

UNIT ONE

Identify the Main Idea

مهارت خواندن: ایده اصلی

در هر پاراگراف تمامی جزئیات مربوطه به دنبال اثبات یا حمایت از یک مفهوم کلی به نام ایده اصلی هستند. در اغلب اوقات این ایده اصلی در اولین یا دوجمله اول پاراگراف بیان شده است. وقتی متن خواندنی از چندین پاراگراف تشکیل شده است، یک روش مناسب برای یافتن ایده اصلی کل متن، خواندن جملات آغازین هر پاراگراف میباشد که در این صورت برداشت خواننده از برآیند ایده های اصلی پاراگراف های مختلف بیانگر ایده اصلی کل متن میباشد.

Sample

Canada is renowned for its multiculturalism, which is a defining aspect of the nation's identity. This policy was officially adopted in 1971 and has since been a cornerstone of Canadian society. Multiculturalism in Canada is characterized by the support and encouragement of cultural diversity within its borders. The government actively promotes the inclusion and celebration of different cultural traditions, languages, and customs, ensuring that immigrants can maintain their cultural heritage while integrating into Canadian society. This inclusive approach fosters social cohesion and mutual respect among various cultural groups, making Canada one of the most welcoming countries for immigrants.

The education system in Canada is another prominent aspect of life that draws international attention. It is known for its high standards and accessibility. Education in Canada is publicly funded and administered by the provincial and territorial governments, ensuring that students across the country receive quality education regardless of their location. The curriculum is designed to be comprehensive, offering a wide range of subjects and extracurricular activities that promote well-rounded development. Additionally, Canadian schools emphasize inclusivity and multiculturalism, reflecting the country's diverse population. This approach prepares students not only academically but also socially, for a globalized world.

1. What does paragraph 1 mainly discuss?

- A. The history of Canada's education system
- B. The economic benefits of immigration
- C. The policy and impact of multiculturalism in Canada
- D. The natural landscapes of Canada

2. What does paragraph 2 mainly discuss?

- A. The accessibility and quality of Canada's education system
- B. The history of higher education in Canada
- C. The funding of private schools in Canada
- D. The role of technology in Canadian education

3. What does the passage as a whole mainly discuss?

- A. The natural beauty and geography of Canada
- B. The economic policies of Canada
- C. Aspects of Canadian life including multiculturalism and education
- D. The political system of Canada

Passage 1 Vocabulary List

1. **Appoint** /ə'pɔɪnt/ (v.) To choose someone for a job or position.
 - **Persian** : منصوب کردن
 - ✓ *The committee will appoint a new chairperson next week.*
2. **Astuteness** /ə'stju:tnəs/ (n.): The quality of being clever and perceptive.
 - **Persian** : زیرکی
 - ✓ *Her astuteness in negotiations earned her a promotion.*
3. **Compromise** /'kɒmprəmaɪz/ (n.): An agreement where each side makes concessions.
 - **Persian** : مصالحه
 - ✓ *They reached a compromise to avoid further conflict.*
4. **Frustrating** /'frʌstreɪtɪŋ/ (adj.): Causing annoyance or anger.
 - **Persian** : ناامید کننده
 - ✓ *It was a frustrating experience waiting in line for hours.*
5. **Prime Minister** /praɪm 'mɪnɪstər/ (n.): The head of an elected government in a parliamentary system.
 - **Persian** : نخست وزیر
 - ✓ *The prime minister addressed the nation on television.*
6. **Procrastination** /prə'kræstɪ'neɪʃən/ (n.): The action of delaying or postponing something.
 - **Persian** : تعویق
 - ✓ *Procrastination can lead to stress and missed deadlines.*
7. **Prominent** /'prɒmɪnənt/ (adj.): Important and well-known.
 - **Persian** : برجسته
 - ✓ *She is a prominent figure in the scientific community.*
8. **Public Servant** /'pʌblɪk 'sɜ:rvənt/ (n.): A government employee.
 - **Persian** : کارمند دولتی
 - ✓ *Public servants work to serve the citizens of their country.*
9. **Rebellion** /rɪ'beljən/ (n.): An act of violent or open resistance to an established government or ruler.
 - **Persian** : شورش
 - ✓ *The rebellion was quickly suppressed by the government forces.*
10. **Sociology** /,səʊsi'ɒlədʒi/ (n.): The study of the development, structure, and functioning of human society.
 - **Persian** : جامعه‌شناسی
 - ✓ *She decided to major in sociology to understand social behaviors better.*
11. **Statesman** /'steɪtsmən/ (n.): A skilled, experienced, and respected political leader.
 - **Persian** : سیاستمدار
 - ✓ *He was a respected statesman known for his diplomacy.*
12. **Terms of Office** /tɜ:rmz əv 'ɒfɪs/ (n.): The period during which a person holds a particular office or position.
 - **Persian** : دوره تصدی
 - ✓ *The president's term of office is four years.*

