

Afghanistan's Romeo & Juliet

Choose the best answer for each of the following questions. For the analysis section, refer to the article as needed.

CHECK COMPREHENSION

- 1. Zakia's marriage to Ali was controversial because**
 - a she was too young to marry under Afghan law.
 - b the young people were from different ethnic groups, and Zakia's father did not approve of the marriage.
 - c Ali was not from Afghanistan.
 - d all of the above

- 2. In Afghanistan, an "honor killing" occurs when**
 - a the police kill a person in custody.
 - b a Sunni Muslim murders a Shiite Muslim in the name of religion.
 - c male relatives of a girl kill her for doing something culturally forbidden.
 - d female relatives of a girl kill a man for speaking or flirting with the girl without permission.

- 3. Upheaval in Afghanistan began nearly four decades ago, when**
 - a the U.S. military intervened in the country.
 - b the Soviet Union invaded the country.
 - c the Taliban took control of the country.
 - d none of the above

- 4. Tajik and Hazara are**
 - a Afghanistan's two largest cities.
 - b Afghanistan's two major religions.
 - c two Afghan citizens who helped Zakia and Ali avoid the police.
 - d the names of different ethnic groups in Afghanistan.

ANALYZE THE TEXT

- 5. Which choice best sums up the sequence of events?**
 - a Zakia and Ali married and hid from the police; they were taken into custody and later fled to the U.S.
 - b Zakia and Ali met in police custody; they escaped and hid from police before fleeing to the U.S.
 - c Zakia and Ali married; they were arrested and are now living in Afghanistan under house arrest.
 - d Zakia and Ali fled Afghanistan by boat; they later came to the U.S. to get married.

- 6. The article refers to an "American-led military intervention that ousted the Taliban." You can infer that the word *ousted* most nearly means**
 - a intimidated.
 - b invaded.
 - c allied with.
 - d forced out.

- 7. You can infer that publicity about their story**
 - a caused Zakia and Ali's marriage to fall apart.
 - b has made Zakia and Ali very wealthy.
 - c kept Zakia and Ali from escaping to the U.S.
 - d ultimately worked to Zakia and Ali's advantage.

- 8. Which phrase from the article provides the best evidence for the answer to question 7?**
 - a "When the couple was taken into custody, young Afghans were so outraged that the authorities let them go."
 - b "They were picked up by corrupt secret police . . ."
 - c "In the following months, they bounced around the country, always on the move."
 - d "But no nation stepped forward to offer them asylum."

IN-DEPTH QUESTIONS Please use the other side of this paper for your responses.

- 9. Based on the article, what are some of the risks that Afghans take when they try to flee their country?**

- 10. After reading the sidebar, "America's Longest War," consider what the fundamental dilemma facing American policymakers is when it comes to the war in Afghanistan. Explain the dilemma.**

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The Real Cost of Cheap Fashion

Choose the best answer for each of the following questions. For the analysis section, refer to the article as needed.

CHECK COMPREHENSION

- As a result of the "fast fashion" trend, global clothing production has
 - declined significantly since 2010.
 - tripled since 2000.
 - shifted back to the U.S.
 - none of the above
- Why did U.S. clothing production begin moving overseas in the 1970s?
 - Nations overseas had more consumers to purchase clothing.
 - Workers overseas were more skilled at manufacturing clothes.
 - Factories overseas had lower labor costs.
 - Companies could not find enough American workers to work in clothing factories.
- Many companies pledged to improve garment factory conditions in 2013, after
 - profits for clothing retailers began to drop suddenly.
 - garment workers in China and Bangladesh went on strike.
 - a fire destroyed the Triangle Shirtwaist factory in New York City.
 - a clothing factory collapsed in Bangladesh.
- According to the article, why is the manufacture of polyester clothing bad for the environment?
 - Growing polyester requires pesticides.
 - Polyester cannot be reused or recycled.
 - The material is made from petroleum, and the manufacturing process releases dangerous gases.
 - none of the above

