

DRAWING LOGICAL INFERENCES AND CONCLUSIONS

EXERCISES: After reading each passage, circle the letter of the best conclusion for each statement

Several years ago, Father Bernard Pagano, a Roman Catholic priest, went on trial for a series of armed robberies of small shops. Newspapers labeled the gunman the “gentleman bandit” because he always was well groomed and displayed perfect manners. Seven eyewitnesses positively identified Father Pagano as the robber. Yet, at the eleventh hour, another man, Ronald Clouser, confessed to the robberies. Clouser knew details of the crimes that only the real bandit could have known. Only then were charges against the priest dropped.

1. We can conclude from the passage that if Clouser had not come forward
 - a. Father Pagano would have been found guilty.
 - b. Clouser probably would have been caught anyway.
 - c. the trial probably would have gone on for years.

2. We can deduce from the passage that Father Pagano
 - a. really did commit the robberies.
 - b. looked some what like Clouser.
 - c. both of the above.

3. We can conclude from the passage that eyewitnesses are
 - a. not always reliable.
 - b. rarely correct.
 - c. dishonest.

Many snack foods were introduced as health foods. The familiar graham cracker, for example, was originally sold in the nineteenth century as a health food. The health benefit it was supposed to provide sounds odd to us: Dr. Graham claimed that his crackers made girls less interested in sex. Later, breakfast cereals like corn flakes also began as health foods. And even soft drinks like Dr. Pepper and Coca-Cola (which once contained cocaine) were first sold as health drinks.

4. We can conclude from the passage that graham crackers
 - a. are today thought to be especially healthy.
 - b. probably got their name from the man who promoted them.
 - c. are not popular.

5. From the passage, we can conclude that Dr. Pepper
 - a. is very healthy.
 - b. was named for Dr. Graham.
 - c. was named to emphasize its health benefits.

In 1953, relations between America's two political parties reached a new low. A few conservative Republicans had made a startling claim. They accused the New Deal Democrats under Franklin Delano Roosevelt of stealing the gold deposits from Fort Knox! President Eisenhower was not impressed with the accusation, but under political pressure from the Daughters of the American Revolution, he had the gold counted. The final total was \$30,442,415,581.70—ten dollars less than it should have been. The Democratic treasurer under the previous administration sent a check to cover the shortage.

6. We can conclude from the passage that the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)
 - a. believed the New Deal Democrats may have stolen gold from Fort Knox.
 - b. could not influence President Eisenhower.
 - c. both of the above
7. We can conclude from the total amount of gold counted that
 - a. there is not much gold in Fort Knox.
 - b. a ten-dollar difference is insignificant.
 - c. counting the gold was easy.
8. We can conclude from the passage that the accused Democrats
 - a. did steal gold from Fort Knox
 - b. planned to steal gold from Fort Knox.
 - c. probably never took gold from Fort Knox.
9. From the passage, we can conclude that the Democratic treasurer paid the ten dollars
 - a. out of guilt.
 - b. out of sarcasm.
 - c. out of a desire for revenge.

Small children have their own way of looking at the world. As I dressed my three-year old one day, I remarked that the pants I was pulling on him were a pretty shade of blue. "No, they're green," he announced. "No sweetheart, they're blue," I said. "Green!" he said. "Blue," I said. Finally, drawing himself up to his full thirty-six inches, he decided to stop pulling his punches and to bring the discussion to an end. "What do you know about it anyway?" he huffed. "They're not YOUR pants!"

10. From the passage we can conclude that the author is
 - a. the boy's mother or father.
 - b. understanding of the boy's point of view.
 - c. both of the above.