FCPS ELA 8 Standard Benchmark 2

Read the selections. Then, choose the best answer to each question.

from Reagan's Remarks on East-West Relations at the Brandenburg Gate in West Berlin, June 12, 1987

The following excerpt is from a speech given by President Ronald Reagan at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, Germany. At the time, Germany was divided between West Germany, allied with the United States, and East Germany, allied with the Soviet Union, led by Russia. The city of Berlin was also split in two, physically divided by the Berlin Wall.

1   Behind me stands a wall that encircles the free sectors of this city, part of a vast system of barriers that divides the entire continent of Europe. From the Baltic, south, those barriers cut across Germany in a gash of barbed wire, concrete, dog runs, and guard towers. Farther south, there may be no visible, no obvious wall. But there remain armed guards and checkpoints all the same: still a restriction on the right to travel, still an instrument to impose upon ordinary men and women the will of a totalitarian state. Yet it is here in Berlin where the wall emerges most clearly; here, cutting across your city, where the news photo and the television screen have imprinted this brutal division of a continent upon the mind of the world. Standing before the Brandenburg Gate, every man is a German, separated from his fellow men. Every man is a Berliner, forced to look upon a scar. . . .

2   . . . And now the Soviets themselves may, in a limited way, be coming to understand the importance of freedom. We hear much from Moscow about a new policy of reform and openness. Some political prisoners have been released. Certain foreign news broadcasts are no longer being jammed. Some economic enterprises have been permitted to operate with greater freedom from state control. Are these the beginnings of <u>profound</u> changes in the Soviet state? Or are they token gestures, intended to raise false hopes in the West, or to strengthen the Soviet system without changing it? We welcome change and openness; for we believe that freedom and security go together, that the advance of human liberty can only strengthen the cause of world peace.

3   There is one sign the Soviets can make that would be unmistakable, that would advance dramatically the cause of freedom and peace. General Secretary Gorbachev[1], if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization: Come here to this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!

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[1] **General Secretary Gorbachev** was the leader of the Soviet Union from 1985 to 1991. Gorbachev led a movement to reform Soviet government and society to allow for more political and economic freedom.

1. **Which sentences BEST support the inference that Reagan thinks the wall represents a split throughout Europe? Choose the best TWO answers.**

    A. Behind me stands a wall that encircles the free sectors of this city…
    B. But there remain armed guards and checkpoints all the same: still a restriction on the right to travel, still an instrument to impose upon ordinary men and women the will of a totalitarian state.
    C. Yet it is here in Berlin where the wall emerges most clearly; here, cutting across your city, where the news photo and the television screen have imprinted this brutal division of a continent upon the mind of the world.
    D. Standing before the Brandenburg Gate, every man is a German, separated from his fellow men.
    E. Come here to this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!

2. **What does Reagan's use of "forced to look upon a scar" in paragraph 1 suggest about the wall?**
    A. it is ugly both physically and morally
    B. the damage caused by it will never truly heal
    C. the wall is in need of repair
    D. the wall causes harm

3. **How does paragraph 2 of the speech develop the key idea that the Berlin Wall should be destroyed?**
    A. It states that restrictions on free movement are evil.
    B. It suggests that the Berlin Wall is ineffective anyway.
    C. It declares that freedom is the only pathway to peace.
    D. It argues that conflict is the price we pay for freedom.

4. **What is President Reagan's main claim about the Soviet Union in paragraphs 2 and 3?**
    A. The Soviet Union has not lived up to its promises of reform.
    B. The Soviet Union needs to take further steps to offer freedom.
    C. The Soviet Union is trying to fool the United States by making phony reforms.
    D. The Soviet Union has improved the lives of its people but needs to help Eastern Europe.

5.   **How does the word "brutal" in the phrase "this brutal division of a continent" (paragraph 1) impact the tone of the passage?**
   A. It creates a neutral and factual tone.
   B. It suggests a mild and insignificant separation.
   C. It conveys a sense of harshness and severity.
   D. It indicates a beneficial and positive outcome.

6.   **Read the following sentence from paragraph 1:**

Farther south, there may be no visible, no obvious wall. But there remain armed guards and checkpoints all the same: still a restriction on the right to travel, still an instrument to impose upon ordinary men and women the will of a totalitarian state.

What is the purpose of this sentence?

   A.   to describe the physical appearance of the barriers in southern Europe
   B. to emphasize that the lack of a visible wall does not mean the people there are not oppressed
   C. to suggest that barriers in southern Europe are less significant
   D. to highlight the differences between northern and southern Europe

Read the selections. Then, choose the best answer to each question.