ANALYZE THE TEXT

- Which choice best summarizes the article?
 - Many low-cost clothes are made by factory workers laboring for low pay and under poor conditions.
 - American shoppers spend more on clothing than they did in the past.
 - China's factories are starting to offer safer conditions and higher pay.
 - About 2 percent of the clothes sold in America were made in America.
- The article suggests that the fast fashion phenomenon
 - is mostly harmless.
 - began within the past two decades.
 - is illegal in the U.S. and many other countries.
 - is quickly coming to an end.
- Which excerpt from the article provides the best evidence for the answer to question 6?
 - "Fast fashion also hurts the environment."
 - "Fast fashion items may not cost you much at the cash register, but they come with a serious price."
 - "Workers often earn just a few dollars a day. Many are women in their teens."
 - "Chains . . . first popularized fast fashion in the early 2000s."
- You can reasonably infer from the article that a lot of fast fashion items are
 - quickly discarded.
 - overpriced by retailers.
 - made from organic fabrics.
 - actually very durable.

IN-DEPTH QUESTIONS Please use the other side of this paper for your responses.

- Why does the author say that better working conditions and wages "come at a price"?
- What do you think could be done to reduce the amount of clothing in landfills?

The Little Rock Nine

Choose the best answer for each of the following questions. For the analysis section, refer to the article as needed.

CHECK COMPREHENSION

- What finally allowed African-American students to integrate Little Rock's Central High School in late September 1957?
 - Governor Faubus ordered the crowd outside the school to disperse.
 - President Eisenhower sent federal troops to the school.
 - Local police volunteered to escort the students through the school's front door.
 - none of the above
- The nine black students who integrated Central High School in 1957
 - were the only black students in the city interested in attending the school.
 - were chosen from a pool of 100 volunteers.
 - had sued the school in a Supreme Court case.
 - all lived in other states.
- The ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education* said that segregation in public schools was unconstitutional under the ____, which guarantees equal protection under the law.
 - First Amendment
 - Second Amendment
 - 13th Amendment
 - 14th Amendment
- The ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education* overturned the principle of
 - executive privilege.
 - military intervention.
 - separate but equal.
 - states' rights.

ANALYZE THE TEXT

- In paragraph 2 of the article, you can infer that when Elizabeth Eckford saw the Arkansas National Guard as she approached Central High School for the first time,
 - she recognized most of the guardsmen.
 - she knew they were planning to harass her.
 - she realized they did not want to be there.
 - she assumed they were there to protect her.
- In the section "Segregation & the Supreme Court," the word *sullen* most nearly means
 - sulky and resentful.
 - excited and cheerful.
 - calm and brave.
 - sad and lonely.
- Based on the article, why was the crowd at Central High School sullen on September 25, 1957?
 - President Eisenhower was addressing the crowd.
 - Violence had erupted in the crowd.
 - African-American students were integrating the school.
 - The U.S. Supreme Court had just ruled in *Brown v. Board of Education*.
- What does the article describe as Governor Faubus's "final act of defiance"?
 - He closed Little Rock's public high schools for a year.
 - He sent federal troops home.
 - He placed Arkansas's National Guardsmen under federal control.
 - He arranged for one of the black students at Central High School to be expelled.

