

## Reading Comprehension

### Directions

The passage below is followed by questions based on its content. Answer the questions on the basis of what is stated or implied in the passage and in any introductory material that may be provided.

### Passage 1

It happened one day that a fisherman putting out to sea in a boat was just about to cast a net, when right in front of him he saw a man on the point of drowning. Being a stout-hearted and at the same time an agile man, he jumped up and, seizing a boathook, thrust it towards the man's face. It caught him right in the eye and pierced it. The fisherman hauled the man into the boat and made for the shore without casting any of his nets. He had the man carried to his house and given the best possible attention and treatment, until he had got over his ordeal.

For a long time, that man thought about the loss of his eye, considering it a great misfortune. "That wretched fellow put my eye out, but I didn't do him any harm. I'll go and lodge a complaint against him-Why, I'll make things really hot for him!" Accordingly he went and complained to the magistrate, who fixed a day for the hearing. They both waited till the day came round, and then went to the court. The one who had lost an eye spoke first, as was appropriate. "Gentlemen," he said, "I'm bringing a complaint against this worthy, who, only the other day, savagely struck me with a boathook and knocked my eye out. Now I'm handicapped. Give me justice, that's all I ask. I've nothing more to say." The other promptly spoke up and said, "Gentlemen, I cannot deny that I knocked his eye out, but if what I did was wrong, I'd like to explain how it all happened. This man was in mortal danger in the sea, in fact he was on the point of drowning. I went to his aid. I won't deny I struck him with my boat hook, but I did it for his own good: I saved his life on that occasion. I don't know what more I can say. For God's sake, give me justice!"

The court was quite at a loss when it came to deciding the rights of the case, but a fool who was present at the time said to them, "Why this hesitation? Let the first speaker be thrown back into the sea on the spot where the other man hit him in the face, and if he can get out again, the defendant shall compensate him for the loss of his eye. That I think fair judgment." Then they all cried out as one man, "You're absolutely right! That's exactly what we'll do!" Judgment was then pronounced to that effect. When the man heard that he was to be thrown into the sea, just where he had endured all that cold water before, he wouldn't have gone back there for the entire world. He released the Goodman from any liability, and his earlier attitude came in for much criticism.

In the light of this incident, you can take it from me that it's a waste of time to help a scoundrel. Release guilty thief from the gallows, and he will never like you for it. A wicked man will never be grateful to anyone who does him a good turn: He'll forget all about it; it will mean nothing to him. On the contrary, he would be only too glad to make trouble for his benefactor if he ever saw him at a disadvantage.

1. The word cast is used

- |         |            |
|---------|------------|
| A) Tint | B) Perform |
| C) Hurl | D) Mold    |
| E) Copy |            |

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2. Paragraph 1 makes it clear that the fisherman is
- A) Essentially well-meaning  
B) Clumsy and Foolish.  
C) Fat but nimble  
D) Hard-working and honest.  
E) Basically unlucky
3. The word fixed is used to mean
- A) Corrected  
B) Secured  
C) Set  
D) Mended  
E) Attached
4. The word worthy is used to mean
- A) Caliber  
B) Significance  
C) Morality  
D) Gentleman  
E) Prize
5. Paragraph 3 concerns
- A) The narrator's beliefs  
B) The court's wishes  
C) The one-eyed man's complaint  
D) The fisherman's plea  
E) The magistrate's judgment
6. The fool's suggested solution to the case was
- A) Pitiless and spiteful  
B) Absurd but lawful  
C) Harsh but fair  
D) Just and merciful  
E) Sensible but unjust
7. The phrase "as one man" means
- A) Manfully  
B) As someone once said

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- C) One by One  
D) Together  
E) As he believed
8. "In the light of this incident" means  
A) Thanks to that event  
B) Because of this tale  
C) Without further ado  
D) As darkness falls  
E) As you can see from this story
9. The narrator clearly believes that the one-eyed man  
A) Showed good sense  
B) Had bad luck  
C) Deserved better  
D) Was a scoundrel  
E) Did the right thing
10. The moral of this story might be  
A) Do unto others as you would have them do unto you  
B) A wicked man is never satisfied  
C) You can only be good so long  
D) There is no such thing as justice  
E) The one – eyed man is king

## Passage 2

The eastern and western united states differs in many ways, but perhaps the most significant difference between the two regions is climate. The East receives enough rainfall to sustain agriculture, while the West does not receive adequate rainfall to do so .Additionally; there are widely disparate climatic variations within smaller regions in the West than there are in the East. The mountains, the Sierra Nevada's and the Cascades, that impede the Pacific Ocean's ability to cool in the summer and warm in the winter, as well as the fronts that bring moisture in the form of rain and snow, have much to do with the extremes of climate found in the West also affect climate because even the mountainous flatlands have elevations higher than a mile.

