Lesson 1

Read each story. Darken the circle for the answer that best completes the sentence.

Through time people have paid taxes for many reasons. In ancient Rome, people had to pay a tax when they married. Long ago in England, tax bills were sent to men who were not married. There was even a law in Russia that taxed men with beards. At one time in Ireland, people had to pay a tax for the windows in their houses.

1. The story tells you that
   A. people have never liked paying taxes.
   B. people used to pay more taxes than they do now.
   C. tax laws have always been unfair.
   D. there have been some unusual taxes.

The shrew is the smallest mammal in the world. It is about two and one-half inches long. It weighs as much as a dime. To stay alive, a shrew must eat its own weight in food every day. If the same were true for human beings, they would have to spend their entire day eating.

2. You can conclude that a shrew is always
   A. difficult to catch.
   B. running from enemies.
   C. looking for food.
   D. trying to grow.

An Egyptian prince named Amun is buried in the United States. His remains lie in a graveyard in Middlebury, Vermont. The baby prince died more than three thousand years before Columbus discovered America. In 1886 the director of a Vermont museum bought the mummy of the prince. Several years later, the museum decided to give the little prince a final resting place. The headstone on the grave indicates that Amun was the son of an Egyptian king and queen.

3. You can tell that the little prince
   A. was buried once before in Egypt.
   B. was given a very large funeral.
   C. was buried with gold and jewels.
   D. was ten years old when he died.
Lesson 2

Read each story. Darken the circle for the answer that best completes the sentence.

Many people believe that margarine was invented during World War II. This substitute for butter was actually made by the French in 1869. It wasn’t used widely in the United States because dairy farmers were against its sale. Wisconsin had the last law against it. That law ended in 1967.

1. You can tell from the story that
   A. dairy farmers approved of the use of margarine.
   B. Wisconsin probably had many dairy farmers.
   C. French dairy farmers opposed the use of margarine.
   D. margarine was widely used in America before 1967.

Tomatoes used to be considered poisonous, perhaps because of their bright color. In 1820 a man in Salem, New Jersey, proved that they weren’t harmful. Robert Johnson ate an entire basket of tomatoes in front of the whole town. His doctor was there and was sure that Johnson would die.

2. From the story, you can tell that
   A. some brightly colored plants are poisonous.
   B. tomatoes are usually dull-looking.
   C. Johnson was afraid he would die.
   D. Johnson’s doctor liked tomatoes.

One difference between an alligator and a crocodile is that the alligator has a much larger snout. Also, the alligator has an overbite. This means that the teeth in its lower jaw fit behind the teeth in its upper jaw. But the bottom and top teeth of the crocodile fit between each other, forming a single row when closed.

3. To tell a crocodile from an alligator, you would
   A. look at their tails.
   B. feel their tails.
   C. look at their eyes.
   D. look at their mouths.
Lesson 3

≈ Read each story. Darken the circle for the answer that best completes the sentence.

The stories of wolves attacking and eating human beings are false. There isn’t any record of a wolf attacking a human being in the United States. Only a wolf with rabies would bite a human being. Rabies is a disease that strikes dogs and foxes as well.

1. From the story, you can tell that
   A wolves are dangerous to human beings.
   B there is only one case of a wolf attack on a human.
   C there are few wolves in North America.
   D wolves are no more dangerous than dogs.

In 1893 two sisters named Mildred and Patty Hill taught music in a school in Kentucky. They wrote a song for their pupils called “Good Morning to You.” Later, one of the sisters decided to change two words in the song. “Happy Birthday to You” is now sung and played more than any other song in the world. The melody and the rest of the words are the same as those in the original song.

2. The sisters’ song became popular after
   A their pupils sang it at school.
   B they made a change in the words.
   C they sang it at a birthday party.
   D the tune was changed.

The words of the song “The Star-Spangled Banner” were written by Francis Scott Key. He wrote the words in 1812 during a war that America fought against the British. But the tune is not original. It was taken from a British song popular at the time.

3. America’s national song is interesting because
   A Francis Scott Key didn’t write it.
   B it was written during a war.
   C it was taken from America’s enemy at the time.
   D it is difficult for most people to sing.
Lesson 4

Read each story. Darken the circle for the answer that best completes the sentence.

Almost all cats purr, but they never purr when they’re alone. They purr only around other cats or human beings. That makes animal experts think that purring is a form of cat talk. It may be a sign that a cat is willing to submit itself to another cat or a person.

1. This story suggests that
   A) cats purr when they are relaxed.
   B) cats purr when they are afraid.
   C) cats always purr when they’re alone.
   D) purring is a form of breathing.

The potato has traveled quite a bit. It was first grown by the Inca people of South America. Spanish explorers took the plant back with them to Europe, where it grew well. Later, the Europeans settled North America. When they did, they brought potatoes back to this side of the Atlantic Ocean.

2. You can conclude that probably
   A) the Inca brought the first potato to the United States.
   B) the potato is grown only in the mountains.
   C) the potato did not take a direct route to North America.
   D) potatoes were first grown in Africa.

In Africa it is common to see women carrying heavy loads on their heads. Scientists are surprised by how little energy these women use. A male army recruit carrying 70 percent of his body weight on his back uses 100 percent more oxygen to do so. A woman carrying 70 percent of her body weight on her head increases her oxygen use by only 50 percent.

3. From the story, you can tell that
   A) army recruits are weaker than African women:
   B) scientists are often surprised.
   C) it is impossible for women to carry heavy loads.
   D) the head carries loads with less energy than the back.
Lesson 5

Read each story. Darken the circle for the answer that best completes the sentence.

The *Akita* is a Japanese hunting dog with short, bristly hair. It is considered a symbol of good health. In fact, the dog is so prized that it has been made an official national treasure. The first Akita was brought into the United States in 1937. Its owner was Helen Keller, the author who was blind and deaf.

1. From this story, you can tell that Akitas
   A. are bred in northern Japan.
   B. were brought to the United States before 1937.
   C. are valued for more than their hunting ability.
   D. became very popular in the United States.

The *anableps* is a freshwater fish found in Mexico and parts of South America. It is unusual because of its eyes. A band of skin divides each eye in half, giving it four eyes. It stays near the top of the water. It can look above and below the water at the same time.

2. You can conclude that the anableps probably
   A. needs bifocals.
   B. has extremely sensitive skin.
   C. can’t be caught with a rod and reel.
   D. hunts for food above and below the water.

*Acrophobia* means “fear of heights.” People who have this fear are known as acrophobics. They aren’t any less afraid even when there are fences or railings to protect them.

3. From this story, you can tell that
   A. acrophobics probably don’t work in tall buildings.
   B. many people suffer from acrophobia.
   C. fences make acrophobics feel better.
   D. people can get over acrophobia.