

Reading ACAP 5th

Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

1. A student is doing research on icebergs and is looking for reliable sources of information. The student reads the following paragraph from a source.

Icebergs are large pieces of ice that float in the ocean. They break away from glaciers or shelf ice and move with the ocean currents. To be considered a true iceberg, the piece of ice needs to be at least five feet across and sixteen feet above the water. Icebergs are most commonly found in the waters near Antarctica.

Which pair of notes **best** summarizes the types of information found in the paragraph?

- A. • focus on the appearance of icebergs.
• inclusion of the distances an iceberg can float
 - B. • focus on the appearance of icebergs
• inclusion of information on how icebergs move
 - C. • focus on the definition of icebergs
• inclusion of measurements of icebergs
 - D. • focus on the definition of icebergs
• inclusion of information on specific icebergs
2. Which sentence misuses a comma?
- A. Is that you, Mom?
 - B. Where do you, go to school Amanda?
 - C. Yes, I am in the fifth grade.
 - D. No, the store did not have any orange juice.

3. Read the sentences.

Meredith and her dad had already begun eating their dessert when the doorbell interrupted them. Meredith's dad went to answer the door; it was their neighbor, Mrs. Lawlor. She had come to deliver their mail, which she had recieved by mistake.

Which revision corrects the spelling mistake?

- A. Change "already" to "allready."
- B. Change "dessert" to "desert."
- C. Change "interrupted" to "interupted."
- D. Change "recieved" to "received."

Virginia's Wild Pony Islands

Two barrier islands lie off the coast of Virginia. Chincoteague is just seven miles long. It nestles next to Assateague, which is 38 miles long. Assateague protects its little neighbor from the fury of Atlantic storms.

Chincoteague Island is home to a small resort town of the same name. Assateague Island has no homes or towns. Parts of these and other islands and shoreland make up the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. This refuge includes 14,000 acres of beaches and provides habitat for birds, horseshoe crabs, and other wildlife.

There are many tourists. Every year, 1.5 million people come to visit the refuge. They come to enjoy the white sand and dunes. They come to see the fish and crabs, and they come to watch for migratory birds.

But there is one sight every visitor must see—the wild ponies.

No one knows for sure how the ponies got to the islands. Ponies are not a native species. But they have been there for a very long time, perhaps 400 years. Legend says that they swam ashore from sinking Spanish galleons, or ships, that were shipwrecked near the islands during a storm.

Maybe people from the mainland put their animals on the deserted island. That way, they did not have to pay taxes on the animals. Over time, many of the animals became wild.

The author Marguerite Henry was also fascinated by the ponies. She wrote the book *Misty of Chincoteague* in 1947 about a real pony named Misty. Children everywhere fell in love with Misty and the island ponies and loved learning about Pony Penning Day.

Once a year, since about 1925, volunteer firefighters have continued the tradition of Pony Penning Day. On horseback, they round up the Assateague ponies. Including the foals, there are about 150 ponies. The firefighters herd the ponies into the water, and then the ponies swim across the channel to Chincoteague. It is a short swim, and it takes five or six minutes.

The "saltwater cowboys" then parade the ponies down Main Street and to the local fairgrounds. Forty or fifty thousand people show up every year to watch. This spectacle brings business to the town of Chincoteague.

The young ponies are sold at auction. People may pay from \$375 to \$17,500 for one pony. The ponies belong to the volunteer fire department, and the money raised by the auction goes to help the fire department with its annual expenses.

Some of the money is used to fund vaccinations and care for the wild ponies. The islanders want to keep the ponies healthy. They also want to keep the herd approximately the same size. They do not want too many ponies. The people plan to protect the island environment for many years to come.

Splashing with the Ponies on Pony Penning Day

I'm a saltwater cowboy. My daddy and grandpa herded ponies long before I was old enough to help. It's in the blood. Even my horse gets excited when the end of July finally rolls around. We wait all year for Pony Penning Day.

A few days before the big swim, we go over to Assateague to start rounding up the herd. Every one of the ponies has a name, and I like to see which ones I recognize. I'm pretty sure I see the one they call Freckles, with his white belly and spotty brown sides.

We always know the day of the swim, but we don't know the hour. That depends on the tide. We won't know until the night before. Between two tides, there's about 30 minutes of "slack calm." That means there is no current pulling either way. That's when we bring the ponies across. It's safer for the young foals that were just born this spring.

When the day for the swim finally arrives, I'm glad I'm not one of the tourists lined up on the shores, trying to see past thousands of other people. I'd rather be part of the action!

My horse and I will barge across the channel. We don't mind getting wet and muddy, and the ponies don't seem to mind either.

The red smoke goes off. It drifts across the water, signaling that the swim is about to commence. And we're off! The horses slip into the water until only their dark heads and ears are showing. We follow close, keeping the herd together, watching for any young ones that might get tired or confused. The crowds of tourists go crazy taking one picture after another.

The channel is not very wide. In just a few minutes, the wet ponies are pulling up out of the water onto Chincoteague Island. The swim is over.

The ponies nibble some hay and take a rest. A couple of ponies of the adventurous sort break loose. One of them makes a dash for somebody's backyard, so I follow to direct it back.

When they're rested, it's time to lead the herd through town to the carnival grounds. I'm proud to ride at the front of the pack, leading the herd through town. The other firefighters in their cowboy hats and boots surround the ponies to bring them safely to the auction.

And then it's over for another year. Some ponies will be sold, but about a hundred will swim back to Assateague in a couple of days.

Life for this saltwater cowboy is as good as it gets. And there's always next year's Pony Penning Day to look forward to.

4. Which excerpts from "Virginia's Wild Pony Islands" **best** support the idea that the wild ponies play an important role in supporting the community? Choose **two** answers.
 - A. They come to see the fish and crabs, and they come to watch for migratory birds.
 - B. They hope to see a stallion galloping over the dunes.
 - C. . . . then the ponies swim across the channel to Chincoteague.
 - D. . . . parade the ponies down Main Street and to the local fairgrounds.
 - E. The young ponies are sold at auction.
 - F. . . . the money raised by this auction goes to help the fire department with its annual expenses.

5. In "Splashing with the Ponies on Pony Penning Day," why does the narrator state, "I'm a saltwater cowboy"?
 - A. The narrator helps to herd ponies through a saltwater channel.
 - B. The narrator likes to ride ponies and go to the beach.
 - C. The narrator likes ponies and splashing in salt water.
 - D. The narrator trains ponies near the ocean.

6. How are **both** passages similar in point of view?
 - A. The authors of both passages believe that people from the mainland should pay taxes.
 - B. The authors of both passages think that the hour of the swim for the wild ponies should be planned ahead of time.
 - C. The authors of both passages believe that people love to see the wild ponies swim across the channel.
 - D. The authors of both passages think that being a saltwater cowboy is the best life to have.

7. Both passages give information about Pony Penning Day on Chincoteague Island. Write an essay analyzing the positive effects of Pony Penning Day for the people and the ponies involved in the events. Use evidence from **both** passages to support your response.