36 A MID-TERM PRACTICE EXAM – Main & Supporting Ideas

Part A: Using SQ3R and Other Terms

Directions: Answer the question by writing your responses on the blanks.

1. Name and describe each of the steps in the study system known as SQ3R. If you do not describe each step, you will not receive credit! This WILL definitely BE ON THE EXAM.
   
   S: ________________________________________________________________
   
   Q: ________________________________________________________________
   
   R: ________________________________________________________________
   
   R: ________________________________________________________________
   
   R: ________________________________________________________________

2. Define the following terms. (4 points)

   Paragraph _________________________________________________________
   
   Topic _____________________________________________________________
   
   Main Idea _________________________________________________________
   
   Topic Sentence ____________________________________________________
   
   Context Clue _______________________________________________________

3. Main ideas may be
   
   a. at the beginning, middle, or end of a paragraph.
   
   b. restated by the concluding sentence.
   
   c. preceded by an introductory sentence.
   
   d. all of the above

4. True or False  
   
   Supporting details can take many different forms, but their function remains the same: They prove, clarify, suggest a topic sentence.

5. True or False  
   
   Minor details should never be included in your notes.

6. True or False  
   
   Major and minor details are always essential to understand the topic sentence.
Part B: Recognizing General and Specific Sentences

Directions: In each group of sentences, one is more general than the others. Circle the letter of the most general sentence.

1. a. Research shows that we eat more when we’re in groups and with friends than we do when we eat alone.
   b. When we eat dinner with one other person, we eat an average of 44 percent more food.
   c. Meals eaten with large groups of friends can be as much as 75 percent larger than meals eaten alone.

2. a. Crews in California pick up roadside litter and pile it in mounds underneath signs that read “Don’t Trash California.”
   b. In the state of Washington, where an ad campaign warns citizens “Litter and It Will Hurt,” litterbugs are slapped with fines of up to $950.
   c. States are using aggressive tactics to try to reduce their litter problems.

Directions: In each group of sentences, one is more specific than the others. Circle the letter of the most specific sentence.

3. a. People enjoy spending their leisure time at amusement parks.
   b. In 2003, 90 million visitors went to Walt Disney’s ten parks.
   c. The Walt Disney amusement parks are among the world’s most popular.

4. a. An ounce and a half of peanuts, for example, contains not only a healthy dose of unsaturated fat but also magnesium, a mineral that may lower blood pressure, and a B vitamin that helps prevent the buildup of plaque in the arteries.
   b. Nutritionists say that the regular consumption of nuts can help reduce cardiovascular disease.
   c. Nuts like almonds, peanuts, pecans, pistachios, and walnuts are full of healthy unsaturated fat and vitamins and minerals that are good for the heart.

Part C: Topics, Topic Sentences, and Context Clues

Directions: Circle the letter of the correct topic. Then circle the letter of the topic sentence that best fits in the blank.

1. ______________________. According to food industry researchers, in the last 10 years, the amount of dinners sold in American grocery store freezers or takeout counters increased by 24 percent. In 2012, supermarkets sold $2.57 billion of hot entrees, a 38 percent increase just
since 1997. Restaurants, too, have seen a steady increase in their takeout sales. As a matter of fact, almost all of the growth in the restaurant business over the past 15 years has been in takeout. Not surprisingly, one in every four meals served at home takes the form of frozen or prepared food from a supermarket or restaurant, in other words what’s commonly known as “fast food.” Only 53 percent of dinners eaten at home require turning on the stove; that proportion has dropped from 67 percent in 1985. (Source of statistics: Jerry Adler, “Takeout Nation,” Newsweek, February 9, 2004, pp. 52–53.)

**Topic**

a. fast food  
b. pre-prepared foods  
c. frozen foods

**Topic Sentence**

a. Many Americans do not know how to cook.  
b. These days, takeout food is just as good as home-cooked meals.  
c. Americans aren’t cooking as much as they used to.

**Directions:** Circle the letter of the correct topic. Then circle the letter of the topic sentence that best fits in the blank.

