

1. GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

In the American Civil War, raiders swept through south-western Missouri. They seized a slave mother and her baby on Moses Carver's Diamond Grove farm near Diamond, Mo. Carver reportedly got the baby back in exchange for a \$300 racehorse, but the mother was not found. The slaveholder named the motherless child George Washington Carver.

Young Carver did not grow strong enough to work in the fields, but he did household chores: In the garden he made plants flourish. He had been freed from slavery for several years before he left the Carvers to get an education. Doing cooking, laundry and odd jobs, he worked his way through high school in Kansas. He then earned his way at Simpson College at Indianola, Iowa, and-Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, now Iowa State University, at Ames. He got his M.S. degree in agriculture in 1896.

Carver's achievements with plants brought him to the attention of Booker T. Washington, founder of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. Carver became head of Tuskegee's agriculture department in 1896. In his 47 years there, the great plant scientist-did notable work in scientific agriculture and chemurgical, the industrial use of raw products from plants. He made hundreds of useful products from peanuts and sweet potatoes alone.

Carver was in addition a painter and a musician. In 1940 he gave his life savings toward establishing the George Washington Carver Foundation for research in agricultural chemistry. Ten years after his death in Tuskegee on January 5, 1943, Carver's birthplace was dedicated as a national monument.

1- According to the passage, George Washington Carver's mother ----- .

- A) gave her baby away to a slaveholder
- B) was killed during a raid in the American Civil War
- C) disappeared after being captured from the farm
- D) did the washing and housework at Moses Carver's farm
- E) was not strong enough to work on a farm

2-It is clear from the details in the passage that when George Washington Carver became a free man----- .

- A) he made several attempts to find his mother
- B) he immediately left the farm where he grew up
- C) he stayed on with the same family for some time
- D) he fought in the American Civil War
- E) he bought a race horse for \$300 dollars

3-According to the passage, despite his humble beginnings, George Washington Carver----- .

- A) became a well respected man of science
- B) became a slave owning farmer
- C) bought an expensive race horse
- D) founded the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama
- E) built outstanding national monuments

2. YANKEE

Best known of all national nicknames perhaps is Yankee. Yet the origin of this famous name for Americans is a mystery. Scholars once thought it came from Yengees, which was supposed to be the way the American Indians pronounced the word English, or its French equivalent, Anglais. Another theory is that a Dutch nickname Yankey is the source, because as early as 1683 it was used by Dutch sailors. Yankey may have been derived from Janke, a diminutive of the Dutch name Jan.

In colonial America the colonists of other regions rather scornfully called New Englanders Yankees. The British did not observe the local distinction and used the term for all of the colonists. During the American Civil War Southerners spoke of all Northerners as Yankees. The British called United States soldiers Yanks in both world wars, and eventually, the term has become popular as a nickname for all Americans.

The origin of the song "Yankee Doodle" is also uncertain. This sprightly, impudent tune was popular in the colonies by 1770. The British used it to make fun of the Americans early in the Revolution, but the victorious Americans adopted it as their own marching song. The best known verse runs:

Yankee Doodle went to town

Riding on a pony;

Stuck a feather in his hat

And called it Macaroni Macaroni was the name given to English dandies.

4- According to the passage, the term Yankee----- .

- A) has been replaced by the term Yankey
- B) is used to refer to all Americans today
- C) was first used to describe American Indians
- D) was initially applied only to American soldiers
- E) is always used disrespectfully

5- From the information in the passage, we understand that the song "Yankee Doodle" ----- .

- A) was a favourite of American Indians
- B) was written by an English dandy
- C) would be sung by Dutch sailors as early as 1683
- D) used to be sung by American revolutionaries
- E) was popular in Britain before it became so in America

6- Although the origin of the nickname Yankee is a mystery, the author ----- .

- A) is certain it is derived from the French word Anglais
- B) thinks a Dutch origin is the most likely
- C) is sure of the origin of the song "Yankee Doodle"
- D) believes it could have derived from a British word for soldier
- E) points out two possible sources

3. THE REMAINS of THE QUEEN ANNE'S REVENGE

For more than two and a half centuries, the final resting place of one of history's most notorious sea vessels remained a mystery. In 1718 the Queen Anne's Revenge, which had been the fleet flagship of the infamous pirate Edward Teach, was sunk off the Atlantic coast of the American colonies. Teach, known popularly as Black beard, escaped from the sinking vessel along with his crew. Legend has it that they were able to save the vast treasures they had accumulated during two years of plundering ships and towns along the Eastern seaboard. Although the whereabouts of the rumoured treasure remained unknown, marine archaeologists working off the coast of North Carolina discovered what they believed to be the sunken remains of the Queen Anne's Revenge. The hull of the ship apparently settled near where it was reported to have sunk, in water little more than 6 metres deep and less than 2 miles from the coast. The location of the ship had remained undetermined for more than 270 years mostly because of the clutter of other ships at the bottom of the ocean in that area. Since the time of the ship's sinking, literally hundreds of ships had come to rest in the vicinity of the suspected resting place of the Queen Anne's Revenge. The team of marine archaeologists, however, consulted a rare book from 1719 that chronicled the story of the sinking of Black beard's notorious ship, which ran ashore in 1718 while attempting to enter Beaufort inlet near North Carolina. The book provided an exact description of the location where the ship went down, and the marine archaeologists were able to locate the ship using that information and a sophisticated device designed to detect large amounts of metal. This device made it possible for the archaeologists to detect the ship's numerous cannons.

