International Baccalaureate (IB) Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Questions



- 1. How many times do you need to complete the FAFSA during your college education?
 - A. Once
 - **B.** Twice
 - C. Three times
 - D. Every year
- 2. Which of the following is a benefit of having a financial plan?
 - A. It eliminates all financial risks
 - B. It guarantees huge profits
 - C. It aids in achieving financial goals
 - D. It increases curiosity about expenses
- 3. What factors are considered when determining a credit score?
 - A. Type of debt.
 - B. Duration of debt.
 - C. New debt.
 - D. All of the above.
- 4. Should you compare prices when making decisions about your education?
 - A. Yes, always
 - B. No, it is unnecessary
 - C. Only for large purchases
 - D. Only for essential items
- 5. Which of the following is not a benefit of having a will?
 - A. A will enables you to nominate the persons who will handle your estate or serve as guardians to your children.
 - B. Your will can be an expression of your personal values.
 - C. A well-drafted will can allow your family to minimize death taxes and costs.
 - D. You only need a will if you have a large estate.

- 6. Identify which method companies are using to compete for your money: "90-days-same-as-cash".
 - A. Personal selling
 - **B.** Financing
 - C. Media
 - D. Product positioning
- 7. True or False: Using cash typically decreases your bargaining power during negotiations.
 - A. True
 - **B.** False
 - C. Only in high-value transactions
 - D. Depends on the negotiation context
- 8. How are Americans being outsmarted by banks and other lenders?
 - A. We are taught that we can buy happiness.
 - B. We are driven by consumerism.
 - C. Buying things on credit has become acceptable in our culture.
 - D. Credit is marketed so well that we desire to have it while completely dismissing the fact that interest rates and fees continue to destroy our financial well-being.
- 9. Which of the following is not typically considered a marketing strategy?
 - A. Targeted social media campaigns
 - B. Making the customer do product research
 - C. Repetition in advertisements
 - D. Offering discounts
- 10. What does a wise college plan entail regarding college selection?
 - A. Finding the most expensive, prestigious college
 - B. Creating a budget and starting to save now
 - C. Shopping around for the most appropriate, low-cost academic option
 - D. Scoring well on the ACT or SAT

Answers



- 1. D 2. C 3. D

- 3. D 4. A 5. D 6. B 7. B 8. D 9. B 10. A



Explanations



1. How many times do you need to complete the FAFSA during your college education?

- A. Once
- **B.** Twice
- C. Three times
- D. Every year

Completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is a key requirement for students seeking financial aid for college. The correct answer is that you need to complete the FAFSA every year because each academic year may have different financial circumstances, and the available financial aid can vary. By submitting the FAFSA annually, you provide the necessary financial information that colleges and universities use to reassess your eligibility for various forms of financial aid, such as grants, loans, and work-study programs. This ensures that students can receive the maximum amount of aid they qualify for, reflecting any changes in income or educational expenses each year. Additionally, many state and institutional aid programs require the FAFSA to be completed on an annual basis to determine continued eligibility.

2. Which of the following is a benefit of having a financial plan?

- A. It eliminates all financial risks
- B. It quarantees huge profits
- C. It aids in achieving financial goals
- D. It increases curiosity about expenses

Having a financial plan is crucial for an individual's financial well-being and success. It aids in achieving financial goals by providing a structured approach to managing income, expenses, savings, and investments. A well-thought-out financial plan helps identify short-term and long-term objectives, such as saving for retirement, purchasing a home, or funding education. Through this plan, individuals can outline specific steps, prioritize their financial activities, and allocate resources efficiently. In this way, the financial plan acts as a roadmap, guiding individuals toward their goals and enabling them to measure progress along the way. By regularly reviewing and adjusting the plan, one can stay aligned with their evolving financial needs and goals. The other choices suggest either unrealistic outcomes or incorrect interpretations of what financial planning can achieve. For example, claiming that it eliminates all financial risks would be misguided, as risk is an inherent part of any financial endeavor. Similarly, the notion that it guarantees huge profits oversimplifies the complexity of investment and financial markets. Lastly, while curiosity about expenses can be beneficial, it does not represent a direct benefit of having a financial plan like achieving financial goals does.

