

READ 49 SELF-ASSESSMENT (POST)

After reading the passage, write the letter of the best answer to each question.

1. Business ethics is more complicated than it used to be. 2. Back in the “bad old days,” in the early 1900s, the prevailing view among industrialists was that business had only one responsibility: to make a profit. 3. Railroad tycoon William Vanderbilt summed up this attitude when he said, “The public be damned. 4. I’m working for the shareholders.” 5. The beginning of the twentieth century was not a good time to be a low-level worker or a careless consumer. 6. For instance, people worked sixty-hour weeks under dreadful conditions for a dollar or two a day. 7. The few bold souls who tried to fight the system faced violence and unemployment. 8. Consumers were not much better off. 9. Caveat emptor was the rule of the day—“Let the buyer beware.” 10. If you bought a product, you paid the price and took the consequences. 11. There were no consumer groups or government agencies to come to your defense if the product was defective or caused harm. 12. And if you tried to sue the company, chances were you would lose. 13. These conditions caught the attention of a few crusading journalists known as muckrakers. 14. They used the power of the press to stir up public anger and desire for reform. 15. Largely through their efforts, a number of laws were passed to limit the power of monopolies and to establish safety standards for food and drugs.

1. In sentence 2, the word prevailing means

- A. unlikely.
- B. friendly.
- C. illegal.
- D. widely accepted.

2. In sentence 11, the word defective means

- A. good.
- B. faulty.
- C. harmful.
- D. old.

3. The main idea of the second paragraph is expressed in sentence

- A. 5.
- B. 6.
- C. 8.
- D. 12.

4. The muckrakers were

- A. consumers.
- B. journalists.
- C. employers.
- D. government agencies.

5. The author quotes Vanderbilt in order to make clear the early-twentieth-century attitude held by

- A. workers.
- B. heads of industry.
- C. muckrakers.
- D. consumers.

6. The main pattern of organization of the second paragraph is

- A. contrast.
- B. definition and example.
- C. list of items.
- D. time order.

7. The relationship of sentence 6 to sentence 5 is one of

- A. addition.
- B. time.
- C. illustration.
- D. contrast.

8. The author implies that

- A. consumers are better off today than they were at the beginning of the twentieth century.
- B. journalism can greatly influence conditions in this country.
- C. at the beginning of the twentieth century, employers sometimes used force to get their way.
- D. all of the above.

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ANSWERS: 1.