

SAMPLE READING 54 POST-TEST

Read the passage below. Then select the letter of the best answer to each question that follows.

(1) Human populations tend to go through stages which are tied to economic development. (2) In the first stage, both birth rates and death rates are high. (3) Because the two rates more or less balance each other, the population is fairly stable, neither growing nor declining rapidly. (4) This was the stage of the populations in Western Europe in 1650, before industrialization. (5) During the second stage, the birth rate remains high, but the death rate declines sharply. (6) This stage occurred in Western Europe after it became industrialized, and it is occurring today in many developing nations. (7) The introduction of modern medicine, along with better hygiene and sanitation, has decreased the death rates in developing countries. (8) But the economies and values of these countries are still essentially traditional, so their birth rates remain high. (9) As a result, their populations grow rapidly. (10) During the third stage, both birth rates and death rates decline. (11) Western countries found themselves in this stage after they reached a rather high level of industrialization. (12) Today, Taiwan, South Korea, and Argentina are among the developing nations that have reached this stage. (13) The birth rates in these countries have declined significantly. (14) In this stage, the population still grows because the birth rate continues to exceed the death rate, but growth is slower than during the second stage. (15) The fourth stage is marked by a low birth rate and a low death rate. (16) Only the most industrialized nations of Western Europe, the United States, and Japan have reached this stage. (17) They have fairly stable populations and are moving close to zero population growth. (18) At least 40 countries, such as Italy, Spain, and Germany, have already fallen below zero population growth, with birth rates lower than death rates; in other words, the fertility rate is less than the replacement level.

1. According to the selection, shortly after Western Europe became industrialized,
 - A. its population rapidly declined.”
 - B. both its birth rate and death rate slowly declined.
 - C. its birth rate remained high, but its death rate declined sharply.
 - D. both its birth rate and its death rate rose sharply.

2. The relationship of sentence 9 to sentence 8 is one of
 - A. contrast
 - B. comparison
 - C. cause and effect
 - D. time

3. On the basis of this selection, we can conclude that
 - A. Italy, Spain, and Germany are no longer industrialized countries.
 - B. Italy, Spain, and Germany are still essentially traditional countries.
 - C. Taiwan, South Korea, and Argentina have reached zero population growth.
 - D. the population of countries such as Italy, Spain, and Germany will decline if these countries do not admit immigrants.

4. This selection suggests that
 - A. only Western nations are moving close to zero population growth.
 - B. as societies become wealthier, people tend to have fewer children.
 - C. the introduction of modern medicine was the most important factor in declining death rates.
 - D. the United States is a traditional society

5. The tone of the passage is
 - A. worried
 - B. doubtful
 - C. indignant
 - D. objective

6. The author's main purpose is to
 - A. persuade readers that all countries should move closer to zero population growth.
 - B. inform readers about stages of human population.
 - C. entertain the reader with interesting facts about other countries.
 - D. predict that eventually, more countries will achieve zero population growth.

7. The author would probably agree with which of the following statements?
 - A. Industrialization resulted in more people living longer.
 - B. Women in developed countries are selfish for not having more children.
 - C. Better hygiene and sanitation are the most important factors enabling people to live longer lives.
 - D. All of the above.