EXERCISE 1

Use the words below to fill in the blank in the following sentences.

appoint astuteness compromise frustrating prime minister
procrastination prominent public servant rebellion sociology
statesman term of office

1. After long discussions, they finally reached a _____, agreeing to work together for the country's progress.
2. The _____ announced new policies aimed at improving the country's economic stability and public welfare.
3. The committee decided to _____ a new leader who would address the nation's political and economic issues effectively.
4. As a dedicated _____, she worked tirelessly to implement policies that benefited all citizens equally.
5. The politician became a _____ figure by advocating for significant reforms in the country's healthcare system.
6. Her _____ in understanding the political landscape made her an invaluable advisor to the election campaign team.
7. It was _____ to see the government's slow response to the urgent political crisis affecting many citizens.
8. The _____ was a direct response to years of political oppression and lack of democratic representation.
9. _____ in addressing climate change can lead to severe consequences that future political leaders will have to manage.
10. During his _____, he introduced several important laws that significantly improved the nation's governance.
11. His studies in _____ provided insights into voter behavior and the impact of social media on politics.
12. The respected _____ was known for his diplomatic skills and efforts to maintain peace between conflicting nations.

EXERCISE 2

Read the passage and choose the best answer to each question.

William Lyon Mackenzie King was a Canadian statesman and head of the Liberal Party who held the office of prime minister for a total of twenty-one years, longer than any public servant in the history of Canada. His father was a prominent judge, and his mother the daughter of William Lyon Mackenzie, leader of the rebellion of 1837 in Upper Canada. Greatly influenced by his famous grandfather, King was determined to serve his country in the role of reformer. After graduation from the University of Toronto with a degree in economics, he studied sociology and labor relations at Harvard and Chicago Universities.

He served his fellow Canadians in many appointed and elected offices, including among them a seat in the parliament, before being elected prime minister in 1921. His three terms of office were marked by compromise, and he was often criticized for procrastination. Nevertheless, he earned the respect of most Canadians for his political astuteness and what one biographer, John Moir of the University of Toronto, has called his “essential Canadianness.” According to Moir, king’s methods may have been frustrating to some, but he was able to maintain unity and extend Canadian autonomy while acting within a difficult federal system.

1. What is the main idea of the first paragraph?

- (A) The effect of family life on political ideas
- (B) King’s unique characteristics
- (C) King’s educational background
- (D) Background of King’s life and work

2. What is the main idea of the second paragraph?

- (A) How Canada gained unity
- (B) Those for and those against King’s policies
- (C) King’s life
- (D) King’s work

3. What is the author’s main point?

- (A) King made a valuable contribution to Canada.
- (B) King’s methods were frustrating to many Canadians.
- (C) King came from a prominent Canadian family.
- (D) King held many positions in government.