In November 1996, after a decade-long process of research and underwater searching, the team finally located the hull of a ship that seemed consistent with known information concerning the design of the Queen Anne's Revenge.

7- The remains of the ship described in the passage were found----- .

- A) in 1719, after the publication of a diary of events of 1718
- B) by the famous marine biologist Edward Teach
- C) on the shores of Beaufort inlet in North Carolina
- D) by marine scientists purely by chance
- E) in relatively shallow waters close to the American mainland

8- From the facts given in the passage, we know that Black beard ----- .

- A) was a member of Queen Anne's army
- B) died with his crew when the Queen Anne's Revenge sank off the American coast
- C) escaped from the Queen Anne's Revenge, but had to leave all his riches on board
- D) had stolen large amounts of valuable items from towns on the American coast
- E) was the leader of a team of marine archaeologists

9- According to the passage, a special metal detector was used to ----- .

- A) raise the Queen Anne's Revenge from the water
- B) locate the treasure left by Black beard
- C) remove the wreckage of other sunken vessels
- D) decipher a rare and ancient book
- E) find the location of the ship's large guns

4. SUSAN ELOISE HINTON

Susan Eloise Hinton is an American author, born in Tulsa, Okla., in 1950. As a young writer, Hinton decided to write under her initials in order to deflect attention from her gender. She set out to write about the difficult social system that teenagers create among themselves. Her books struck a chord with adolescents who saw in her characters many elements of this system that existed in their own schools and towns.

In 1967, while she was still in high school, Hinton published her first book. *The Outsiders*. The story of confrontation between rival groups of teenagers was immediately successful with critics and young readers, and it won several awards. There was some controversy about the level of violence in the novel and in her other works, but Hinton was praised for her realistic and explosive dialogue. The financial, as well as literary, success of *The Outsiders* enabled Hinton to continue her education in college.

She graduated from the University of Tulsa in 1970. Her other novels for young adults included *That Was Then, This Is Now*, published in 1971, *Rumble Fish*, in 1975, *Tex*, 1979, and *Taming the Star Runner*, in 1988. Each of her books featured a cast of characters that suffered from society's ills. Young people alienated from their families and from their peers were seen to veer into criminal paths. Several of her books, including *The Outsiders* and *Rumble Fish*, were later adapted as motion pictures.

10- It is clear from the passage that Susan Eloise Hinton ----- .

- A) initially didn't want her readership to know she was female
- B) wrote purely romantic novels
- C) was not successful until later in life
- D) had little formal education due to her financial circumstances
- E) was a skilled film director as well as a writer

11- From the information in the passage, we could describe the fiction of Susan Eloise Hinton as ----- .

- A) over sentimental and superficial
- B) featuring youth culture and its problems
- C) popular with teenagers, but not with critics
- D) more popular with males than with females
- E) centred around high society and celebrities

12- The author of the passage emphasises that teenagers ----- .

- A) became more violent as a direct result of reading Hinton's books
- B) found Hinton's stories patronising and humiliating
- C) preferred Hinton's books to the films made from them
- D) could identify with the characters and plots of Hinton's books
- E) prefer to live within accepted social norms of the wider society

5. MINIATURE ADULTS

Perhaps the best description of the children who attended earlier schools is by the English novelist Charles Dickens: Pale and worn-outfaced, lank and bony figures, children with the expressions of old men. . . . There was childhood with the light of its eyes quenched, its beauty gone, and its helplessness alone remaining.

It is no wonder then that Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi's (1746-1827) school at Yverdon, Switzerland, created international attention and attracted thousands of European and American visitors from the educational circles. What they saw was a school for children - for real children, not miniature adults. They saw physically active children - running, jumping and playing. They saw small children learning the names of numbers by counting real objects and preparing to learn reading by playing with letter blocks. They saw older children engaged in object lessons - progressing in their study of geography from observing the area around the school, measuring it, making their own relief maps of it, and finally seeing a professionally executed map of it.

This was the school and these were the methods developed by Pestalozzi in accordance with his belief that the goal of education should be the natural development of the individual child, and that educators should focus on the development of the child rather than on memorisation of subject matter that he was unable to understand. Pestalozzi's school also mirrored the idea that learning begins with firsthand observation of an object and moves gradually toward the remote and abstract realm of words and ideas. The teacher's job was to guide, not distort, the natural growth of the child by selecting his experiences and then directing those experiences toward the realm of ideas.

13-From the details in the passage, Pestalozzi's teaching method could be described as ----- .

- A) a teacher-centred approach
- B) concentrating on memorisation of facts
- C) typical of those described by Charles Dickens
- D) a child-centred approach
- E) typical of those in earlier European and American schools

14-According to the passage, Pestalozzi believed ----- .

- A) sporting achievement was more important than academic success
- B) Charles Dickens's description of school children to be wholly inaccurate
- C) children could not perform complex calculations
- D) learning should advance from the practical to the theoretical
- E) that school automatically destroyed the joy of childhood

15-We learn from the passage that Pestalozzi's methods ----- .