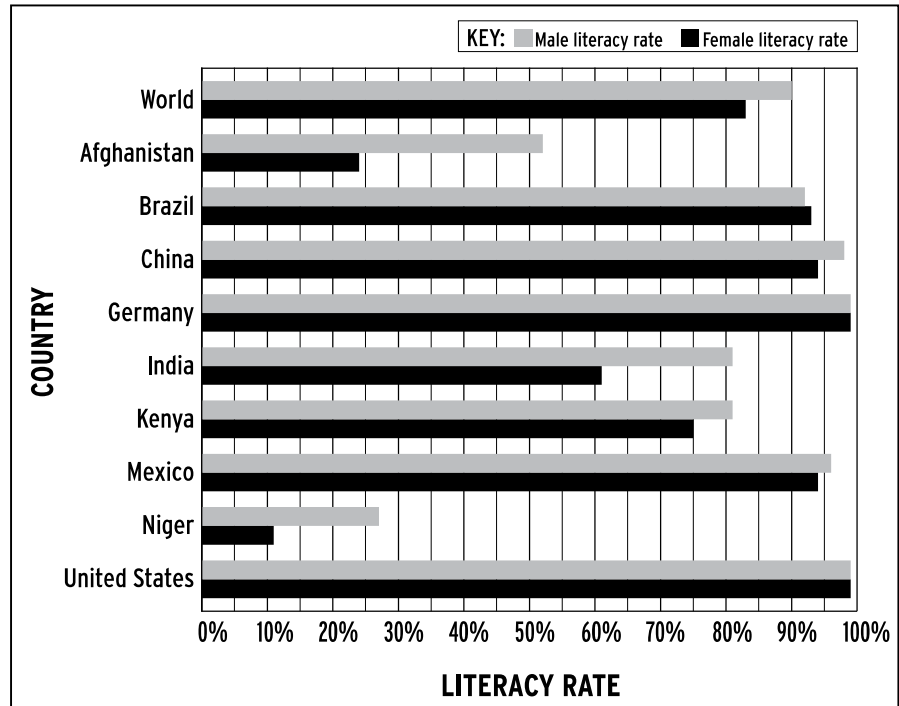
IN-DEPTH QUESTIONS Please use the other side of this paper for your responses.

- Why do you think Elizabeth Eckford became a symbol of the civil rights movement?
- What do you think people today who want to make a difference can learn from the Little Rock Nine?

The Literacy Divide

In the article "Afghanistan's Romeo & Juliet," 18-year-old Zakia has trouble using a cellphone because she has never learned to read. That's hardly unusual in Afghanistan. Largely because of its history of excluding girls from education, the country has a literacy rate for women that's far below the literacy rate for men. In fact, its female literacy rate is one of the lowest in the world. The bar graph at right shows how Afghanistan's literacy rates stack up to rates in some other countries. For the purposes of the graph, literacy rate is defined as the percentage of men or women age 15 and older who can read and write.

This bar graph shows male and female literacy rates for selected countries along with the global rates.



SOURCES: CIA WORLD FACTBOOK, INDEXMUNDI

ANALYZE THE GRAPH

- According to the graph, about ___ percent of women worldwide can read and write.
 - 77
 - 83
 - 90
 - 26
- In Afghanistan, the female literacy rate is ___ percentage points lower than the male literacy rate.
 - 39
 - 34
 - 27
 - 21
- In which of these countries is the female literacy rate higher than the male literacy rate?
 - Brazil
 - Germany
 - Kenya
 - China
- In which of these countries is the male literacy rate more than 60 points lower than the global average?
 - Afghanistan
 - Niger
 - Brazil
 - India
- Which is true of the U.S. female literacy rate?
 - It is the same as Germany's.
 - It is about 5 points higher than China's.
 - It's the same as the U.S. male literacy rate.
 - all of the above

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- It has been said that female literacy has a "ripple effect" on a society. What do you think this means? Can you think of specific ways that increasing the female literacy rate can help a nation?
- What do you find most surprising or interesting about the data on the bar graph? Why?

Find the Evidence

After reading "The Real Cost of Cheap Fashion," consider each question below. Use the organizer to record evidence from the text and to note where you found the evidence.

QUESTION:	EVIDENCE FROM THE TEXT:	LOCATION (PAGE, COLUMN):
<p>1. What does the author mean when she notes that fast fashion items "come with a serious price"?</p>		
<p>2. Why do most U.S. clothing makers manufacture their merchandise overseas?</p>		
<p>3. What kinds of improvements have been made recently in conditions at some garment factories outside the U.S.?</p>		
<p>4. What is meant by the expression "ethically made clothing"?</p>		

SYNTHESIZE: Based on your notes for question 1, write a one-paragraph response to that question. Use both paraphrasing and direct quotations from the text.

