Faulty construction, earthquakes, sabotage, or war can cause dams to fail, taking a terrible toll on lives and property. __________, in 1972 a dam failure in Buffalo Creek, West Virginia, killed 125 people, and another in Rapid City, South Dakota, killed 237 and caused more than $1 billion dollars in damages. According to a 1986 study by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the United States has 1,900 unsafe dams in populated areas.

1. The most appropriate transition word/phrase for the blank above is
   a. Finally
   b. On the other hand
   c. For example
   d. Similarly

At some point in time, a food allergy or food intolerance will affect nearly everyone. You eat something, develop gas or have an unpleasant visit to the bathroom, and assume that it is a food allergy. One out of every three people today either say they have a food allergy or avoid something in their diet because they think they are allergic to it; in fact, only 3 percent of all children and 1 percent of all adults experience genuine allergic reactions to what they eat. Surprised? Most people are when they hear this.

2. According to the passage, the number of people who actually have food allergies is
   a. one out of every three
   b. three out of every one hundred children
   c. 3 percent of all adults
   d. Nearly everyone who develops gas or has an unpleasant bathroom visit
College students often face a challenge when trying to eat healthy foods. Some students live in dorms and do not have their own cooking or refrigeration facilities. Others live in crowded apartments where everyone forages in the refrigerator for everyone else’s food.

3. The correct definition of forages in the above passage is
   a. eats
   b. glances
   c. searches
   d. shares

4. By saying “everyone forages in the refrigerator for everyone else’s food,” the author suggests that
   a. Students buy nutritious food, but it often spoils before they eat it.
   b. Students eagerly share food with roommates.
   c. Students in apartments do not take time to properly organize their food.
   d. Students who live together have little control over who eats the food.

Childbirth in Colonial America was a difficult and sometimes dangerous experience for women. During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, records show that between 1 and 1.5 percent of all births ended in the mother’s death as a result of exhaustion, dehydration, infection, hemorrhage, or convulsions. Since the typical mother gave birth to between five and eight children, her lifetime chances of dying in childbirth ran as high as one in eight. This meant that if a woman had eight female friends, it was likely that one would die in childbirth.

5. The tone of the passage is
   a. academic
   b. nostalgic
   c. jovial
   d. optimistic
SOLUTIONS

1. Choice (C) is correct. For example, transitions into specific examples of the terrible toll of faulty construction, earthquakes, sabotage or war. Choice (A) is incorrect. Finally is used to transition into a conclusion. Choice (B) is incorrect. On the other hand is used to show contrast. Choice (D) is incorrect. Similarly is used to transition to another comparable statement.

2. Choice (B) is correct. The passage says, “…only 3 percent of all children…” and “three out of every one hundred children” is synonymous. Choice (A) is incorrect because one out of every three would be 33-1/3 percent. Choice (C) is incorrect because passage says, “…and 1 percent of all adults…” Choice (D) is incorrect because these unpleasant symptoms are assumed by sufferers to indicate a food allergy, but allergy tests have not been recorded.

3. Choice (C) is correct. Forages means to search or to seek. Choice (A) is incorrect because usually one does not eat “in” the refrigerator. Choice (B) is incorrect because glance means to look quickly, not seriously search for food. Choice (D) is incorrect because shares cannot be logically substituted for forages as the appropriate synonym.

4. Choice (D) is correct. The author suggests or implies that it is common behavior for students sharing one refrigerator space to eat food that is not their own. Choices (A), (B), (C) are incorrect because none of them reflects the reality of the human nature grabbing any available food if the person is hungry and faced with temptation.

5. Choice (A) is correct. Childbirth in Colonial America in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries is an informative passage most likely found in a textbook. Data is the method of presentation in academics. Choice (B) is incorrect. Nostalgic means to look back to pleasant past circumstances. Choice (C) is incorrect. Jovial means happy. Choice (D) is incorrect. Optimistic means to be positive, cheerful.