2. Many people argue that the money used to fund the space-exploration projects of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) could be better used to improve human lives here on Earth. _____________________________. It was NASA that made our current cell phone technology possible. Thanks to NASA scientists, we have MRI machines that help doctors diagnose what ails us. Other NASA experiments have led to the development of implants that help deaf people hear again, as well as instruments now used to diagnose cataracts and other eye diseases. The space agency’s research has given us DVDs and smoke detectors. It has provided our law enforcement personnel with bullet-proof Kevlar vests and our rescue personnel the Lifeshears, a tool that quickly cuts away debris to free accident victims. NASA’s innovations have also reduced accidents on highways and made flying safer. Over the last 40 years, NASA has been responsible for advances in computers, robotics, human biology, biotechnology, ecology, and many other fields that directly affect us all.
**Topic**

a. space exploration  
b. NASA’s innovations  
c. NASA’s failure to improve human life on Earth

**Topic Sentence**

a. Indeed, NASA’s work is a waste of taxpayers’ money.  
b. However, NASA’s innovations have always benefited everyday life on Earth.  
c. However, NASA’s projects have resulted in improvements in communication.

**Directions:** Circle the letter of the topic sentence that best fits in the blank AND read the passage and fill in the graphic organizer with the topic sentence (#1 -- already provided), major detail sentences and minor detail sentences. Use sentence numbers in the boxes of the graphic organizer. (7 points)

3. 1. ____ (  a.   b.   c.   d.   ) ____.

As a teenager, Snoop Dog, born Cordazar Calvin Broadus, was a member of the Crips, a gang in Long Beach, California. He made up to $1,000 a day selling crack cocaine and served eight months in prison after being convicted of felony drug charges. Following his release from prison, Broadus found himself in trouble again when he was implicated in the murder of a rival gang member. Things turned around for Broadus in 1993 when Death Row records released his debut rap music album *Doggystyle*, under the name of Snoop Dog. The album was a huge and immediate success, going quadruple platinum. In addition to continuing a musical career that won him several Grammy Award nominations, Snoop began to pursue an acting career. He won kudos for his good performances in films such as *Bones, Training Day,* and *Starsky & Hutch* and starred in several commercials for major companies. Snoop is also determined to be a success in his personal life and shape the lives of disadvantaged youth. He is the devoted father of three children and even coaches his oldest son’s football team. To raise money for children’s hospitals, inner-city youth centers, and other charitable causes, he established the Save a Life Foundation.

**Topic Sentence**

a. Snoop Dog was a drug dealer when he was a young man, and he has never quite escaped his early image as a gangster.  
b. Snoop Dog rose from humble beginnings to become a successful movie star.  
c. Snoop Dog is rap music’s most successful performer.  
d. The popular performer known as Snoop Dog left behind a life of crime to become successful both personally and professionally.
Directions: Circle the letter of the correct topic. Then circle the letter of the topic sentence that best fits in the blank.

4. Computer users are tired of dealing with spam e-mail messages and pop-up advertisements in web sites, and some have demanded that the federal government do something to eradicate these annoyances. __________. For one thing, the Internet community can solve these problems much faster than the government can. The creation of new laws that could put a stop to unwanted ads in cyberspace is always a very slow process. Internet service providers, search engine companies, computer manufacturers, and the rest of the marketplace can respond much faster, especially when their profits are threatened. For example, when computer users complained about pop-up ads cluttering their screens, Google and Earthlink were quick to supply free “pop-up stopper” software, which blocks the appearance of almost all of these ads. The Internet community’s solutions are also more effective than the government’s solutions. A federal law that took effect in 2004, for instance, outlawed using false e-mail addresses to generate spam. However, if the e-mail address is false, then the person who sent it is impossible to trace, and the law cannot be enforced. On contrast, the Internet experts are have developed technology that can verify e-mail addresses and prevent mail sent from false addresses from ever reaching computers.
Topic
a. e-mail
b. spam in e-mail
c. Internet experts
d. pop-up ads

Topic Sentence
a. The government has responded with legislation that will put a stop to the problem of unwanted e-mail.
b. The government and the Internet community are working together to solve the problem of Spam.
c. Government involvement, however, is unnecessary; the Internet community can take care of the problem.
d. The problem of seemingly ever present e-mail spam will not be easy to solve.

Directions: Circle the letter of the correct definition.
4A. Based on the context, the word kudos in paragraph 8 must means
   a. praise.
   b. criticism.
   c. medals.
   d. money.
4B. Based on the context, the word eradicate in paragraph 9 must means
   a. increase.
   b. punish.
   c. explain.
   d. get rid of.
Part D: Topics and Main Ideas (Stated and Implied)

**Directions:** Read each passage. Then answer the questions by circling the letter of the correct response or writing the answer on the blank.

