

#3

Lovejoy

Passage 1

Read the following passage. Then answer the questions that follow. Use the Tip below each question to help you choose the correct answer. When you finish, read the answer explanations at the end of this chapter.

Safe at Sixteen? Why We Should Raise the Legal Driving Age

by Eliot Golden

1 To many teens, turning sixteen is a rite of passage. In most states, this is the age when young people can apply for a driver's license. Teens see this as the beginning of freedom and independence. They think it is a time to enjoy being young and carefree. Though many teens feel excited about being able to drive, many adults feel that this is a dangerous and sometimes deadly time for young drivers. Their fears are confirmed by some scary statistics. Studies show that young drivers are more likely to speed, run red lights and drive recklessly than more mature, experienced drivers.

2 Many experts agree that this kind of behavior accounts for the thousands of teens killed every year in automobile accidents. In fact, according to the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, teens are four times more likely to crash than older drivers. This has caused many to question what can be done to keep teen drivers safe.

3 A growing number of people feel that the only way to truly prevent tragedy is to raise the legal driving age. Most teens, and even some parents, scoff at this idea. However, many people feel that this is necessary. Some of our nation's lawmakers agree. A number of states have already raised the minimum age a teen must be to acquire a full, unrestricted license. This means that many young drivers can only drive with a licensed adult in the car. These states use graduated licensing programs that put limitations on young drivers. The programs restrict teens from driving late at night or carrying other teenage passengers until they have logged a certain number of hours driving under the supervision of a parent or guardian. Safety experts point out that more supervised experience makes safer drivers and reduces the risk of fatal accidents among teens. But are these programs doing enough to keep kids safe?

4 Researchers also note that maturity plays a major role in safety on the roads. Many young drivers are overconfident in their abilities. They don't think about the risks associated with getting behind the wheel. Studies show that out of all age groups, teens are the most likely to drive while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. They are also the most likely to drive without wearing seat belts and to underestimate the dangers of hazardous road conditions. Some argue that making mature decisions about driving is something that can only come with age. These people feel that the number of hours young drivers spend practicing does not matter.

5 Keeping all this in mind, the only logical and responsible solution to the problem is to raise the legal driving age. Many teens will argue that their freedom is being taken from them.

Many parents might be inconvenienced by having to drive their kids to school, work or practice. But the alternative is far worse! Turning sixteen is an important milestone in any young person's life, but it doesn't necessarily mean that he or she is ready to drive. By raising the legal driving age and giving teens more time and experience behind the wheel, we can help make sure that turning seventeen, eighteen and nineteen is just as exciting and safe for teens.

Questions

- 1 Unlike other drivers, teenagers are
- A. usually under the influence while driving.
 - B. four times more likely to be involved in a car crash.
 - C. using caution when they get behind the wheel.
 - D. mature enough to handle many dangerous situations.

**TIP**

This question asks you to recall a detail from the passage. Take another look at paragraph 2. The author explains the differences between teenage drivers and older drivers. Consider each option before choosing an answer.

- 2 Which sentence summarizes paragraph 4?
- A. Most teens do not practice driving.
 - B. Young drivers are not confident.
 - C. Most teens do not wear seat belts.
 - D. Young drivers tend to be careless.

**TIP**

This is a summary question. It asks you to choose the statement that presents the main ideas of paragraph 4 in a brief form. Some of these choices may present details from the paragraph but may not represent the main idea of the entire paragraph. Which choice is a summary of the paragraph?

- 3 Which sentence summarizes the purpose of paragraphs 1 and 2 in the passage?
- A. They convince readers that the driving age should be raised.
 - B. They establish the need for a change in the driving laws.
 - C. They indicate that most teens are good, safe drivers.
 - D. They specify which driving laws keep teens the safest.

**TIP**

This is a different kind of summary question. This question asks you to consider why the author has set up the information in the passage the way he has. What do you think these paragraphs have been designed to do? What is their purpose?

Passage 2

Read the following passage. Then answer the questions that follow. Use the Tip below each question to help you choose the correct answer. When you finish, read the answer explanations at the end of this chapter.

American Aid Essential for First-Rate Foreign Relations

Glorytown Gazette

Letters to the Editor

1 To the Editor:

2 I am writing in response to a letter that appeared in yesterday's newspaper. In the letter, Edwin Stanton stated that the United States should not be providing financial aid to foreign countries. Mr. Stanton feels that our government should not give away its citizens' hard-earned tax money, no matter what the cause. He stated that "each nation should be responsible for standing on its own two feet," and that "America should not help poor people of other nations when there is so much poverty at home." Although I believe that a couple of the points in Mr. Stanton's letter are valid, most are based on misconceptions. I hope that the majority of my fellow citizens do not share his severe views—or we may someday be in trouble and find ourselves with nowhere to turn.

3 One of the main goals of the American government in handing out aid to foreign nations is to increase the potential for worldwide democracy. It seems that nations under a dictatorship are far less likely to conduct positive foreign relations with the United States than those with a democratic government. By providing money—and other types of aid—to foreign countries, America can secure peaceful relations with those countries and create political and military alliances that may help us in the future. By aiding others, we ultimately aid ourselves as well.

4 I do not think that Mr. Stanton understands the figures in this debate, either. Foreign aid represents less than 1 percent of America's budget. This is hardly an enormous waste of taxpayer dollars, as Mr. Stanton seems to believe. Many other countries—Japan, Sweden, the Netherlands and Denmark, to name a few—expend a larger percentage of their gross national product (the total value of goods and services produced by the residents of a nation during a specified period) in financing foreign aid than the United States does. Furthermore, many other countries have offered help to us in times of need, including Cuba and Venezuela, with whom international relations have been somewhat strained at times.

5 I just hope that people who read Mr. Stanton's letter think about these points as well and refrain from adopting his ideas. If we all thought as he does, the world would never change.

6 Kat McClanahan

7 Glorytown, USA

? Questions

- 4 In paragraph 3, the passage declares, “By aiding others, we ultimately aid ourselves as well.”

How does the letter writer feel America helps itself in giving foreign aid?

- A. by charging foreign countries high-interest on loans
- B. by establishing good relationships with potential allies
- C. by showing other countries how powerful we are
- D. by contributing money to the international economy

**TIP**

This question asks you to recall a detail from the passage. Reread paragraph 3. What does the author mean when she makes this point? Which answer choice represents the author's views?

- 5 According to the passage, what should Americans do if a dictatorship needs help?

- A. investigate what was done in the past
- B. encourage them to change their ways
- C. give them help without question
- D. consider giving help to the country

**TIP**

This question asks you to predict what type of action the country might take based on the information in the passage. Reread the third paragraph of the passage. What does the author say about giving to dictatorships?

- 6 Which sentence summarizes the purpose of paragraph 4 in the passage?

- A. It proves that America should not give money to certain countries.
- B. It points out that America has given aid to many countries.
- C. It shows that foreign aid is a small part of the country's budget.
- D. It mentions countries with which relations have been strained.

**TIP**

Some of these answer choices may represent points that have been made in the paragraph, and some may misrepresent information found in the paragraph. However, only one choice represents the main idea of the paragraph. Which choice is the best summary of the information in this paragraph?