Part 1. Classify the following sentences—are they good topic sentences?

Step 1: Read the sentences in each group and decide which sentence is the best topic sentence. Write *best* on the line beside it.

Step 2: Decide what is wrong with the other sentences. They might be too general, too specific, or incomplete, so write *too general*, *too specific*, or *incomplete* on the line beside each sentence.

Group 1

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a. A lunar eclipse is an omen of a coming disaster.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ b. Superstitions have been around forever.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ c. People hold many superstitious beliefs about the moon.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ d. Made of green cheese.

Group 2

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a. The history of astronomy is interesting.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ b. Ice age people recorded the appearance of new moons by making scratches on animal bones.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ c. For example, Stonehenge in Britain, built 3500 years ago to track the movement of the sun.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ d. Ancient people observed and recorded lunar and solar events in different ways.

Group 3

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a. It is hard to know which foods are safe to eat nowadays.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ b. In some large ocean fish, there are high levels of mercury.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ c. Undercooked chicken and hamburger may carry *E. coli* bacteria.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ d. Not to mention mad cow disease.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ e. Food safety is an important issue.

Group 4

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a. Hybrid automobiles more economical to operate than gasoline-powered cars.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ b. The new hybrid automobiles are very popular.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ c. Hybrid cars have good fuel economy because a computer under the hood decides when to run the electric motor, the small gasoline engine, or the two together.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ d. The new hybrid automobiles are popular because of their fuel economy.

Group 5

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a. The North American Catawba Indians of the Southeast and the Tlingit of the Northwest both see the rainbow as a kind of bridge between heaven and earth.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ b. A rainbow seen from an airplane is a complete circle.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ c. Many cultures interpret rainbows in positive ways.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ d. Rainbows are beautiful.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ e. The belief that you can find a pot of gold at a rainbow’s end.

Part 2. The following paragraphs are scrambled. Decide which sentence is the topic sentence and write TS on the line beside it.

Paragraph 1

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a. A notes or memo function lets you make quick notes to yourself.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ b. Other capabilities include word processing, spreadsheets, and e-mail.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ c. A voice recorder that uses a built-in microphone and speaker works like a tape recorder.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ d. Basic tools include a calendar to keep track or your appointments, an address and phone number book, to-do lists, and a calculator.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ e. MPC playback lets you listen to digital music files, and a picture viewer lets you look at digital photos.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ f. Most personal digital assistants (PDAs) have tools for basic tasks as well as for multimedia functions.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ g. A few models also include a built-in digital camera and keyboard.

Paragraph 2

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a. Twelve years after *Sputnik*, the United States caught up by becoming the first nation to land a man on the moon.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ b. The Europeans have joined the competition, vowing to land European astronauts on the moon by 2025 and on Mars by 2035.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ c. The number of nations competing in the ‘space race’ has grown since the early days of space exploration.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ d. China joined the competition in 2003 when it launched *Shenzhou 5*.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ e. Initially, the former Soviet Union took the lead when it sent the first man into Earth orbit in the spaceship *Sputnik* in 1957.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ f. For almost 50 years, the United States and Russia were the only competitors in the contest to explore space using manned spacecraft.

Paragraph 3

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a. Another important change was that people had the freedom to live and work wherever they wanted.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ b. The earliest significant change was for farming families, who were no longer isolated.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ c. The final major change brought by the automobile was the building of superhighways, suburbs, huge shopping centers, and theme parks such Disney World in Florida.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ d. The automobile revolutionized the way of life in the United States.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ e. The automobile enabled them to drive to tows and cities comfortably and conveniently.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ f. In fact, people could work in a busy metropolitan city and drive home to the quiet suburbs.

Paragraph 4

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a. In time, this melted part rises as magma.[[1]](#footnote-1)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ b. The formation of a volcanic eruption is a dramatic series of events.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ c. As the plate[[2]](#footnote-2) sinks, friction and the Earth’s heat cause part of it to melt.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ d. The magma produces hear, steam, and pressure.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ e. First of all, most volcanoes are formed where two plates collide[[3]](#footnote-3).

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ f. Then one of the plates is force under the other and sinks.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ g. When the heat, steam and pressure form the magma finally reach the surface of the Earth, a volcanic eruption occurs.

1. magma: melted rock inside the Earth [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. plate: a large, solid section of rock [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. collide: to crash into something [↑](#footnote-ref-3)