

Directions: Answer the questions below based on the information in the accompanying passage.

The following passages present two views of the city. Passage 1 focuses on the decline of the city park system. Passage 2 describes the decline of the city as a work of art.

Passage 1

City parks were originally created to provide the local populace with a convenient refuge from the crowding and chaos of its surroundings. Until quite recently, these parks served their purpose admirably. Whether city dwellers wanted to sit under a shady tree to think or take a vigorous stroll to get some exercise, they looked forward to visiting these nearby oases. Filled with trees, shrubs, flowers, meadows, and ponds, city parks were a tranquil spot in which to unwind from the daily pressures of urban life. They were places where people met their friends for picnics or sporting events. And they were also places to get some sun and fresh air in the midst of an often dark and dreary environment, with its seemingly endless rows of steel, glass, and concrete buildings.

For more than a century, the importance of these parks to the quality of life in cities has been recognized by urban planners. Yet city parks around the world have been allowed to deteriorate to an alarming extent in recent decades. In many cases, they have become centers of crime; some city parks are now so dangerous that local residents are afraid even to enter them. And the great natural beauty which was once their hallmark has been severely damaged. Trees, shrubs, flowers, and meadows have withered under the impact of intense air pollution and littering, and ponds have been fouled by untreated sewage.

- (30) This process of decline, however, is not inevitable. A few changes can turn the situation around. First, special police units, whose only responsibility would be to patrol city parks, should be created to ensure that they remain safe for those who wish to enjoy them. Second, more caretakers should be hired to care for the grounds and, in particular, to collect trash. Beyond the increased staffing requirements, it will also be necessary to insulate city parks from their surroundings. Total isolation is, of course, impossible; but many beneficial measures in that direction could be implemented without too much trouble. Vehicles, for instance, should be banned from city parks to cut down on air pollution. And sewage pipes should be rerouted away from park areas to prevent the contamination of land and water. If urban planners are willing to make these changes, city parks can be restored to their former glory for the benefit of all.

Passage 2

(50) With the rise of the great metropolis in the industrial era, city planning in the West passed out of the hands of the architect and into the hands of the technocrat.* Unlike the architect who thought of the city as a work of art to be built up with an eye toward beauty, the technocrat has always taken a purely functional approach to city planning; the city exists for the sole purpose of serving the needs of its inhabitants. Its outward appearance has no intrinsic value.

(60) Over the span of a few centuries, this new breed of urban planner has succeeded in forever changing the face of the Western city. A brief visit to any large metropolis is enough to confirm this grim

fact. Even a casual observer could not fail to notice
(65) that the typical urban landscape is arranged along the lines of the tedious chessboard pattern, with its four-cornered intersections and long, straight and dull streets. Strict building codes have resulted in an overabundance of unsightly neighborhoods
(70) in which there is only slight variation among structures. Rows of squat concrete apartment houses and files of gigantic steel and glass skyscrapers have almost completely replaced older, more personal buildings. Moreover, the lovely natural surroundings of many cities are no longer a
(75) part of the urban landscape. For the most part, the hills and rivers which were once so much a part of so many metropolitan settings have now been blotted out by thoughtless construction.
(80) The lone bright spot amidst all of this urban blight has been the local park system, which is to be found in most Western cities. Large, centrally-located parks—for example, New York's Central Park or London's Hyde Park—and smaller, outlying parks bring a measure of beauty to Western
(85) cities by breaking up the man-made monotony. With their green pastures, dense woods, and pleasant ponds, streams and waterfalls, local park systems also offer a vast array of opportunities for
(90) city dwellers to rest or recreate, free of the intense burdens of urban life. If they have understood nothing else about the quality of life in urban areas, technocrats have at least had the good sense to recognize that people need a quiet refuge from
(95) the chaotic bustle of the city.

**technocrat: technical expert*

1. The author of Passage 1 uses the phrase *convenient refuge* in line 2 to suggest that parks were
 - (A) built in order to preserve plant life in cities
 - (B) designed with the needs of city residents in mind
 - (C) meant to end the unpleasantness of city life
 - (D) supposed to help people make new friends
 - (E) intended to allow natural light to filter into cities

2. By mentioning crime and pollution (lines 22–29), the author of Passage 1 primarily emphasizes
 - (A) how rapidly the city parks have deteriorated
 - (B) how city parks can once again be made safe and clean
 - (C) why people can no longer rest and relax in city parks
 - (D) why urban planners should not be in charge of city parks
 - (E) who is responsible for damaging the quality of life in cities

3. In line 28 of Passage 1, the word *intense* most nearly means
 - (A) severe
 - (B) fervent
 - (C) piercing
 - (D) strenuous
 - (E) meticulous

4. In the last paragraph of Passage 1, the author acknowledges which problem in restoring city parks?
 - (A) the constant need to collect trash
 - (B) the difficulty in rerouting sewage pipes
 - (C) the congestion caused by banning vehicular traffic
 - (D) the lack of total separation from the surrounding city
 - (E) the expense of creating additional police patrol units

5. In Passage 2, the reference to “a purely functional approach to city planning” (line 56) serves to
- (A) demonstrate that architects and technocrats should cooperate
 - (B) imply that architects are unconcerned about human comfort
 - (C) indicate that architects are obsolete in an industrial era
 - (D) stress that architects and technocrats have different priorities
 - (E) show that technocrats have destroyed the natural beauty of cities
6. The word *face* in line 62 means
- (A) reputation
 - (B) expression
 - (C) value
 - (D) dignity
 - (E) appearance
7. In lines 60–71, the author’s description of cities is
- (A) tolerant
 - (B) surprised
 - (C) derogatory
 - (D) nostalgic
 - (E) bewildered
8. In context, “the good sense to recognize” (lines 93–94) suggests that technocrats
- (A) want to get rid of urban blight
 - (B) are aware of the stress of city life
 - (C) support nature conservation programs
 - (D) favor large city parks over smaller ones
 - (E) think that greenery makes cities more attractive
9. Both passages focus primarily on
- (A) criticizing certain aspects of the city
 - (B) romanticizing city life in a bygone era
 - (C) exploring the origins of urban decay
 - (D) blaming urban problems on city residents
 - (E) pointing out how city life could be improved
10. Author 1 would most likely react to the characterization of city parks presented in lines 84–91 (Passage 2) by pointing out that
- (A) this characterization is confirmed by the evidence
 - (B) future reforms will render this characterization false
 - (C) urban planners would reject this characterization
 - (D) this characterization is in bad taste
 - (E) recent developments have made this characterization obsolete
11. How would Author 1 respond to the way Author 2 uses the phrase “urban blight” (lines 80–81) to describe the current state of cities?
- (A) This phrase is not supported by the facts.
 - (B) It is being used to denounce what is best about cities.
 - (C) It is an accurate description of the situation.
 - (D) Choosing this phrase demonstrates very poor taste.
 - (E) New studies show that this phrase will soon be outdated.