

**R10**

# Line reference hack:

# LR: 2+8=10

Locate + Rework = Answer

## Tools:

See topic sentence

Use Good stinky rule

Look for flag flip floppers

## Passage II

**SOCIAL SCIENCE:** This passage is adapted from the essay "Paradise" by Eliot Weinberger (©1997 by The Nation Company).

Iceland has created the most perfect society on earth, one from which the rest of the world has nothing to learn. Its unlikely utopia is the happy accident of a history and a geography that cannot be duplicated, or even emulated, elsewhere.

Outside the South Pacific, no ethnic group so small has its own entirely independent nation-state. There are only 268,000 Icelanders, of whom 150,000 live in and around Reykjavik. The second-largest city, Akureyri, known for its arts scene and night life, has 14,000. In the rest of the country the treeless wilderness of volcanoes, waterfalls, strange rock formations, steaming lava fields, geysers, glaciers and icebergs seems like the end of the earth, as though one had crossed into Tibet and found the sea.

Nearly all the roads are sparsely traveled and unpaved, yet this is a modern Scandinavian country where everything works, and where the state protects its citizens from birth to death. There is universal education, virtually no unemployment, no poverty and no conspicuous wealth. Per capita book consumption and production is by far the highest in the world. Icelanders live longer than people who live most anywhere else. There is no pollution: Almost the entire country is geothermally heated.

It is nonviolent: no army, few handguns, little crime. Prisoners, except the dangerous, go home for the holidays; small children walk in the city alone. For the past thousand years, Icelandic women have had rights unimagined almost anywhere else, such as the ability to divorce and keep half the property. It was the first Western nation with a woman president, and is the only one with an all-woman political party with seats in Parliament. The Icelanders invented the idea of a Parliament.

Incredibly, it is a capitalist society without excess. The people have everything, but only one or two kinds of everything. They live without the bombarded frenzy of competing brands, the demands of consumer expertise and the attendant dread that one has made the wrong choice. The traditional occupations of the major non-mineral exports—fishing and shepherding—are now performed by only a fraction of the population. The rest of the tiny work force must fill all the roles of a modern society: ambassador, plumber, anesthesiologist, programmer, cellist, cop. There is one well-known film director, one Nobel Prize-winning novelist, one international rock star. In Iceland, modern life is complete, but lived on the scale of the tribal.

Like a tribe, it is a society rooted in the archaic. Icelanders may be the only technological society on earth whose people could speak fluently with their ancestors from a thousand years ago: Icelandic has

remained the same since it split from Old Norse, and its alphabet retains two runic letters that no other language uses. Icelanders are required by law to have traditional names, and follow the ancient system of first name plus father or mother's name plus "son" or "daughter." The telephone book lists people by their first names, and they're all the same: Olaf Magnuson, Magnus Olafson, Greta Olafsdottir. They can differentiate one another because they *know* one another.

Icelanders, they are self-absorbed. In the thirteenth century they produced a vast body of literature, unlike anything in Europe, that was a meticulous description of themselves. These are the sagas: the tales, not of heroes or gods but of ordinary people, the actual settlers who had come to the uninhabited land 300 years before. There are hundreds of sagas, all interlocking. The same stories are told from different points of view; a person mentioned in passing in one becomes the protagonist of another. It is an enormous human comedy of love, greed, rage, lust, marriages and property settlements, travels, revenge, funerals and festivals, meetings, abductions, prophetic dreams and strange coincidences, fish and sheep. Nearly everyone in Iceland is descended from these people, and they know the stories, and the stories of what has happened in the generations since.

One travels through Iceland with *The Visitor's Key*, an extraordinary guidebook that follows every road in the country step by step, as though one were walking with the Keeper of Memories. Iceland has few notable buildings, museums or monuments. What it has are hills and rivers and rocks, and each has a story the book recalls.

11. The main purpose of the passage can best be described as an attempt to:
- present a highly positive image of Icelandic society.
  - discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the Icelandic way of life.
  - compare the Iceland of tradition with the modern Iceland.
  - explain how Iceland was able to form its society.
12. It can be logically inferred that all of the following are characteristics of the society of Iceland EXCEPT that:
- the majority of the population lives in or near cities.
  - reading and writing are highly valued activities.
  - people enjoy the arts by visiting the country's many museums.
  - government plays a large and important role in people's lives.

13. When the author claims that Icelanders live "on the scale of the tribal" (line 49), he most nearly means that:
- A. they still have the traditional occupations that have existed since tribal times, such as fishing and shepherding.
  - B. each person fits into Iceland's small society by performing a well-defined job.
  - C. there are only a limited number of modern roles, such as ambassador, in a traditional society such as Iceland's.
  - D. only a few Icelanders are still involved in the traditional occupations related to non-mineral exports.
14. As stated in the passage, a character in one of Iceland's thirteenth-century sagas is likely to be:
- F. part of only one story within the sagas.
  - G. similar to heroes found in other European legends.
  - H. different from the typical Icelander of that day.
  - J. directly related to someone living today.
15. The author most likely draws the contrast made in lines 16–19 in order to show:
- A. how travel is more difficult than one might expect because of the unpaved roads.
  - B. that Iceland isn't so much modern in nature as it is traditional.
  - C. that Icelanders have fewer travel opportunities than do people in other modern Scandinavian countries.
  - D. how modern Iceland actually is despite some appearances to the contrary.
16. The passage mentions all of the following as factors that contribute to the unique status of women in Iceland EXCEPT the:
- F. role they had in inventing the idea of a Parliament.
  - G. length of time for which they have had certain legal rights.
  - H. way in which some women participate in the country's politics.
  - J. fact that Iceland had a woman president before any other Western country.
17. As it is used in line 40, the word *attendant* most nearly means:
- A. assisting.
  - B. accompanying.
  - C. mutual.
  - D. worker.
18. The passage states that one unusual aspect of the Icelandic language is its:
- F. historical split from Old Norse.
  - G. basis in a runic alphabet.
  - H. lack of change over time.
  - J. use of letters from other languages.
19. The author includes the information in the sixth paragraph (lines 50–62) about Icelandic telephone books primarily to emphasize the:
- A. country's extensive use of technology.
  - B. Icelandic method of listing names in order of first name.
  - C. great variety of people's names in Iceland.
  - D. familiarity Icelanders have with one another.
20. The main point of the last paragraph is that:
- F. Iceland's extraordinary guidebook is better than guidebooks for other countries.
  - G. Iceland has few interesting buildings and lacks certain art forms.
  - H. Iceland's unique features are brought to life in its unusual guidebook.
  - J. *The Visitor's Key* is often referred to as the Keeper of Memories.