

Name _____

Date _____ Block _____

American Dream Faces Harsh New Reality Comprehension Questions

Directions: For the following questions, write the best answer on the blanks for multiple choice questions and respond in complete sentences if is an open-ended question.

1. Based on the information in the article, what is the American Dream? **Use a complete sentence.**

____ 2. In paragraph 6, what is the meaning of the word 'implicit'? Don't look it up. Use CONTEXT CLUES.
A. written B. understood C. stated D. hoped for

____ 3. Which of the following phrases from the passage helps you understand the meaning of the word 'implicit'? Don't look it up. Use CONTEXT CLUES.
A. "almost unique" B. "play by the rules" C. "it's a faith" D. "you'll move ahead"

____ 4. Which of the following best summarizes the central idea of the passage?
A. Americans can no longer afford to buy homes.
B. Americans are earning less money for full-time employment than they were a decade ago.
C. The economic recession is forcing many people out of work.
D. Many Americans are losing confidence in the idea that anyone can make it in America.

____ 5. Re-read John Kenneth White's statement from paragraph 14: "If you go back to the Great Depression where the American Dream originated as a concept, strikingly enough, there was still hope and optimism about the future." Which of the following best summarizes the purpose of this statement?
A. to illustrate the sharp decline of the American Dream since the 1920s
B. to show how Americans overcame adversity during the Great Depression
C. to contrast the optimism that existed during the Great Depression with the pessimism of today's economic recession
D. to show that the American Dream is unique to America and doesn't exist in other places around the world

6. According to the information article, how does President Obama embody the American Dream? Use a complete sentence.

____ 7. What can you conclude about the American Dream based on the section titled, "Skepticism Grows"?
A. Minorities are becoming increasingly skeptical of the American Dream.
B. Wealthy Americans fear that they will someday lose their wealth.
C. Other countries are becoming wealthier; America is becoming poorer.
D. Belief in the American Dream differs primarily by social class and income.

____ 8. Which of the following best summarizes the author's likely purpose for ending the article with a series of questions?
A. To focus the reader's attention on finding solutions.
B. To emphasize the confusion he feels in the face of extreme poverty.
C. To show that there are some questions that can't be answered.
D. To help the reader understand the importance of the American Dream.

Directions: Explain your answers fully in at least one complete sentence. Proofread your writing carefully to ensure there are no writing errors.

1. Do you agree that the American Dream is in jeopardy? Explain your opinion fully in at least one complete sentence.

2. In America, does hard work equal success? Explain your opinion fully in at least one complete sentence.

3. How does a person become successful in America? Explain your opinion fully in at least one complete sentence.

4. Paragraph 19 states, "The story of the 20th century is one of the American Dream gradually being extended to more of the population." How did more people get access to the American Dream during the 20th century? Think of as many examples as you can and explain your answer fully in at least three complete sentences.

5. In your opinion, what is the biggest threat to the American Dream (economic stability, access to a quality education, affordable housing, affordable college, etc.)? Explain your opinion fully in at least three complete sentences.

6. What makes America unique? In your answer, be sure to cite evidence (1) from this text, (2) your own experience, and (3) other art, literature, or history. **Explain your answer fully in 3 - 5 complete sentences.**