

NONFICTION: “I Was Homeless” • SKILL: Test Prep

“I Was Homeless” Quiz

Directions: Read “I Was Homeless.” Then answer the multiple-choice questions below.

- 1. According to the article, what is the primary cause of homelessness today?**

 - (A) lack of privacy
 - (B) unemployment
 - (C) lack of affordable housing
 - (D) hospital bills
- 2. The author includes the section “Homelessness in America” mainly to**

 - (A) reveal how many homeless people there are.
 - (B) tell you about one homeless family’s ordeal.
 - (C) explain different causes of homelessness.
 - (D) explain how to get help if you are homeless.
- 3. In the sentence “The idea of taking their landlord to court seemed daunting and expensive,” the word *daunting* most closely means**

 - (A) frantic. (C) elaborate.
 - (B) frightening. (D) shocking.
- 4. Which sentence best supports the idea that Kevin is grateful to the Coalition for the Homeless?**

 - (A) “Just before Kevin started high school, he finally got the news he’d been so desperately waiting for.”
 - (B) “Thanks to the Coalition, Kevin’s grades began to improve.”
 - (C) “He spends his free time volunteering at the after-school program that helped him so much when he was in middle school.”
 - (D) “Across the U.S., many communities do reach out to help their most needy.”
- 5. According to the article, why do many people have a hard time getting out of homelessness?**

 - (A) They don’t make enough money to save up what they would need to rent or buy a home.
 - (B) Landlords discriminate against them.
 - (C) Some sort of crisis occurs in their lives.
 - (D) They are afraid to leave the shelter.
- 6. For Kevin, which of the following was an effect of living in the homeless shelter?**

 - (A) He couldn’t go to school.
 - (B) His family couldn’t earn enough money.
 - (C) His grades went down.
 - (D) He got food poisoning.
- 7. The phrase “safety net” in the essay on page 6 is a**

 - (A) simile comparing people living in poverty to acrobats who fall.
 - (B) metaphor comparing programs that help the poor to nets that catch acrobats who fall.
 - (C) hyperbole that exaggerates how much America helps its most needy.
 - (D) direct quote from President Lyndon B. Johnson.
- 8. According to “Homelessness in America: A Snapshot,” which of the following is true?**

 - (A) There are not enough shelters in the U.S.
 - (B) Homelessness is on the rise because more people are getting ill.
 - (C) The homeless rate in Washington, D.C., is more than six times the national average.
 - (D) Some people spend years living on the streets.

Directions: Write your answers on the back of this paper or type them up on a computer.

- 9. How does the author show how difficult life in a homeless shelter can be? Use details from the article in your answer.**
- 10. On page 6 is a quote by Mahatma Gandhi: “The measure of a civilization is how it treats its weakest members.” Explain what you think this quote means.**