1. **Sixty-two percent of pet owners** celebrate their pet’s birthday, and **half of pet owners** sing the “Happy Birthday” song to their pets. **Sixty-seven percent of pet owners** include their pet in their celebration of holidays like Christmas. **Forty-nine percent of pet owners** consider their pets to be family members, and **73 percent would go into debt to provide for their pet’s food, medical care, and other necessities.** **Sixty-seven percent of pet owners** admit to experiencing feelings of sad remorse when they leave their pet home alone. **As a result, 39 percent even talk to their pet on the phone when they’re away on trips so that the animals can hear their voice.** (Source of information: Diana McCabe, “Can Animal Communicator Really Know What Your Pet Thinks?” *The Charlotte Observer*, February 15, 2004, p. 10G.)

(a) What is the topic of the reading?
   a. pets
   b. the benefits of pet ownership
   c. pet owners’ feelings about their pets
   d. how to take care of a pet

(b) If there is a topic sentence, please paraphrase it on the blanks at the blanks below. If the main idea is implied, please write the implied main idea on the blanks below.

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

2. **According to the American Association for Single People (AASP), this nation’s unmarried citizens are regularly subjected to discrimination.** **For one thing, says AASP, single people get a lot fewer employee benefits than married people get.** **Married people, for example, get hundreds or even thousands of dollars more in medical and dental benefits for their spouses and children.** **Single people, however, rarely receive comparable compensation.** **Furthermore, single people often pay higher taxes than married people do, especially when compared to a married couple with only one wage earner.** **And single people usually pay higher insurance rates than married people pay.** **In California, for example, an unemployed, 20-year-old married male driver who drinks pays less for his auto insurance than a 20-year-old single student who is a member of the honor society and does not drink pays for his.** **In addition, a landlord can discriminate against a single person by**
refusing to rent to him or her. If the unmarried person wants to fight this unfair treatment, his or her only recourse is to file a lawsuit and spend thousands of dollars in legal fees. (Source of information: Thomas F. Coleman, “The High Cost of Being Single in America,” American Association for Single People, http://www.unmarriedamerica.org/cost-discrimination.htm)

(a) What is the topic of the reading?
   a. the American Association for Single People
   b. discrimination against single people
   c. married life vs. single life
   d. the effect of marital status on employee benefits

(b) If there is a topic sentence, please paraphrase it on the blanks below. If the main idea is implied, please write the implied main idea on the blanks below.

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

3. A recent study conducted by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, which examined about 7,000 former National Football League (NFL) football players, showed that NFL linemen are three times more likely than other football players and six times more likely than the general population to get heart disease. Linemen also have a 52 percent higher chance of dying of heart disease. Half of all retired linemen, the players who take the most pounding out on the football field, suffer from arthritis and skeletal maladies such as bad backs. And almost all linemen, who have to ingest 6,000 to 10,000 calories a day to maintain their huge bulk, can also be classified as obese. But linemen aren’t the only ones who suffer health problems after playing in the NFL. Yet another study of about 2,500 retired NFL players revealed that more than one in every ten had been diagnosed with clinical depression, a condition that is thought to be caused by repeated head concussions. Other research published in The New England Journal of Medicine found that 14 percent of all football players suffer from sleep apnea, a condition that causes them to stop breathing while they’re sleeping. Experts say that the life expectancy of a typical pro football player is in the low to mid-60s, which is about 10 years shorter than the life expectancy of the average male. Clearly, playing in the NFL is hazardous to players’ health. (Sources of statistics Stan Grossfeld, “Not Much Headway,” The Boston Globe, December 26, 2003, http://www.boston.com/sports/articles/2003/12/26/not_much_headway/; Art Carey, “Big Men
of the NFL Pay for Their Play Later in Life,” Philadelphia Inquirer, January 27, 2003,
http://www.philly.com/mld/philly/living/columnists/art_carey/5038288.htm)

(a) What is the topic of the reading?
   a. the National Football League
   b. NFL linemen
   c. health problems
   d. NFL players’ health problems

(b) If there is a topic sentence, please paraphrase it on the blank below. If the main idea is implied,
please write the implied main idea on the blank below.

