

**READING PAPER 4****Time permitted: 60 minutes****Number of questions: 40**

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**PASSAGE 1: QUESTIONS 1-10**

Maya Lin was born in Athens, Ohio, on October 5, 1959. In 1949, her parents fled Communism in China and came to the United States. In 1958 they moved to Athens, home of Ohio University, where they were professors. Her mother wrote poetry and taught literature; her father was a ceramic artist and became Dean of the College of Fine Arts.

As a child, Maya Lin liked to hike, read, watch birds, work in her father's ceramics studio, and build miniature towns. She loved to think and solve problems. In high school, she was an excellent math student who took college level courses and worked at McDonalds. She thought she was kind of nerdy because she never dated or wore make-up.

Maya went to Yale University to study architecture. While she was 21 and still a student, she entered a blind contest to submit a design for the new Vietnam War Memorial in Washington D.C. According to contest rules, the memorial had to fit in with the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument, include the names of all the dead and missing from the war, and refrain from making political statements. Maya's simple but elegant design featured a pair of two hundred foot long, polished black granite walls. The monument was V-shaped, with one side pointing to the Lincoln Memorial and the other to the Washington Monument. The wall had the carved names of 58,195 men and women who were killed or missing in the war listed according to the dates they were reported killed or missing, instead of in alphabetical order. Her design was chosen over 1,441 others. Maya believed her design would not have been chosen if the judges had known she was Chinese-American. Some people harassed her after her family background and age became known.

Today, Maya Lin continues to work on sculpture and architecture. Some of her other projects include the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama; Wave Field at the University of Michigan; and the Confluence Project along the Columbia and Snake rivers in Washington and Oregon. She has also written several books and is interested in sustainable energy use. In 2009, she was awarded the National Medal of Arts by President Barack Obama.

**1. Which of the following best describes Maya Lin in high school?**

- A. glamorous      B. average      C. bored      D. hard-working

**2. Maya went to Yale University to study .....**

- A. math      B. architecture      C. problem solving      D. fine arts

**3. Maya Lin was born in .....**

- A. Washington D.C.
- C. Ohio

- B. The passage doesn't say
- D. China

**4. Which of the following is NOT true about Maya Lin.**

- A. She wanted to be a ceramics artist
- B. She liked to watch birds
- C. Her parents were professors
- D. She was good at math

**5. Maya Lin believed .....**

- A. that the names of the dead or missing should be listed alphabetically
- B. her design was definitely the best
- C. that both sides of the monument should be pointed toward the Lincoln Memorial
- D. that her design may not have been chosen if the judges knew her background

**6. Which of the following is not answered in the third paragraph?**

- A. How many names are carved on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial?
- B. How are the names of the missing or dead arranged on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial?
- C. What was Maya's design for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial contest?
- D. Who were the judges who chose Maya Lin's design over 1,441 other designs?

**7. Which question is answered in the second paragraph?**

- A. What math courses did Maya take in high school?
- B. Why did Maya decide to enter the contest to build the Vietnam Veterans Memorial?
- C. What did Maya major in in college?
- D. Why did Maya believe she was nerdy?

**8. If the entire passage only included the final paragraph, what would be an appropriate title?**

- A. Construction of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- B. Maya Lin: Projects after the Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- C. Chinese-Americans in Architecture
- D. How Maya Lin Became Famous

**9. Maya Lin's design for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was...**

- A. elaborate
- B. very complicated
- C. simple
- D. controversial

**10. Based on your understanding of the passage, what is a "blind" contest?**

- A. One in which only architects invited to submit their design can enter.
- B. One in which the personal identity of a design's author is not known to the judges
- C. One in which the judges decide exactly what the design of the memorial must look like
- D. One in which only blind people can enter

## **PASSAGE 2: QUESTIONS 11-20**

### **THE SENATE**

The U.S. Senate is the upper house of Congress. Unlike the House of Representatives, the Senate consists of two senators for each state, regardless of that state's population. This ensures equal representation for each state. Hence, there are 100 Senators.

