There I was one afternoon, getting ready to play my new video game. I was really excited about it. I had saved my allowance for a month, and yesterday, I finally had enough money to buy it. I put the game into the game system, and at first, the game looked as though it was loading up. All of a sudden, though, everything stopped! I pushed a few buttons, but the game system stared stubbornly at me, daring me to make it work. I managed to unload the game itself, but that didn't help very much. My game system seemed to be completely dead. I yelled for my big brother, Cody, to come and help me, but he took one look at the game system and said, “Justin, you're out of luck. This system is gone. You'll have to get another one.”

1. Who is the narrator in this text?
   - A. Dad
   - B. Cody
   - C. Justin
   - D. Mom

2. What is the main problem?
   - A. Justin cannot get a new game.
   - B. Justin's game system is broken.
   - C. Cody takes Justin's game system.
   - D. Justin takes Cody's game system.

3. What does Cody mean when he says Justin is out of luck?
   - A. Justin cannot use his game system.
   - B. He wishes he had Justin's game system.
   - C. He will fix Justin's game system.
   - D. Justin is lucky to have his game system.

4. In this text, what does the adjective gone mean?
   - A. broken
   - B. disappeared
   - C. difficult
   - D. interesting

5. What is this phrase an example of: The game system stared stubbornly at me, daring me to make it work.
   - A. simile
   - B. rhyming
   - C. metaphor
   - D. personification

SCORE

1. Y N
2. Y N
3. Y N
4. Y N
5. Y N

____ / 5
Total
My game system was completely broken and wouldn’t work at all. I couldn’t remember exactly when I’d bought it, but I didn’t think it was very long ago, so Dad suggested I try to get it replaced. He said it might still be under warranty, and if it were, then I could exchange it for a new game system. I was hoping Dad was right—good game systems are expensive, and I didn’t want to have to save up my money for months. So I took my system back to the store where I’d bought it. The manager looked up my purchase. He said, “I’m sorry, Justin, but you actually bought this 14 months ago, and the warranty only lasted for 12 months. So you won’t be able to get a replacement system unless you purchase a new one.” I was running out of options fast!

1. What does Justin’s dad suggest?
   A. He suggests that Justin save up his money and buy a new system.
   B. He suggests that Justin try to exchange his broken game system.
   C. He suggests that Justin stop playing video games.
   D. He suggests that Justin look for new video games to try.

2. What does Justin find out when he goes to the store?
   A. He will not be able to shop at that store any more.
   B. He will be able to get a free replacement system.
   C. He will have to buy three new video games.
   D. He cannot get a replacement system unless he buys a new one.

3. Which word describes a promise that if something breaks, it will be replaced?
   A. warranty
   B. game system
   C. replacement
   D. exchange

4. Which two words are synonyms and the same parts of speech?
   A. replacement, warranty
   B. warranty, system
   C. bought, purchased
   D. purchase, option

5. What is the tone of the text?
   A. informational
   B. anxious
   C. persuasive
   D. passive
My game system was broken and couldn’t be repaired. I had also found out that the warranty on it ended, so I couldn’t get it replaced unless I bought a new one. But that was the problem—I didn’t have the money for a new one. Mom and Dad gave me an allowance every week, but I would have to save for a few months if I were going to get the kind of system I wanted. I didn’t want to wait that long, and I knew Mom and Dad wouldn’t just buy me a new game system—not unless it was my birthday, which it wasn’t. I complained about it all to my brother Cody—maybe he would have an idea. Cody suggested, “You could get some kind of job, Justin. That way, you could earn the money for the game system.”

1. What is Justin’s problem?
   A. He doesn’t have the money for a new game system.
   B. Cody took his game system.
   C. His mom and dad will not let him have a game system.
   D. He does not want to use his game system.

2. What suggestion does Cody make?
   A. Justin should ask his mom and dad for a new game system.
   B. Justin should stop playing video games.
   C. Justin should get a job to earn money for a game system.
   D. Justin should ask his friends to let him use their game systems.

3. Which word is a synonym for repaired?
   A. purchased
   B. replaced
   C. destroyed
   D. fixed

4. Which noun has the same meaning as allowance?
   A. meals
   B. direction
   C. pocket money
   D. special permission

5. What does the word complained reveal about Justin?
   A. He is excited.
   B. He is unhappy.
   C. He is proud.
   D. He is hopeful.
GETTING INTO THE GAME

My game system was broken and couldn’t be repaired, and I didn’t have enough money to buy a new one. The only solution I could think of was to earn some extra money. I tried to come up with some good ideas for a job—that was what my brother Cody had suggested. One morning, I was staring out my window wondering what sort of job a kid my age could get, when something I noticed gave me an inspiration.

My neighbor, Mr. Drummond, was wheeling his garbage barrel out to the curb. Mr. Drummond was elderly, and I could tell he was struggling to move his garbage barrel. I sprinted downstairs and outside, dashed across the street, and offered to move Mr. Drummond’s trash to the curb. He was very grateful. After he thanked me, I decided to discuss my inspiration with him. “I’m trying to earn some extra money,” I explained, “and I’m just wondering whether people would be interested in having me do chores.”

“Well, I certainly would, Justin,” Mr. Drummond answered. “There are several things that are more difficult for me now that I’m getting on in years, and it’d be helpful to have a young person around to do those jobs. I wouldn’t be surprised if there are other people my age in the same situation.”

I decided to take Mr. Drummond’s suggestion about helping elderly people, and I visited some of my other neighbors. It turned out that Mr. Drummond was right. A lot of them were interested in having someone come around to do chores. I made up a schedule of people to visit and chores they wanted me to do, and started working. At first, it was exhausting, but before long, I got accustomed to it. Within a month, I’d earned enough money to get my new game system, and that made me very happy. And a lot of people in the neighborhood were getting the help they needed. That made me happy, too. I guess having a broken game system wasn’t so awful.
Read “Getting Into the Game” and then answer the questions.

1. Which prediction about the text is most relevant?
   A. Justin will stop talking to his neighbors.
   B. Justin will stop playing video games.
   C. Justin will never speak to Mr. Drummond again.
   D. Justin will keep doing chores for people.

2. Why does Justin want to earn money?
   A. Mr. Drummond needs help with his trash.
   B. He wants to help people who need someone to do chores.
   C. He wants to buy a new bicycle.
   D. His game system is broken, and he wants to buy a new one.

3. What do you think Mr. Drummond will do the next time he needs someone to do a chore?
   A. He will hire Justin to do the work.
   B. He will do the chore himself.
   C. He will not know what he should do.
   D. He will call a friend his age for help.

4. What can be inferred about Mr. Drummond's garbage barrel?
   A. It is heavy.
   B. It is very light.
   C. It is easy to move.
   D. It is brand-new.

5. Which point of view does this text use?
   A. first person
   B. second person
   C. third person
   D. There is no point of view.

6. How do Justin's parents likely feel about the solution to his problem?
   A. worried
   B. pleased
   C. unhappy
   D. angry

7. How does Justin solve the problem of his broken game system?
   A. He fixes the game system.
   B. He asks his parents for the money to buy a new game system.
   C. He does chores for people in the neighborhood to earn money.
   D. He decides he doesn't want a game system after all.

8. What is the theme of this text?
   A. Money is the best reward.
   B. Video games are very fun and entertaining.
   C. Hard work and helping others can be very rewarding.
   D. Justin's parents gave him the money for the new system.
If you wanted to earn extra money for something, what would you do to earn it? Write about what you would want to buy and how you would earn the money.