Passage 2 Vocabulary List

1. **Chronic** /'krɒnɪk/ (adj.): Lasting for a long time or recurring frequently.
 - **Persian** مزمن
 - ✓ *He suffers from chronic back pain.*
2. **Delay** /dɪ'leɪ/ (v.): To make something happen at a later time than originally planned or expected.
 - **Persian** به تأخیر انداختن
 - ✓ *The train was delayed due to heavy rain.*
3. **Deliberately** /dɪ'lɪbərətli/ (adv.): Done consciously and intentionally.
 - **Persian** عمداً
 - ✓ *She deliberately ignored his calls.*
4. **Illusion** /ɪ'lu:ʒən/ (n.): A false idea or belief
 - **Persian** توهم
 - ✓ *The magician created the illusion of a floating woman.*
5. **Precisely** /prɪ'saɪsli/ (adv.): In exact terms; without vagueness.
 - **Persian** دقیقاً
 - ✓ *The meeting started precisely at 9 AM.*
6. **Undisciplined** /ˌʌndɪsə'plɪnd/ (adj.): Lacking control or organization.
 - **Persian** بی انضباط
 - ✓ *The undisciplined student often disrupted the class.*
7. **Vulnerable** /'vʌlnərəbl/ (adj.): Exposed to the possibility of being harmed or attacked.
 - **Persian** آسیب‌پذیر
 - ✓ *The elderly are particularly vulnerable to the flu.*
8. **Willing** /'wɪlɪŋ/ (adj.): Ready, eager, or prepared to do something.
 - **Persian** مایل
 - ✓ *She is willing to help with the project.*

EXERCISE 3

Use the words below to fill in the blank in the following sentences.

chronic **delay** **deliberately** **illusion**
precisely **undisciplined** **vulnerable** **willing**

1. His _____ habits made it easy for him to procrastinate and avoid responsibilities.
2. She was always _____ to help others, but she procrastinated on her own tasks.
3. His _____ procrastination meant he always started his assignments the night before they were due.
4. He found himself procrastinating precisely at the moment he should have been starting his tasks.
5. He _____ chose to watch TV instead of finishing his project on time.
6. Students are particularly _____ to procrastination when they lack a clear study plan.
7. She would often _____ starting her homework by spending hours on social media.
8. The _____ of having plenty of time led him to procrastinate on his important tasks.

EXERCISE 4

Read the passage and choose the best answer to each question.

Procrastinators are people who have a chronic habit of putting things off, usually until the last minute and sometimes until it is too late altogether. The most common reason that procrastinators themselves give for their habit, which they are usually quite willing to talk about even if not willing to change, is that they are lazy. Other typical excuses are that they are undisciplined, brilliant but disorganized, or very poor at organizing their time.

Some procrastinators, however, almost against their very nature, actually get as far as trying to do something about their problem and seek help. Recent research with such people seems to suggest that their difficulties are much more complex than the procrastinators themselves think. The general conclusions are that such people have a vulnerable sense of self-worth, are particularly fearful of failure, and deliberately put things off precisely so that they never leave themselves time to produce their best work. The reason for their delaying tactics is that, since they do everything at the last moment and under pressure, the procrastinators can retain their illusion of brilliance without ever having to put it to the test.

1. The main idea in the first paragraph is

- (A) the nature of procrastination
- (B) the undisciplined character of procrastinators
- (C) that disorganization is the procrastinator's main problem
- (D) procrastinators' willingness to talk a lot

2. The main idea in the second paragraph is

- (A) how procrastinators have an illusion of brilliance
- (B) how some procrastinators never seek help
- (C) research findings regarding procrastinators
- (D) that procrastinators always leave everything until the last moment

3. A suitable title for this passage might be

- (A) The Cure for Procrastination
- (B) Procrastination: Excuses and Reality
- (C) Disorganization: the True Cause of Procrastination
- (D) Procrastination: Never Do Today what You Can Put Off Until Tomorrow

HOMWORK

Passage Vocabulary List

1. **crust** /krʌst/ (n.): The outermost layer of the earth or a piece of bread.
 - **Persian:** پوسته
2. **decomposition** /,di:kɒmpə'zɪʃən/ (n.): The process of rotting or breaking down into simpler parts.
 - **Persian:** تجزیه
3. **humus** /'hju:məs/ (n.) Rich, dark organic material formed by decayed plant matter.
 - **Persian:** خاک گیاه
4. **igneous** /'ɪɡniəs/ (adj.): Related to rock formed by solidified lava or magma.
 - **Persian:** آذرین
5. **mineral** /'mɪnərəl/ (n.): A naturally occurring substance, usually inorganic, with a definite chemical composition.
 - **Persian:** ماده معدنی - کانی
6. **occur** /ə'kɜ:r/ (v.): To happen or take place.
 - **Persian:** رخ دادن
7. **sustain** /sə'steɪn/ (v.): To support, hold, or bear up from below.
 - **Persian:** حفظ کردن
8. **ultimately** /'ʌltɪmətli/ (adv.): In the end; finally.
 - **Persian:** در نهایت

