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Read the article. Then answer questions 1–8.

Lanterns for the Winter Parade

1 At the arts center gym, students and volunteers began a lantern design workshop after identifying a local problem that needed a practical response.

2 Progress depends on repeated checking. Participants sketch patterns, test lightweight frames, and choose materials that glow without tearing. Because the team records what it sees, members can compare results over time.

3 Midway through the work, the project ran into a problem: heavy paper warped when glue dried and caused some lanterns to lean. The team realized that a better answer would require closer study.

4 Once the cause was clearer, the team switched to thinner layers and reinforced the corners with narrow strips. That revision improved the lanterns' balance, because lighter layers kept the frames from leaning.

5 By the closing weeks, the parade route looked brighter and more uniform than in previous years. Lanterns that had once tilted now moved evenly in the cold air, and the whole line held together.

6 The result was useful, but not without trade-offs. Supplies had to be rationed, and not everyone agreed about what should come next. Some members wanted more elaborate lanterns for the next parade right away; others argued that another round of weather tests and material notes might reveal problems the group had not yet seen. In the end, the team postponed the expansion until it had gathered more evidence, even though the steadier line of lanterns made a bigger display tempting.

1) As it is used in paragraph 4, what does the word *balance* most nearly mean?

(A) to keep something steady and well arranged
(B) to move an object from indoors to outdoors
(C) to hide the weakest part of a design
(D) to make a sound louder

Use the article "Lanterns for the Winter Parade" to answer this question.

2) Which statement best expresses the central idea of the article?

(A) The article mostly explains the team's daily routines and gives only brief attention to how the project adjusted over time.
(B) The article describes a community effort whose success depended more on a single decisive moment than on the broader pattern of testing and revision.
(C) Careful research and revision helped a lantern design workshop become a useful community project.
(D) The article focuses on the project's final outcome and suggests that earlier setbacks had little effect on what the team eventually achieved.

Use the article "Lanterns for the Winter Parade" to answer this question.

3) Which detail best supports the idea that the team improved the project by studying a problem carefully?

(A) The project began after students identified a local need in the community.
(B) The team studied the weakness and then switched to thinner layers and reinforced the corners with narrow strips.
(C) Students and volunteers worked together throughout the project.
(D) The finished project later provided a useful result for the community.

Use the article "Lanterns for the Winter Parade" to answer this question.

4) How does paragraph 3 contribute to the structure of the article?

(A) It compares two unrelated projects in different locations.
(B) It summarizes the article's conclusion before any evidence is given.
(C) It presents the setback that leads to the revision described later.
(D) It introduces the setting of the project for the first time.

Use the article "Lanterns for the Winter Parade" to answer this question.

5) Why does the author include details about the team's routines in paragraph 2?

(A) To emphasize how much time and effort the project required
(B) To show that the team worked in an orderly way from the beginning
(C) To foreshadow that the project will face a challenge later
(D) To show that the project depends on repeated steps and collected evidence

Use the article "Lanterns for the Winter Parade" to answer this question.

6) Which sentence best explains how the article develops the topic?

(A) It compares two competing approaches to solving the problem and argues that one is clearly better.
(B) It introduces a project, explains its process, describes a problem, and shows a revised solution.
(C) It presents the final result first and then goes back to explain how the project originally started.
(D) It describes two different community problems and explains how each was solved by a different team.

Use the article "How Urban Beekeeping Helps Cities" to answer this question.

20) How does paragraph 4 contribute to the structure of the article?

(A) It gives another example of how nearby gardens benefit from urban hives.
(B) It presents challenges that balance the benefits discussed earlier.
(C) It restates the article's main claim after the topic has already been developed.
(D) It narrows the discussion to the basic equipment rooftop beekeepers use.

Use the article "How Urban Beekeeping Helps Cities" to answer this question.

21) What can the reader infer about the author's perspective on urban beekeeping?

(A) The author sees urban beekeeping as useful in a few neighborhoods but too limited to matter across a city.
(B) The author treats urban beekeeping mainly as a short-term local trend rather than as a lasting community practice.
(C) The author views urban beekeeping as a valuable practice with manageable challenges.
(D) The author implies urban beekeeping works best when highly trained specialists oversee most of the work.

Use the article "How Urban Beekeeping Helps Cities" to answer this question.

22) This question has two correct answers. Choose the **two** sentences from the article that **together** best support the idea that urban beekeeping benefits both people and the environment.

(A) "Rooftop hives and community apiaries now sit alongside water towers and antenna arrays in dozens of metropolitan areas."
(B) "Community gardens near urban hives have reported noticeably higher yields of tomatoes, squash, and peppers."
(C) "Most cities now require registration and set rules about hive placement, usually demanding that hives face away from sidewalks and sit at least fifteen feet from property lines."
(D) "Critics worry about the risk of stings and allergic reactions."
(E) "As more people learn to care for bees, they also begin to notice which plants bloom, when seasons shift, and how small creatures shape a whole neighborhood."

Use the article "How Urban Beekeeping Helps Cities" to answer this question.

23) Which sentence best summarizes the article?

(A) Urban beekeeping has spread because residents want local honey and more rooftop projects in their neighborhoods.
(B) Urban beekeeping supports pollination, food production, and environmental awareness despite manageable challenges in city settings.
(C) City beekeeping programs should expand only after officials can eliminate safety risks for nearby residents.
(D) Training new beekeepers is presented as the article's main concern because careful hive management is the key issue in cities.

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Samira wrote an informational essay about the benefits of a school garden. Read Samira's essay and look for revisions she needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.

A Garden Changes a School

(1) A school garden is more than a patch of green in the parking lot. (2) Students who tend plants learn patience, care, and the scientific method in a way that no textbook matches. (3) A garden also connects lessons in science, math, and writing to real outcomes students can see and taste. (4) My brother practices guitar in the living room after dinner.

(5) Gardens give every student a role. (6) Some students track growth and weather, while others harvest food or write short reports to share with the cafeteria staff.

(7) The work is not always easy. (8) Pests, weather, and busy schedules can frustrate students and teachers alike. (9) But those same challenges often teach the lasting lessons that make a garden worth keeping.

24) Which sentence should Samira remove from the **first** paragraph because it does not support the main idea?

(A) Sentence 1
(B) Sentence 2
(C) Sentence 3
(D) Sentence 4

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