- A) left children exhausted and looking pale
- B) hindered the normal development of children .
- C) were expensive to implement
- D) were quickly adopted by American schools
- E) aroused the interest of educationalists internationally

6. INEQUALITY in DISEASE

While cases of AIDS have been reported in every nation of the world, the disease affects some countries more than others. More than 95 percent of all HIV-infected people live in the developing world. In these areas, the disease has depleted the populations of young men and women who form the foundation of the labour force. Most die when they should be in the peak of their productive years. Moreover, the epidemic has overwhelmed health-care systems, increased the number of orphans, and caused life expectancy rates to plummet. These problems have reached crisis proportions in some parts of the world already burdened by war, political upheaval, or unrelenting poverty. Nowhere is this better demonstrated than in sub-Saharan Africa, where the number of AIDS cases far exceeds that of all other geographic regions. Of the estimated 14,000 HIV infections that occur each day worldwide, about half occur in sub-Saharan Africa. About 70 percent of all people infected with HIV live in this region. In some countries in the southern part of the continent, including Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zimbabwe, more than 30 percent of the population has HIV infection or AIDS.

16-It is stated in the passage that Sub-Saharan Africans ----- .

- A) are disproportionately affected by AIDS compared to the rest of the world
- B) are not aware of the dangers of AIDS
- C) do not make an attempt to control the spread of AIDS
- D) are less likely to have AIDS if they live in Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland or Zimbabwe
- E) have lost about 30 percent of their populations through AIDS

17-From the information given in the passage, we understand that ----- .

- A) more children die from AIDS than do adults
- B) AIDS is almost non-existent in the developed world
- C) Sub-Saharan Africa has lost almost half of its work force through AIDS
- D) most of those who die from AIDS are young adults
- E) the disease AIDS is related to the geological features of an area

18-The author remarks that in some developing areas, the AIDS crisis ----- .

- A) has led to 95 percent of the population being infected
- B) is completely under control
- C) is an additional problem among other social burdens
- D) has led to much greater investment into health-care systems
- E) has affected almost equally every nation in the world

7. ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM

Studies have shown that not all individuals are equally exposed to pollution. For example, worldwide toxic-waste sites are more prevalent in poorer communities. In the United States the single most important factor in predicting the location of such sites is the ethnic composition of a neighbourhood. Three of the five largest commercial hazardous-waste landfills in America are in predominantly black or Hispanic neighbourhoods, and three out of every five black or Hispanic Americans live in the vicinity of an uncontrolled toxic-waste site. The wealth of a community is not nearly as good a predictor of hazardous-waste locations as the ethnic background of the residents, suggesting that the selection of sites for hazardous-waste disposal involves racism. Environmental racism takes international forms as well. American corporations often continue to produce dangerous, US-banned chemicals and ship them to developing countries. In addition, the developed world has shipped large amounts of toxic waste to developing countries for unsafe disposal. For instance, experts estimate that 50 to 80 percent of electronic waste produced in the United States, including computer parts, is shipped to waste sites in developing countries, such as China and India. At a waste site in Guiyu, China, labourers with no protective clothing regularly burn plastics and circuit boards from old computers. They pour acid on electronic parts to extract silver and gold, and they smash cathode-ray tubes from computer monitors to remove lead. These activities so pollute the groundwater beneath the site that drinking water is brought to the area by trucks from a town 29 km away.

19-The author of the passage seems to believe that, the first consideration in the selection of a place for toxic-waste disposal is ----- .

- A) the economic conditions of the residents
- B) the ethnic roots of the people living in the area
- C) the distance of the site from the sources of the waste
- D) the soil composition of the chosen area
- E) the availability of easy transport to the area

20- The author points out that chemicals not allowed in the US ----- .

- A) are no longer produced there
- B) are not really unsafe
- C) are safely handled by employees in other countries
- D) are quite easy to dispose of safely
- E) are exported to less developed countries

21-It is clear from the passage that at a waste site ----- .

- A) the majority of the workers are of black or Hispanic origins
- B) a greater part of the waste is recycled
- C) the waste is buried deep in the soil
- D) underground water becomes too contaminated to drink
- E) Chinese workers are the most greedy

8. KWANZAA

Kwanzaa is an African American festival. Celebrated around the world by millions of people of African descent, the week-long holiday of Kwanzaa was developed by the American scholar and activist Maniana Karenga in 1966. Kwanzaa celebrates African family, community and culture. It is based on African harvest celebrations, and the name comes from the Swahili for "first fruits of harvest." It takes place from December 26 to January 1, a time that in some African cultures is called "the time when the edges of the year meet" and is traditionally spent in celebration, focus and assessment. The symbolism of the festival comes from various African traditions. Each night, one or more of seven candles arranged in a candleholder — one black, three red and three green — is lit, and one of seven principles is discussed: unity, self-determination, collective work, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith. These are considered the highest ethical and cultural values and are also known as the seven principles of African American community development. Kwanzaa is represented by seven symbols: crops, a mat, a candleholder, the seven candles, ears of corn, gifts and a unity cup, the Kikome Cha Umoja. All seven symbols are put on a straw mat. The celebrants use the unity cup to pour libations for the ancestors and they drink, from it to reinforce unity in the family and community. The candles are lit alternately from left to right. On the first night, the black candle in the center, symbolising the black people, is lit; on the second night, the black one and the first candle to its left, a red one, symbolising their struggle; on the third night, the first two and the green one to the right of the black one, which symbolises the future and hope which comes from the struggle; and so on each night, alternating left to right. Gifts such as books or heritage symbols relating to the history, culture or community of African Americans are exchanged; they are primarily given to children, but other family members can also exchange gifts.

22- According to the passage, Kwanzaa ----- .

- A) is held to honour a great African American
- B) began to be celebrated in Africa
- C) is derived from African harvest celebrations
- D) means "the time when the edges of the year meet" in Swahili
- E) is the African name for Christmas

23-The author points out that central to Kwanzaa is ----- .

