

Quiz: Reading like a lawyer

Passage A.

Dear Abstract Airlines,

I am requesting that an error in my frequent flyer club status be corrected. The frequent flyer program website displays my status as Ruby, but I should have Sapphire status

5 instead. The frequent flyer program website states that “Ruby status is awarded to members who flew 50,000 to 99,999 qualifying miles in the previous calendar year and who, during that year, booked at

10 least two full-fare tickets at least 21 days in advance of actual travel. Sapphire status is awarded to members who flew between 100,000 and 175,000 qualifying miles in the previous calendar year and who, during that

15 year, booked at least four full-fare tickets at least 21 days in advance of actual travel.” My travel during the previous calendar year satisfies the requirements for Sapphire status. I have regularly flown more than

20 100,000 miles annually in the past several years. Last year, I flew 115,320 qualifying miles. Because I traveled more than 100,000 miles last year, I should not have Ruby status in the frequent flyer program.

25 Last year, I booked full-fare tickets on March 30, June 20, August 3, October 12, and December 1 for corresponding travel on April 23, July 15, August 12, November 9, and December 23. Thus, I booked at least

30 four full-fare tickets 21 days in advance of actual travel dates. I look forward to a resolution in this matter.

Sincerely,
Avery Smith

A1. Shorten Avery’s email by striking out text so that only pieces of evidence essential to achieving the correction that Avery seeks remain.

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Passage B.

A credit card company is promoting a new cash-back rewards program for its customers. The rewards program brochure defines lower-tier members as those members who spend more than \$1000/mo., middle-tier members as those members who spend \$1-\$200/mo., and upper-tier members as those members who spend \$201-\$1000/mo. The rewards rate increases with increasing spending to encourage customers to use their credit cards more frequently. The smallest rewards rate is 1%, and the greatest rewards rate is 3%. Customers with the two greatest rewards rates receive an additional monthly cash back “bonus.”

B1. According to the table below, what are the rewards rate and monthly cash back for middle-tier members?

Monthly spending	Rewards rate	Additional monthly cash back “bonus”
\$1-\$200	1%	\$0
\$201-\$1000	1.5%	\$20
> \$1000	3%	\$50

Passage C.

The local climate in Dreary Harbor, WA is characterized by frequent fog and frequent overcast skies, so the buildings in town have traditionally been painted with bold colors to provide aesthetic variety. All the houses on Maple St are blue. All the houses on Oak St. are red. All the houses on Sycamore Way are white. The names of historic government buildings in town contain color names. Three examples of such building names follow. The building at 23 Maple St. is called the “Blue House.” The building at 12 Oak St. is called the “White House.” The building at 6 Sycamore Way is called the “Red House.”

C1. What is the color of the house at 12 Oak St.?

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Passage D.

Researchers recently published the results of a clinical trial of a vaccine for disease X. Side effects in all trial participants were minimal or nonexistent. The researchers reported that when the trial vaccine is administered to patients who already have antibodies for related disease Y and who have been non-smokers throughout their lives, the vaccine provides beneficial protection against disease X.

D1. Interpreting the preceding passage with the care of a lawyer, circle the cohort(s) of patients for which the vaccine will be **ineffective** in protecting against disease X.

Cohort A	Antibody for disease Y present Non-smokers throughout life
Cohort B	Antibody for disease Y absent Non-smokers throughout life
Cohort C	Antibody for disease Y present Have smoked
Cohort D	Antibody for disease Y absent Have smoked

Passage E

We will demonstrate to the court that Steve Monroe was the person who broke the toilet flushing mechanism and caused the waste of water in the bathroom at the Gasco gas station on Maple St. on Friday night. The gas station attendant saw that the water meter started displaying ongoing use of water at 9:15 PM. This water use was unusual because it continued until the gas attendant shut off the valve supplying water to the bathroom 15 minutes later. Security camera footage shows that at 9:12 PM, Mr. Monroe entered the bathroom, and at 9:17 PM, Mr. Monroe left the bathroom. We have shown that Mr. Monroe was the person who broke the toilet and caused the leak, therefore, we ask Mr. Monroe to pay for the cost of repairs to the toilet, which totaled \$160.00.

E1. What was the primary claim of the preceding passage?

C2. Was this claim demonstrated? Justify your response.