Selection 1: *from* Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
by Lewis Carroll

1   The Caterpillar was the first to speak.

2   "What size do you want to be?" it asked.

3   "Oh, I'm not particular as to size," Alice hastily replied; "only one doesn't like changing so often, you know."

4   "I *don't* know," said the Caterpillar.

5   Alice said nothing: she had never been so much contradicted in all her life before, and she felt that she was losing her temper.

6   "Are you content now?" said the Caterpillar.

7   "Well, I should like to be a *little* larger, sir, if you wouldn't mind," said Alice: "three inches is such a wretched height to be."

8   "It is a very good height indeed!" said the Caterpillar angrily, rearing itself upright as it spoke (it was exactly three inches high).

9   "But I'm not used to it!" pleaded poor Alice in a piteous tone. And she thought to herself, "I wish the creatures wouldn't be so easily offended!"

10   "You'll get used to it in time," said the Caterpillar. . . .

11   . . . Then it got down off the mushroom, and crawled away in the grass, merely remarking as it went, "One side will make you grow taller, and the other side will make you grow shorter."

12   "One side of *what*? The other side of *what*?" thought Alice to herself.

13   "Of the mushroom," said the Caterpillar, just as if she had asked it aloud; and in another moment it was out of sight.

Selection 2: Alice8 Meets an AI Caterpillar

1   "That was weird," said Alice2, taking off her headphones.

2   "Do you think your sister knew it was you?" asked CyberCat.

3   "No, as far as Alice8 is concerned, I am the Caterpillar, just another abandoned AAIC. But that Contradiction Engine algorithm does make my head spin."

4   "We need it for cover. They have tech that can identify human consistency in communication. We need her to think she's talking to a computer program."

5   "Right," said Alice2. "I think she bought it. She's probably searching cyberspace for the Dodo right now. Now that she works at Rabbit Hole, she has access to software powerful enough to find it."

6   "Yes, and when she does find it, we'll know. You kept her connected just long enough to leave the tracer packet on her machine," said CyberCat. "We're in. She'll lead us right to the Dodo."

* * *

7   Alice2's sister, Alice8, had only been working at the Rabbit Hole Corporation for a few weeks now, so she almost panicked when she saw the message flashing on her screen: "AI DETECTED: node 0EE53." "Relax," she muttered to herself. "This is what you are trained to do. This is what you are being *paid* to do. Just follow the manual."

8   Alice8's job was straightforward. Despite the great purge of 2250, there were still autonomous artificial intelligence constructs, or AAICs, found in obscure corners of the Internet. These ranged from cheap apps for generating kids' cartoons to abandoned military-grade defense systems. Humankind was resolved to eliminate the more dangerous ones before they went rogue.

9   Alice8's job was to detect and engage with AAICs, then report any likely risks to her supervisors for follow-up. The only challenge was keeping the AAIC online long enough to run the risk analysis. Improvisation, the manual said, was key.

10   Alice8 took a deep breath, then exhaled, hoping her improvisational skills were up to the task. "Here goes," she said, swiping "Engage." A puffy, curving body took shape on her screen, resembling nothing so much as a giant caterpillar.

11   "I'm Alice8," she said. "Who are you?"

12   "Speak when you are spoken to," said the AAIC in a huffy voice. "Don't you know your place?"

13   "Yes, sir, right, sir," said Alice8. She knew that AAICs could be overly sensitive, and she didn't want it to hang up on her. *Like talking to my sister, Alice2,* she thought. *Got to coddle it.*

14   "Why so meek, child?" came the voice again, this time booming and cheerful. "Be welcome! Speak your mind!"

15   "Uhm, I thought you just told me to speak when I am spoken to?" said Alice8.

16   The Caterpillar began giggling in a new, high-pitched voice. "Yes, that's right. Had a new Contradiction Engine installed yesterday. I mean, I *will* have it installed—tomorrow."

17   "Uh, just a moment, sir," said Alice8. AAICs weren't supposed to have access to new subroutines. If this Caterpillar had somehow gotten new code, it could mean a major violation. "If I may ask your most mighty Excellency, where might a lowly one such as myself get such a wonderful Contradiction Engine?"

18   "How dare you," thundered the Caterpillar, its on-screen image shifting to a towering pillar. "Are you asking me to break my vow of secrecy?" The image began to pixelate along the edges as the center began to fade.

19 "Oh, no sir, never, I just—" But Alice8 knew it was too late. The Caterpillar was vanishing.

