

Name _____

Date _____

Thinking First

Police officer Rachel Blair works in Queens, New York. A reporter is asking Rachel about how she does her job.

Reporter: How long have you been a police officer?

Blair: Six years.

Reporter: How did you get started?

Blair: First, I had to take a lot of tests. Then, I went to the Police Academy for 12 weeks. I learned how to drive a police car, make an arrest, and file a police report. I also had to exercise every day!

Reporter: How do you stay safe on the job?

Blair: I use my training. That helps me make sure a situation does not get out of control. I am always cautious. If I think a situation is too dangerous, I call for backup. If I run into a dangerous situation without thinking first, I can get hurt.

Reporter: Are there any new tools that police officers use?

Blair: We use special glasses that help us see better in the dark. When I wear the glasses, I can see moving objects like cars and other people at night.

Reporter: Have you ever saved someone's life?

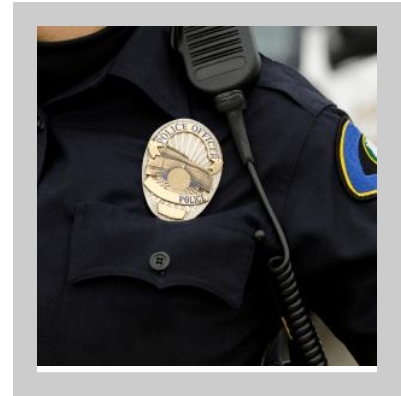
Blair: No, I haven't. But my partner has. He says it gave him a pretty special feeling.

Reporter: Do you ever get afraid?

Blair: There is no time to be afraid. I have to think about what I have to do to take care of the situation quickly and safely.

Reporter: What do you like best about being a police officer?

Blair: Helping people!



- 1) What is this passage mostly about?
 - A. what a police officer does
 - B. how a police officer is trained
 - C. what a police officer wears
 - D. how a police officer helps people

- 2) What did Rachel Blair do first to become a police officer?
 - A. She saved someone's life.
 - B. She used police equipment.
 - C. She made an arrest.
 - D. She took a lot of tests.

- 3) As used in the middle of the passage, the word **cautious** most nearly means
 - A. honest
 - B. quick
 - C. careful
 - D. understanding

- 4) Why does Rachel Blair say she does not get afraid?
 - A. She uses special glasses.
 - B. She enjoys her job too much.
 - C. She knows how to drive a police car.
 - D. She is too busy doing her job.

- 5) What does Rachel Blair like most about being a police officer?
 - A. exercising
 - B. filing police reports
 - C. helping people
 - D. using special equipment

6) Why did the author most likely write this passage?

- A. to teach readers how to save lives
- B. to make readers want to be police officers
- C. to give readers information about police officers
- D. to show readers how to use special police equipment

7) Where do you think this interview with Officer Blair would be published? Who would be most interested in reading the interview? How do you know?

Answers and Explanations

1) A

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

At the beginning of the passage, the author writes, “In this passage, a reporter asks Rachel Blair about her job as a police officer.” Throughout the passage Rachel Blair answers questions about “her job as a police officer.” Blair mentions that she “went to the Police Academy,” does things like call for backup in dangerous situations, and enjoys “helping people.” This lets us know that this passage is mostly about what a police officer does. Therefore **(A)** is correct.

At the beginning of the passage, Blair says “First, I had to take a lot of tests. Then, I went to the Police Academy for 12 weeks. I learned how to drive a police car, make an arrest, and file a police report. I also had to exercise every day!” All of these things have to do with how she was trained to be a police officer. Because this is the only time she mentions her training in the passage, however, and she spends much more time describing what a police officer does, we can tell that this passage is not mostly about how a police officer is trained. This means **(B)** is incorrect.

Blair never mentions what a police officer wears, beside special glasses at night. Because this is only a minor detail, we can tell that this passage is not mostly about what a police officer wears. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.