- A) the Swahili language in which all ceremonies take place
- B) ornate temples for worship
- C) a set of ethical beliefs and cultural values
- D) the worship of Maulana Karenga
- E) an African holy man

24-According to the passage, during Kwanzaa, children ----- .

- A) blow out the seven candles on the mat
- B) often receive educational gifts
- C) are wanted to read books written in Swahili
- D) light the seven candles on the mat
- E) prefer books to heritage symbols

9. BRITAIN'S EARLIER PRISONS

In England the first use of prisons was to house vagrants and other idle persons. Later, minor offenders and debtors were imprisoned — since major offenders were executed. Prisons were mainly places to put people away and forget about them. Thus they were neglected and poorly run institutions subject to terrible overcrowding, filth and disease. Charles Dickens presented a vivid picture of life in London's famous Marshalsea debtors' prison in his novel *Little Dorrit*; published in 1857. Even more famous were London's Newgate and Fleet prisons for their overcrowding, filth and violence. In Great Britain the movement to reform prisons was begun in 1773 by John Howard, the appointed sheriff of Bedfordshire. His reports on prison conditions, especially *The State of the Prisons*, spurred a sweeping reform movement that was also influential in the United States. His reports coincided with an extreme overcrowding of British prisons, in part because transportation of criminals to overseas colonies had diminished. So overcrowded were some prisons that many criminals were housed on decaying ships in the Thames River. The Prisons Act of 1791 was the first step toward creating a national prison system and alleviating the worst conditions.

25-According to the passage, prisoners in the earliest English prisons most likely ----- .

- A) had been involved in a violent crime
- B) would be executed eventually
- C) would be transported to overseas colonies
- D) owed people money
- E) had not committed a very serious offence

26-From the information given in the passage, we can infer that before the 18th century, Britain ----- .

- A) used to send a lot of its criminals to overseas colonies
- B) was faced with a high unemployment rate
- C) would execute all those who had committed a crime
- D) was more tolerant to its criminals than in the following centuries
- E) had almost no prisons

27-The author points out that one thing instrumental in bringing about changes in the British prison system was ----- .

- A) the abolition of capital punishment in 1791
- B) a rise in violent crime
- C) the fiction works of Charles Dickens, describing the dirt and overcrowding
- D) the written work of John Howard on the standards of prisons
- E) a fall in the number of homeless people

10. THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

At the Congress of Paris in 1894, the control and development of the modern Olympic Games was entrusted to the International Olympic Committee — IOC — with headquarters to be established in Switzerland. Today the committee is responsible for maintaining the regular celebration of the Olympic Games; seeing that the Games are carried out in the spirit that inspired their revival; and promoting the development of amateur sport throughout the world. The original committee in 1894 consisted of 14 members and Coubertin, the leader of the movement aiming to restart the Olympic Games of ancient Greece, and membership since then has been self-perpetuating. Convinced that the downfall of the ancient Olympic Games had been caused by outside influences that undermined the spirit of the Games, Coubertin felt that the revived Games would go the same way unless they were in the hands of people whose concern was to keep the spirit of amateur sport alive and who were responsible in no way to any outside influences. Thus IOC members are regarded as ambassadors from the IOC to their national sports organisations. They are in no sense delegates to the committee and may not accept from the government of their country, or from any organisation or individual, any instructions that in any way affect their independence. The IOC is a permanent organisation that elects its own members. Each member — the present membership is about 70 — must speak French or English and be a citizen of or reside in a country that has a National Olympic Committee. With a very few exceptions, there is only one member from any one country. Members were originally elected for life, but anyone elected after 1965 must retire at 75.

28-According to the passage, the International Olympic Committee ----- .

- A) offers prize money to Olympic competitors
- B) consults the governments of competing countries on the planning of games
- C) ensures that events reflect what was planned for the modern games
- D) was originally made up only of French and English members
- E) is made up of men over the age of 70

29-The author points out that members of the International Olympic Committee ----- .

- A) are also members of their country's National Olympic Committee
- B) are never forced to retire
- C) are all former amateur sportsmen
- D) have to live in Switzerland permanently
- E) operate independently of their national governments

30-We learn from the passage that members of IOC elected before 1965 ----- .

- A) were able to speak both French and English
- B) were members of the organisation until the end of their lives
- C) used to be members of the organisation for 75 years
- D) had to live in the country that they represented
- E) were able to represent more than one country

11. THE IMPACT OF WORLD WAR I ON LITERATURE

World War I cut forever the ties with the past. It brought discontent and disillusionment to many people who were plunged into gloom at the knowledge that "progress" had not saved the world from war. World War I left its record in literature as well. Rupert Brooke (1887-1915), who died during the war, has been idealised for what is actually a rather thin performance in poetry. Wilfred Owen (1893-1918), also a war casualty, was far more realistic about the heroism and idealism of the soldier. Siegfried Sassoon (1886-1967) and Edmund Blunden (1896-1974), both survivors of the slaughter, left violent accounts of the horrors and terror of war. In fiction in the post-war period, there was a shift from novels of the human comedy to novels of characters. Fiction ceased to be concerned with a plot or a forward-moving narrative. Instead, it followed the twisted development of a single character or a group of related characters. Of these writers, William Somerset Maugham (1874-1965) achieved the greatest popular success. In *Of Human Bondage*, published in 1915, he portrays a character who drifts. *The Moon and Sixpence* (1919), based on the life of the artist Paul Gauguin, continues the examination of the character without roots. *Cakes and Ale* (1930) shows how the real self is lost between the two masks — public and private — that every person wears.

