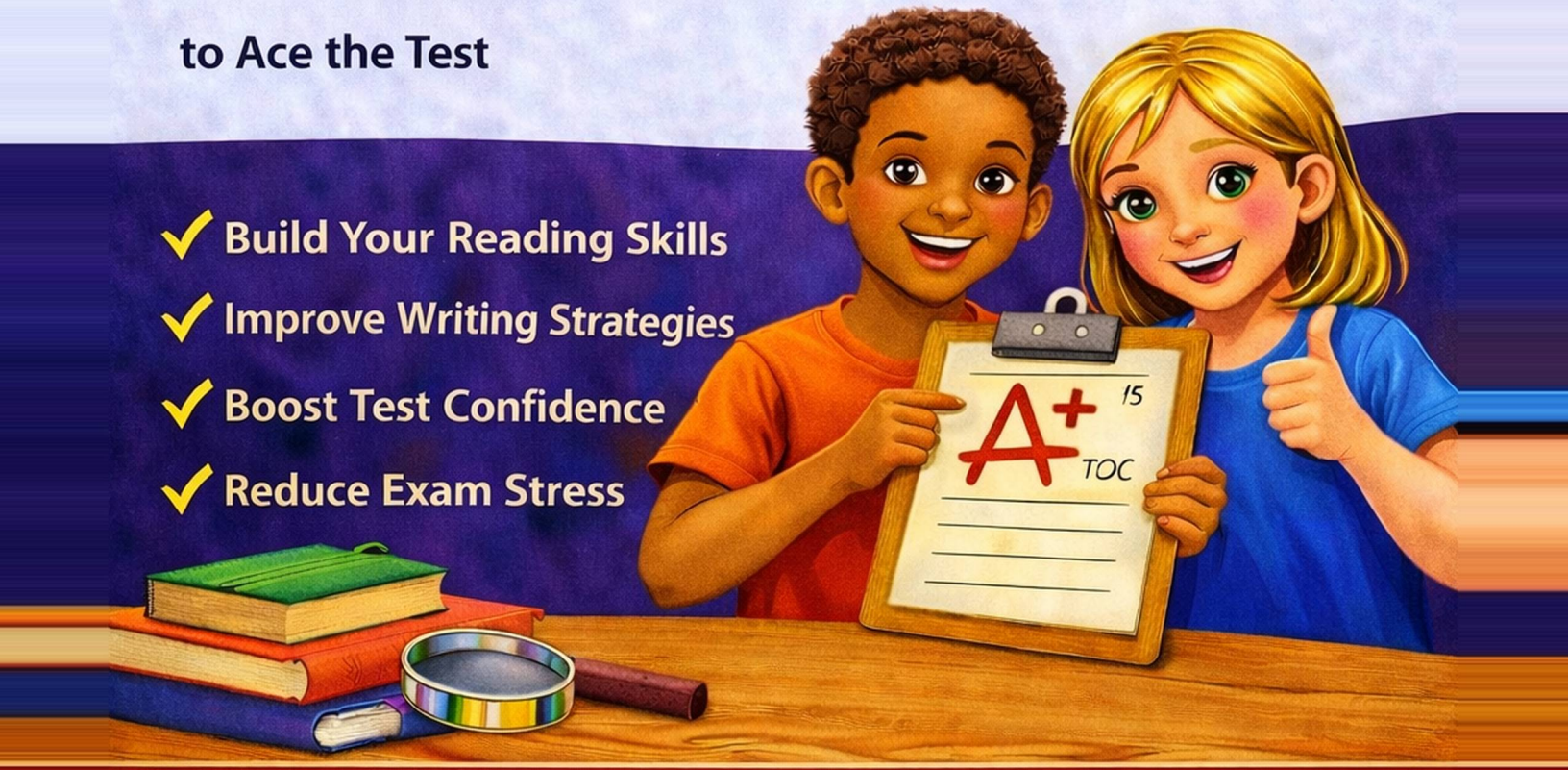
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Read the article. Then answer questions 1–8.

The Paper Bridge Contest

1 In the school commons, a small team built a paper bridge engineering contest around one idea: a local problem should be studied before anyone tries to fix it.

2 Daily work is organized around close observation. Participants fold paper into beams, test load limits, and revise designs based on where each bridge bends. By keeping records, the group can connect each revision to a reason.