4. 1 Americans throw away 100 billion thin plastic grocery bags every year. 2 Most of these bags are
carted off to overflowing landfills, where they make up 4 percent of our garbage. 3 However, about
one to three percent of the bags escape and become litter. 4 Consequently, discarded bags are
everywhere, blowing down streets, getting caught in trees and bushes, washing up on beaches.
5 They clog drains and eventually wash out into the ocean, where thousands of marine animals,
such as sea turtles, choke on the bags or get tangled in them. 6 If the bags do make it into a landfill,
they will stay there for 100 to 1,000 years before they finally decompose. 7 Wherever they end up,
though, the ink used to print stores’ logos on the bags degrades and becomes a toxic poison
released into the soil or water. (Sources of information: L. J. Williamson, “It’s in the Bag,” Utne,
Geographic News, September 2, 2003,

(a) What is the topic of the reading?
   a. trash in America
   b. plastic grocery bags
   c. discarded plastic grocery bags
   d. discarded plastic grocery bags in landfills

(b) If there is a topic sentence, please paraphrase it on the blanks below. If the main idea is implied,
5. In the 1920s, Mohandas Gandhi showed the people of India how to use Henry David Thoreau’s ideas about “civil disobedience,” the nonviolent resistance of unjust laws and policies, to win their country’s independence from the British Empire. In 1955, the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. led a bus boycott in Alabama founded on the principles of civil disobedience, which led to the civil rights movement of the 1960s. During that same decade, people who opposed the Vietnam War engaged in nonviolent demonstrations modeled on Thoreau’s ideas. Since the 1970s, adversaries of nuclear weapons and nuclear power have used civil disobedience tactics for their protests at test sites, storage facilities, government offices, and power plants. Thoreau’s concept of civil disobedience has also influenced how activists have battled since the 1980s against the racial segregation that has divided blacks and whites in South Africa.

(a) What is the topic of the reading?
   a. Mohandas Gandhi and Henry David Thoreau
   b. Henry David Thoreau
   c. Thoreau’s influence on acts of civil disobedience
   d. the civil rights movement of the 1960s

(b) If there is a topic sentence, please paraphrase it on the blanks below. If the main idea is implied, please write the implied main idea on the blanks below.

5. In the 1920s, Mohandas Gandhi showed the people of India how to use Henry David Thoreau’s ideas about “civil disobedience,” the nonviolent resistance of unjust laws and policies, to win their country’s independence from the British Empire. In 1955, the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. led a bus boycott in Alabama founded on the principles of civil disobedience, which led to the civil rights movement of the 1960s. During that same decade, people who opposed the Vietnam War engaged in nonviolent demonstrations modeled on Thoreau’s ideas. Since the 1970s, adversaries of nuclear weapons and nuclear power have used civil disobedience tactics for their protests at test sites, storage facilities, government offices, and power plants. Thoreau’s concept of civil disobedience has also influenced how activists have battled since the 1980s against the racial segregation that has divided blacks and whites in South Africa.

Part E: Topics, Main Ideas, and Supporting Details

Directions: Read each passage. Then answer the questions by circling the letter of the correct response or writing the answer on the blank.

1. All material on Earth exists in one of three states. In solid materials, the particles that constitute the material are tightly packed and locked together in place, usually in a regular pattern, so they form a fixed shape. Wood, peanut butter, and ice are all examples of solids. The second type of physical state is liquid. In a liquid, the particles are close together, but they have no regular
The particles of a liquid move about and slide past one another, allowing the material to flow and assume the shape of the container that holds it. Examples of liquids include water, oil, and milk. Gas is the third and final form that matter can take. In gases, the particles have no regular arrangement, and they are separated from one another, with space in between, so they can move around freely and flow easily. The air we breathe is a good example of a gas.

(a) What is the topic of the reading?
   a. solids
   b. particles
   c. states of matter
   d. the differences between liquids and gases

(b) If there is a topic sentence, please paraphrase it on the blanks below. If the main idea is implied, please write the implied main idea on the blanks below.

(c) Sentence 3 is a
   a. major detail.
   b. minor detail.

(d) Sentence 4 is a
   a. major detail.
   b. minor detail.

(e) Sentence 7 is a
   a. major detail.
   b. minor detail.