31-We can infer from the passage that, before the war, a lot of people ----- .

- A) were expecting more realistic fiction from the novelists of the time
- B) were trying to cut their ties with the past
- C) had expected that advancement in technology would avert the war
- D) had begun to feel dissatisfied with the contemporary literary works
- E) had already switched from humorous to realistic novels

32-It is described in the passage that literature after the war ----- .

- A) changed and began examining individual personalities more
- B) provided many more humorous books
- C) developed into a superficial medium
- D) hardly ever reflected the tragedies of the war
- E) was more or less the same as it was before the outbreak of war

33-We understand from the passage that Somerset Maugham's *Of Human Bondage* ----- .

- A) fits in the trend of post-war literature
- B) reflected the brutality of the war best
- C) consisted of mainly comedies
- D) is still very popular today
- E) describes how people were affected by the war

12. ODYSSEY

Although set within the circumstances of the Trojan War, Homer's *Odyssey* is a far different book. With his *Iliad*, from the book itself as well as the archaeological excavations that support it, it is reasonable to infer a real historical event as background. With the *Odyssey*, such an assumption is impossible. The book is a tale of adventure at sea and of homecoming after a long absence. These two themes have pervaded Western literature ever since the Homeric epic was written, and the story may well have proved a popular one well before Greek history began. The story could just as well have stood on its own without any relation to the conflict of the Greeks with Troy. The vividly fictional characteristics of the story have not prevented critics, past and present, from seeking to place it in a specific geographic context. Hesiod, who wrote later than Homer, believed that Odysseus and his ships sailed around in the general area of Italy and Sicily, to the west of Ithaca. Later analysts tried to set the wanderings within the Mediterranean Sea generally, while others suggested the Atlantic Ocean as more likely. The ancient astronomer Eratosthenes, who lived in the 2nd century BC, regarded all such speculations as foolish. For him, the world of Odysseus was a completely imaginary one. Indications of this are found within the text itself. Some of the hero's wanderings could well have been based on the even older story of Jason and his Argonauts, who sailed east in search of the golden fleece. To sum up, in the case of the book *Odyssey*, it is quite likely that several ancient legends were woven into one continuous epic.

34-According to the author of the passage, it is true to say of the *Odyssey* that ----- .

- A) it is far better written than the *Iliad*
- B) there are no good reasons for thinking it is based on true events
- C) Homer copied, almost word for word, an earlier book about Jason and his Argonauts
- D) it relies heavily on events during the Trojan War
- E) it is just as believable as the *Iliad*

35-The author states that since ancient times, experts have ----- .

- A) all discounted the Mediterranean Sea as the scene of the events in the *Odyssey*
- B) agreed on where and when the events in the *Odyssey* took place
- C) all been sure that all the events in the *Odyssey* are totally fictitious
- D) been certain that Homer travelled across the Atlantic Ocean
- E) been trying to place the events in the *Odyssey* into a specific location

36-It is clear from the passage that the author believes the *Odyssey* ----- .

- A) doesn't include parts of the earlier story of Jason and his Argonauts
- B) has been inspired by real events during the Trojan War
- C) includes a wonderful story set around Sicily
- D) is made up of a number of existing tales
- E) wasn't actually written by Homer at all

13.THE ENVIRONMENTAL COST OF THE WAR

A quarter century of conflict and war has rendered Afghanistan one of the most environmentally damaged nations on the Earth, and now, Afghanistan's environmental degradation is considered a stumbling block to its development.

"Our evergreen forests have been diminished in the last 25 years by 40 to 50 percent, or in some places 60 percent. Our pistachio forests in Badghis and Takhar in the north are gone, or at least 90 percent of them are lost," says Yusuf Nuristani, Afghanistan's minister of irrigation, water resources and environment.

A recent report by the United Nations Environment Program warns that Afghanistan faces a future without forests, clean water, wildlife or unpolluted air if current trends are not reversed. The report says Afghanistan's environmental damage is a "major stumbling block" to reconstruction and development. It is not only Afghanistan's forests that are disappearing though. Five years of drought and the destruction of a centuries-old canal network have left many Afghans without clean drinking water or water for irrigation. The U.N. report says even good news, such as the return of more than one million refugees to Afghanistan last year, has hurt the environment, choking major cities with exhaust fumes and overloading the sewer systems.

Mr Nuristani says a quarter century of war has left his country environmentally devastated. "Right now, we are in a mess. The drought, the war, the neglect and the low level of understanding among the people about the environment have caused all these problems. So we have to intervene right now in whatever way we can," he said.

37-According to the passage, damage to Afghanistan's natural environment ----- .

- A) will have a minor impact compared to other factors
- B) can be easily corrected
- C) has been entirely caused by returning refugees
- D) will hinder future progress
- E) and its consequences are fully understood by the population

38-The author states that as a result of environmental destruction ----- .

- A) the irrigation canals are presently being fully rebuilt
- B) about a quarter of evergreen forests have been destroyed
- C) there are no forests left in Afghanistan
- D) less than ten percent of Afghanistan's pistachio forests in the north are left intact
- E) one million Afghan refugees have been unable to return to their homes

39-Mr Nuristani believes that people's ignorance ----- .

