**EXTRA PRACTICE: Try the following excerpts, and then see the answers below.**

**VOCAB**

1. But all spiders, and especially hairy ones, have an extremely delicate sense of touch. Pressure against the body, by a finger or the end of a pencil in lab experiments, causes the tarantula to move off slowly for a short distance. The touch **excites** no defensive response unless the approach is from above, where the spider can see the motion, in which case it rises on its hind legs, lifts its front legs, opens its fangs, and holds this threatening posture as long as the object continues to move.

The word “excites” most nearly means

1. Irritates
2. Delights
3. Stimulates
4. Prevents

2. The coming decades will likely see more **intense** clustering of jobs, innovation, and productivity in a smaller number of bigger cities and city-regions. Some regions could end up bloated beyond the capacity of their infrastructure, while others struggle, their promise stymied by inadequate human or other resources.

As used in line 55, “intense” most nearly means

A) emotional.

B) concentrated.

C) brilliant.

D) determined.

**TONE**

3. Yet another public figure has come forward to announce he has signed into an addiction-treatment center to deal with his alcohol problems. Reports say he has shown courage and honesty. Perhaps so, but what it really takes to enter a treatment center is money. What about the poor man, like my father,

who may also have a drinking problem—and courage—but who doesn’t happen to have $500.00 a day for a fancy rest home?

Which of the following best reflects the author’s tone?

a. bitter

b. threatening

c. sentimental

d. nostalgic

4. Sure, litterbugs account for a lot of the trash blowing around our city’s streets, but there are other villains too. What about people who set out their trash days ahead of their scheduled trash pickup time? Worse yet are the stores that pile boxes in back alleys, and restaurants whose mounds of

green—bagged trash draw rodents and roaches.

Which of the following best reflects the author’s tone?

a. critical

b. tolerant

c. resigned

d. objective

KEEP GOING🡪

5. The kind of nuclear reaction that happens inside a nuclear reactor is called nuclear fission. The fuel is uranium or plutonium, two very heavy elements which have many protons and neutrons in their nuclei. Fission starts when a fastmoving neutron strikes a nucleus. The nucleus cannot take in the extra neutron, and the whole nucleus breaks apart into two smaller nuclei.

What is the tone in this passage?

A) uncertain/confused

B) scared/apprehensive

C) factual/unbiased

D) apathetic/uncaring

**ANSWERS**

**VOCAB**

1. But all spiders, and especially hairy ones, have an extremely delicate sense of touch. Pressure against the body, by a finger or the end of a pencil in lab experiments, causes the tarantula to move off slowly for a short distance. The touch **excites** no defensive response unless the approach is from above, where the spider can see the motion, in which case it rises on its hind legs, lifts its front legs, opens its fangs, and holds this threatening posture as long as the object continues to move.

The word “excites” most nearly means

1. Irritates
2. Delights
3. Stimulates : that means to move to action
4. Prevents

2. The coming decades will likely see more **intense** clustering of jobs, innovation, and productivity in a smaller number of bigger cities and city-regions. Some regions could end up bloated beyond the capacity of their infrastructure, while others struggle, their promise stymied by inadequate human or other resources.

As used in the excerpt, “intense” most nearly means

A) emotional

B) concentrated: that means a lot of something in one spot; clustered

C) brilliant

D) determined

**TONE**

3. Yet another public figure has come forward to announce he has signed into an addiction-treatment center to deal with his alcohol problems. Reports say he has shown courage and honesty. Perhaps so, but what it really takes to enter a treatment center is money. What about the poor man, like my father,

who may also have a drinking problem—and courage—but who doesn’t happen to have $500.00 a day for a fancy rest home?

Which of the following best reflects the author’s tone?

a. bitter: the author is upset that only rich people seem worthy of help

b. threatening

c. sentimental

d. nostalgic

4. Sure, litterbugs account for a lot of the trash blowing around our city’s streets, but there are other villains too. What about people who set out their trash days ahead of their scheduled trash pickup time? Worse yet are the stores that pile boxes in back alleys, and restaurants whose mounds of green—bagged trash draw rodents and roaches.

Which of the following best reflects the author’s tone?

a. critical: author notes that there are many culprits in the trash problem

b. tolerant

c. resigned

d. objective

5. The kind of nuclear reaction that happens inside a nuclear reactor is called nuclear fission. The fuel is uranium or plutonium, two very heavy elements which have many protons and neutrons in their nuclei. Fission starts when a fastmoving neutron strikes a nucleus. The nucleus cannot take in the extra neutron, and the whole nucleus breaks apart into two smaller nuclei.

What is the tone in this passage?

A) uncertain/confused

B) scared/apprehensive

C) factual/unbiased- the author looks to explain the basic process of fission

without emotion

D) apathetic/uncaring