2. After conducting eight years of research about luck and concluding that luck actually has very little to do with chance, psychologist Richard Wiseman claimed that the real difference between “lucky” people and “unlucky” people has to do with their personalities and behaviors. People who are considered lucky are really just outgoing and curious people who remain optimistic and open to new experiences. They are constantly expanding their social networks, so they increase their odds of getting lucky by finding the right job, the right companion, the right house, and so on. “Lucky” people tend to pay attention to their instincts when opportunities arise, which often leads to lucky
“Unlucky people,” on the other hand, tend to be introverted and preoccupied with their own problems and responsibilities. They are also more pessimistic, and they are reluctant to try new things. Consequently, unlucky people don’t notice the possibilities around them. They focus only on the obstacles, failing to take advantage of new opportunities and end up limiting the number of good things that happen to them. (Source of study: Anne Underwood, “Want to Improve Your Luck?” Newsweek, May 5, 2003, www.msnbc.com)

(a) What is the topic of the reading?
   a. research about luck
   b. the personality traits of lucky people
   c. characteristics of unlucky people
   d. the differences between lucky and unlucky people

(b) If there is a topic sentence, please paraphrase it on the blanks below. If the main idea is implied, please write the implied main idea on the blanks below.
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________

(c) Sentence 2 is a
   a. major detail.
   b. minor detail.

(d) Sentence 5 is a
   a. major detail.
   b. minor detail.

(e) To correctly understand the author’s meaning, readers need to supply what connection between sentences 1 and 2.
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________

3. According to research conducted at the University of Washington, wives view their husbands as more loving and supportive when the men help with the housework. Working wives who get help with chores are also less stressed and less tired. As a result, when husbands take on tasks such as the mopping, the laundry, and the dirty dishes, wives tend to find them more attractive and feel more affectionate and amorous than they do if the men do not help. What’s more, studies at the University of California have found that witnessing their dads pitching in on household chores has a significant impact on children. Researchers concluded that when men perform domestic duties, they are modeling cooperative relationships, so their children are more likely to learn positive
family values and become well adjusted. Surveys show that children with fathers who help with housework tend to have more friends, get into less trouble at school, and are less depressed or withdrawn than kids whose fathers do not help with housework. (Sources of studies: “A Reason to Mop,” no author credited, ABCNews.com)

(a) What is the topic of the reading?
   a. housework
   b. housework’s effect on wives
   c. the effects of husbands doing housework
   d. the effects of household chores on children

(b) If there is a topic sentence, please paraphrase it on the blanks below. If the main idea is implied, please write the implied main idea on the blank below.

__________________________________________

(c) Sentence 4 is a
   a. major detail.
   b. minor detail.

(d) Sentence 6 is a
   a. major detail.
   b. minor detail.

(e) To correctly understand the author’s meaning, readers need to make what connection between sentences 4 and 5?

4. Many Americans are far more apprehensive about flying than driving, and we usually don’t worry that much at all about drowning. However, according to the National Safety Council, we have a 1 in 1,028 chance of drowning and only a 1 in 4,608 chance of dying in an airplane crash. The risk of dying in a car accident is far greater (1 in 242), but few of us worry about that when we get into our vehicles. As this example illustrates, our worries often do not match actual levels of risk. We fear being exposed to the new disease-of-the-year, such as the 2003’s SARS respiratory virus or 2002’s West Nile virus, or we worry about becoming a victim of bioterrorism. Yet, such viruses usually take relatively few lives, and we have only a 1 in 56,424,800 chance of being attacked by a bioterrorist. We have a much better chance (1 in 197) of dying from heart disease; few of us, though, worry about that. We’re also more concerned about getting cancer from exposure to
radiation from nuclear power, cell phones, and power lines than we are about getting cancer from the sun. In reality, though, the sun causes 1.3 million annual cases of skin cancer and claims almost 10,000 lives a year. Since we don’t seem to worry about the right things, it would probably be good if we just stopped worrying. (Source of study: Neil Osterweil, “Worry vs. Reality: The Real Risks You Face,” WebMD, February 18, 2004, http://content.health.msn.com/content/article/82/97245.htm)

(a) What is the topic of the reading?
   a. worries about illness
   b. fear of flying
   c. worries about risks
   d. modern health risks

(b) If there is a topic sentence, please paraphrase it on the blanks below. If the main idea is implied, please write the implied main idea on the blank below.

(c) Sentence 1 is a
   a. major detail.
   b. minor detail.

(d) Sentence 5 is a
   a. major detail.
   b. minor detail.

(e) The last sentence of the paragraph is a
   a. major supporting detail.
   b. minor supporting detail.
   c. concluding sentence.
   d. topic sentence