- A) is due mainly to a quarter of a century of unceasing war
- B) makes it difficult for him to carry out his recovery program
- C) is one of the reasons for the environmental damage in Afghanistan
- D) can only be overcome by providing sufficient education for them
- E) turns life in Afghan cities into a mess

14. ORGANIC FARMING

The discovery of antibiotics in the 20th century brought remarkable changes to modern medicine, enabling people to live longer, healthier lives. But in the last generation, new strains of bacteria have emerged that are resistant to these wonder drugs. One of the main causes of resistance is the overuse of antibiotics. That includes drugs given to commercially raised livestock, and this leads to serious threat to human health if the animal is diseased. Hence, organic farming, which means raising animals and crops without using drugs or chemical fertilisers, is gradually becoming popular. New Horizons is such a farm in the state of North Carolina, the USA, that is raising meat without the use of chemicals.

Eleven-year-old Chance Lorraine likes to show visitors around. Here, on 20 hectares, his parents raise organic vegetables, pigs, Black Angus beef cattle and chickens. There are also water buffalo. But what really sets New Horizons apart from commercial livestock farms are three metal silos near the pastures.

"We keep feed in all three of these. That's cow feed, that's chicken feed, and the other one is pig feed," says Chance.

The feed is special because of what it doesn't have: no growth hormones, no animal by-products, no chemicals against worms and no antibiotics. The animals in the field that eat this feed eventually end up in cold storage at the New Horizons Farm store.

40-According to the passage, over the last fifty years or so, ----- .

- A) bacteria have developed that are not affected by today's antibiotics
- B) there has been a sharp increase in organic farming across the world
- C) North Carolina has become the centre of organic farming
- D) a huge number of antibiotics have been developed
- E) the Lorraines have gradually changed to organic farming methods

41-The author states that one reason for the growth in organic farming as...----- .

- A) higher productivity from livestock
- B) cost savings over intensive farming methods
- C) the government support provided for private enterprises
- D) fears over the consequences of excessive use of antibiotics
- E) an epidemic of worms infesting livestock

42-From the description in the passage, food for livestock at New Horizons

- A) contains animal products for added protein
- B) is treated with antibiotics
- C) contains medicine to treat worm infestations
- D) promotes animal growth through the use of hormones
- E) is totally natural

15. FESTIVAL IN ZIMBABWE

In the Zimbabwean capital, the annual Harare International Festival of the Arts ended on Sunday after a somewhat controversial week-long run. The festival ended with a fireworks display after the London Community Gospel choir gave the final performance, delivering a message of hope.

There are some Zimbabweans who feel, because of the economic and political crisis, the festival should not have been held this year. Some say holding the festival sends a message that things are normal in Zimbabwe. They even launched a mail campaign to make their point.

But the festival's founder and director, London-based Zimbabwean concert pianist Manuel Bagorro, argues that Zimbabwe needs the festival now more than at any other time. "I believe that this is absolutely the most important time to do something of this nature," said Mr Bagorro. "I think that any initiative that nurtures any section of our community is incredibly important at this time when people are so desperate. My decision to keep the festival right in the centre of the city, despite concerns about security, and concerns about petty crime and so on, is some effort on behalf of the festival to acknowledge the reality of the situation." "Yes, it is true you walk out of the gates of the festival and are confronted with the destitution of many, many Zimbabweans," he continued. "However, it seems to me that to cancel a festival like this achieves nothing."

Despite the controversy, thousands of people who could afford the modestly priced tickets and had the fuel to go to the city centre attended the festival.

Zimbabwe's difficult times include 80 percent unemployment, shortages of basic commodities, and a political crisis that is splitting the nation. But for the last week, the Harare International Festival of the Arts provided, at least, some distraction.

43-According to the passage, some Zimbabweans believed it was inappropriate to go ahead with the festival because ----- .

- A) it didn't provide many jobs for people living in Zimbabwe
- B) the organiser lived in London and not in his native Zimbabwe
- C) the country was in a state of emergency with its economy and politics
- D) the performers could become victims of crime
- E) nobody would be able to attend due to the fuel crisis in the country

44-It is clear that those against going ahead with the festival----- .

- A) actively communicated their view to the public
- B) staged large demonstrations in the centre of Harare
- C) included the London Community Gospel choir
- D) were afraid of accidents resulting from the fireworks display
- E) were successful in stopping it

45-It is clear that Manuel Bagorro believed that staging the festival was important because ----
-- .

- A) it would have been costly to cancel the festival
- B) it promoted positive feelings when there seemed little or no hope
- C) the fears of crime in the city were greatly exaggerated
- D) it provided much needed employment for Zimbabweans
- E) it made it seem that everything was fine in Zimbabwe

16. KATHERINE MANSFIELD

Gifted with a keen insight into human character, Katherine Mansfield wrote a number of almost perfect short stories. Much of her work is based on incidents and scenes from her own life. She was born Kathleen Beauchamp in Wellington, New Zealand, on October 14, 1888, as the daughter of a banker. Katherine Mansfield was her pen name. Her early years were spent in the village of Karori, near Wellington. In 1903, when she was 15, she went to London to study at Queen's College. After three years she reluctantly returned to New Zealand. In 1908 she persuaded her father to provide her with an allowance and allow her to live in England. She had become an accomplished cellist, but she now turned to writing. After a brief unhappy marriage, Mansfield met John Middleton Murry. He was then an Oxford undergraduate, but he was soon to become a well-known critic. Their marriage was successful. Murry wrote: "She was natural and spontaneous as no other human being I have ever met." Deeply distressed by the death of her only brother, Leslie, in World War I, and already suffering from poor health, she went to the French Riviera in 1916. There she began to write the stories for which she is best known, tales of her childhood in New Zealand. She died of tuberculosis in a sanatorium in France on January 9, 1923. In her career, Mansfield strove for a pure style that would express simple reality. Her writing is sensitive, reflecting subtle variations in mood. In a *German Pension*, a collection of short stories, was published in 1911. Not until 1920 with *Bliss and Other Stories* did she obtain recognition, though. After her death, Murry brought out several volumes of her writings that had not previously been published.

