

Passage 1

The practice of meditation, once thought of as a niche activity, has become increasingly mainstream in recent years. It has been recognized for its potential to improve mental well-being, reduce stress, and increase focus. The rise of apps like Headspace and Calm, which provide guided meditation sessions, has made it easier for people to incorporate mindfulness practices into their daily routines. Despite its growing popularity, some critics argue that the trend is overhyped, and that meditation may not be the miracle cure it is sometimes portrayed as.

Questions for Passage 1

1. Which of the following would be the best revision to the phrase "once thought of as a niche activity"?
 - A. "Once widely practiced in most cultures."
 - B. "Once considered a specialized practice."
 - C. "Once ignored by many."
 - D. "Once seen as unnecessary."
2. Which of the following best describes the tone of the passage?
 - A. Critical.
 - B. Enthusiastic.
 - C. Balanced and neutral.
 - D. Skeptical.
3. The phrase "the trend is overhyped" implies that some people believe meditation:
 - A. Is not as effective as it is advertised.
 - B. Is too difficult for most people to practice.
 - C. Should be practiced more often.
 - D. Is only effective when done in groups.
4. Which revision would most improve the clarity of the sentence "has been recognized for its potential to improve mental well-being"?
 - A. "Has been acknowledged for its remarkable success in improving mental well-being."
 - B. "Has been proven to improve mental well-being."
 - C. "Has been noted for its promise in enhancing mental well-being."
 - D. "Has been recognized for improving mental health and focus."
5. The author's primary purpose in the passage is to:
 - A. Argue that meditation is not worth practicing.
 - B. Explain the benefits of meditation and present opposing viewpoints.
 - C. Describe the history of meditation.
 - D. Promote meditation as a solution to modern stress.

Passage 2

The Internet has revolutionized the way we shop, socialize, and consume information. With a few clicks, we can purchase products from anywhere in the world, connect with people across continents, and access an immense amount of knowledge. While the Internet has clearly transformed many aspects of daily life, its rapid growth has also raised concerns about privacy, security, and the spread of misinformation. Experts continue to debate how best to regulate the vast digital landscape without stifling innovation.

Questions for Passage 2

1. The phrase "its rapid growth has also raised concerns" implies that:
 - A. The internet's expansion has been entirely positive.
 - B. The internet has been growing at a fast pace, creating problems.
 - C. The internet is slowing down.
 - D. People are no longer concerned about the internet's growth.
2. Which of the following is the best way to revise the sentence "experts continue to debate how best to regulate the vast digital landscape"?
 - A. "Experts have agreed on a solution for regulating the digital landscape."
 - B. "Experts are uncertain about how to handle the internet's rapid growth."
 - C. "Experts are still discussing the best way to regulate the digital world."
 - D. "Experts have already implemented regulations on the digital landscape."
3. Which sentence best summarizes the central idea of the passage?
 - A. The internet's rapid growth has made it difficult for businesses to keep up.
 - B. The internet is changing the way we live, but its growth raises new challenges.
 - C. Experts believe that the internet is a threat to privacy and security.
 - D. People are finding it hard to adjust to the internet's vastness.
4. The word "vast" as used in the passage most nearly means:
 - A. Limited.
 - B. Confusing.
 - C. Immense.
 - D. Complex.
5. The author's attitude toward the internet in this passage is:
 - A. Dismissive and cynical.
 - B. Optimistic but cautious.
 - C. Pessimistic and critical.
 - D. Neutral and factual.

Passage 3

The extinction of species is a natural part of the evolutionary process. However, the current rate of extinction is unprecedented in human history. Experts attribute much of this acceleration to human activity, including habitat destruction, overhunting, and climate change. In addition to the obvious environmental impacts, the loss of biodiversity can have far-reaching consequences for human societies, as it can disrupt ecosystems that provide essential services like clean water and food.

