1- Reading Comprehension Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

Right now, I am looking at a shelf full of relics, a collection of has-beens, old-timers, antiques, fossils. Right now I am looking at a shelf full of books. Yes, that's right. If you have some spare cash (the going rate is about $89) and are looking to enhance your reading experience, then I highly suggest you consider purchasing an e-reader. E-readers are replacing the books of old, and I welcome them with open arms (as you should). If you haven't heard of an e-reader and don't know what it is, then please permit the following explanation. An e-reader is a device that allows you to read e-books. An e-book is a book-length publication in digital form, consisting of text, images, or both, and produced on, published through, and readable on computers or other electronic devices. Sometimes the equivalent of a conventional printed book, e-books can also be born digital. The Oxford Dictionary of English defines the e-book as "an electronic version of a printed book," but e-books can and do exist without any printed equivalent. So now you know what an e-reader is. But you still may be wondering why they put printed books to shame. E-readers are superior to printed books because they save space, are environmentally friendly, and provide helpful reading tips and tools that printed books do not. E-readers are superior to printed books because they save space. The average e-reader can store thousands of digital books, providing a veritable library at your fingertips. What is more, being the size and weight of a thin hardback, the e-reader itself is relatively petite. It is easy to hold and can fit in a pocketbook or briefcase easily. This makes handling ponderous behemoths such as War and Peace, Anna Karenina, and Les Misérables a breeze. Perhaps the only drawback to the space-
saving aspect of an e-reader is that it requires you to find new things to put on your shelves. In addition, e-readers are superior to books because they are environmentally friendly. The average novel is about 300 pages long. So, if a novel is printed 1000 times, it will use 300,000 pieces of paper. That's a lot of paper! If there are about 80,000 pieces of paper in a tree, this means it takes almost 4 trees to make these 1000 books. Now, we know that the average bestseller sells about 20,000 copies per week. That means that it takes over 300 trees each month to sustain this rate. And for the super bestsellers, these figures increase dramatically. For example, the Harry Potter book series has sold over 450 million copies. That's about 2 million trees! Upon viewing these figures, it is not hard to grasp the severe impact of printed books on the environment. Since e-readers use no trees, they represent a significant amount of preservation in terms of the environment and its resources. Finally, e-readers are superior to books because they provide helpful reading tips and tools that printed books do not. The typical e-reader allows its user to customize letter size, font, and line spacing. It also allows highlighting and electronic bookmarking. Furthermore, it grants users the ability to get an overview of a book and then jump to a specific location based on that overview. While these are all nice features, perhaps the most helpful of all is the ability to get dictionary definitions at the touch of a finger. On even the most basic e-reader, users can conjure instant definitions without having to hunt through a physical dictionary. It can be seen that e-readers are superior to printed books. They save space, are environmentally friendly, and provide helpful reading tips and tools that printed books do not. So what good are printed books? Well, they certainly make nice decorations.
Questions

1) As used in paragraph 1, it can be inferred that "relics," "has-beens, old-timers, antiques, fossils" are all words that describe something
A. ancient  
B. useless  
C. outdated  
D. pathetic

2) The tone of the author can best be described as
A. shrewd  
B. conniving  
C. persuasive  
D. authoritative

3) According to the author, e-books I. were all once printed books II. may be "born digital" III. are able to display images
A. I only  
B. I and II only  
C. II and III only  
D. I, II, and III

4) As used in paragraph 3, which of the following describes something that has been "put to shame"?
A. A dog is left outside on a frigid, dreary winter night.  
B. Team A defeats Team B in a humiliating rout.  
C. Martha is caught stealing at the mall and is arrested in front of a crowd of curious bystanders.  
D. The machine has countless moving parts and Dustin has trouble assembling it.

5) A thesis statement is a sentence that clearly describes what the author plans to discuss. Based on this information, which of the following sentences from the passage is the thesis statement?
A. If you have some spare cash (the going rate is about $89) and are looking to enhance your reading experience, then I highly suggest you consider purchasing an e-reader  
B. E-readers are replacing the books of old, and I welcome them with open arms (as you should).  
C. An e-reader is a device that allows you to read e-books. An e-book is a book-length publication in digital form, consisting of text, images, or both, and produced on, published through, and readable on computers or other electronic devices.
D. E-readers are superior to printed books because they save space, are environmentally friendly, and provide helpful reading tips and tools that printed books do not.

2- Reading Comprehension 2 Level 8 Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

Most importantly, though, the highway bypass would have disastrous effects on the area’s homeowners. As planned, the new road would cut directly through the middle of the Ellwood Acres subdivision. Not only would this send more cars through the neighborhood, but these cars would be traveling at much higher speeds, putting children at risk. What is more, homeowners would have to deal with the increased noise and pollution that would result from such a heavily trafficked road. Finally, the new road would cause residential properties to depreciate. This means that families who chose to move away would have to sell their homes for far less than their current value.

Questions

1) This passage would most likely be found in
   A. an editorial in a local newspaper
   B. a brochure for prospective homeowners in Ellwood Acres
   C. an encyclopedia article about the history of highways
   D. a personal letter from a son to his father

2) Where in the full article is this paragraph most likely to appear?
   A. near the beginning
   B. near the end
   C. in the middle
   D. it could appear anywhere

3) As used in the passage, which is the best definition for depreciate?
   A. to diminish in popularity
   B. to decrease in value
   C. to accumulate over time
   D. to improve with age
4) Which of the following pieces of information, if included, would provide the best additional support for the author’s argument as presented in this passage?

A. In 2008, the author's youngest child was killed by a drunk driver
B. Pollution is harmful to the environment.
C. According to a recent magazine study, white noise (similar to that produced by traffic) was rated the number one cause of daytime napping.
D. In 2011, homeowners who live near interstate traffic saw a 20% reduction in the value of their homes