I. Read the following paragraphs and identify the paragraph type ( The step, The stack, The chain, The balance).

A. There are many things illogical and self-contradictory about the Singapore government’s giving way to public pressure and allowing more cars on to the road just before an election. [First] this ill- thought out move will inevitably result in more fatalities on our highways – there have already been 90 deaths in the first quarter of this year. [Second] if the government believes in a healthy life- style for its citizens, then discouraging walking, even if only to the bus stop, is a step backwards. Who knows how much car use might contribute to heart disease through obesity in years to come? The [another] government campaign – to save water – would achieve some success if there were fewer cars about that had to be regularly washed. [Furthermore], with world-wide oil reserves likely to halve in the next 15 years we must be sensible enough to prepare ourselves for transport like the underground system, buses and bicycles which use non-renewable energy more efficiently or avoid using it altogether. frankly, increasing the population of cars, while politically pragmatic, seems quite irrational.

B. Although pet cats and dogs are invaluable companions for old people, and are creatures ‘for children to learn benevolence upon’, these advantages cannot outweigh the negative impacts they have on the environment. they consume huge amounts of protein in a world where a quarter of the population is hungry. they spread diseases and parasites to human populations, particularly when negligent owners do nothing to control their messing in public parks and on sidewalks. there are numerous instances of young children being attacked and disfigured by “guard” dogs. and the industry of dog- and cat-breeding simply reinforces and displaces snobbishness about human ancestry with snobbishness about canine and feline pedigree.

C. Heat fat in frying pan. When hot add peas. turn and stir-fry slowly over a medium heat. Then, add chicken broth and continue to stir-fry for one more minute. Sprinkle with salt, sugar and sherry and stir-fry gently for one further minute and serve.

D. Mosquitoes are the greediest creatures I have ever met, my children included. they combine the vice of greed with the virtue of persistence, and buzz around for hours in the darkness seeking out those few patches of bare white flesh I carelessly leave uncovered. Under that flesh, as they well know, flow pints of that red juicy food known as blood. Blood is to mosquitoes, what foster’s lager is to Australians. However, it is only the females which suck blood, the males feeding on nectar. if they both fed on blood there would be no hope. But, as it is, providing we can live far enough away from flowers there is some hope that, to find a mate, the blood-sucking sex will have to keep away from us.

Answer Key: A The stack, B The balance, C The step, D The chain.

A.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

B.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

C.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

D.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

II. As you read about sloths, think about the main idea of each paragraph.

Sloths are the slowest mammals on earth. It takes a full minute for a sloth to move 6 feet across the ground. You probably couldn’t move that slowly if you tried! The sloth’s body is about 2 feet long. It has long legs, and curved claws that are 3 to 4 inches long. Their claws and their long legs help them climb trees and hang from tree branches. They spend almost their entire lives hanging from tree branches. The life of a sloth is not very exciting.

Sloths have a round head, small ears, a stubby tail, and sad-looking eyes set in a dark-colored “mask.” The shape of a sloth’s mouth makes it look like it is always smiling. It has extra bones in its neck that make it possible for it to turn its head almost all the way around. Sloths are very cute to look at, but they don’t put on much of a show.

Sloths are home to other plants and creatures. Tiny plants grow on the sloth’s fur, making the animals appear to be green. This green color makes the sloths almost invisible against the green leaves of the trees they live in. Moths and insects also live in the sloth’s fur. Maybe the sloths move so little and so seldom that the small creatures that live on them don’t even know they are animals.

Giant sloths the size of elephants once lived in many places on earth, including North America. Today, sloths can be found in the tropical forests of Central and South America. They eat leaves and berries. A sloth can stick its tongue out 12 inches. Maybe they developed this skill so they wouldn’t have to move to reach the tasty leaves and berries around their resting spot. Their main enemies are jaguars, eagles, and snakes. Many tropical forests are disappearing, along with the sloths that live there. It would be a sad thing if these fascinating little animals became extinct.

1. What is the main idea of the first paragraph?

A. Sloths are the slowest mammals on earth.

B. It takes a full minute for a sloth to move 6 feet across the ground.

C. The sloth’s body is about 2 feet long.

D. The life of a sloth is not very exciting.

2. What is the main idea of the second paragraph?

A. Sloths have a round head, small ears, and sad-looking eyes.

B. The shape of a sloth’s mouth make it look like it is always smiling.

C. A sloth can turn its head almost all the way around.

D. Sloths are very cute to look at.

3. What is the main idea of the third paragraph?

A. Sloths are home to other plants and creatures.

B. Tiny plants grow on the sloth’s fur.

C. The plants that grow on the sloth make the sloth green.

D. Moths and insects live in the sloth’s fur.

4. What is the main idea of the last paragraph?

A. Sloths the size of elephants once lived on earth.

B. Today, sloths live in the tropical forests of Central and South America.

C. A sloth can stick its tongue out 12 inches.

D. It would be sad if sloths became extinct.

Answer Key 1. A 2. D 3. A 4. D