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Get a Clue

Paying attention to context can help you infer the meanings of challenging words you encounter in texts. Use context clues in this excerpt from the article "Afghanistan's Romeo & Juliet" to figure out the meanings of the boldfaced words.

But the **oppression** of women was a big part of Afghan society long before the Taliban. After the American-led military intervention that ousted the Taliban in October 2001, the laws restricting women so harshly were repealed, but that did little to change attitudes. For example, honor killings are illegal on paper. But in reality, they're just one of many abusive customs toward women and girls that remain common, including child marriages and wife beating.

Afghanistan is also a deeply **tribal** society, and marriages between different ethnic groups are frowned on. This was another reason Zakia's father opposed her marriage to Ali.

Zakia is Tajik, and Ali is Hazara. To make matters worse, she's a Sunni Muslim, and he's a Shiite Muslim, and their **sects** have been in violent conflict for centuries.

Their forbidden relationship had started years earlier, across a low mud wall that divided their families' **adjacent** potato fields. "We were children and never thought about each other in that way," Zakia said. Then they reached their teens and did. But once an Afghan girl reaches adolescence, she's forbidden to see any men outside her family. So Ali **wooed** her in secret, playing his flute when no one was around and reciting bits of Persian love poems he'd memorized even though he couldn't read.

1.

PART A

The word *oppression* most nearly means ____.

- a conflicting views of how others should be treated
- b the practice of treating adults like children
- c cruel, unjust treatment
- d sad and lonely feelings

PART B

Which word or phrase from the article provides the best support for the answer to Part A?

- a "laws restricting women"
- b "change attitudes"
- c "illegal on paper"
- d "military intervention"

2.

PART A

The word *tribal* most nearly means ____.

- a individualistic
- b innovative
- c well-educated
- d having a strong sense of loyalty to one's own group

PART B

Which word or phrase from the article provides the best support for the answer to Part A?

- a "frowned on"
- b "marriage to Ali"
- c "different ethnic groups"
- d "violent conflict"

3.

PART A

The word *woo* most nearly means ____.

- a to pursue someone romantically, often with an eye toward marriage
- b to surprise someone with important news
- c to flirt casually
- d to impress someone deeply

PART B

Which word or phrase from the article provides the best support for the answer to Part A?

- a "reached their teens"
- b "reciting bits of Persian love poems"
- c "forbidden to see any men"
- d "when no one was around"

GOING FURTHER Use context to explore these additional words from the article.

4. Infer the meaning of the word *sects*: _____

Which word or phrase from the excerpt helps you to understand the meaning of the word *sects* as it is used here? _____

5. Infer the meaning of the word *adjacent*: _____

Now use the word in an original sentence: _____

Analyzing Authors' Claims

Read the debate on pages 22-23 about whether the federal minimum wage should be increased, then follow the directions below to analyze each author's claims and decide who makes a stronger case.

<p>AUTHOR: Senator Bernie Sanders Independent of Vermont</p>	<p>AUTHOR: Senator Ron Johnson Republican of Wisconsin</p>
<p>Author's main claim or argument in the debate:</p>	<p>Author's main claim or argument in the debate:</p>
<p>REASON 1: Name one reason the author gives for his claim.</p> <p>List evidence the author gives to support Reason 1.</p>	<p>REASON 1: Name one reason the author gives for his claim.</p> <p>List evidence the author gives to support Reason 1.</p>
<p>REASON 2: Name another reason the author presents.</p> <p>List evidence the author gives to support Reason 2.</p>	<p>REASON 2: Name another reason the author presents.</p> <p>List evidence the author gives to support Reason 2.</p>
<p>REASON 3: Name a third reason the author presents.</p> <p>List evidence the author gives to support Reason 3.</p>	<p>REASON 3: Name a third reason the author presents.</p> <p>List evidence the author gives to support Reason 3.</p>
<p>What persuasive devices does the author use?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Appeals to emotions</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Uses data or scholarly research</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Tells why the other side's argument is weak</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>	<p>What persuasive devices does the author use?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Appeals to emotions</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Uses data or scholarly research</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Tells why the other side's argument is weak</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>

EVALUATE: Which author do you think makes a more effective case? Do you spot any weaknesses—like a bias or missing information—in either argument? Explain on a separate sheet of paper.

