Verbal Quiz #5

Three major factors contribute to our success in the verbal section: how fast we read; how quick we are to judge which approach is most likely to help us solve each question (Precise, Alternative, or Logical) and apply the approach; and how well we know the precise rules and the required logic for each verbal topic.

The following quiz can help us check how well we prepared. Before answering it, we must ask ourselves:

- Have we read at least 1-1.5 hours daily?
- Have we refreshed our memory with the notes taken from the introductions, lessons, and practices, and decided what to implement in the quiz?
- Should we first go over the grammatical rules again?

This quiz contains 7 questions. Try to solve it in 13 minutes or less.

Question #1 out of 7

Between 1925 and 1950 most Canadian cities experienced a phenomenon known as a “taxi war.” The so-called war, which had lasting effects on Canada’s taxi market, revolutionized pricing. With so many cheap cabs entering the market, taxi fares could not stay high, and drivers’ incomes dropped drastically.

Prior to the taxi war, cab companies invested a great deal of capital on amenities for their clients, such as large and expensive vehicles, taximeters, telephone dispatch networks, hotel or railway concessions, etc. As a result, taxi rides were an expensive service and were typically considered a luxury. The taxi war began because of a revolution in labor costs. Competing taxi companies realized they could enter the market without having to offer their clientele any extravagant services, thus avoiding a high overhead.

The veteran and established cab companies, which struggled to compete with the novel taxi companies, sought action. Since old-line taxi companies were unable to sufficiently reduce their own costs, they attempted to find a way to raise the costs of their competitors. The veteran taxi companies turned to the government in the hopes of regulatory relief. They lobbied and protested, and by 1950 a regulatory regime was introduced in all of Canada’s big cities, officially ending the taxi war. The regulation imposed extra costs as well as uniform fares that were enforced by taximeters.

Though most Canadians at the time were in favor of the new regulations, they failed to fully comprehend their negative repercussions. In the following years, the fees for cab services became needlessly expensive. Ending the free market in the cab industry also led to losses for taxi operators. The industry became too rigid to be cost-effective; cab companies could no longer offer coupons or discounts to ensure a steady volume of passengers, and they could no longer vary their fares so as to stimulate demand. Moreover, taxi operators ended up waiting for long periods of time without being able to find any customers who were willing or able to pay their exaggerated fees. Thus, it seems that while the old-line taxis had won the taxi war, this victory caused much damage to both the taxi industry as a whole and to its customers.

According to the passage, which of the following was the main cause of the taxi war?

(A) A massive increase in demand.

(B) Regulation in pricing.

(C) Affordable cabs flooding the market.

(D) Technologically advanced cabs competing with less sophisticated cabs.

(E) An increase in labor costs.

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Question #2 out of 7

Between 1925 and 1950 most Canadian cities experienced a phenomenon known as a “taxi war.” The so-called war, which had lasting effects on Canada’s taxi market, revolutionized pricing. With so many cheap cabs entering the market, taxi fares could not stay high, and drivers’ incomes dropped drastically.

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Though most Canadians at the time were in favor of the new regulations, they failed to fully comprehend their negative repercussions. In the following years, the fees for cab services became needlessly expensive. Ending the free market in the cab industry also led to losses for taxi operators. The industry became too rigid to be cost-effective; cab companies could no longer offer coupons or discounts to ensure a steady volume of passengers, and they could no longer vary their fares so as to stimulate demand. Moreover, taxi operators ended up waiting for long periods of time without being able to find any customers who were willing or able to pay their exaggerated fees. Thus, it seems that while the old-line taxis had won the taxi war, this victory caused much damage to both the taxi industry as a whole and to its customers.

Which of the following titles best summarizes the contents of the passage?

(A) A taxi war made cab prices increase.

(B) A pricing revolution in cab fees causes a decline in drivers’ incomes.

(C) The taxi industry in Canada suffered because of a taxi war.

(D) The resolution of the taxi war: a victory or a major loss?