Questions for Passage 3

1. The phrase "the loss of biodiversity can have far-reaching consequences for human societies" suggests that:
 - A. Biodiversity has little effect on human societies.
 - B. The extinction of species is not a significant issue.
 - C. The loss of biodiversity can negatively impact humans in unexpected ways.
 - D. Biodiversity is only important to environmentalists.
2. The author's tone in the passage is:
 - A. Apologetic.
 - B. Alarmed and concerned.
 - C. Indifferent.
 - D. Sarcastic.
3. Which of the following is the most effective revision for the sentence "the current rate of extinction is unprecedented in human history"?
 - A. "The current rate of extinction is unimportant."
 - B. "The current rate of extinction is faster than ever before."
 - C. "The current rate of extinction has slowed down."
 - D. "The extinction rate is the same as it has always been."
4. Which of the following would most improve the sentence "Experts attribute much of this acceleration to human activity"?
 - A. "Experts suggest that human activity is the primary cause of this acceleration."
 - B. "Experts are concerned about human activity but not its role in extinction."
 - C. "Experts have debated whether human activity is the cause of this acceleration."
 - D. "Experts acknowledge that human activity has had some impact."
5. The passage suggests that the extinction of species:
 - A. Is an entirely negative development for human societies.
 - B. Will have no significant impact on human societies.
 - C. Will likely continue at an accelerated rate due to human activities.
 - D. Has no impact on ecosystems or the environment.

Passage 4

As society becomes more interconnected, the question of privacy becomes increasingly complex. In the digital age, personal information is more vulnerable than ever before. Social media platforms, search engines, and online retailers gather extensive data about individuals, often without their knowledge or consent. While some argue that privacy should be prioritized in the digital age, others contend that the convenience of personalized services justifies the collection of this data. Despite differing opinions, it is clear that the debate over privacy will continue to evolve as technology advances.

Questions for Passage 4

1. The phrase "the question of privacy becomes increasingly complex" suggests that:
 - A. Privacy issues are becoming more difficult to address.
 - B. People are becoming more comfortable with privacy violations.
 - C. Privacy concerns are no longer relevant in modern society.
 - D. People are increasingly giving up their privacy voluntarily.
2. The author's attitude toward the issue of privacy is best described as:
 - A. Indifferent.
 - B. Concerned and reflective.
 - C. Supportive of privacy invasion.
 - D. Critical of privacy advocates.
3. Which of the following revisions would best improve the sentence "While some argue that privacy should be prioritized"?
 - A. "Some argue privacy is important, but others do not."
 - B. "Some believe privacy is not important, but others disagree."
 - C. "Some argue privacy should be prioritized, while others feel it's irrelevant."
 - D. "Some say privacy is essential, and others argue it is unnecessary."
4. The phrase "personalized services" most nearly refers to:
 - A. Services that tailor content or products based on user data.
 - B. Services that are available to everyone regardless of their needs.
 - C. Services that prioritize user privacy.
 - D. Services that provide general information for all users.
5. The main idea of the passage is:
 - A. The digital age has eliminated privacy concerns.
 - B. Privacy issues are increasingly complex and debated in the context of technology.
 - C. The collection of personal data has no impact on society.
 - D. The debate over privacy is irrelevant in the digital age.

Passage 5

Education has long been seen as a means to level the playing field, providing equal opportunities for all individuals regardless of their background. Yet, the gap between students from wealthier and less affluent families remains wide. Research indicates that children from lower-income families often lack access to the same resources, such as tutoring, extracurricular activities, and even adequate school supplies, that their wealthier peers enjoy. As a result, many students in lower-income areas face significant challenges that can hinder their academic success, perpetuating a cycle of inequality.

Questions for Passage 5

1. The author's point of view on educational inequality can best be described as:
 - A. Supportive of the idea that all students have equal opportunities.
 - B. Critical of the inequalities present in the education system.
 - C. Unconcerned with the gap between wealthier and poorer students.
 - D. Neutral about the impact of income on education.
2. Which of the following would most effectively revise the phrase "the gap between students from wealthier and less affluent families remains wide"?
 - A. "The gap between wealthy students and those from lower-income families is closing."
 - B. "The gap between affluent and poor students is increasing."
 - C. "The gap between wealthy and impoverished students remains unchanged."
 - D. "The gap between students from wealthy and poor families is still significant."
3. Which of the following best describes the main point of the passage?
 - A. Wealthy students have more access to resources, which contributes to inequality.
 - B. All students, regardless of their background, have equal access to educational resources.
 - C. Tutoring and extracurricular activities are not essential to academic success.
 - D. Schools should focus only on the most disadvantaged students.
4. The word "perpetuating" as used in the passage most nearly means:
 - A. Breaking.
 - B. Continuing.
 - C. Resolving.
 - D. Harming.
5. Which of the following is the best conclusion the author could draw from the passage?
 - A. The education system is perfect as it is.
 - B. Educational inequality continues to affect students from lower-income families.
 - C. Wealthier families should donate more to lower-income students.
 - D. The issue of inequality can be solved without changing any resources.