Technical, Figurative, and Connotative Meaning

Name: _____	Date: _____	Score: _____ / 10

Quick Review

In nonfiction, words can carry technical meanings and connotations. Use context to decide what a word means and why the author chose it.

PART 1 — READ

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Engineering a Quieter City

City noise is more than an annoyance. Constant traffic, construction, and sirens can raise stress levels and make it harder for residents to sleep or concentrate.

Engineers call the problem acoustic load: the total amount of sound pressure a place carries over time. A single loud horn may be brief, but a steady wash of engines can create a heavier load than people realize.

Cities reduce acoustic load in several ways. Some use rubberized asphalt that absorbs tire sound. Others plant dense rows of trees, build low sound walls, or change delivery schedules so trucks do not idle under apartment windows before dawn.

The goal is not silence. A healthy city still hums with people, transit, and work. The goal is to keep that hum from becoming a weight residents must carry all day.

PART 2 — PRACTICE

Use the passage to answer each question. Choose the best answer and support short responses with evidence.

1. Which sentence from the passage BEST supports the inference that The author treats noise as a public health and design problem, not just a personal irritation.?

A. A healthy city still hums with people.

B. Constant traffic, construction, and sirens can raise stress levels and make it harder for residents to sleep or concentrate.

C. Some use rubberized asphalt.

D. The goal is not silence.

2. Which statement BEST expresses the central idea or theme of the passage?

   A. Cities can reduce harmful noise by treating sound as an engineering problem and designing streets and schedules more carefully.

   B. The only healthy city is a silent city.

   C. Trees are the main cause of city noise.

   D. Noise is impossible to measure.

3. What does the word 'load' most nearly mean as it is used in the passage?

   A. a truck shipment

   B. a computer file

   C. burden or amount being carried

   D. a musical performance

4. How does the structure or key detail identified in the passage contribute to meaning?

   A. It interrupts the article with an unrelated word.

   B. It proves all horns are harmless.

   C. It changes the topic to music theory.

   D. The definition of acoustic load gives readers a technical lens for understanding the later examples.

5. Which conclusion is BEST supported by the whole passage?

   A. It suggests residents should carry equipment.

   B. The final metaphor of sound as a weight reinforces the idea that noise can burden residents over time.

   C. It means cities should ban public transit.

   D. It shows the author dislikes all human activity.

6. Which choice is the BEST objective summary of the passage?

   A. The passage explains acoustic load and describes practical design choices that reduce stressful city noise without seeking total silence.

   B. The passage argues that all city sound should be eliminated.

   C. The passage compares several brands of truck engines.

   D. The passage explains why music should be louder in cities.

7. Which answer should be rejected because it goes beyond what the passage supports?

   A. Cities can reduce harmful noise by treating sound as an engineering problem and designing streets and schedules more carefully.

   B. The final metaphor of sound as a weight reinforces the idea that noise can burden residents over time.

   C. The only healthy city is a silent city.

   D. The definition of acoustic load gives readers a technical lens for understanding the later examples.

8. Which detail would be MOST useful to quote in a written response about the passage?

A. A healthy city still hums with people.

B. Some use rubberized asphalt.

C. The goal is not silence.

D. Constant traffic, construction, and sirens can raise stress levels and make it harder for residents to sleep or concentrate.

9. In 2-3 sentences, explain how one quoted detail supports the idea that The author treats noise as a public health and design problem, not just a personal irritation..

_____

_____

10. Write a one-sentence analysis of the passage's message or main idea. Then name one detail that supports it.

_____

_____

Answer Keys

1	A	**B**	C	D	6	**A**	B	C	D
2	**A**	B	C	D	7	A	B	**C**	D
3	A	B	**C**	D	8	A	B	C	**D**
4	A	B	C	**D**	9	See below			
5	A	**B**	C	D	10	See below			

Explanations

1. B	The correct evidence directly proves the stated inference rather than merely mentioning the same topic.
2. A	The correct answer covers the whole passage, while the distractors are too narrow, too extreme, or unsupported.
3. C	The context around the word points to this meaning in this passage.
4. D	The correct answer explains the role the detail plays in the development of the text.
5. B	The correct conclusion follows from multiple details, not from a single isolated word.
6. A	A strong summary includes the main conflict or idea and the outcome without personal opinion.
7. C	This choice overstates or invents an idea that the passage does not prove.
8. D	This detail is specific enough to support analysis in a written response.
9.	**Answer:** A strong response quotes or closely paraphrases: Constant traffic, construction, and sirens can raise stress levels and make it harder for residents to sleep or concentrate. Then it explains how that detail proves the inference instead of only repeating it. Use exact wording from the text or task, then explain your reasoning.
10.	**Answer:** A strong response states: Cities can reduce harmful noise by treating sound as an engineering problem and designing streets and schedules more carefully. It supports the statement with a precise detail such as: Constant traffic, construction, and sirens can raise stress levels and make it harder for residents to sleep or concentrate. Use exact wording from the text or task, then explain your reasoning.

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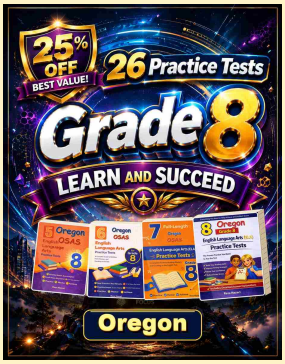

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