3. What factors are considered when determining a credit score?

- A. Type of debt.
- **B.** Duration of debt.
- C. New debt.
- D. All of the above.

A credit score is determined by several factors that collectively reflect a person's creditworthiness. Each of the specified elements plays a crucial role in shaping an individual's credit profile. The type of debt contributes to the credit score because it helps lenders understand the kinds of financial obligations you have. Different types of debt, such as revolving credit from credit cards and installment loans like mortgages or car loans, can signal different levels of risk. The duration of debt is also significant. Length of credit history influences the score; generally, a longer history can demonstrate a pattern of responsible borrowing and repayment, which enhances a credit rating. Lenders prefer to see that a borrower has managed their credit responsibly over time. New debt affects the score by indicating recent borrowing activity. When people take on new debt, it can suggest financial stress or increased risk to lenders. Opening multiple new accounts in a short time can lead to a decrease in the credit score as it may indicate that you are experiencing financial difficulties or taking on more debt than you can manage. In summary, all of these factors-type of debt, duration of debt, and new debt-are critical to determining a credit score, which is why the correct answer encompasses all of them.

4. Should you compare prices when making decisions about your education?

- A. Yes, always
- B. No, it is unnecessary
- C. Only for large purchases
- D. Only for essential items

Comparing prices when making decisions about your education is crucial for a variety of reasons. Firstly, education often involves significant financial investment, and being aware of various costs allows you to make informed choices that fit your budget. Different institutions may offer similar programs at varying price points, so price comparison can help identify the best value for your needs. Additionally, evaluating the costs in relation to potential future earning capacities can give you insight into the return on investment for your education. Furthermore, by comparing prices, you may also uncover additional resources or financial aid options that can make a more expensive program more affordable. It encourages a thoughtful approach to your education, ensuring that you are not only considering the quality of education but also ensuring that it aligns with your financial capabilities and goals. Overall, understanding the financial aspects of your education is a critical part of making a well-rounded decision.

- 5. Which of the following is not a benefit of having a will?
 - A. A will enables you to nominate the persons who will handle your estate or serve as guardians to your children.
 - B. Your will can be an expression of your personal values.
 - C. A well-drafted will can allow your family to minimize death taxes and costs.
 - D. You only need a will if you have a large estate.

Having a will is beneficial regardless of the size of one's estate, as it serves several crucial purposes beyond simply managing assets. The primary benefit of a will is that it allows individuals to specify who will oversee the distribution of their possessions and care for any dependents, ensuring that their preferences are honored after their passing. This includes the ability to nominate guardians for minor children, thus providing clarity and security for their future. Additionally, a will can embody personal values and intentions, reflecting the individual's wishes about how their legacy should be handled. Furthermore, a well-structured will can help streamline the probate process, potentially reducing legal expenses, including death taxes, and alleviating the burden on surviving family members. In contrast, the notion that a will is only necessary for those with large estates is misleading. All individuals, regardless of the value of their assets, benefit from having a will to ensure their wishes are followed and to simplify the legal processes involved after their death.

- 6. Identify which method companies are using to compete for your money: "90-days-same-as-cash".
 - A. Personal selling
 - **B. Financing**
 - C. Media
 - **D. Product positioning**

The "90-days-same-as-cash" method is a financing option offered by companies to encourage consumers to make a purchase without the immediate burden of paying cash upfront. This approach allows consumers to buy products and defer payment for a period of 90 days, during which no interest is typically charged. It serves as an incentive, making it easier for consumers to commit to a purchase they may not have considered due to the immediate financial impact. Companies utilize this financing strategy to enhance their sales by making expensive products more accessible and appealing. It can effectively attract customers who might be hesitant to spend large sums of money upfront. This method is distinctly related to financing, as it involves providing credit terms or payment plans that facilitate consumer purchases. Using financing options like this can influence buying behavior and enhance customer satisfaction, thereby boosting sales and driving competition among businesses for consumer spending.

