

• Beginning Critical Reading – Paper

Paper has many uses. People draw on paper. People paint on paper. People write on paper. People clean with paper. People make boxes out of paper. People blow their noses on paper. Books are made of paper. Magazines are made of paper. Some money is printed on paper. Sandpaper is made of paper. Wallpaper is made of paper.

5 Some paper is made from plants. Some paper is made from cotton. Some paper is made from bamboo. Some paper is made from wheat. Most paper is made from trees. 95% of paper is made from trees. Some paper is made from pine trees. Some paper is made from oak trees. Some paper is made from maple trees. Some paper is recycled. When paper is recycled, new paper is made from old paper.

10 Some people say they work in paper-free offices. Some people think computers will take away the need for paper. But people will always need to blow their noses. People will want to sand surfaces with sandpaper. People will want to paint or draw on paper. People will want to put things in paper boxes. So, people will probably need to use paper for many more years.

Questions

1. According to the passage, which of the following statements is/are true?

- I) Ninety-five percent of paper is made from pine trees.
- II) Computers will take away the need for paper.
- III) There will probably always be uses for paper.

- A) I only
- B) II only
- C) III only
- D) I and II only
- E) II and III only

2. What is the main idea of the second paragraph?

- A) What is made of paper
- B) What paper is made of
- C) What people think of paper
- D) The many uses of paper
- E) The future of paper

3. In line 12, *sand* most closely means

- A) grainy mineral
- B) paint or color
- C) polish or smooth
- D) use for storage
- E) draw

Answers and Explanations

1. The correct answer is **C**.

- I) Incorrect. According to line 7, “Ninety–five percent of paper is made from *trees*. *Some* paper is made from *pine trees*.”
- II) Incorrect. According to lines 10-11, “*Some people think* computers will take away the need for paper.” So while it *might* be true that computers will take away the need for paper, the passage states that it is some people’s *opinion*, **not** a *fact*.
- III) Correct. According to lines 13-14, “People will probably always need to use paper.”

- A) I only
- B) II only
- C) III only
- D) I and II only
- E) II and III only

2. The correct answer is **B**.

- A) Incorrect. The second paragraph tells *what paper is made of*. For example, according to line 5, “Some paper is made from plants. Some paper is made from cotton.” *The first paragraph* tells *what is made of paper*. According to lines 3-4, “Books are made of paper. Magazines are made of paper.”
- B) Correct. The second paragraph tells *what paper is made of*. For example, according to line 5, “Some paper is made from plants. Some paper is made from cotton.”
- C) Incorrect. The second paragraph tells *what paper is made of*. For example, according to line 5, “Some paper is made from plants. Some paper is made from cotton.” *The third paragraph* contains some information about *what people think*. For example, according to lines 10-11, “*Some people think* computers will take away the need for paper.”
- D) Incorrect. The second paragraph tells *what paper is made of*. For example, according to line 5, “Some paper is made from plants. Some paper is made from cotton.” *The first paragraph* tells about the *many uses of paper*. For example, according to line 1, “Paper has many uses. People draw on paper. People paint on paper.”
- E) Incorrect. The second paragraph tells *what paper is made of*. For example, according to line 5, “Some paper is made from plants. Some paper is made from cotton.” *The third paragraph* discusses the *future of paper*. For example, according to lines 10-11, “Some people think computers will take away the need for paper. But people will always need to blow their noses.”

3. The correct answer is **C**.

- A) Incorrect. In lines 11–12, the word *sand* is used as a **verb**. According to the passage, “Some people will want to *sand* surfaces with sandpaper.” While the word *sand* **does** sometimes refer to a mineral, *that* usage of *sand* is a **noun**, **not** a **verb**. So in this case, the word *sand* **cannot** mean a *grainy mineral*.
- B) Incorrect. While it is true that people *paint or color* on surfaces and that there is a reddish–brown *color* which is called *sand*, *paint or color* is probably **not** the meaning of

sand as it is used in this line, because the *following* sentence states that “Some people will want to *paint or draw* on paper.”

- C) Correct. The meaning of *sand* in this sentence is to *smooth or polish*. Since sandpaper has a rough surface, it *smooths or polishes* other surfaces when it is rubbed against them.
- D) Incorrect. Since the third paragraph contains a listing of possible future uses of paper, *storage* **does** appear as one of the possible uses. **However**, it appears in line 13 – “Some people will want to put things in paper boxes.” Since putting things in boxes is *storing* things, **this** is the sentence where *storage* is listed. So it is **unlikely** that *sand* means *use for storage*.
- E) Incorrect. Since the third paragraph is a listing of possible future uses of paper, *drawing* on paper **does** appear as one of the possible future uses. However it is used in lines 13-14, “Some people will want to *paint or draw* on paper.” So *sand* probably does **not** refer to *drawing*.