46-According to the passage Kathleen Mansfield had the ability----- .

- A) to play several instruments well
- B) to understand human nature
- C) to criticise her own works heavily
- D) to organise sightseeing tours
- E) to write in a complicated interwoven style

47-It is clear from the details in the passage that Kathleen Mansfield's father ----- .

- A) was satisfied with her progress as a cellist
- B) wanted his daughter to travel
- C) was killed while fighting in World War I
- D) supported her financially while she lived in England
- E) was against her marriage to Murry

48-The author makes it clear in the passage that while writing her best known stories, Kathleen Mansfield----- .

- A) was living in Karori, near Wellington
- B) was unhappily married
- C) made her living as a cellist
- D) was heavily in debt
- E) was not very well physically

17. WILLIAM TELL

Early in the 14th century, the village of Altdorf in Switzerland was supposedly ruled by a tyrannical Austrian governor named Gessler, who placed a hat on top of a pole as a symbol of Austrian power. According to the legend, the people were ordered to bow to it as though it were the duke of Austria. A skilled crossbowman named William Tell refused to do this. Soldiers took him and his son Walter before Gessler. The cruel Gessler ordered Tell to shoot an apple off Walter's head at 100 paces. Tell took an arrow from his quiver and slipped it under his belt. He took another and fired it from his bow. The arrow pierced the apple. Gessler asked Tell what the first arrow had been intended for. "To slay you, tyrant, had I killed my son." In a rage Gessler sent Tell to prison. Tell fled during a storm and soon after killed Gessler. Swiss legends place these events in the year 1307. In the country's actual history, in 1315, the men of the three forest-cantons — Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden — defeated an invading Austrian army. They then renewed and enlarged the Everlasting League, which helped lay the foundation of Swiss independence.

William Tell first appeared in Swiss literature in the second half of the 15th century. In 1804 the German poet Friedrich Schiller made the legend the subject of a drama, and the Italian composer Gioacchino Rossini used it in an opera in 1829.

49-According to the passage, Gessler made all the citizens of Altdorf ----- .

- A) shoot arrows at apples placed on people's heads
- B) fight against the invading Austrian forces
- C) join the Everlasting League
- D) show respect to their Austrian rulers
- E) exclude William Tell from their society

50-The author tells how William Tell got into trouble with the Austrian governor by ----- .

- A) disrespectfully placing his hat on the top of a pole
- B) treating the people who worked for him cruelly and unjustly
- C) recklessly shooting arrows at his own son
- D) refusing to fight for the Austrian army against Switzerland
- E) not bowing down to a symbol of Austrian rule

51-It is clear from the passage that the legend of William Tell ----- .

- A) has provided the storyline for different art forms
- B) is completely inaccurate and purely fabrication
- C) happened a lot earlier than claimed by the Swiss
- D) was made up around the 18th century
- E) is a story the Austrians are particularly proud of

18. THE TIGRIS RIVER

The streams that join to form the Tigris River begin in high mountains that rim Lake Van in eastern Turkey. Leaving Turkey, the Tigris touches the north-eastern border of Syria and then flows south-eastward across Iraq. In Iraq it is joined by tributaries from the east — principally the Great Zab, Little Zab and Diyala. The Euphrates, west of the Tigris, runs in the same general direction. In ancient times, the two rivers had separate mouths. Now they meet in a swamp in southern Iraq and form a single stream, the Shatt al 'Arab, which flows into the head of the Persian Gulf. The Tigris, 1,900 kilometres long, is shorter than the Euphrates, but it is more important commercially because its channel is deeper. The fertile region between the Tigris and the Euphrates was called Mesopotamia by the ancient Greeks. Here flourished the earliest known civilisation. The Tigris was the great river of Assyria. The ancient city of Assur, which gave its name to Assyria, stood on its banks, as did Nineveh, Assyria's splendid capital. Much later the Macedonian general Seleucus built his capital city Seleucia on the Tigris, and across the river from Seleucia the Parthian kings built Ctesiphon. The chief cities on the river today are Baghdad, the capital of Iraq, and Mosul, farther upstream. River steamers make regular trips between Basra, a modern port on the Shatt al 'Arab, and Baghdad. Since ancient times the people of Mesopotamia have depended on the water of the two rivers to irrigate their hot, dry land. The soil itself is largely a gift of the rivers, which deposit tremendous quantities of silt on their lower course. The shallow Persian Gulf is being filled at the rate of about 20 metres a year, and ruins of cities that were once gulf ports now lie far inland.

52-From the information given in the passage about the Tigris and Euphrates, we learn that ----

- A) the Euphrates is shorter but deeper than the Tigris
- B) each river once had its own outlet to the open sea
- C) the Euphrates is longer and of more commercial use
- D) the rivers have always joined towards the Persian Gulf to form a swamp
- E) more ancient cities were situated on the banks of the Euphrates than the Tigris

53-According to the passage, the Tigris River ----- .