EXERCISE 1

Use the words below to fill in the blank in the following sentences.

crust

decomposition

humus

igneous

mineral

occur

sustain

ultimately

1. A _____ is a substance such as tin, salt, uranium, or sulfur formed naturally in rocks and in the earth.
2. _____ rocks are formed by volcanic action.
3. “To _____” means the same as “to take place”.
4. “_____” means “finally”.
5. The process of rotting that happens when a living thing dies and changes chemically is referred to as _____.
6. The earth’s _____ is its outer layer.
7. To _____ something is to maintain or support it for a period of time.
8. Part of soil consisting of plant and animal remains that have begun to decompose is called _____.

EXERCISE 2

Read the following passage and choose the best answer to each question.

The term weathering refers to all the ways in which rock can be broken down. It takes place because minerals formed in a particular way (say at high temperatures, in the case of igneous rocks) are often unstable when exposed to various conditions. Weathering involves the interaction of the lithosphere (the Earth's crust) with the atmosphere and hydrosphere (air and water). It occurs at different rates and in different ways, depending on the climactic and environmental conditions. But all kinds of weathering ultimately produce broken minerals and rock fragments and other products of the decomposition of stone.

Soil is the most obvious and, from the human point of view, the most important result of the weathering process. Soil is the weathered part of the Earth's crust that is capable of sustaining plant life. The character of soil depends on the nature of rock from which it is formed. It also depends on the climate and on the relative "age" of the soil. Immature soils are little more than broken rock fragments. Over time, immature soil develops into mature soil, which contains quantities of humus, formed from decayed plant matter. Mature soil is darker, richer in microscopic life, and more conducive to plant growth.

1. The first paragraph primarily describes

- (A) the process by which rocks are broken down
- (B) the weathering of igneous rocks
- (C) gradual changes in the Earth's weather patterns
- (D) weathering produces mineral and rock fragments

2. The main topic of the second paragraph is

- (A) a description of immature soil
- (B) the growth of plants
- (C) the evolution of soil
- (D) immature versus mature soil

3. The main topic of the entire passage is that

- (A) weathering breaks down rocks and leads to the development of soil
- (B) soils may be classified as mature or immature
- (C) the process of soil development is more important to humans than that of weathering
- (D) the Earth's crust is constantly changing

SELF-TEST: Unit One Vocabulary

Choose the one answer that best completes the sentence.

1. It is _____ to live at the sea's edge and be unable to swim.
(A) eager (B) frustrating (C) brilliant (D) false
2. The compliments she received after the presentation boosted her _____.
(A) self-esteem (B) reason (C) sociology (D) research
3. He was offended because his suggestion was greeted with a good deal of _____.
(A) failure (B) unity (C) rebellion (D) ridicule
4. In a _____ between management and unions a 4% pay rise was agreed in return for an increase in productivity.
(A) relation (B) compromise (C) difficulty (D) pressure
5. Are you doing enough to instill a _____ of social responsibility in young people?
(A) purpose (B) term (C) habit (D) sense
6. He was severely _____ by his fellow workers for his listlessness and lack of cooperation.
(A) appointed (B) criticized (C) organized (D) maintained
7. One of the _____ speakers described the political atmosphere as unhealthy.
(A) prominent (B) federal (C) chronic (D) typical
8. I can't seem to be able to complete the form; it is rather _____.
(A) willing (B) astute (C) complicated (D) vulnerable
9. A poor diet will _____ lead to illness.
(A) critically (B) deliberately (C) ultimately (D) chemically
10. She managed to _____ everyone's interest until the end of her speech.
(A) occur (B) typify (C) press (D) sustain