

Reading Comprehension

This part consists of two passages, each followed by several related questions. For each question, **choose the most appropriate answer based on the text.**

Text I (Questions 13-17)

- (1) Like herbs and spices, salt can be used as a seasoning – to add flavor to food. But while herbs and spices, such as oregano and cinnamon, come from plants, salt is a mineral.

- (5) Salt is found both in bodies of water and underground. Much of the salt we use comes from the salt water of oceans and seas. To remove the salt, shallow holes are dug near the edge of the sea or ocean. Water flows into these holes and stays there. Over a period of several weeks, the sun dries up the water, leaving behind crystals of salt. Salt is also found under the ground in the form of huge rocks. To remove this salt from the ground, it is necessary to dig it out, just as coal and other minerals are mined.

- (10) Salt is used not only as a seasoning, but also to preserve food so that it can be kept without refrigeration for long periods of time. Among the foods that can be preserved using salt are meat, fish, and vegetables. Adding salt to food has an additional purpose. Our bodies need salt in order to function. When we sweat, our bodies lose salt, which must be replaced. People who live in hot countries must be especially careful to get enough salt in their diet.

- (15) But salt can be very expensive in some of the places where it is most needed. In northeastern Ethiopia, for example, blocks of salt must be cut from the surface of the dried-up Lake Assale. Merchants buy the salt blocks, then use camels to carry them across the desert to salt markets. At the salt markets, people buy salt for thirty times the price the merchants paid for it.

Questions

- 13.** It can be understood from the first paragraph that a seasoning is something that -

- (1) makes food taste better
 - (2) tastes like salt
 - (3) is a mineral
 - (4) comes from a plant
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- 14.** The main purpose of the second paragraph is to -

- (1) explain where the salt we use comes from
 - (2) explain why salt is considered a mineral
 - (3) compare salt from mines to salt from the sea
 - (4) compare salt mining and coal mining
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- 15.** The main purpose of the third paragraph is to -

- (1) discuss two uses for salt
 - (2) discuss how salt is used to preserve food
 - (3) explain why the body needs salt
 - (4) explain why people in hot countries need salt
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16. According to the third paragraph, vegetables -

- (1) do not need to be refrigerated
 - (2) taste better with salt
 - (3) can be preserved using salt
 - (4) contain a lot of salt
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17. A good title for this text would be -

- (1) Salt: A Seasoning or a Mineral?
 - (2) The History of Salt
 - (3) From Ocean to Market: How We Get Salt From the Sea
 - (4) Where Salt Comes From and How We Use It
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Text II (Questions 18-22)

(1) Like other famous nineteenth-century novels, *Black Beauty* – the adventures of a horse by that name – is often published today in abridged editions that omit portions of the narrative and simplify the language. As a result, the work is generally considered to be just another children’s story about animals.

(5) Yet *Black Beauty* was not originally intended for juvenile audiences. Its author, Anna Sewell, wrote the novel as both an impassioned plea and a reasoned argument for the humane treatment of horses. This was an issue of no little significance in post-Industrial Revolution England, where horse-drawn vehicles were the principal means of transportation but the animals that drew them were often perceived as hardly different from the steam engines that pulled trains. Overworking, whipping, and otherwise mistreating horses were common and accepted practices. In addition, it was fashionable in many circles to harness driving horses with a “bearing rein,” which forced the horses to hold their necks high – creating a supposedly elegant look at the expense of the animals’ comfort and health.

(15) Appalled by what she saw around her, Sewell conveyed her message in a manner that left no doubt about her opinions. Indeed, today she would likely be accused of excessive preaching. However, in an era when pamphlets on moral issues were commonly circulated and even novelists frequently lectured their readers directly, Sewell was relatively subtle in her approach. She employed the innovative literary device of telling the story from the perspective of a horse. *Black Beauty* is not only the main character but also the narrator of the novel, which is subtitled *The Autobiography of a Horse*.

(20) Since its first publication in 1877, over 30 million copies of *Black Beauty* have been printed – a number unmatched by any other work of fiction. Shortly after it appeared, George Ansell, the founder of an American animal welfare organization, arranged for the printing of 100,000 copies, which were distributed to people who worked with horses. In the years that followed, the use of bearing reins was abandoned and the treatment of horses improved significantly.

Questions

18. It can be inferred from the first paragraph that many readers of *Black Beauty* today -

- (1) do not believe that it is appropriate for children
 - (2) find it exciting and full of adventure
 - (3) do not read the complete, original edition of the book
 - (4) prefer other children's stories about animals
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19. "Yet" is used in line 5 to indicate that -

- (1) the view of *Black Beauty* as simply a children's book is inaccurate
 - (2) today's editions of *Black Beauty* are very different from past editions
 - (3) *Black Beauty* was not originally considered a great novel
 - (4) most children do not actually understand *Black Beauty*
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20. According to the second paragraph, in Sewell's time, the treatment of horses -

- (1) was an important issue because horses were widely used for transportation
 - (2) was a greater problem in England than in other countries
 - (3) had become the subject of much impassioned argument
 - (4) received little attention because steam engines were becoming more common
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21. The main purpose of the third paragraph is to -

- (1) discuss Sewell's method of conveying her message
 - (2) compare *Black Beauty* with the novels of today
 - (3) explain why Sewell chose to lecture her readers directly
 - (4) show why *Black Beauty* is subtitled *The Autobiography of a Horse*
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22. It can be inferred from the last paragraph that *Black Beauty* -

- (1) was read mostly by people who loved animals
 - (2) was first published by George Ansell
 - (3) accomplished what Sewell hoped it would
 - (4) encouraged people to join animal welfare organizations
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