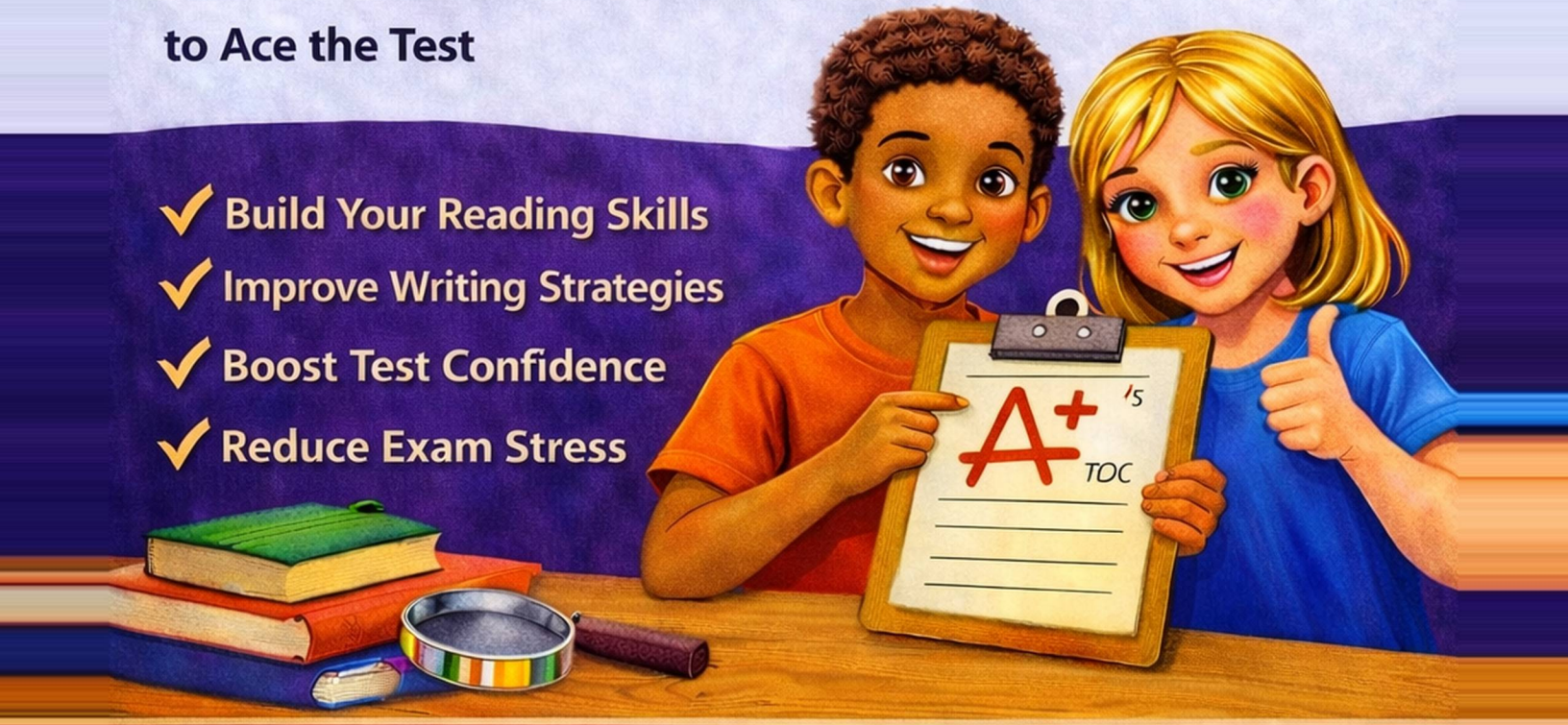
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Read the article. Then answer questions 1–8.

The Night Sky Festival

1 What started in the soccer fields outside Mesa Park as a community stargazing festival quickly became a focused attempt to solve a community problem.

2 Rather than rely on guesses, participants set up telescopes, darken nearby lights, and post sky maps for visitors. The repeated routine turns observations into evidence the team can use later.

