GED Language Arts 2014

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage, read each question, and choose the best answer.

PREPARING FOR THE PARTY

1. “Good morning,” she said, copying her mother’s voice. But that sounded so fearfully affected that she was ashamed, and stammered like a little girl, “Oh—er—have you come—is it about the marquee [sign]?”

2. His smile was so easy, so friendly that Laura recovered. ... And now she looked at the others. ... “Cheer up, we won’t bite,” their smile seemed to say. How very nice workmen were! And what a beautiful morning! She mustn’t mention the morning; she must be business-like...

3. “Well, what about the lily-lawn? ...”

4. “I don’t fancy it,” said he. “Not conspicuous enough. You see, with a thing like a marquee...you want to put it somewhere where it’ll give you a bang slap in the eye, if you follow me.”

5. Laura’s upbringing made her wonder for a moment whether it was quite respectful of a workman to talk to her of bangs slap in the eye. But she did quite follow him.

6. “A corner of the tennis court,” she suggested. “But the band’s going to be in one corner.”

7. “H’m, going to have a band, are you?” said another of the workmen. He was pale. He had a haggard look as his dark eyes scanned the tennis-court. What was he thinking?

8. “Only a small band,” said Laura gently. Perhaps he wouldn’t mind so much if the band was quite small. But the tall fellow interrupted.

9. “Look here, miss, that’s the place. Against those trees. Over there. That’ll do fine.”

10. Against the karakas. Then the karaka-trees would be hidden. And they were so lovely, with their broad, gleaming leaves, and their clusters of yellow fruit. They were like the trees you imagined growing on a desert island, proud, solitary, lifting their leaves and fruits to the sun in a kind of silent splendour. Must they be hidden by the marquee?

11. They must. Already the men had shouldered their staves and were making for the place. Only the tall fellow was left. He bent down, pinched a sprig of lavender, put his thumb and forefinger to his nose and snuffed up the smell. When Laura saw that gesture she forgot all about the karakas in her wonder at him caring for things like that—caring for the smell of lavender. How many men that she knew would have done such a thing? Oh, how extraordinarily nice workmen were, she thought. Why couldn’t she have workmen for friends rather than the silly boys she danced with and who came to Sunday night supper? She would get on much better with men like these.

1. Which situation is most similar to the workman’s (paragraph 12)?
   a. While walking to the courtroom, a busy lawyer stops to watch an artist at work.
   b. A band manager has to decide where to put a sign promoting her band.
   c. While planning a new flower bed, a gardener sees a child pick one of the newly planted flowers.
   d. A factory worker spends his lunch hour walking in the park.

2. Laura likely would be most comfortable
   a. On a camping trip.
   b. Working on a farm.
   c. At a country club.
   d. Selling garden supplies.

3. Which statement is the most likely prediction of how Laura would react if the workmen did a poor job in completing their work?
   a. She would refuse to pay them.
   b. She would demand that they complete the job to her satisfaction.
   c. She would make excuses for them.
   d. She would be unlikely to notice.

4. On the basis of the information in the passage, which is the most likely prediction about the plot of this story. The plot will involve
   a. A band hired to play at the party
   b. Laura’s attraction to the workman.
   c. Laura’s mother’s affectations.
   d. The boys with whom Laura dances.
The articles present arguments from both supporters and critics of milk pasteurization who disagree about the practice’s impact on public health.

In your response, analyze both positions presented in the article to determine which one is best supported. Use relevant and specific evidence from the article to support your response.