Elementary Education (Grades K–6)

Subtest 3 Sample Items

1. Through which of the following practices have indigenous peoples living in tropical regions of the world contributed most significantly to modern science?

A. tracking the apparent movement of the sun and stars over the course of a year  
B. developing farming practices that improve the nutrient levels of the soil  
C. identifying and using medicinal plants to treat illnesses and injuries  
D. desalinizing ocean water for use as fresh drinking water

2. A beaker containing a sample of frozen water is being heated over a Bunsen burner. The diagram above shows the heating curve of the sample as it is heated from the solid phase through the liquid phase to the gas phase. At which point in the curve will the beaker contain a mixture of the sample in both the solid and liquid phases?

A. point A  
B. point B  
C. point C  
D. point D

3. Which of the following best explains why the majority of known fossils are those of marine organisms?

A. The minerals found in ocean waters are easily transferred into the hard shells of aquatic organisms.  
B. Water pressure at the bottom of the ocean results in the formation of fossils.  
C. The process of fossil formation occurs more readily in saline conditions.  
D. Most of the material that results in the formation of sedimentary rock accumulates in the ocean.

4. Which of the following would be considered a primary source for a research project about the Civil War?

A. an encyclopedia article about the war  
B. a letter written by a soldier to his family during the war  
C. a biography of a prominent Union general during the war  
D. a novel set in northern Virginia that takes place during the war

5. Which of the following factors contributed most to the "dust bowl" conditions experienced on the Great Plains in the 1930s?

A. a major drought after several years of intensive cultivation without attention to soil conservation  
B. a rise in average temperatures after several decades of overgrazing by livestock herds  
C. a series of severe tornadoes after several decades of clear cutting forests for lumber  
D. a prolonged period of forest fires after several years of rapidly expanding rural population

Answer Key

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