3 A clear setback interrupted the progress: Many bridges collapsed in the center because their supports were too far apart. The team used the difficulty as a reason to investigate more carefully.

4 After comparing notes, the team added triangular folds and moved support points closer to the middle. That revision helped reinforce the paper bridge, because triangular folds spread the weight more effectively.

5 In the final stage, students began explaining design choices with evidence instead of guesswork. The project became an example of how careful observation can lead to useful community change.

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 scale up right away; others pointed out that another round of evidence would catch problems the group had not yet seen. The team delayed the expansion in order to keep the work honest, even though a few supporters had already pictured a larger project that would have to wait.

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

(A) to decorate with extra color
(B) to move without touching the ground
(C) to make something stronger
(D) to shorten until it disappears

Use the article "The Paper Bridge Contest" 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) Careful research and revision helped a paper bridge engineering contest become a useful community project.
(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 Paper Bridge Contest" to answer this question.

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

(A) Students and volunteers worked together throughout the project.
(B) The team studied the weakness and then added triangular folds and moved support points closer to the middle.
(C) The finished project later provided a useful result for the community.
(D) The project began after students identified a local need in the community.

Use the article "The Paper Bridge Contest" 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 summarizes the article's conclusion before any evidence is given.
(C) It presents the setback that leads to the revision described later.
(D) It compares two unrelated projects in different locations.

Use the article "The Paper Bridge Contest" to answer this question.

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

(A) To foreshadow that the project will face a challenge later
(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 emphasize how much time and effort the project required

Use the article "The Paper Bridge Contest" to answer this question.

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

(A) It introduces a project, explains its process, describes a problem, and shows a revised solution.
(B) It compares two competing approaches to solving the problem and argues that one is clearly better.
(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.

Scan Me

Use the article "Finding the Real Night Sky" to answer this question.

21) What can the reader infer about the author's view?

(A) The author thinks people should avoid looking at the night sky.
(B) The author believes dark skies are worth protecting for wonder, wildlife, and community.
(C) The author believes cities should stop using any outdoor lights.
(D) The author thinks dark-sky parks are too expensive to be useful.

Use the article "Finding the Real Night Sky" 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 light pollution harms both the view of the night sky and the living things that depend on darkness.

(A) "The International Dark Sky Association now recognizes more than two hundred parks around the world."
(B) "Streetlights, signs, and headlights scatter so much light into the air that fainter stars disappear behind a soft glow."
(C) "A well-aimed porch light can still welcome a guest while sending almost no light upward."
(D) "Too much artificial light confuses sea turtles, which can head toward streetlights instead of the ocean after hatching."
(E) "Visiting a dark-sky park requires some planning, but the reward is a view that earlier generations took for granted."

Use the article "Finding the Real Night Sky" to answer this question.

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

(A) Dark-sky parks can help communities recover views of the night sky while protecting wildlife and using light more wisely.
(B) Dark-sky parks allow visitors to see the Milky Way.
(C) Scientists study light in the night sky.
(D) Streetlights are bad for people and animals.

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

Priya wrote an informational essay about the importance of sleep for middle school students. Read Priya's essay and look for revisions she needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.

Middle Schoolers Need Better Sleep

(1) Most middle school students need nine to eleven hours of sleep each night. (2) Doctors say that sleep helps the brain move new information into long-term memory. (3) Sleep also supports attention, mood, and healthy growth. (4) My little brother loves to ride his scooter after school.

(5) Unfortunately, many students do not get enough rest. (6) Homework, sports, and screens all compete for evening time. (7) Some students stay up past midnight and then drag themselves through first period the next morning.

(8) Small changes can help. (9) Leaving phones outside the bedroom, turning off bright lights an hour before bed, and keeping weekend and weekday schedules close together all make a real difference. (10) With steady routines, students often find that mornings become easier and classes feel less blurry.

24) Which sentence should Priya 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 "Middle Schoolers Need Better Sleep" to answer this question.

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

(A) Unfortunately, many students do not get enough rest because homework, sports, and screens all compete for evening time.
(B) Students do not sleep well, and homework is hard.
(C) Rest is missed; evenings are busy.
(D) Many students skip dinner and go to bed late because of screens.

Use the essay "Middle Schoolers Need Better Sleep" to answer this question.

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

(A) Fortunately, small changes can make a big difference.
(B) By the way, my science teacher plays the guitar.
(C) In conclusion, school is important.
(D) However, scooters are really fun.