Plants need sunlight and water to make their own food.
You can do an experiment to test if this is true.
Place a bucket over a patch of green grass.
After a few days, lift the bucket.
You will see that the grass is not as green anymore.
If you leave the bucket in place for a week, the grass will become very dull.
This happens because the grass cannot make food in the dark.
Remove the bucket. In a few days, the grass will start turning green again.

Questions:

1) What is the main point of this passage?
   A. Buckets are bad.
   B. Plants need sunlight.
   C. Grass is not pretty when it is dull.

2) What is an experiment?
   A. a way to grow grass
   B. a way to test an idea
   C. a way to use a bucket

3) What happens after a few days?
   A. The grass turns brown.
   B. The grass gets very dull
   C. The grass is not as green

4) What is the opposite of dull?
   A. bright
   B. brown
   C. sunlight

5) According to the passage, how long does it take for the grass to become dull?
   A. a month
   B. a week
   C. a few days

6) What might happen if the bucket stays on the grass for a very long time?
   A. The grass might die.
   B. Flowers might start to bloom.
   C. The grass might start growing again.
Answers and Explanations

1) B
In paragraph 1 we learn that “plants need sunlight” (B). The passage describes what happens when plants do not get sunlight. The main idea of the passage is the fact that plants need sunlight. Therefore (B) is correct.

Although the bucket keeps the grass from staying green, it is not the bucket itself but the lack of sunlight which is bad. Therefore (A) is incorrect. Grass may not be as pretty when it is dull, but that opinion is never stated in the passage and therefore cannot be the main idea. Therefore (C) is incorrect.

2) B
In paragraph 2 we learn that an experiment will “test if this is true.” We know that “this” means the idea from the previous sentence that “plants need sunlight.” An experiment is a way to test this idea. Therefore (B) is correct. The experiment is not a way to grow grass but a way to hurt grass. Therefore (A) is incorrect. Although the experiment does use a bucket, you could test this idea using something other than a bucket. Also, you could do another experiment to test a different idea. Therefore (C) is incorrect.

3) C
In paragraphs 4 and 5, we learn that after a few days, you can lift the bucket and see the “grass is not as green anymore.” Therefore (C) is correct. The passage does not ever say that the grass turns brown. Therefore (A) is incorrect. Paragraph 6 does say that the grass “will become very dull,” but only after “a week,” not a few days. Therefore (B) is incorrect.

4) A
dull (adjective): lacking brilliance or brightness.

After a few days, the grass is “not as green anymore.” This is the same thing as say the grass is not as bright green. Bright is the opposite of dull. Therefore (A) is the correct answer.

When the grass gets “dull,” it gets less green and, we can understand, more brown. Brown is similar to dull, not opposite. Therefore (B) is incorrect. Sunlight is an example of something bright, but it is a thing, not a description, so it cannot be the opposite of dull. Therefore (C) is incorrect.

5) B
In paragraph 6 we learn that after “a week, the grass will become very dull.” Therefore (B) is the correct answer. The story does not contain information to support choices (A), (C) and (D). Therefore they are incorrect.

6) A
If “plants need sunlight” and “the grass cannot make food in the dark,” then the grass might die if the bucket stays on a very long time, because grass needs sunlight and food to live. Therefore (A) is the correct answer. Flowers will not start to bloom because flowers are plants, and plants all need sunlight. Therefore (B) is incorrect. Likewise, the grass will not start growing again if it does not have food and sunlight. Therefore (C) is incorrect.