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'Kicking, Spitting, and General Abuse'

On Sept. 25, 1957, nine African-American teens integrated Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, after being blocked and harassed by white protesters for three weeks. Although National Guard troops remained at the school all year to protect the Little Rock Nine, the students faced abuse. Below is an excerpt from a letter written by Arkansas civil rights activist Daisy Bates to Roy Wilkins, head of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). It describes conditions at the school during the 1957-58 school year. Read the letter along with the *Upfront* article about the Little Rock Nine, then answer the questions at the bottom of the page.

Letter From Daisy Bates to Roy Wilkins

December 17, 1957

Dear Mr. Wilkins,

Conditions are yet pretty rough in the school for the children. Last week, Minnie Jean's* mother, Mrs. W. B. Brown, asked me to go over to the school with her for a conference with the principal, and the two assistant principals. Subject of conference: "Firm disciplinary measures and the withdrawal of Minnie Jean from the glee club's Christmas program." The principal had informed Minnie Jean in withdrawing her from the program that "When it is definitely decided that Negroes will go to school here with the whites, and the troops are removed, then you will be able to participate in all activities."

We also pointed out that the treatment of the children had been getting steadily worse for the last two weeks in the form of kicking, spitting, and general abuse. As a result of our visit, stronger measures are being taken against the white students who are guilty of committing these offenses. For instance, a boy who had been suspended for two weeks, flunked both six-

*While this is the spelling used in the letter, the correct spelling is Minnijean.

LETTER COURTESY OF THE NAACP

weeks tests, and on his return to school, the first day he knocked Gloria Ray into her locker. As a result of our visit, he was given an indefinite suspension.

The superintendent of schools also requested a conference the same afternoon. Clarence and I went down and spent about two hours. Here, again we pointed out that a three-day suspension given Hugh Williams for a sneak attack perpetrated on one of the Negro boys which knocked him out, and required a doctor's attention, was not sufficient punishment. We also informed him that our investigation revealed that there were many pupils willing to help if given the opportunity, and that President Eisenhower was very much concerned about the Little Rock crisis. He has stated his willingness to come down and address the student body if invited by student leaders of the school. This information was passed on to the principal of the school, but we have not abandoned the idea. . . .

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is Bates's purpose and tone in the letter?
2. What was the subject of the conference that Bates attended at the school? What does this tell you about school policy after integration took place?
3. What was school life like for the Little Rock Nine?
4. What do you think Bates means by "many pupils willing to help"? Explain.
5. Based on the *Upfront* article and Bates's letter, explain why many people consider the Little Rock Nine to be heroes of the civil rights movement.

Know Whether It's News

After reading and discussing the *Upfront* article "Fighting Fake News," use this form to evaluate the reliability of a news story you read online.

QUESTIONS	NOTES
<p>1. What organization published the article? What do you know about the group? <i>(Try scouring the website for "About Us" information, or use a search engine to see what others have to say about the site.)</i></p>	
<p>2. What seems to be the purpose of the article?</p>	
<p>3. Does the article give different sides of the issue or topic? Or does it seem biased? Explain.</p>	
<p>4. If the article has a shocking headline, does it have facts and quotes to back it up? <i>(Note: Some fake news sources count on people reading only the headline of a story before sharing it on social media!)</i></p>	
<p>5. Look at other news stories on the same site. Do most of them seem hard to believe? <i>(If they all seem unbelievable, that's a red flag. Real news is rarely that unimaginable!)</i></p>	
<p>6. Can you verify the story in a news source you know you can trust—like the website of a well-known newspaper, magazine, or TV news program?</p>	

SYNTHESIZE: In the end, do you think the news article you read is reliable? Using your notes, write a paragraph explaining your answer.