Senators serve six year terms, however, senate elections are held every two years to ensure that no state ever holds an election in which both Senate seats are in contention. Elections are held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in even-numbered years. Senators must be thirty years of age, a citizen of the United States for the prior nine years, and must live in the state they seek to represent. Much of the work done in the Senate is performed in committees. 16 standing committees, each with a specific jurisdiction (such as foreign relations, judicial review, or finance) edit, amend, and consider bills related to those jurisdictions.

Powers exclusive to the Senate include the approval of treaties as a condition to their ratification, and the approval of federal judges and cabinet members as a condition of their appointment. The Senate also tries impeachments.

### **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

The U.S. House of Representatives is one of the two houses of Congress. Unlike the Senate, a state's number of representatives is based on its population. States with large populations have more representatives than states with small populations. The state of California, America's most populous state, currently has 55 representatives. There are 435 total representatives and each serves a two-year term. Like the Senate, the House of Representatives performs much of its legislative work in committees. The House of Representatives has 20 standing committees. Much like the Senate committees, these committees meet to review, amend, edit, and consider bills specific to a certain jurisdictions such as agriculture, revenue, or foreign relations.

The top officer of the House of Representatives is referred to as the Speaker of the House. He or she is elected by other members of the House and has substantial powers including choosing the order in which other representatives speak, choosing members of conference committees, and choosing which committees reviews specific bills. Representatives must be 25 years old, a U.S. citizen for seven years, and a resident of the state they wish to represent.

Much like the Senate, the House of Representatives has exclusive powers including the right to impeach (an impeachment is a legal statement of charges against an official. The Senate only has the power to try impeachment), to initiate revenue bills (those involving money), and to elect the president in the case of an electoral tie.

**11. There are ..... senators for every state.**

- A. 2                      B. 3                      C. 4                      D. 1

**12. Each senator serves a term of ..... years**

- A. 7                      B. 6                      C. 4                      D. 2

**13. Which of the following is NOT true about a U.S. Senator?**

- A. They must be a citizen of the United States for at least 9 years prior to appointment.
- B. Only men can be senators.
- C. They must live in the state they hope to represent.
- D. They must be 30 years old.

**14. Select all of the following that are TRUE.**

- A. Representatives must not be the residents of the state they wish to represent.
- B. The Senate elects the president of the United States in the event of an electoral tie.
- C. Senators can introduce revenue bills.
- D. Impeachments are tried in the Senate.

**15. The top official in the U.S. House of Representatives is known as the ..... of the House.**

- A. Master                      B. Speaker                      C. Leader                      D. President

**16. The number of representatives per state in the House of Representative is determined by the ..... of that state.**

- A. population                      B. income level                      C. total area                      D. power

**17. .... has the most representatives.**

- A. California                      B. Texas                      C. Alaska                      D. New York

**18. A state representative must be ..... years old.**

- A. 30                      B. 20                      C. 35                      D. 25

**19. Which of the following is NOT true?**

- A. The right to impeach an elected official can be invoked in the Senate.
- B. A Senator can be 31 years old.
- C. Senators serve longer terms than representatives.
- D. Revenue bills can be initiated in the House of Representatives.

**20. In the following passage,**

**“The House of Representatives has 20 standing committees. Much like the Senate committees, these committees meet to review, amend, edit, and consider bills specific to a certain jurisdictions such as agriculture, revenue, or foreign relations.”**

**What does amend mean?**

- A. determine                      B. trade                      C. change                      D. withdraw

**PASSAGE 3 – Questions 21-30**

No one can calculate the quantity of solid waste that has been dumped in the world's oceans, but the total certainly exceeds many millions of tons. For example, from 1880 to 1895, 75 percent of the solid waste from New York City was dumped untreated into the Atlantic Ocean. Although it is now prohibited by law, the dumping of solid waste, including wastewater sludge, industrial waste, and high - level radioactive waste were common in the United States until 1970. Cruise ships and huge floating fishing factories still regularly dispose of their solid waste products directly into the ocean.

The earth naturally recycles water and refreshes the land in what is called the hydrological cycle. The hydrological cycle not only renews the supply of water, but cleans it as well. The process begins as heat from the sun causes sea water, 97 percent of the earth's total water reserve, to evaporate and form clouds. Because water evaporates at lower temperatures than most pollutants, the water vapor that rises from the seas is relatively pure and free of the **contaminants**, which are left behind. Next, water returns to us as rain, **which** drains into streams and rivers and rushes toward the sea.