3 The project nearly stalled when a row of bright parking-lot lamps washed out the dimmer stars. That moment pushed the team to analyze the problem instead of guessing at a quick fix.

4 The next version of the plan changed several things at once: the team aimed shields over the lights and moved the telescopes farther from the sidewalk. That revision made the dimmer stars more visible, because the shields reduced stray light.

5 By the end of the project, families who had never used a telescope before stayed late to compare constellations. For neighbors who had only known the field as a place to park, the darkened edges and crowded telescopes made it feel newly shared.

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 to schedule another festival night right away; others argued that another set of visitor notes and light readings 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 several families were eager for the next event.

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

(A) safe to touch without care
(B) measured in exact numbers
(C) likely to break in cold weather
(D) able to be seen

Use the article "The Night Sky Festival" to answer this question.

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

(A) Careful research and revision helped a community stargazing festival become a useful community project.
(B) The article mostly explains the team's daily routines and gives only brief attention to how the project adjusted over time.
(C) The article describes a community effort whose success depended more on a single decisive moment than on the broader pattern of testing and revision.
(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 "The Night Sky Festival" to answer this question.

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

(A) The finished project later provided a useful result for the community.
(B) The project began after students identified a local need in the community.
(C) Students and volunteers worked together throughout the project.
(D) The team studied the weakness and then aimed shields over the lights and moved the telescopes farther from the sidewalk.

Use the article "The Night Sky Festival" to answer this question.

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

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

Use the article "The Night Sky Festival" 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 show that the project depends on repeated steps and collected evidence
(D) To foreshadow that the project will face a challenge later

Use the article "The Night Sky Festival" 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 describes two different community problems and explains how each was solved by a different team.
(D) It presents the final result first and then goes back to explain how the project originally started.

Scan Me

Use the article "Why Seed Banks Matter" to answer this question.

20) How does paragraph 4 contribute to the article?

(A) It introduces seed banks for the first time.
(B) It shows a second purpose of seed banks: preserving traditional varieties that markets no longer support.
(C) It argues that farmers should stop growing high-yield crops entirely.
(D) It summarizes the earlier information about the Svalbard vault.

Use the article "Why Seed Banks Matter" to answer this question.

21) Based on the article, what can the reader infer about seed banks?

(A) They work quickly and without any human effort.
(B) They are only important for countries that experience drought.
(C) They depend on careful, ongoing work by scientists and volunteers.
(D) They are no longer needed because farming has become more modern.

Use the article "Why Seed Banks Matter" 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 seed banks protect against both sudden disasters and slow, long-term losses in crop variety.

(A) "The most famous is the Svalbard Global Seed Vault in Norway, built deep inside a mountain."
(B) "A single disease can sweep through a single type of wheat or rice."
(C) "Scientists check moisture levels, test seed viability every few years, and plant small sample plots to refresh the collection."
(D) "As markets shifted toward a few high-yielding types, older varieties nearly disappeared."
(E) "Some have been operating quietly for more than fifty years."

Scan Me

Use the article "Why Seed Banks Matter" to answer this question.

23) Which sentence would **best** summarize the article?

(A) Seed banks store millions of seeds in a few cold vaults around the world.
(B) Seed banks quietly protect crop diversity so that scientists, farmers, and communities can respond to future needs.
(C) Seed banks are only useful in very cold climates.
(D) Seed banks replace farms by growing crops themselves.

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

Use the essay "A Garden Changes a School" to answer this question.

25) What is the **best** way to combine sentences 5 and 6?

(A) Gardens give every student a role, because some students track growth and weather while others harvest food or write short reports to share with the cafeteria staff.
(B) Students grow plants and measure them, and the cafeteria sometimes uses the vegetables for lunch.
(C) Roles exist in gardens, and food is grown there.
(D) Students do things in the garden.

Use the essay "A Garden Changes a School" to answer this question.

26) Samira wants to add a transition at the beginning of paragraph 3. Which sentence would **best** serve this purpose?

(A) In addition, many students enjoy recess outside.
(B) Of course, keeping a school garden alive takes patience and planning.
(C) For example, sports teams also practice after school.
(D) As a result, every campus should replace its parking lot with plants.