

PART I: ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM WRITTEN TEXTS (70 points)

Read the passage below and then answer questions 1–7.

DR. FRED EPSTEIN, NEUROSURGEON

Early in his career, Dr. Fred Epstein had a four-year-old patient with a brain tumor. The little girl, Naomi, had one simple goal: to reach the age of five. Amazingly, Naomi achieved that goal, and is still alive today. The lesson she taught her doctor has also lived on, and was the inspiration for the title of Dr. Epstein's book, *If I Get to Five*.
5 Published in 2003, the book is about sick children's courage and character, but it is also a testament to the courage and character of the book's author.

Epstein, who was born in New York in 1937, is considered one of the greatest brain surgeons of the twentieth century. However, it was not easy for him to reach that status. As a child, teachers called him "stupid" and "lazy," and therefore, he also viewed
10 himself that way. In order to get even average marks at school, he had to study much longer than his friends. It was only many years later that Epstein realized that he suffered from learning disabilities, which school teachers knew nothing about.

Despite his difficulties in school, Epstein dreamed of becoming a doctor. He applied to medical schools around the country, but they all rejected him. Finally, with the help
15 of a family friend, he was accepted to New York Medical College. With much hard work and determination, Epstein succeeded in graduating. Soon, he was developing his own surgery techniques to remove tumors that had until then been considered untreatable.

For more than twenty years, Dr. Epstein helped save the lives of thousands of children.
20 His patients remember him not only for his medical skills but also for his modesty, warmth, and love. He told everyone to call him "Fred," and gave his home phone number to all his patients, encouraging them to call at any time. In one famous case, Dr. Epstein agreed to operate on a dog—if its wealthy owner would pay for a poor child's surgery. The owner agreed, and as a result, the life of five-year-old Jerry Martin
25 was saved.

Tragically, a serious accident in 2001 left Epstein in a wheelchair and unable to treat his beloved patients. However, his personality remained the same, and until his death in 2006, he continued to make sick children smile.

QUESTIONS (70 points)

Answer questions 1–7 in English according to the passage. In question 5, circle the number of the correct answer. In the other questions, follow the instructions.

1. In lines 1–6, we are told about (—).

PUT AN X BY THE TWO CORRECT ANSWERS.

- i) Dr. Epstein’s career
- ii) how Naomi achieved her goal
- iii) when Dr. Epstein wrote his book
- iv) what Naomi is doing today
- v) the kind of person that Dr. Epstein is
- vi) how Dr. Epstein chose the name of his book

(2x7=14 points)

2. Complete the following sequence of cause and effect. (lines 7–12)

COMPLETE THE GRAPHIC ORGANIZATION.

i)



ii) Epstein’s teachers called him “stupid” and “lazy”



iii)

(2x8=16 points)

3. According to lines 8–9, it was not easy for Epstein to reach the status of one of the greatest brain surgeons of the twentieth century. Give ONE difficulty mentioned in another paragraph which he faced along the way to reaching that status.

ANSWER: _____

(8 points)

4. How was Dr. Epstein a pioneer in his field? (lines 13–18)

COMPLETE THE SENTENCE.

He cured patients who _____.

(9 points)

5. According to lines 19–25, Epstein (—).
- was better known for his personality than for his skills as a doctor
 - was an excellent doctor whose skills were unrecognized for most of his career
 - preferred treating animals to treating children
 - combined healing skills and a caring personality
- (7 points)
6. Give ONE thing that Naomi (lines 1–6) and Jerry Martin (lines 19–25) have in common.
- ANSWER: _____
- (9 points)
7. What do we learn from the last paragraph? Give ONE answer.
- COMPLETE THE SENTENCE.
- We learn what _____.
- (7 points)

PART II: WRITTEN PRESENTATION (30 points)

Write 100–120 words in English on the following topic.

8. Your school newspaper has asked pupils to write on the following topic:

Based on research showing that teenagers have a hard time waking up in the morning, some schools have decided to delay the beginning of the school day by one or two hours. As a result, classes in these schools will end one or two hours later. What do you think of this decision?

Write a passage for the newspaper stating and explaining your opinion.