- 7. True or False: Using cash typically decreases your bargaining power during negotiations.
 - A. True
 - **B.** False
 - C. Only in high-value transactions
 - D. Depends on the negotiation context

Using cash can actually increase your bargaining power during negotiations for several reasons. When you present cash as a method of payment, it signifies that you have the ability to complete the transaction immediately, which can be very appealing to sellers or negotiators looking for certainty and speed. This immediacy can often lead to better terms, as sellers may be more willing to make concessions in order to finalize a deal quickly. Additionally, cash transactions eliminate concerns associated with credit, such as the possibility of non-payment or delays. This reliability can enhance your negotiating position, allowing you to push for further discounts or favorable conditions because you present less risk to the other party. In contrast, other forms of payment often come with strings attached, such as financing costs or the time required for processing, which can weaken your position. Therefore, the notion that using cash diminishes bargaining power does not hold up in most scenarios; in fact, it often does the opposite by providing leverage and facilitating smoother negotiations.

- 8. How are Americans being outsmarted by banks and other lenders?
 - A. We are taught that we can buy happiness.
 - B. We are driven by consumerism.
 - C. Buying things on credit has become acceptable in our culture.
 - D. Credit is marketed so well that we desire to have it while completely dismissing the fact that interest rates and fees continue to destroy our financial well-being.

The correct response highlights the sophisticated marketing strategies employed by banks and lenders that create an appealing image of credit, leading individuals to overlook the hidden costs associated with borrowing. This choice underscores the disconnect between the desire for credit and the long-term implications, such as high interest rates and fees, which can erode financial stability. Lenders effectively promote credit as a tool for convenience and instant gratification, thereby fostering a culture where taking on debt seems normal and even desirable. This pervasive marketing can skew perception, making individuals less vigilant about the true costs of borrowing and the potential negative impact on their financial health. The other options touch on important cultural aspects, such as the notion of consumerism and the belief that material possessions can lead to happiness. While these points are relevant, they do not directly capture how the specific marketing tactics of credit can lead to financial decision-making that ultimately harms individuals' economic situations. The emphasis on the allure of credit and the negligence of its detrimental effects accurately reflects the challenges many face in managing personal finances in a consumer-driven society.

9. Which of the following is not typically considered a marketing strategy?

- A. Targeted social media campaigns
- B. Making the customer do product research
- C. Repetition in advertisements
- D. Offering discounts

Making the customer do product research is not typically considered a marketing strategy because it places the onus of information gathering entirely on the consumer rather than actively engaging them through promotional efforts. Effective marketing strategies are designed to facilitate the purchasing process, attract customers, and directly inform them about a product's features, benefits, and values. In contrast, targeted social media campaigns actively reach out to specific demographics to enhance brand awareness and drive sales. Repetition in advertisements helps to reinforce a brand message, making it more memorable and effective in persuasion. Offering discounts is a promotional tactic aimed at incentivizing purchases and increasing sales volume, further demonstrating an active approach in marketing practices.

10. What does a wise college plan entail regarding college selection?

- A. Finding the most expensive, prestigious college
- B. Creating a budget and starting to save now
- C. Shopping around for the most appropriate, low-cost academic option
- D. Scoring well on the ACT or SAT

A wise college plan focuses on selecting a college based on appropriateness and value rather than solely on prestige or cost. Therefore, the correct approach involves shopping around for the most appropriate, low-cost academic option. This means evaluating colleges based on factors like the availability of desired programs, campus environment, student support services, and overall fit with the student's goals and aspirations. Finding a low-cost academic option ensures that students can minimize debt and financial strain while still receiving a quality education. This approach encourages a thoughtful, strategic perspective on college selection, prioritizing long-term success and affordability over temporary prestige, which may not offer the best return on investment. Other options highlight important aspects of college planning, such as budgeting and test scores, but do not directly address the essence of creating a balanced and practical selection strategy. Focusing on prestige can lead to unnecessary financial burdens, which could detract from overall educational experience and well-being. Thus, a wise college plan is fundamentally about making informed choices that align with one's academic and financial circumstances.