Chemicals, petroleum products, and other dangerous substances such as radioactive materials remain in the ocean, polluting it permanently. The polluted ocean water kills fish or makes them dangerous to eat, posing health problems for those who consume them. It kills the tiny sea creatures that are the source of food for larger fish, sharks, and whales. It also spoils a source of great beauty and pleasure when some solid waste is thrown onto beaches during storms. Discharged petroleum products are frequently found on beaches and they not only ruin the beach, the petroleum residue kills hundreds of shore birds. Nonpoint pollutants are dumped into lakes, rivers, and streams that may be far away from any ocean. However, these pollutants flow, eventually, into the oceans. They can come from a variety of sources, from road salt to agricultural pesticides. One source of nonpoint pollution is runoff from farming, including fertilizers, manure, and pesticides. Another source is industrial runoff, including heavy metals, phosphorous, and many other chemicals. Urban runoff (oils, salts, various chemicals) and atmospheric fallout of airborne pollution are other sources of nonpoint pollutants that reach the oceans. This includes water and waste from sinks, toilets, washing machines and bathtubs. The problem with this type of waste is that it provides massive amounts of nutrients for water plants such as algae, so that they grow rapidly. This sudden growth causes concentration or algae blooms, which use up the oxygen in the water. As the oxygen level of the water declines, many organisms suffer and die, and the ocean ecosystem is radically altered. This can be prevented by the installation of waste treatment plants that prevent waste from entering the sea, but such facilities do not exist in many poorer countries.

**21. What can be inferred about the waste dumped into the world's oceans?**

- A. It's mainly household waste
- B. Much of it was not treated
- C. It is billions of tons
- D. It is primary industrial waste

**22. As can be inferred from the passage, which of the following was NOT disposed into the ocean?**

- A. waste from dead plants
- B. waste from cruise ships
- C. wastewater sludge
- D. radioactive waste

**23. Which of the following is NOT referred to as use of hydrological cycle?**

- A. refreshing the land
- B. separating water from used liquid
- C. cleaning water
- D. renewing the water supply

**24. Which of the following has similar meaning to the word “contaminants” in the second paragraph?**

- A. pollutants
- B. rushes
- C. sea water
- D. vapor

**25. What does the word “which” in the second paragraph refer to?**

- A. rain water
- B. the earth
- C. sea water
- D. water vaporizer

**26. Why are chemicals, petroleum products and radioactive materials mentioned in the passage?**

- A. as untreated waste
- B. as industrial substances
- C. as raw sewage
- D. as dangerous pollutants

**27. Which of the following is NOT referred to as a result of polluted ocean water?**

- A. killing fish
- B. harming people who eat sea food
- C. spoiling beach beauty

D. killing shore birds

**28. Which of the following is NOT an example of farming runoff?**

- A. manure
- B. pesticide
- C. road salt
- D. fertilizer

**29. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?**

- A. It is expensive to build waste treatment plants
- B. developing countries do not need waste treatment plant yet
- C. the environment of develop countries is more polluted than that of poor countries
- D. the environment of industrial countries is more polluted than that of agricultural countries

**30. Where is the passage most probably found?**

- A. in a geography book
- B. in a bibliography
- C. in a tourism book
- D. in a social science report

**PASSAGE 4 – Questions 31-40**

**WILD WEATHER**

*British people are famous for always talking about the weather, but there's a good reason why we do. The British Isles are located in a place where two huge weather systems meet and, it often seems, do battle. Even so, strange things have been happening in recent years, as they have been in many other places around the world. There can't be many people that haven't been affected by weather that was hotter, wetter, drier or wilder than the weather they are used to. This article, based on an article by Peter Miller from the September 2013 issue of National Geographic Magazine, looks at what is happening to our weather.*

**What is happening to our weather?**

One weekend in May 2010, Nashville in the USA was expecting a few centimeters of rain. Two days later, 33 centimeters had fallen and eleven people had died in the resulting floods.

