

2 Deus Ex Machina

Deus ex machina is a technique used by some writers as a solution to the problems of their literary characters. The term, which means "the god from the machine" involves the intervention of some outside power which saves the hero from an otherwise unavoidable fate. The Greek heroes, for example, are frequently to be found in impossible situations, from which only the sudden and unexpected assistance of a god or goddess can extract them. The settlers in many Western movies owe their rescue from certain death to the timely advent of the U. S. Cavalry. Even the homemaker is (at least in the minds of advertising copy-writers) saved from the terrors of spilled garbage, dirty laundry and yellowed floor tiles by semi-mythological superbeings who appear miraculously at the home to save him or her. Obviously, deus ex machina is a time honoured tradition among writers whose characters are unable to fend for themselves.

Choose the best or most correct answer. To indicate your answer fill in the circle completely.

10.1 The main idea of this paragraph is

- A deus ex machine helps bad writers.
- B some writers need outside help.
- C some heroes need outside help.
- D some people need outside help.

A B C D

10.2 The word "which" in the third sentence refers to

- A heroes.
- B god.
- C goddess.
- D situations.

A B C D

10.3 The words "at least in the minds of advertising copy-writers" are in parentheses because

- A they are unimportant.
- B they wouldn't fit into the sentence grammatically.
- C they are an additional comment by the writer.
- D they should be omitted from the sentence.

10.4 The word "obviously" at the beginning of the

A B C D

last sentence

- A is grammatically necessary.
- B is grammatically incorrect.
- C reinforces the writer's main idea.
- D undermines the writer's main idea.

A B C D

10.5 The comma after the word "garbage" in the fifth sentence

- A should be outside the quotation marks.
- B is not required.
- C separates items in a list.
- D represents the end of a sentence.

A B C D

10.6 The overall tone of the fifth sentence is

- A fearful.
- B suspenseful.
- C melancholy.
- D sarcastic.

A B C D

10.7 The author's main supports are

- A mythology.
- B television programs.
- C advertising.
- D all of the above.

A B C D

10.8 The author of this selection seems to be most

- A critical of Western movies.
- B critical of advertising.
- C critical of untalented authors.
- D critical of homemakers.

A B C D

3 Downhill Skiing

Alpine or downhill skiing is a popular sport which can cause debilitating injuries. Unlucky (or clumsy) skiers may suffer from paralysis, fractures or even death. Paralysis is one of the more serious consequences of careless skiing. Skiers who fall off cliffs or run into trees have been known to break their spines, causing partial or, indeed, even full paralysis. The location of such accidents often compounds the problem by preventing the victim from receiving the prompt medical attention which he or she so desperately needs. Falls and collisions incurred on the ski hill are also responsible for many painful bone fractures. Although simple broken arms and legs are the norm, the less fortunate skier may fall prey to more serious injuries such as compound fractures, in which the sharp and jagged ends of broken bones protrude through the skin. Skull fractures are a particularly serious result of skiing mishaps which may lead to concussion or serious brain damage. In a worst case scenario, the unfortunate victim may succumb to his or her injuries, and actually die, either solely from his or her wounds, or in conjunction with the deleterious effects of hypothermia brought on by exposure to the cold. Thus, the notion that alpine skiing is a safe, enjoyable recreation activity is shattered by an examination of its possible physical consequences.

Choose the best or most correct answer. To indicate your answer fill in the circle completely.

10.9 The words "or clumsy" in the second sentence are in parentheses because

- A it is a synonym for unlucky.
- B it is a correction.
- C the author is not sure which word to use.
- D it does not grammatically belong in the sentence.

A B C D

10.10 The best synonym for the word "debilitating" in the first sentence is

- A incapacitating.
- B painful.
- C life-threatening.
- D enabling.

A B C D

10.11 Coherence is the linking together of sentences in a paragraph by the use of connecting ideas, words and phrases. The third and fourth sentences in this paragraph are linked by

- A words.
- B ideas.
- C phrases.
- D none of the above.

A B C D

10.12 The author of this selection has used the following method of organizing ideas in the paragraph:

- A weak support, stronger support, strongest support
- B strongest support, weak support, stronger support
- C stronger support, weak support, strongest support
- D all of the above

A B C D

10.13 Which of the following ideas links the first and last sentences of this paragraph?

- A downhill skiing is popular
- B downhill skiing is enjoyable
- C downhill skiing causes paralysis
- D downhill skiing is potentially dangerous

A B C D

10.14 Why does the author use the word "shattered" in the last sentence?

- A It alliterates with "skiing" and "safe."
- B It brings bone fractures to mind.
- C It has a hard sound that reflects the main idea.
- D all of the above.

A B C D

10.15 A good replacement for the word "thus" at the beginning of the last sentence would be

- A finally.
- B therefore.
- C in conclusion.
- D however.

A B C D