(E) Regulation of taxi fares saves the taxi industry.

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Question #3 out of 7

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With which of the following regarding the taxi war would the author of the passage be most likely to agree?

(A) Legislation was not an effective tool for stopping the taxi war.

(B) Free market and free competition prevented the taxi industry from rigidity, and therefore continuing the taxi war would have benefited the industry.

(C) Had the old-line cab companies eliminated some of their extravagant services, they would have made more money during the taxi war.

(D) The taxi war hurt both companies and their customers.

(E) The old-line cab companies were unable to foresee a resolution to the war that would benefit them other than through governmental action.

Question #4 out of 7

Between 1925 and 1950 most Canadian cities experienced a phenomenon known as a “taxi war.” The so-called war, which had lasting effects on Canada’s taxi market, revolutionized pricing. With so many cheap cabs entering the market, taxi fares could not stay high, and drivers’ incomes dropped drastically.

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The author of the passage mentions which of the following as a disadvantage of the regulations that followed the taxi war?

(A) The public was unhappy with the regulations.

(B) Repeat customers could not ask for discount on fare prices.

(C) The profits of taxi companies went down.

(D) The budget for taxi companies became too rigid and were therefore no longer cost-effective.

(E) The cab fees became higher than ever before.

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Question #5 out of 7

At the turn of the 20th century, Canadian women journalists did not have the right to vote, were not regarded as equal to men under the law, and were attempting to cultivate a profession at a time when marriage and motherhood were considered to be the only true goals women should aspire to. During that time, women journalists were typically assigned to write what was known as the "women's page," a segment designed to attract female readers and thereby enable advertisers to reach a new, female audience. The page offered personal observations written by a journalist, bits of poetry and prose gleaned from other sources, society news, and letters from readers. Although the women's page drew a large and avid readership, most male journalists deemed it immaterial. Women who wrote and edited the page were underpaid, routinely marginalized by their coworkers, and physically separated in the newsroom, even being placed on a separate floor.

An organization which helped provide support for, and promoted the professional advancement of women journalists at that time, was the Canadian Women's Press Club (CWPC). The organization was founded in 1904 when Canadian newspaper correspondent Margaret Graham met with the management of the Canadian Pacific Railway to request sponsorship for an all-women's press junket to the World's Fair in St. Louis. The company jumped at the chance to attract some publicity and agreed to the request. Graham, along with her colleagues, assembled a group of 16 women journalists who then covered the World's Fair. This was a momentous assignment for these journalists, getting access to cover what was considered one of the most important news events in the world.

Following that experience, the women discussed their professional exclusion from male journalists' gatherings and press clubs. Colonel George Ham, a railway publicity agent who traveled with them, suggested they form their own press club, which they did later that year. Thus, what started out as a publicity stunt turned into the catalyst for an organization that would form a strong and long-lasting community of Canadian women journalists.

The World's Fair in St. Louis, as described in the passage, suggests which of the following conclusions?

(A) A publicity stunt helped women realize they could work together and start their own newspaper.

(B) Even though they were given an opportunity, women couldn't make their voices be heard.

(C) As the founder of the CWPC, the women journalists had Colonel George Ham to thank.

(D) Even provided with an unprecedented opportunity, women journalists still suffered from discrimination.

(E) Women journalists could become equal to men if they created more publicity opportunities.

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The author of the passage mentions the "women's page" primarily in order to

(A) explain how women were able to enter the newspaper industry.

(B) describe women's contribution as journalists.

(C) imply that women wrote in a way that was more commercially appealing than men.

(D) explain the limitations that were faced by women journalists at the time.

(E) clarify the role women journalists had within the newspaper industry.

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Question #7 out of 7

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The primary function of the first paragraph of the passage is to

(A) describe the challenges preceding the changes yet to come.

(B) present a historical context that helps explain the author's conclusion.

(C) clarify some misconceptions regarding past events.

(D) outline the author's main premise.

