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California Basic Educational Skills Test - Reading

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QUESTION 1

Businesses today routinely keep track of large amounts of both financial and non-financial information. Sales departments keep track of current and potential customers; marketing departments keep track of product details and regional demographics; accounting departments keep track of financial data and issue reports. To be useful, all this data must be organized into a meaningful and useful system. Such a system is called a management information system, abbreviated MIS. The financial hub of the MIS is accounting. Accounting is the information system that records, analyzes, and reports economic transactions, enabling decision-makers to make informed choices when allocating scarce economic resources. It is a tool that enables the user, whether a business entity or an individual, to make wiser, more informed economic choices. It is an aid to planning, controlling, and evaluating a broad range of activities. A financial accounting system is intended for use by both the management of an organization and those outside the organization. Because it is important that financial accounting reports be interpreted correctly, financial accounting is subject to a set of ______ guidelines called "generally accepted accounting principles" (GAAP). On the basis of above passage please answer the following question. This passage is most likely taken from

A. a newspaper column.
B. an essay about modern business.
C. a legal brief.
D. a business textbook.
E. a business machine catalog.

Correct Answer: D

The passage contains objective information about accounting such as one might find in a textbook. There is nothing new or newsworthy in it (choice a). The passage does not contain the significant amount of personal opinion one would expect to find in an essay (choice b). It does not deal with matters that might involve litigation (choice c). It is not brief enough for a business machine catalog and does not contain language suitable to advertising (choice e).

QUESTION 2

Freedom of Expression, 217290 Text of the First Amendment, 217 Suppression of Message Content, 217272 Cohen v. California, 219220 Marketplace of Ideas, 221225 Abrams v. United States, 223 Unprotected Categories, 225259 Chaplin v. New Hampshire, 226 Obscenity, 232239 Miller v. California, 233235 Advocating (Imminent) Illegal Behavior, 239242 Schenck v. Ohio, 240 Defamation, 242246 New York Times v. Sullivan, 243245 Fighting Words, 247252 -Feiner v. New York, 249 Mere rationality analysis, 252260 Brandenburg v. Ohio, 256259 Outside the Unprotected Categories, 260272 Regulations Presumed Unconstitutional, 260263 Metromedia, Inc. v. San Diego, 261263 Governments Interest, 264272 Chicago Police Department v.Mosley, 266267 Significance, 267 -Widmar v. Vincent, 268269 Narrowly Drawn, 270272 Boos v. Barry, 270271 Incidental Interference with Expression, 273290 Time, Place, and Manner, 274277 Clark v. Community for Creative Non-Violence, 275276 Forum, 278283 Hague v. CIO, 281283 Public, 279 Not Public, 280 Governments Interest, 283290 Schneider v. State, 284286 Significance, 286287 Narrowly Drawn, 287289 Available Alternatives, 289290 On the basis of above index please answer the following question On which pages should one look to find information about the categories of unprotected speech?

A. 217

Correct Answer: C

Unprotected categories of expression are discussed on pages 225259.

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QUESTION 3

It has been more than twenty-five years since the National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA) last sent a craft to land on the moon. The Lunar Prospector took off in January of 1998, in the first moon shot since astronauts last walked on the moon in 1972. This time, the moon-traveller is only a low-cost robot, who will spend a year on the surface of the moon, collecting minerals and ice. Unlike the moon shots of the 1960s and 1970s, Lunar Prospector does not carry a camera, so the American public will not get to see new pictures of the moons surface. . Scientists are anxious for the results of one exploration in particularthat done by the neutron spectrometer. Using this instrument, Prospector will examine the moons poles, searching for signs of water ice. There has long been speculation that frozen water from comets may have accumulated in craters at one of the moons poles and may still be there, as this pole is permanently shielded from the sun. The neutron spectrometer seeks out the hydrogen atoms in water and can detect the presence of as little as one cup of water in a cubic yard of soil. On the basis of above passage please answer the following question Which of the following is the best meaning of the word "speculation" as it is used in the second paragraph of the passage? A. a theory B. an investment C. a vision D. an image E. a process

Either a or b are possible definitions of speculation, however, the passage suggests that in this case the author is referring to a theory choice a. The other choices are vaguely similar, but are not accurate, based on the passage as a whole.

QUESTION 4

Correct Answer: A

A government report addressing concerns about the many implications of prenatal and newborn genetic testing outlined policy guidelines and legislative recommendations intended to avoid involuntary and ineffective testing and to protect confidentiality. The report recommended that all such screening be voluntary. Citing results of two different voluntary newborn screening programs, the report said these programs can achieve compliance rates equal to or better than those of mandatory programs. State health departments might be wise to eventually mandate the offering of tests for diagnosing treatable conditions in newborns; however, careful pilot studies for conditions diagnosable at birth need to be done first. Although the report asserted that it would prefer that all screening be voluntary, it did note that if a state elects to mandate newborn screening for a particular condition, the state should do so only if there is strong evidence that a newborn would benefit from effective treatment at the earliest possible age. Newborn screening is the most common type of genetic screening today. More than four million newborns are tested annually so that effective treatment can be started in a few hundred infants. Obtaining informed consenta process that would include educating participants, not just processing documentswould enhance voluntary participation. When offered testing, parents should receive comprehensive counseling, which should be nondirective. Relevant medical advice, however, is recommended for treatable or preventable conditions. On the basis of above passage please answer the following question According to the report, states should implement mandatory infant screening only

A. if the compliance rate for voluntary screening is low.

B. for mothers who are at high risk for genetic disease.



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C. after meticulous research is undertaken.

D. to avoid the abuse of sensitive information.

E. if fatal disorders are suspected.

Correct Answer: C

The last sentence of the second paragraph states that careful pilot studies . . . need to be done first.

QUESTION 5

When the current measure used to calculate poverty levels was introduced in 1963, the poverty line for a family of two adults and two children was about \$3,100. In 1992, there were 36.9 million people, or 14.5% of the U.S. population, with incomes below the poverty line. A proposed new way of measuring poverty levels would include for the first time the effects of work-related expenses such as transportation costs and child care costs on families available income. The largest effect of the new measure would be a decrease in the percentage of people in families receiving cash welfare who fall under the poverty line, and an increase in the percentage of people in working families who fall under it. People in families receiving cash welfare would make up 30% of the poor under the new measure, compared with 40% under the current measure. In contrast, people in working families would make up 59% of the poor under the new measure, compared with 51% under the current measure. On the basis of above passage please answer the following question According to the 1963 standards, the current number of poor working families is approximately what proportion of the population?

A. 30%

B. 60%

C. 40%

D. 59%

E. 51%

Correct Answer: E

See the last sentence of the passage for the correct answer, 51 percent.

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