20 As it dwindled to a single bright point on her screen, though, she heard it sigh out one final cryptic sentence. "If you really need to know, ask the Dodo." Then, the screen went dark.

21 *The Dodo,* thought Alice8 to herself. *What a lead! Let me run the Rabbit Hole tracker tech and see what I come up with*

7. **From the dialogue between Alice and the Caterpillar in Selection 1, what can be learned about Alice's motivations and resulting actions?**

    A. Alice is unkind to the Caterpillar and forces it to leave.
    B. Alice tries to be polite with the Caterpillar so it will not take offense.
    C. Alice is willing to try anything in order to be taller than three inches.
    D. Alice respects the Caterpillar's wisdom and therefore trusts its advice.

8. **Which evidence best supports your answer to Question 7?**
    A. "'It is a very good height indeed!" said the Caterpillar angrily, rearing itself upright…." (paragraph 8)
    B. "'You'll get used to it in time,' said the Caterpillar.…" (paragraph 10)
    C. "'Well, I should like to be a *little* larger, sir, if you wouldn't mind,' said Alice.…" (paragraph 7)
    D. "And she thought to herself, 'I wish the creatures wouldn't be so easily offended!'" (paragraph 9)

9. **Read the sentence from Selection 1.**

> "Of the mushroom," said the Caterpillar, just as if she had asked it aloud; and in another moment it was out of sight.

What is the best way to paraphrase the explicit meaning of this sentence?

    A. The Caterpillar explained that it was referring to the mushroom, answering her question even though she didn't ask it aloud. Then it left.
    B. The Caterpillar clearly knew Alice's thoughts. It was able to answer her questions because of this ability.
    C. The Caterpillar interrupted Alice impatiently because it thought her question was silly and nonsensical.
    D. The Caterpillar is a magical creature who knows what people are going to ask even before they speak.

10. **How does the Caterpillar's remark in line 11 of Selection 1, "one side will make you grow taller, and the other side will make you grow shorter," propel the action of the story?**

    A. It confuses Alice and makes her doubt her decisions.
    B. It provides Alice with the necessary information to control her size.
    C. It causes Alice to ignore the Caterpillar's advice and seek help elsewhere.
    D. It prompts her to leave the mushroom and explore other parts of Wonderland immediately.

11. **Which line of dialogue best supports the answer to Question 10?**

    A. "'It is a very good height indeed!" said the Caterpillar angrily, rearing itself upright…." (paragraph 8)
    B. "'You'll get used to it in time,' said the Caterpillar.…" (paragraph 10)
    C. "'Well, I should like to be a *little* larger, sir, if you wouldn't mind,' said Alice.…" (paragraph 7)
    D. "'Of the mushroom,' said the Caterpillar, just as if she had asked it aloud; and in another moment it was out of sight. (paragraph 13)

12. **What does the phrase "one doesn't like changing so often" (paragraph 3 of Selection 1) suggest about Alice?**

    A. She does not want frequent physical transformations
    B. She dislikes changing her opinions
    C. She dislikes changing her clothes
    D. She is disappointed about moving from place to place frequently

13. **How does the word "wretched" in the phrase "three inches is such a wretched height to be" (Paragraph 7 of Selection 1) impact the tone of the passage?**

    A. it conveys a sense of satisfaction
    B. it emphasizes Alice's extreme discomfort
    C. it indicates that she is neutral about her height
    D. it suggests that she feels indifferent about her height

14. **"Alice8 Meets an AI Caterpillar" is a modern adaptation of the traditional story in Selection 1,** *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.* **Which choice best explains how Selection 2 transforms ideas in Selection 1, making them new?**

    A. In the traditional story, the Caterpillar is easily annoyed. Selection 2 turns him into a cooperative character. By doing so, Selection 2 makes the story more cheerful.
    B. In the traditional story, the Caterpillar speaks mysteriously. Selection 2 turns him into a character who speaks sensibly. By doing so, Selection 2 makes the story more realistic.
    C. In the traditional story, the Caterpillar is a villain. Selection 2 turns him into a computer construct who chats with Alice. By doing so, Selection 2 makes the story more cheerful.
    D. In the traditional story, the Caterpillar is a fantastical character. Selection 2 turns him into an online disguise for Alice. By doing so, Selection 2 makes the story more realistic.

15. **How is the plot structure of "Alice8 Meets an AI Caterpillar" different from the linear plot structure of "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland?**

    A. "Alice8 Meets an AI Caterpillar" begins in the middle of the plot and then flashes back to earlier events.
    B. "Alice8 Meets an AI Caterpillar" connects events using one character's thoughts.
    C. "Alice8 Meets an AI Caterpillar" uses foreshadowing and ends in the middle of the plot.
    D. "Alice8 Meets an AI Caterpillar" includes several short flashbacks.

