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General Test-Taking Strategies

A student's performance on a standardized test is influenced by many things: some obvious, some elusive, some over which educators have control, and others over which they do not. Until someone invents a magic wand, word, or potion that can be waved over, said to, or imbibed by students, educators will have to rely on more conventional methods to help their students succeed on standardized tests. Below is a list of some general test-taking guidelines with which students should be familiar.

1. Get a good night's sleep the night before the test. Most people need about eight hours.

2. Avoid caffeinated or sugary drinks before taking the test as they can make you jittery.

3. Eat a balanced meal.

4. Wear comfortable clothing.

5. Read/listen to the directions carefully. If something is unclear, ask for clarification.

6. Wear a watch and budget your time.

7. Find out the rules of the test. Will you be penalized for answering something incorrectly? For leaving something blank? Will partial credit be given?

8. If you get stuck on a question, mark it and move on. You can come back to it later.

9. If the test permits, do a memory check. Jot down important formulas or information on a piece of scrap paper.

10. Use mnemonic devices to jog your memory.
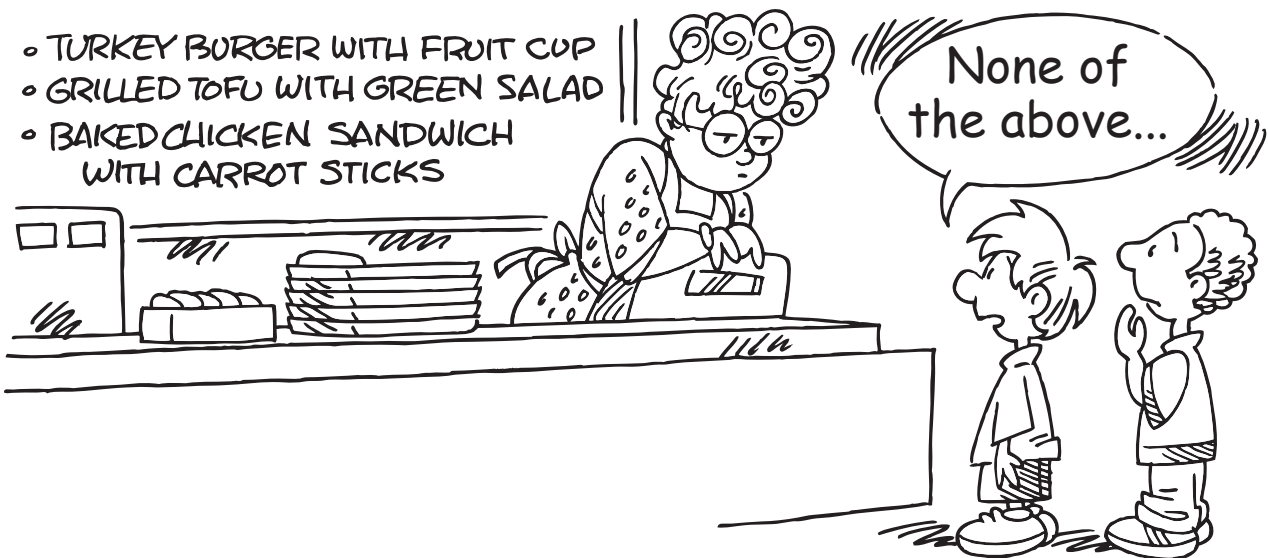
Geometry: The Coordinate Plane

Directions: Read each problem carefully. Use the coordinate plane to answer questions 1 through 6. Fill in the correct answer circle.
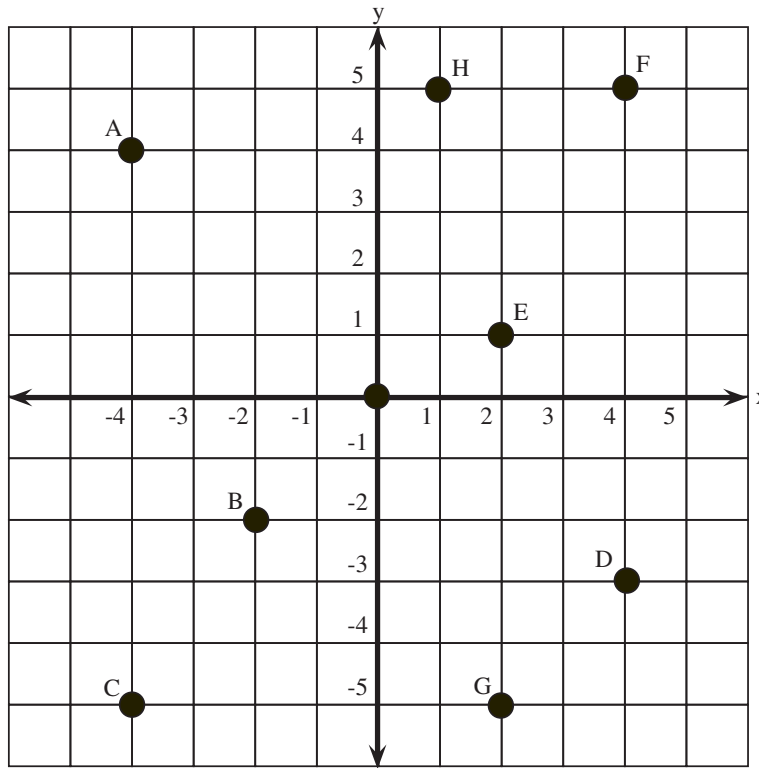