You may relate to the following points:

- * the effect on schoolwork
- * the effect on after-school activities (work, hobbies, friends, etc.)
- * the effect on the family
- * the effect on health

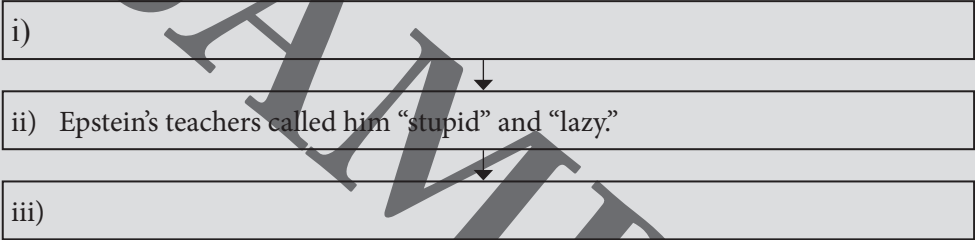
You may also relate to your own experience or to the experiences of your friends.

BAGRUT STRATEGY # 16—GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS OF CAUSE AND EFFECT

To complete some graphic organizers, all you have to do is list events in chronological order, that is, in the order in which they took place. Some graphic organizers, however, focus specifically on **cause and effect**. In those organizers, the events must, of course, be listed in the order in which they happened, but that’s not enough. There must also be a logical connection between all the events, that is, each event must be the reason that the event after it took place. For example, question 2 asks:

Complete the following sequence of cause and effect. (lines 7–12)

COMPLETE THE GRAPHIC ORGANIZER.

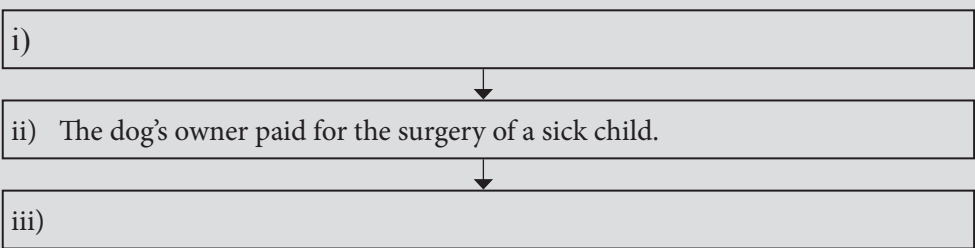


In line i, you must write an event which is the reason for the event in line ii. In line iii, you must write an event that happened because of line ii. For example, writing “Epstein realized that he suffered from learning disabilities.” in line iii would be incorrect, because the realization wasn’t a result of his teachers calling him “stupid” and “lazy.”

Here is another example. The text on page 83 says, “In one famous case, Dr. Epstein agreed to operate on a dog—if its wealthy owner would pay for the surgery of a poor child. The owner agreed, and as a result, the life of five-year-old Jerry Martin was saved.” The following graphic organizer of cause and effect could be given:

Complete the following sequence of cause and effect. (lines 19–25)

COMPLETE THE GRAPHIC ORGANIZER.



The reason the dog's owner paid for the surgery of a sick child is because Dr. Epstein operated on his dog. The result of the dog's owner paying for the surgery is that Jerry Martin's life was saved. Therefore, the correct answers are:

i) Dr. Epstein operated on a dog.



ii) *The dog's owner paid for the surgery of a sick child.*



iii) The life of five-year-old Jerry Martin was saved.

Remember: You may also get cause and effect questions in different forms, such as tables and open-ended questions.

BAGRUT STRATEGY PRACTICE

Read the paragraphs below and on page 38 and complete the sequences of cause and effect.

1. A thirty-three-year-old Japanese man felt so guilty about the money that he had stolen that he returned it all and added some extra money, too. In May 2006, he left an envelope with 350,000 yen (about \$2,365) at the same post office where he had stolen 340,000 yen in March. He then went to the police and told them the story, explaining that he had taken the money because he had been short of* money.

i) A thirty-three-year-old Japanese man was _____.



ii) He stole 340,000 yen from the post office.



iii) He _____.



iv) He returned the money along with an extra 10,000 yen.

*had been short of = היה חסר לו

2. If you've ever been to London, you may have seen a tall monument which is simply called "The Monument." "The Monument" was built in the seventeenth century to commemorate the Great Fire of London, which took place in September 1666. The Great Fire of London, which started at a bakery on Pudding Lane, quickly spread to other houses and destroyed most of the city's houses within four days.

i)

ii) The fire destroyed most of the houses in London.

iii)

3. A worried passerby rushed to report that he had seen two crying children standing next to a window and holding a sign, "Help! Please call the police!" However, when the police arrived at the house, they discovered that the cause of the "emergency" was a nine-year-old girl (with the help of her two-year-old brother) who was very angry that her mother had told her to clean her room. Fortunately, the police were able to convince the girl to clean her room, and by the time they came back two hours later, the girl had also made peace with her mother.

i)

ii) The girl became very angry.

iii)

iv) A worried passerby saw the sign and rushed to call the police.

v)

vi) The girl agreed to clean her room.