There's been a change in the weather. Extreme events like the Nashville flood – described by officials as a once-in-a-millennium occurrence – are more frequent than before. Also in 2010, 28 centimeters of rain fell on Rio de Janeiro in 24 hours, causing mud slides that buried hundreds of people. And record rains in Pakistan led to flooding that affected more than 20 million people. The following year, floods in Thailand left

factories near Bangkok under water, creating a worldwide shortage of computer hard drives. Meanwhile, severe droughts have affected Australia, Russia and East Africa. Deadly heat waves have hit Europe, leaving 35,000 people dead in 2003. Financial losses from such events jumped 25 percent to an estimated \$150 billion worldwide in 2011.

What's going on? Are these extreme events signals of a dangerous, human-made change in the Earth's climate? Or are we just going through a natural run of bad luck? The short answer is: probably both. On the one hand, the most important influences on weather events are natural cycles in the climate. Two of the most famous weather cycles, El Niño and La Niña, originate in the Pacific Ocean and can affect weather patterns worldwide. But something else is happening too: the Earth is steadily getting warmer, with significantly more moisture in the atmosphere. The long-term accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is trapping heat and warming up the land, oceans and atmosphere. As the oceans warm up, they produce more water vapour and this, in turn, feeds big storms, such as hurricanes and typhoons.

And yet, there are ways of dealing with the effects of such extreme events. After 2003, French cities set up air-conditioned shelters for use in heat waves. In the 2006 heat wave, the death rate was two-thirds lower.

'We know that warming of the Earth's surface is putting more moisture into the atmosphere. We've measured it. The satellites see it,' says climatologist Jay Gullledge. Another scientist, Michael Oppenheimer, agrees. We need to face up to that reality, he says, and do the things we know can save lives and money.

**31. The article says that extreme weather events ...**

- A. have an influence on the climate.
- B. kill more people than before.
- C. cause mud slides in Bangkok.
- D. are part of a long-term change.

**32. According to the article, ...**

- A. scientists don't know what causes extreme weather.
- B. there's more than one factor influencing our weather.
- C. it's not possible for humans to influence the weather.
- D. big storms, such as hurricanes and typhoons, come from the oceans.

**33. Why was the rain in Nashville considered to be an extreme event?**

- A. There was very high rainfall over many days.
- B. The amount of rain was forecast in advance.
- C. There was very high rainfall in a very short time.
- D. The amount of rain was unmeasurable.



**34. The rainfall in Nashville in May 2010 ...**

- A. caused very rare flooding.
- B. last happened a thousand years ago.
- C. happens every one hundred years.
- D. was more frequent in the past.

**35. What caused deaths in Rio de Janeiro?**

- A. people were trapped under soil
- B. the intensity of the rain
- C. extensive floods
- D. the yearly mud slides

**36. According to the article, ...**

- A. there has been a dramatic increase in the economic costs of extreme weather.
- B. extreme weather events have risen by 25 percent since 2010.
- C. in 2011, 25 percent of financial losses were weather-related.
- D. the under-watered factories manufacture computer hard drives.

**37. Which statement is NOT supported by information in the article?**

- A. Extreme weather is influenced by human activity.
- B. Unusual weather events are part of natural weather cycles.
- C. In the world, there are two weather cycles affect weather patterns worldwide
- D. Such extreme weather is too rare to be a result of climate change.

**38. What is the key factor in the formation of storms?**

- A. warmer land temperatures
- B. greenhouse gases
- C. moisture in the air
- D. the heat released by air-conditioners

**39. Why did fewer people die in France in the 2006 heat wave?**

- A. There were better facilities provided.
- B. Fewer people were in city centers at the time.
- C. It wasn't as severe as in 2003.
- D. People didn't go out when it was too hot.

**40. According to Michael Oppenheimer ...**

- A. there's no way to stop extreme weather.
- B. we can be better prepared for the effects of climate change.

C. we need to spend more money so that fewer people die.

D. we need to provide citizens with air conditioners during hottest periods.

### KEYS

1. D 2. B 3. C 4. A 5. D 6. D 7. D 8. B 9. C 10. B

11. A 12. B 13. B 14. D 15. B 16. A 17. A 18. D 19. A 20. C

21. B 22. A 23. B 24. A 25. A 26. B 27. D 28. C 29. A 30. A

31. D 32. B 33. C 34. A 35. A 36. C 37. D 38. C 39. A 40. B