1. Name the coordinates of point A.

   Ⓐ (-4, 4)

   Ⓑ (4, -4)

   Ⓒ (2, -4)

   Ⓓ none of these

2. Name the coordinates of point B.

   Ⓔ (-2, 2)

   Ⓕ (-2, -4)

   Ⓖ (-2, -2)

   Ⓗ none of these

3. Name the coordinates for point F.

   Ⓐ (5, 4)

   Ⓑ (4, 5)

   Ⓒ (-4, -5)

   Ⓓ (-5, -4)

4. Name the coordinates for point D.

   Ⓔ (-3, 4)

   Ⓕ (4, -3)

   Ⓖ (-3, -3)

   Ⓗ none of these

5. Which point is located at (2, 1)?
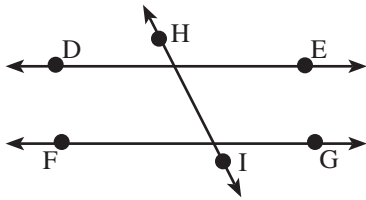
   Ⓐ C

   Ⓑ G

   Ⓒ E

   Ⓓ H

6. Which point is located at (-4, -5)?

   Ⓔ G

   Ⓕ H

   Ⓖ E

   Ⓗ C

STOP

12. Why is line **HI** transversal?

   (E) Because it forms two right angles.

   (F) Because it continues on in either direction.

   (G) Because it creates eight angles.

   (H) Because it is a line intersecting two or more lines.

13. Angles that are corresponding are also what?

   (A) congruent

   (B) not congruent

   (C) perpendicular

   (D) adjacent

14. Define a scalene triangle.

   (E) A scalene triangle has three congruent sides.

   (F) A scalene triangle has two congruent sides.

   (G) A scalene triangle has four non-congruent sides.

   (H) A scalene triangle has no congruent sides.

15. How many more congruent sides does an equilateral triangle have over an isosceles triangle?
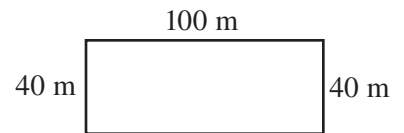
   (A) 0

   (B) 2

   (C) 4

   (D) 1

16. Solve the following: $\angle$ X in $\triangle$ XYZ

   (E) 71 degrees

   (F) 109 degrees

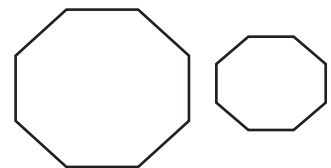   (G) 180 degrees

   (H) none of these
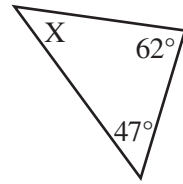
17. What is the missing measure from this polygon?