(E) provide an undisputed explanation for a known historical event.

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Congratulations!

You have just completed Verbal Quiz #5

Continue below to check your answers

Answer #1 out of 7

Between 1925 and 1950 most Canadian cities experienced a phenomenon known as a “taxi war.” The so-called war, which had lasting effects on Canada’s taxi market, revolutionized pricing. With so many cheap cabs entering the market, taxi fares could not stay high, and drivers’ incomes dropped drastically. Prior to the taxi war, cab companies invested a great deal of capital on amenities for their clients, such as large and expensive vehicles, taximeters, telephone dispatch networks, hotel or railway concessions, etc. As a result, taxi rides were an expensive service and were typically considered a luxury. The taxi war began because of a revolution in labor costs. Competing taxi companies realized they could enter the market without having to offer their clientele any extravagant services, thus avoiding a high overhead.

The veteran and established cab companies, which struggled to compete with the novel taxi companies, sought action. Since old-line taxi companies were unable to sufficiently reduce their own costs, they attempted to find a way to raise the costs of their competitors. The veteran taxi companies turned to the government in the hopes of regulatory relief. They lobbied and protested, and by 1950 a regulatory regime was introduced in all of Canada’s big cities, officially ending the taxi war. The regulation imposed extra costs as well as uniform fares that were enforced by taximeters.

Though most Canadians at the time were in favor of the new regulations, they failed to fully comprehend their negative repercussions. In the following years, the fees for cab services became needlessly expensive. Ending the free market in the cab industry also led to losses for taxi operators. The industry became too rigid to be cost-effective; cab companies could no longer offer coupons or discounts to ensure a steady volume of passengers, and they could no longer vary their fares so as to stimulate demand. Moreover, taxi operators ended up waiting for long periods of time without being able to find any customers who were willing or able to pay their exaggerated fees. Thus, it seems that while the old-line taxis had won the taxi war, this victory caused much damage to both the taxi industry as a whole and to its customers.

According to the passage, which of the following was the main cause of the taxi war?

(A) A massive increase in demand.

(B) Regulation in pricing.

(C) Affordable cabs flooding the market.

(D) Technologically advanced cabs competing with less sophisticated cabs.

(E) An increase in labor costs.

P 1

We’ll go for PRECISE because the answer appears in the passage explicitly.

According to the first paragraph, the taxi war was caused by the large number of cheap cabs that entered the market and inevitably caused cab fees and taxi drivers’ incomes to drop.

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Answer #2 out of 7

Between 1925 and 1950 most Canadian cities experienced a phenomenon known as a “taxi war.” The so-called war, which had lasting effects on Canada’s taxi market, revolutionized pricing. With so many cheap cabs entering the market, taxi fares could not stay high, and drivers’ incomes dropped drastically.

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Which of the following titles best summarizes the contents of the passage?

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(C) Affordable cabs flooding the market.

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A 2

We’ll go for ALTERNATIVE because it is easier to criticize the answers.

(A) is wrong because the taxi war didn’t make the prices increase, but rather caused them to fall. (B) is wrong because it is too narrow: the passage is not just about the pricing revolution, but is also about the attempt to resolve this issue through regulation and its negative repercussions. (C) is incorrect because only old-line cabs suffered from the taxi war. What did hurt the entire taxi industry was the regulation that ended the war. (D) is correct: after much background information we read the main argument of the segment: “…while the old-line taxis had won the taxi war, this victory caused much damage to both the taxi industry as a whole and to its customers.” (E) is wrong because the regulations did not save the taxi industry; quite the opposite.

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Answer #3 out of 7

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(A) Legislation was not an effective tool for stopping the taxi war.

(B) Free market and free competition prevented the taxi industry from rigidity, and therefore continuing the taxi war would have benefited the industry.

(C) Had the old-line cab companies eliminated some of their extravagant services, they would have made more money during the taxi war.

(D) The taxi war hurt both companies and their customers.

