

## MAIN IDEAS: Test B

The following selections have main ideas that may appear at any place within the paragraph. Identify the main idea of each paragraph by filling in the correct sentence number in the space provided.

- \_\_\_ 1. <sup>1</sup>Plastic trash bags were once considered a major menace to the environment. <sup>2</sup>The makers of plastic trash bags responded to the environmental concerns and made several positive changes in their product. <sup>3</sup>First, they made use of a new additive—actually, potato peels—to make the bags biodegradable (that is, capable of breaking down and being absorbed by the environment). <sup>4</sup>Next, they removed any ingredients in their plastic formula which would contaminate soil in a landfill. <sup>5</sup>Finally, they made it possible for the bags to be burned safely, without adding dangerous pollutants to the air.
- \_\_\_ 2. <sup>1</sup>Snoring is the number-one complaint in marriages all around the world. <sup>2</sup>The honks, hoots, and snorts created by snorers annoy their mates and deprive them of sleep. <sup>3</sup>Fortunately, there are some means of preventing snoring. <sup>4</sup>First, the snorer should avoid breathing through his mouth. <sup>5</sup>Mouth-breathing can be discouraged if the snorer sleeps on his side with his forearm under his chin—effectively pressing his mouth shut. <sup>6</sup>Second, the snorer should increase the humidity in his bedroom. <sup>7</sup>A humidifier or even a pot of water in the room may help. <sup>8</sup>In addition, snoring may disappear if an overweight snorer loses some pounds. <sup>9</sup>And finally, a snorer should avoid drinking alcohol in the evening.
- \_\_\_ 3. <sup>1</sup>A young girl looks at a fashion magazine and sees clothes modeled by women carrying 115 pounds on their five-foot-ten-inch frames. <sup>2</sup>She receives a “teen doll” as a present and studies its proportions: legs nearly two-thirds the length of its body, tiny waist, non-existent hips and thighs. <sup>3</sup>She goes to the movies and observes screen heroines who in their leanness resemble adolescent boys more than mature women. <sup>4</sup>Her favorite television shows are filled with commercials for weight-loss programs that equate slenderness with desirability. <sup>5</sup>By the time the girl reaches her teens, she has been thoroughly bombarded with society’s message that to be thin is the only acceptable option.

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- \_\_\_ 4. <sup>1</sup>Symbols can have a tremendously powerful emotional impact upon us, instantly conveying many feelings and ideas. <sup>2</sup>Symbols like the cross, the Star of David, or the star-and-crescent immediately make us think of the Christian, Jewish, or Muslim religions. <sup>3</sup>This may be why burning an American flag often arouses more anger than does an attack on the values for which the flag actually stands. <sup>4</sup>Another symbol with terrible power is the swastika. <sup>5</sup>Until this century, the swastika was an innocent traditional symbol found in many cultures. <sup>6</sup>Then it became the symbol of Nazi terror. <sup>7</sup>Today, the very sight of a swastika can send chills down our spines.
- \_\_\_ 5. <sup>1</sup>Can psychics see into the future? <sup>2</sup>Although one might wish for a psychic stock forecaster, the tallied forecasts of “leading psychics” reveal little accuracy. <sup>3</sup>In one eight-year period, the New Year’s predictions of the *National Enquirer’s* favorite psychics yielded two accurate predictions out of 486. <sup>4</sup>During the early 1990s, tabloid psychics were all wrong in predicting surprising events (Madonna did not become a gospel singer, a UFO base was not found in the Mexican desert, Queen Elizabeth did not abdicate her throne to enter a convent). <sup>5</sup>And they missed all the significant unexpected events, such as the breakup of the Soviet Union, Saddam Hussein’s assault on Kuwait, and the O.J. Simpson case. <sup>6</sup>Before 1994, psychics offered many predictions about Michael Jackson—that he would marry Oprah Winfrey, become a traveling evangelist, and have a sex-change operation—but missed their chance to predict his marriage to Lisa Marie Presley.