   (A) 40 m

   (B) 50 m

   (C) 100 m

   (D) 140 m

18. These octagons can be described as being what?

   (E) congruent

   (F) reflected

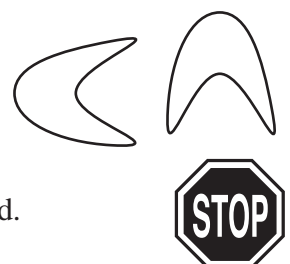   (G) similar

   (H) tessellating

19. These figures can be described as being what?

   (A) similar

   (B) flipped

   (C) turned
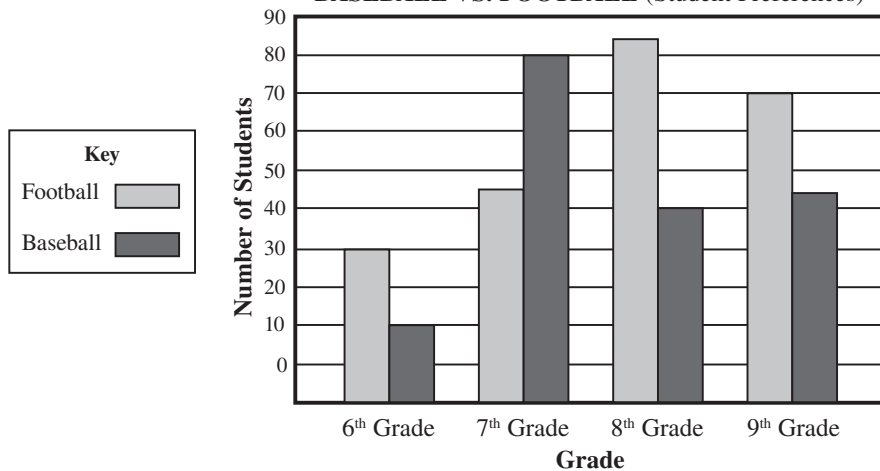
   (D) congruent

20. What has been done to this figure?

   (E) It's been flipped.

   (F) It's been turned.

   (G) It's been shrunk.

   (H) It's been translated.

STOP

Data *(cont.)*

BASEBALL VS. FOOTBALL (Student Preferences)

9. According to the bar graph above, how many students prefer basketball?

   Ⓐ 70   Ⓑ 35   Ⓒ 10   Ⓓ The graph does not have that data.

10. How many students prefer football?

   Ⓔ 175   Ⓕ 250   Ⓖ 155   Ⓗ 230

11. How many more students prefer football to baseball?

   Ⓐ 55   Ⓑ 50   Ⓒ 97   Ⓓ none of these

Use the double-line graph to answer the questions below.

7th- and 8th-Grade Enrollment at Longfellow School
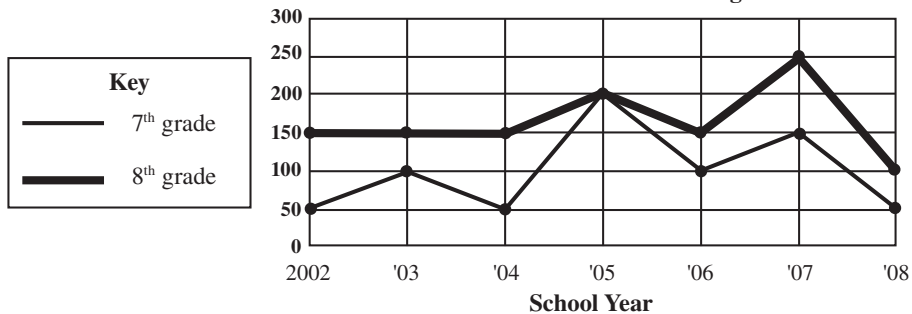
12. How many 7th-grade students were enrolled at Longfellow in 2003?

   Ⓔ 125   Ⓕ 150   Ⓖ 200   Ⓗ none of these

13. In what years did enrollment drop off for both grades?

   Ⓐ 2002 & 2003   Ⓑ 2005 & 2003   Ⓒ 2006 & 2008   Ⓓ none of these

14. During which years was the 8th-grade enrollment stable?

   Ⓔ 2005, 2006, 2007   Ⓖ 2002, 2003, 2004

   Ⓕ 2007 & 2008   Ⓗ It has never been stable.

15. In which year was the enrollment for both grades the same?

   Ⓐ 2005   Ⓑ 2002   Ⓒ 2007   Ⓓ none of these   **GO**