(E) The old-line cab companies were unable to foresee a resolution to the war that would benefit them other than through governmental action.

A 3

We'll go for ALTERNATIVE because it is easier to criticize the answers.

(A) The legislation did in fact end the taxi war. (B) The author believes the regulation caused the industry to be too rigid, but doesn't state that the taxi war should have continued. (C) The passage states that "Old-line taxi companies were unable to sufficiently reduce their own costs," which suggests that the attempt to eliminate some fancy services was unsuccessful. (D) It wasn't the taxi wars that hurt customers, but the regulation. (E) The old-line taxi companies attempted, unsuccessfully, to end the war through competing with other taxi companies and reducing costs. Consequently, they turned to the government to end the war in their favor.

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Answer #4 out of 7

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The author of the passage mentions which of the following as a disadvantage of the regulations that followed the taxi war?

(A) The public was unhappy with the regulations.

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(C) The profits of taxi companies went down.

(D) The budget for taxi companies became too rigid and were therefore no longer cost-effective.

(E) The cab fees became higher than ever before.

We’ll go for PRECISE because the answer appears in the passage explicitly.

The last paragraph is a run-down of the regulation’s disadvantages, one of which appears in answer (C): taxi companies lost money.

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Answer #5 out of 7

At the turn of the 20th century, Canadian women journalists did not have the right to vote, were not regarded as equal to men under the law, and were attempting to cultivate a profession at a time when marriage and motherhood were considered to be the only true goals women should aspire to. During that time, women journalists were typically assigned to write what was known as the "women's page," a segment designed to attract female readers and thereby enable advertisers to reach a new, female audience. The page offered personal observations written by a journalist, bits of poetry and prose gleaned from other sources, society news, and letters from readers. Although the women's page drew a large and avid readership, most male journalists deemed it immaterial. Women who wrote and edited the page were underpaid, routinely marginalized by their coworkers, and physically separated in the newsroom, even being placed on a separate floor.

An organization which helped provide support for, and promoted the professional advancement of women journalists at that time, was the Canadian Women's Press Club (CWPC). The organization was founded in 1904 when Canadian newspaper correspondent Margaret Graham met with the management of the Canadian Pacific Railway to request sponsorship for an all-women's press junket to the World's Fair in St. Louis. The company jumped at the chance to attract some publicity and agreed to the request. Graham, along with her colleagues, assembled a group of 16 women journalists who then covered the World's Fair. This was a momentous assignment for these journalists, getting access to cover what was considered one of the most important news events in the world.

Following that experience, the women discussed their professional exclusion from male journalists' gatherings and press clubs. Colonel George Ham, a railway publicity agent who traveled with them, suggested they form their own press club, which they did later that year. Thus, what started out as a publicity stunt turned into the catalyst for an organization that would form a strong and long-lasting community of Canadian women journalists.

The World's Fair in St. Louis, as described in the passage, suggests which of the following conclusions?

(A) A publicity stunt helped women realize they could work together and start their own newspaper.

(B) Even though they were given an opportunity, women couldn't make their voices be heard.

(C) As the founder of the CWPC, the women journalists had Colonel George Ham to thank.

(D) Even provided with an unprecedented opportunity, women journalists still suffered from discrimination.

(E) Women journalists could become equal to men if they created more publicity opportunities.

We'll go for ALTERNATIVE because we're asked to use the answers.

(A) is incorrect because these women did not start their own newspaper, but their own press club.
(B) is wrong because women journalists could let their voices be heard, publishing their writings in various newspapers.
(C) is wrong because Ham did not found the CWPC, but only suggested founding it.
(D) is correct: although the World's Fair was a great opportunity for women journalists, they still suffered from "professional exclusion from male journalists' gatherings and press clubs."
(E) is incorrect because, although both women and journalists, were able to cover the World's Fair in addition to male journalists, they didn't have the same rights and privileges as men.