Because of these extremes, particularly in the area of rainfall (there can be as much as 150 inches of precipitation annually on the western side of the Sierra-Cascade range as contrasted with as little as four inches annually on the eastern side); irrigation becomes critical if the area is to remain viable for human habitation. Actually, it is so hot in some portions of the western desert that even when rain clouds form, it does not rain because the earth's reflected heat dissipated the moisture before it can reach the ground. Any drops that actually reach the ground quickly evaporate. While the arid Central Plains of the United States can use water for irrigation

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form the Ogallala Aquifer, a closed-basin aquifer, discovered after World War I, the western regions are too far away to benefit from this trapped run-off from several Ice Ages that is confined in gravel beds, stretching from South Dakota to West Texas, No wonder then that water is so precious to the people and farmlands of this area and that the population of this area presses for national, state, and local funding for irrigation projects that will store and reroute water for them.

The Colorado River, with its various tributaries, including, for example, the Gunnison, the Green, and the Gila, has long been the source of most irrigation projects in the desert areas of the West. Much of the water from the Colorado River goes into the state of California to irrigate the Imperial and San Joaquin Valleys. On its route from high in the Rockies to the Gulf of California, the river is diverted in many areas to irrigate fields; the salinity content of the water has increased dramatically. The amount of salt in the water can then have a detrimental effect on the crops if proper drainage systems are not built. Not only is a proper drainage system are not built. Not only is a proper drainage system exorbitantly expensive, but drainage systems also creating a run-off, Which must be handled in some efficient way. By the time the water is drained, this run-off would n not only contain salt, but probably pesticides as well, and the question of what to do with the run-off becomes an issue.

Despite the years of better than average rainfall in the late 70s and early to mid-80s that even cause the Great Salt Lake in Utah to flood , the situation in the western desert areas, particularly California, remains critical, It is not uncommon for droughts in the state to last several years. Consequently, water, not only for crops, but for human consumption itself, is at stake. Thus, it becomes a serious mandate to solve the water problem in this area if the area is to survive.

11 The world disparate means

- A) Distinct
- B) Different
- C) Unusual
- D) Analogous
- E) Similar

12 According to the passage, one of the mountain ranges that affects rainfall in the West is the

- A) Rockies
- B) Appalachian
- C) Colorado
- D) Blue Ridge
- E) Sierra Nevadas

13 According to the passage, another factor influencing climate in the West is

- A) Desert plants
- B) The Pacific Ocean
- C) Elevation
- D) The Colorado River

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E) Plateaus

14 According to the passage, what has become critical on the eastern side of the Sierra-Cascade range?

A) Crop rotation

B) Truck farming

C) Crop dusting

D) The Colorado River

E) Drainage

15 In some areas of the arid western desert, the formation of rain clouds doesn't assure rain because

A) Earth's reflected heat dissipated moisture

B) Mountains are too high

C) Desert winds blow clouds away

D) Plateaus are too dry

E) Riverbeds are too deep

16 The arid Central Plains are able to irrigate with water from the

A) Ogallala Aquifer

B) Colorado River

C) Rio Grande River

D) Dakota River

E) Green River

17 Which of the following is a tributary of the Colorado River?

A) San Joaquin River

B) Aspen River

C) Gila River

D) Cascade River

E) Dakota River

18 Most of the water from the Colorado River goes into the state of

A) Nevada

B) New Mexico

C) Arizona

D) California

E) Utah

19 The word salinity means

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- A) Mineral
- B) Pesticide
- C) Oxide
- D) Salt
- E) Vegetable

20 Which of the following statements expresses an opinion the author of this passage might have?

- A) Irrigation projects are an unnecessary expense
- B) The situation in the desert of the West ins hopeless
- C) If this area is to survive as a viable place of habitation, the water problem must be solved.
- D) The water supply from the Colorado River is completely adequate to take care of the irrigation needs of the area
- E) Only the Imperial and San Joaquin Valleys should be irrigated.

**ANSWERS**

|     |   |     |   |     |   |     |   |
|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|
| 1.  | C | 2.  | A | 3.  | C | 4.  | D |
| 5.  | D | 6.  | C | 7.  | D | 8.  | E |
| 9.  | D | 10. | B | 11. | B | 12. | E |
| 13. | C | 14. | A | 15. | A | 16. | C |
| 17. | C | 18. | D | 19. | D | 20. | C |