- A) has been fought over by the Assyrians, the Macedonians, the Parthians and the Iraqis
- B) flows into Lake Van in eastern Turkey
- C) has, since the dawn of civilisation, provided sites for important settlements
- D) has been overused for irrigation, resulting in large swamps
- E) is only navigable by small boats

54-It is clear from the passage that the people living in the area between the Tigris and the Euphrates ----- .

- A) are direct descendants of the Assyrians
- B) are generally nomads
- C) live mainly on fish
- D) live high up in the mountains
- E) use the river water for agriculture

19. HOME OFFICE — THE SHORTEST COMMUTING

"A home office allowed me to maintain the career pace I was on," says Colleen Clark, reflecting on three years of telecommuting between Sacramento, California, and Richland, Washington. When Clark and her husband decided to move to California, she looked for a way to keep her job with a public relations company that contracts with the federal government. To that end, she proposed a telecommuting schedule that had her at home in California for three weeks and on location in Washington for one week each month. Her company astounded her and said yes. It hadn't been done before, but now the company is looking into ways to encourage more people to try telecommuting.

A home office loft was added to Clark's plans for the new house in Sacramento. Though open to the second floor of the house, the loft was designed to be self-contained and separate from the rest of the house. Extra phone lines were installed during construction. Her employer arranged for her to have remote access to the Local Area Network, processed through an autodial feature with a built-in calling card. Clark's office phone in Richland automatically bounced callers to her Sacramento address. "A lot of callers didn't realise I wasn't on site," she says. Adapting to working at home was "a learning experience," Clark admits. She found that it was important to minimise distractions. "Everything needs to be in the work area," she says, "so that you're not up and down, back and forth." She also came to realise that her work benefited if she followed a routine of getting ready for work as if she were going to a regular workplace. "At first, it seems cool to roll out of bed in your pyjamas and sit down to work still bleary eyed — it's the shortest commuting in history; it's really a dream. But I learned that it was important to stick to a professional routine. In this manner, I find it easy to stay focused."

55-According to the passage, Colleen Clark found it helpful when working at home to ----- .

- A) work in her pyjamas
- B) work in different areas of the house
- C) use one telephone for personal and business calls
- D) use an answering machine while out of the office
- E) keep to a businesslike routine

56-It is clear from the passage that Colleen Clark ----- .

- A) was the first person from her company to work from a home office
- B) was often distracted by something trivial when working at home
- C) found that her customers didn't like calling her at home
- D) found it too difficult to separate her home life from her work
- E) gave up commuting to Washington after three years

57-It is clear from the passage that Colleen Clark ----- .

- A) had a hard time trying to persuade her company to accept her suggestion
- B) was surprised by the approval by her company of her suggestion of telecommuting
- C) wouldn't recommend telecommuting to other employees
- D) failed to convince her employers of the benefits of telecommuting
- E) found it very difficult to concentrate on her work at home

20. THE BIGGER MAY NOT BE THE BETTER

You go out for dinner and order spaghetti with your favourite sauce. The pasta is so plentiful that it's falling off the plate. Yes, your meal is nutritious. But isn't it more than you bargained for? In an era when consumers look for great deals, it often seems as though the bigger things are, the better value for your money. "Supersize it," the slogan from a fast-food restaurant chain, seems to sum it up. But more isn't always better — particularly when it comes to weight loss. Sometimes leaving a little food on your plate is worth much more than the dollar it might cost. Watching your total food intake, not just limiting unhealthy foods, is the key to good health and permanent weight loss. Healthy foods are not without any restrictions. Excess calories from any food, not just fatty or fried ones, can cause weight gain. In today's "the-more-you-get-the-better" society, package sizes keep growing. Giant bottles of soda, extra large bags of chips and king-size candy bars are all the rage. But as these foods get larger, so do our waistlines. Bigger packages and food items apparently distort portion control. In fact, research from the University of Illinois shows that some people tend to eat more from larger food containers. When movie-goers were given popcorn containers of two different sizes, the people given the larger ones ate 44 percent more.

58-According to the passage, it is the trend today ----- .

- A) not to worry about one's weight
- B) to eat healthy foods only
- C) for customers not to be very knowledgeable about prices
- D) to regard leaving food on your plate as a waste of money
- E) to sell food and drink in large packages

59-From the details in the passage, it is clear that currently ----- .

- A) average body size is expanding at the same time as package sizes are getting bigger
- B) we are eating healthier food, although we are eating more
- C) portions at fast-food restaurants are getting smaller
- D) "Supersize it" is a marketing slogan that doesn't actually mean an increase in portion size
- E) people eat the same amount regardless of package size, according to research

60-We can infer from the passage that overly large portions of healthy food ----- .

- A) can, nevertheless, make us gain weight
- B) are just as bad to our health as junk food
- C) are essential for our long-term health
- D) may put us off our food completely
- E) are no longer trendy

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| 21. D | 22. C | 23. C | 24. B | 25. E | 26. A | 27. D | 28. C | 29. E | 30. B |
| 31. C | 32. A | 33. A | 34. B | 35. E | 36. D | 37. D | 38. D | 39. C | 40. A |
| 41. D | 42. E | 43. C | 44. A | 45. B | 46. B | 47. D | 48. E | 49. D | 50. E |
| 51. A | 52. B | 53. C | 54. E | 55. E | 56. A | 57. B | 58. E | 59. A | 60. A |

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