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Answer #6 out of 7

At the turn of the 20th century, Canadian women journalists did not have the right to vote, were not regarded as equal to men under the law, and were attempting to cultivate a profession at a time when marriage and motherhood were considered to be the only true goals women should aspire to. During that time, women journalists were typically assigned to write what was known as the "women's page," a segment designed to attract female readers and thereby enable advertisers to reach a new, female audience. The page offered personal observations written by a journalist, bits of poetry and prose gleaned from other sources, society news, and letters from readers. Although the women's page drew a large and avid readership, most male journalists deemed it immaterial. Women who wrote and edited the page were underpaid, routinely marginalized by their coworkers, and physically separated in the newsroom, even being placed on a separate floor.

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The author of the passage mentions the "women's page" primarily in order to

(A) explain how women were able to enter the newspaper industry.

(B) describe women's contribution as journalists.

(C) imply that women wrote in a way that was more commercially appealing than men.

(D) explain the limitations that were faced by women journalists at the time.

(E) clarify the role women journalists had within the newspaper industry.

We'll go for LOGICAL because we must understand the structure of the argument.

The first sentence of the passage describes some of the difficulties and inequalities women journalists faced at the beginning of the 20th century. The final sentences of the paragraph states that writing for the women's page was not as highly regarded as writing for other pages, and that women journalists were underpaid, marginalized and separated from their male peers. Therefore, the mention of the "women's page" serves to demonstrate the limitations placed on women in this field as well.

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Answer #7 out of 7

At the turn of the 20th century, Canadian women journalists did not have the right to vote, were not regarded as equal to men under the law, and were attempting to cultivate a profession at a time when marriage and motherhood were considered to be the only true goals women should aspire to. During that time, women journalists were typically assigned to write what was known as the "women's page," a segment designed to attract female readers and thereby enable advertisers to reach a new, female audience. The page offered personal observations written by a journalist, bits of poetry and prose gleaned from other sources, society news, and letters from readers. Although the women's page drew a large and avid readership, most male journalists deemed it immaterial. Women who wrote and edited the page were underpaid, routinely marginalized by their coworkers, and physically separated in the newsroom, even being placed on a separate floor.

An organization which helped provide support for, and promoted the professional advancement of women journalists at that time, was the Canadian Women's Press Club (CWPC). The organization was founded in 1904 when Canadian newspaper correspondent Margaret Graham met with the management of the Canadian Pacific Railway to request sponsorship for an all-women's press junket to the World's Fair in St. Louis. The company jumped at the chance to attract some publicity and agreed to the request. Graham, along with her colleagues, assembled a group of 16 women journalists who then covered the World's Fair. This was a momentous assignment for these journalists, getting access to cover what was considered one of the most important news events in the world.

Following that experience, the women discussed their professional exclusion from male journalists' gatherings and press clubs. Colonel George Ham, a railway publicity agent who traveled with them, suggested they form their own press club, which they did later that year. Thus, what started out as a publicity stunt turned into the catalyst for an organization that would form a strong and long-lasting community of Canadian women journalists.

The primary function of the first paragraph of the passage is to

(A) describe the challenges preceding the changes yet to come.

(B) present a historical context that helps explain the author's conclusion.

(C) clarify some misconceptions regarding past events.

(D) outline the author's main premise.

(E) provide an undisputed explanation for a known historical event.

We'll go for LOGICAL because we're asked about the structure of the passage.

The first paragraph gives us important background on the condition of Canadian women journalists at the turn of the 20th century: underpaid, routinely marginalized, and physically separated from their coworkers. This serves as a starting point for the description of the upcoming changes in which the journalists eventually got a better chance. Answer (A) is correct – the first paragraph does describe the challenges facing women, which they eventually overcame. (B) and (D) are incorrect, because the paragraph is descriptive and the author does not reach a conclusion or make a premise. (C) is wrong because the paragraph does not relate to any misconception. (E) is wrong because none of the events are presented as "known," let alone require an explanation.

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