

## PR 4

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Name

### Athenian Courts

Like the United States today, Athens had courts where a wrong might be righted. Since any citizen might accuse another of a crime, the Athenian courts of law were very busy. In fact, unless a citizen was unusually peaceful or very unimportant, he would be sure to find himself in the courts at least once every few years.

At a trial both the accuser and the person accused were allowed a certain time to speak. The length of time was marked by a water clock. Free men testified under oath as they do today, but the oath of a slave was counted as worthless.

To judge a trial, a jury was chosen from the members of the assembly who had reached 30 years of age. The Athenian juries were very large, often consisting of 201, 401, 501, 1001, or more men, depending upon the importance of the case being tried. The juryman swore by the gods to listen carefully to both sides of the question and to give his honest opinion of the case. Each juryman gave his decision by depositing a white or black stone in a box. To keep citizens from being too careless in accusing each other, there was a rule that if the person accused did not receive a certain number of negative votes, the accuser was condemned instead.

- 1 The title that best expresses the main idea of this passage is
  - A The Duties of Juries.
  - B Choosing a Jury.
  - C Athens and the United States.
  - D Justice in Ancient Athens.
  
- 2 People in Athens were frequently on trial in court because
  - A a juryman agreed to listen to both sides.
  - B any person might accuse another of a crime.
  - C the slaves were troublesome.
  - D it was a time of violence.
  
- 3 An Athenian was likely to avoid accusing another without a good reason because
  - A the jury might condemn the accuser instead of the accused.
  - B the jury might be very large.
  - C cases were judged by men over 30 years old.
  - D the Athenian courts were not very busy.
  
- 4 Which statement is true according to the passage?
  - A An accused person was denied the privilege of telling his side of the case
  - B A jury's decision was handed down in writing.
  - C A citizen had to appear in court every few years.
  - D The importance of the case determined the number of jurors
  
- 5 Juries consisted of an odd number of members
  - A to ensure that a verdict was reached
  - B because some cases were more important than others
  - C because more jurors meant a fairer verdict.
  - D all of the above

## Unions

Many critics of unions argue that unions have caused economic inefficiency and suffering in our society. However, other people point to evidence showing that unions have brought workers protection and advantages that could not have been obtained otherwise. By organizing, many workers have obtained job security, better working conditions, and a host of fringe benefits such as vacations and health plans. These developments would not have been possible if the workers had stood, **hat in hand**, waiting for the factory owners to improve working conditions and raise their wages.

- 6 The author's main point is that
  - A unions cause inefficiency and suffering
  - B unions have brought many advantages to workers
  - C workers can now choose from a variety of fringe benefits
  - D workers do not appreciate unions
  
- 7 What do some people assume would have happened if workers had waited for factory owners to improve conditions?
  - A improvements would not have been made
  - B the workers would have had better job security
  - C workers would have been dismissed
  - D the owners would have dealt immediately with the workers' concerns
  
- 8 What is the function of the first sentence in the passage?
  - A It states the main idea of the passage
  - B It provides a contrast to the ideas presented in the rest of the passage
  - C It gives the reader proof of the dangers of unions
  - D It explains why many employers have chosen to oppose unions
  
- 9 What is the meaning of the bold term, "**hat in hand**."
  - A off an apology
  - B accepting of conditions as they are
  - C demanding better conditions
  - D waiting for the generosity of others

## The Trials & Tribulations of Tickets

It really pays to be on time, especially when it comes to traffic violations. It all started last fall when I got a parking ticket. Being careless by nature, I stashed it in my glove compartment. One day I got a reminder in the mail. It said if I didn't pay it off I could get arrested. Having neither money nor want of trouble, I told my dad. He took it with saying "don't let it happen again" and "I'll take care of it." Pretty cool, huh? Boy, was I wrong. My dad told me that the Traffic Violations Bureau wouldn't accept his check. They said I'd have to pay in cash, in person. After getting paid, that's what I did. The bureau employee said they would return my dad's check. I thought again, "Cool, it's over ...."

Wrong again. Sure, they returned his check, but after they cashed it. Jeez! I went to the court thinking it was an honest mistake. I fed the meter and went in. I waited half an hour before they called me. I explained what had happened. The woman didn't seem to know what I was talking about. I showed her my receipt and the cancelled check. She looked at me, looked back at the receipt and the check and said,

"Take a seat; we'll call you shortly." I was getting worried about my meter. I wanted to put more change in, but didn't want to miss my turn. Holding back my temper, I walked to the counter, only to hear

"Would you come back again tomorrow? We need more time to research the problem." I snapped. They were the ones who screwed up. The receipt and the cancelled check held all the proof. All she could say was, "You don't have to get mad, sir."

Get mad, what did she think? That I like coming back and forth? That I like paying meter money? ---which reminded me about the time running out on mine. Running back to my car, I told her to call when they figured it out. Guess what I found flapping in the wind under my wiper blade?

- 10 From the last sentence in this passage, the author implies that
  - A he got a warning from his father
  - B he got another ticket
  - C a note from a friend was found under the wiper blades.
  - D bird droppings were found under the wiper blades to show even more bad luck
- 11 The main idea expressed in this passage is that
  - A having your father "take care of" your ticket leads to trouble.
  - B traffic Violations Bureau clerks are basically incompetents.
  - C not paying a traffic ticket on time leads to difficulties.
  - D parking problems often make driving more trouble than it's worth.
- 12 The author's tone could be described as
  - A frustrated
  - B sincere
  - C patient
  - D polite
- 13 In this passage, the author shows the most annoyance with
  - A traffic cops.
  - B traffic bureau employees.
  - C his dad.
  - D traffic tickets.
- 14 The traffic bureau employee's attitude seemed
  - A rude
  - B business like and unconcerned
  - C concerned
  - D all of the above

## Astrological Language

Astrological language is common in Shakespeare and in all other Elizabethan writings, but much of the knowledge displayed in them came from no deeper source than the penny almanacs that were published annually. These little almanacs gave such **miscellaneous** information as religious feasts and the days when the Sun entered a new sign of the zodiac. Also given was such information as convenient times for planting such as: "when the Moon is in Virgo" A vague forecast of what was likely to happen in each quarter of the year appeared, as did a day-by-day weather prediction for the whole year.

Astrologers and almanac-makers, needless to say, were often mocked for their lack of success for looking into the future to make these predictions. Their response was that they knew what they were talking about and could interpret the signs of the heavens, but they could not foresee the will of God, which is unpredictable.

- 15 The main point of the passage is that astrology in Shakespeare's time was
  - A commonly used without any in depth knowledge of it.
  - B influential in religion
  - C mocked by educated people.
  - D ignored by most people.
  
- 16 Which of the following about astrology was true in Shakespeare's time?
  - A It was uncommon and used only by the wealthy.
  - B It had a place and was used in everyday life.
  - C It needed much explanation.
  - D It was thought of as a religious phenomenon.
  
- 17 The bold word "**miscellaneous**" means.
  - A assorted, mixed
  - B not important
  - C critical
  - D none of the above
  
- 18 Astrologers responded to being mocked by implying.
  - A their predictions were misleading only to those who did not believe in them.
  - B their science was expected to be mocked.
  - C saying their accuracy would improve when God wanted it to.
  - D They were accurate; however, any inaccuracies were out of their control.
  
- 19 The main purpose of the passage is to
  - A inform
  - B persuade
  - C challenge
  - D inspire