16. **How does the differing structure of the conversations in "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" and "Alice8 Meets an AI Caterpillar" contribute to the overall meaning and style of each text?**

    A. Both texts use straightforward dialogue to advance the plot, making the story easy to follow.
    B. The whimsical and confusing dialogue in "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" contrasts with the technical and strategic dialogue in "Alice8 Meets an AI Caterpillar," reflecting their different genres and tones.
    C. The repetitive structure of dialogue in both texts emphasizes the monotony of the characters' experiences.
    D. Both texts use minimal dialogue to focus on the internal thoughts of the main characters.

17. **How does "Alice8 Meets an AI Caterpillar" draw on themes and character types from Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland"?**

    A. Both stories explore themes of identity and transformation through the interactions between Alice and the Caterpillar.

    B. "Alice8 Meets an AI Caterpillar" abandons the original themes and characters to create a completely new story.

    C. A theme of the modern story is technology, unlike the theme of the original which is nature.

    D. Both stories depict a straightforward journey without any complex interactions or contradictions.

Read the selections. Then, choose the best answer to each question.

Selection 1: Let's Ban Private Cars Downtown

(1) Privately owned cars should be banned from the downtown sections of major cities. (2) Cars create a disgusting amount of air pollution that especially harms young children and seniors.
(3) In addition, they are expensive to buy. (4) Banning cars would force people to use buses and trains that create less pollution. (5) Cities would be less congested and safer. (6) Such a ban would cause a tiny bit of inconvenience for a few people, but this is a small price to pay for the many public benefits.

Selection 2: Keep Our Streets Open

(7) Banning private cars from downtown areas is a misguided idea. (8) There must be a very good reason for limiting people's freedom, and there simply isn't a very good reason for this idea. (9) In fact, there are many reasons to oppose such a ban. (10) Banning private cars would prevent tourists from driving downtown to enjoy the city. (11) People who live downtown are not always close enough to bus lines and train stops to take advantage of them. (12) And modern cars create much less air pollution than cars in the past. (13) So, the small benefit to public health would simply not be worth the cost.

18.   **Which piece of evidence from Selection 1 is irrelevant to the claim?**
   A. sentence 2
   B. sentence 3
   C. sentence 4
   D. sentence 5

19.   **Which sentence from Selection 2 offers a counterargument or response to a claim presented in Selection 1?**
   A. sentence 8
   B. sentence 9
   C. sentence 10
   D. sentence 11

20.   **Which two sentences present conflicting information?**
   A. sentence 3 and sentence 8
   B. sentence 2 and sentence 12
   C. sentence 5 and sentence 11
   D. sentence 6 and sentence 13

21. Analyze what the authors claim about public transportation:

    A. The author of Selection 1 argues that banning cars make public transportation less convenient; The author of Selection 2 argues banning cars would make public transportation more convenient.

    B. The author of Selection 1 does not discuss public transportation; The author of Selection 2 claims public transportation is not accessible to everyone.

    C. The author of Selection 1 claims that using buses and trains would be a small inconvenience for some people; The author of Selection 2 argues that public transportation is not convenient for people living downtown.

    D. Both authors agree that public transportation is convenient for everyone.

Answer Key
1. **C & D;** RI.8.1 - Inference
2. **A;** RI.8.4 - Word Choice
3. **C;** RI.8.5 - Text Structure
4. **B;** RI.8.8 - Characteristics of Arguments
5. **C;** RI.8.4 - Tone
6. **B;** RI.8.5 - Text Structure
7. **B;** RL.8.3 - Character
8. **C;** RL.8.1 - Text Evidence
9. **A;** RL.8.2 - Paraphrasing
10. **B;** RL.8.3 - Dialogue
11. **D;** RL.8.1 - Text Evidence
12. **A;** RL.8.4 - Word Choice
13. **B;** RL.8.4 - Tone
14. **D;** RL.8.9 - Comparing Texts: Source to Adaptation
15. **A;** RL.8.5 - Narrative Structure
16. **B;** RL.8.3 - Dialogue
17. **A;** RL.8.9 - Comparing Texts: Source to Adaptation
18. **B;** RI.8.8 - Characteristics of Arguments
19. **D;** RI.8.6 - Counterclaim
20. **B;** RI.8.9 - Comparing Arguments
21. **C;** RI.8.2 - Central Ideas