangle, but at no point does the author connect these myths with what are described as accidents that fall "within the expected margin of error."

Question: 4

Which of the following represents an opinion statement on the part of the author?

- A. The problem with having a larger Bermuda Triangle is that it increases the odds of accidents.
- B. The area known as the Bermuda Triangle has become such a part of popular culture that it can be difficult to sort through the myth and locate the truth.
- C. The increase in ships from East Asia no doubt contributes to an increase in accidents.
- D. Most consider the Triangle to stretch from Miami to Puerto Rico and include the island of Bermuda.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The inclusion of the statement about the ships from East Asia is an opinion statement, as the author provides no support or explanation. The other statements within the answer choices offer supporting evidence and explanatory material, making them acceptable for an expository composition.

Question: 5

Which of the following is a common argument that researchers make about the validity of the Bermuda Triangle's reputation?

- A. It cannot be scientifically verified, since accidents happen for "causes or reasons unknown."

- B. The boundaries of the area must be established and agreed upon before any test of the reputation would be possible.
- C. The supernatural nature of the Bermuda Triangle is well established in popular culture.
- D. Since the number of accidents attributed to the area is within a normal margin of error, there is nothing extraordinary about the Bermuda Triangle.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The inclusion of the statement about the ships from East Asia is an opinion statement, as the author provides no support or explanation. The other statements within the answer choices offer supporting evidence and explanatory material, making them acceptable for an expository composition.

Question: 6

As it is used in the context of the passage, *discomposed* most nearly means:

- A. Inverted
- B. Forgetful
- C. Broken down
- D. Disoriented

The next six questions are based on the following passage.

In the United States, the foreign language requirement for high school graduation is decided at the state level. This means the requirement varies, with some states deciding to forego a foreign language requirement altogether (www.ncssfl.org). It is necessary that these states reconsider their position and amend their requirements to reflect compulsory completion of a course of one or more foreign languages. Studying a foreign language has become increasingly important for the global economy. As technology continues to make international business relations increasingly easy, people need to keep up by increasing their communication capabilities. High school graduates with foreign language credits have been shown to have an increased college acceptance rate. In addition, students who have mastered more than one language typically find themselves in greater demand when they reach the job market. Students who did not study a foreign language often find themselves unable to obtain a job at all.

Answer: D

Explanation:

The best substitute for *discomposed* in the passage would be *disoriented*. There is no evidence given that the planes became inverted or that the pilots were forgetful. There is no way to know if the planes or pilots broke down prior to becoming lost.

Question: 7

What is the main idea of this passage?

- A. Studying a foreign language will help graduating students find jobs after high school.
- B. Studying a foreign language should be a mandatory requirement for high school graduation.
- C. Studying a foreign language helps students gain an understanding of other cultures.
- D. Studying a foreign language is essential if a student hopes to get into college.

Answer:

Explanation: B

The passage does not say that studying a foreign language will help students find jobs after high school (choice A) or gain an understanding of other cultures (choice C). The passage does say that studying a foreign language is important for college acceptance (choice D), but this point alone is not the main idea of the passage.

Question: 8

Which of the following statements represents the best summary of the claims made in this passage?

- A. Studying a foreign language is important if you want to graduate from high school and get a job.
- B. Studying a foreign language is important for the global economy because of the technological advances that have been made in international communications.
- C. Studying a foreign language is important for the global economy, college acceptance rates, and becoming a sought-after candidate in the job market.
- D. Studying a foreign language is important for college acceptance rates and obtaining a job after college.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The passage does not claim that studying a foreign language is essential to high school graduation (choice A). Choices B and D represent claims made in the passage, but do not include all of the claims made.

Question: 9

Which of the following statements represents an EXAGGERATED claim in support of the argument presented in this passage?

- A. In the United States, the foreign language requirement for high school graduation is decided at the state level.
- B. Studying a foreign language has become increasingly important for the global economy.
- C. High school graduates with foreign language credits have been shown to have an increased college acceptance rate.
- D. Students who did not study a foreign language often find themselves unable to obtain a job at all.

Answer: D

Explanation:

Although students may find knowledge of a foreign language helpful in obtaining a job, it is an obvious exaggeration to claim that students who did not study a foreign language would be unemployable.

Question: 10

Which of the following would be a useful source of information to determine the validity of the argument presented in this passage?

- A. A survey of high school students' preferences with regard to foreign language requirements.
- B. A comparison of the correlation between a second language introduced at home and subsequent college acceptance rates.
- C. A survey that asks parents to select the foreign language they would like their children to study in high school.
- D. A comparison of the correlation between high school students' study of a foreign language and subsequent college acceptance rates.

Answer: D

Explanation:

Choices A and C represent options that would provide information regarding the opinions of students and parents, but not actual evidence regarding the influence of studying a foreign language on future success. Choice B specifies a second language taught at home, whereas the passage focuses specifically on a foreign language taught in high school.