Blair says that her favorite part of the job is “helping people,” but she never says exactly how she helps people. She answers question about how she became a police officer, her tools, how she stays safe, whether or not she has saved someone’s life and the best part of the job, but not about how a police officer helps people. This lets us know that this passage is not mostly about how a police officer helps people, so **(D)** is incorrect.

2) D

Core Standard: **Key Ideas and Details**

The reporter asks Blair, “How did you get started?” We can tell that the answer to this question will let us know what Blair did first to become a police officer, because you start with the first thing. Blair responds, “First, I had to take a lot of tests.” This lets us know that she took a lot of tests to first become a police officer. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, or **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

3) C

Core Standard: **Craft and Structure**

cautious (*adjective*): alert; careful; watchful.

In the middle of the passage, the author writes, “I am always cautious.” We can use context clues—hints from known words or phrases around the unknown word or phrase—to help us figure out what cautious most nearly means. Immediately after this, Blair says, “If I think a situation is too dangerous, I call for backup.” Since she calls for backup in dangerous situations, we can tell that Blair is careful in dangerous situations. She also mentions that “If [she] run[s] into a dangerous situation without thinking first, [she] can get hurt.”

If these are the behaviors and thoughts of someone who is being cautious, we can tell that the word cautious must mean something like careful. We know this, because not running into dangerous situations and calling for backup are careful things to do. Using this information, we can tell that the word cautious most nearly means careful, and **(C)** is correct.

Using the above information, we can tell that the word cautious must mean something like careful. Honest has to do with how truthful someone is, not how careful they are. This lets us know that the word cautious does not most nearly mean honest. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect.

Using the above information, we can tell that the word cautious must mean something like careful. Quick refers to how speedy someone or something is, which is not the same thing as being careful. This lets us know that the word cautious does not most nearly mean quick, so **(B)** is incorrect.

Using the above information, we can tell that the word cautious must mean something like careful. Understanding has to do with how much someone can relate to or comprehend someone or something else, which is not the same thing as being careful. Using this information, we can tell that the word cautious does not most nearly mean understanding. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

4) D

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

The reporter asks Blair, “Do you ever get afraid?” Blair responds, “There is no time to be afraid. I have to think about what I have to do to take care of the situation quickly and safely.” Since Blair does not have time to be afraid, we can tell that she is too busy thinking about what she has to do to “take care of the situation quickly and safely.” This lets us know that Rachel Blair says she does not get afraid because she is too busy doing her job. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

Rachel Blair mentions that she uses special glasses, but she says she uses them “to see better in the dark.” This lets us know that using special glasses does not explain why Blair does not get afraid. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect.

The passage does not provide information to support choices **(B)** or **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

5) C

Core Standard: **Key Ideas and Details**

When asked, “What do you like best about being a police officer?” Blair responds, “Helping people!” This lets us know that helping people is what she likes most about being a police officer, and **(C)** is correct.

The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, or **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

6) C

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

At the beginning of the passage, the author writes, “In this passage, a reporter asks Rachel Blair about her job as a police officer.” Rachel Blair then answers questions about her job. Blair gives us a lot of information about police officers through her answers. For instance, she mentions that she “went to the Police Academy,” does things like call for backup in dangerous situations, and enjoys “helping people.” She provides information about how to become a police officer, her duties as a police officer, and the best part of the job. This lets us know that the author most likely wrote this passage to give readers information about police officers. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

In the passage, Rachel Blair mentions that she has never saved a life. Using this information, we can tell that the author would not most likely have written an interview with someone who had never saved a life, if he or she wanted to teach readers how to save lives. This lets us know that the author did not most likely write this passage to teach readers how to save lives, which means **(A)** is incorrect.

Although it may be inspiring to read about a police officer, the passage does not provide information to support the conclusion that the author most likely wrote this passage to make readers want to be police officers. Because we cannot draw this conclusion from the information provided, we can tell that **(B)** is incorrect.

Blair mentions special police equipment—glasses—she uses to see at night, but this is only a minor detail in the passage. In addition, she never mentions exactly how to use these glasses. This lets us know that the author does not most likely write this passage to show readers how to use special police equipment. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.