“Shakespeare and His Theater” Reading Comprehension

Directions: Read the short article “Shakespeare and His Theater” on pages 728-730 in your *Elements of Literature* textbook. Answer the following questions, circling the correct answer. There is only one correct answer for each question.

1. A *groundling* is
   A. the audience who stands in the theater yard.
   B. a novice actor.
   C. an actor who uses the trap door.
   D. an actor who wore no shoes.

2. In the context of the sentence on page 729, what does the word “flanking” mean?
   A. a part of the stage
   B. at the sides of the stage
   C. separate from the stage
   D. close to the stage

3. What is the main idea of the article?
   A. Theaters in England only gained popularity when Shakespeare started writing plays.
   B. James Burbage was an important figure who built The Theater in London.
   C. Theaters like the Globe Theater influenced playwrights like Shakespeare.
   D. Modern lays today do not compare to performances in Shakespeare’s time.

4. A *proscenium* stage is
   A. a stage where it is like looking into a picture frame.
   B. a stage that thrusts out into the audience.
   C. a stage that has a trap door in the floor.
   D. a stage that is covered by a small curtain.

5. The theater is a medium of
   A. words.
   B. movement.
   C. ideas.
   D. acting.

6. The purpose of the article is to
   A. inform the reader about how Shakespeare wrote his plays and sonnets.
   B. inform the reader about James Burbage, who built The Theater in London.
   C. inform the reader about the Globe Theater and its influence on Shakespeare.
   D. inform the reader about the Elizabethan era in the region of London.
7. The Globe Theater was very important because
   A. Shakespeare wrote most of his plays there.
   B. the theater influences how Shakespeare wrote his plays.
   C. it developed the first permanent theater.
   D. all of the above.

8. The purpose of the illustration on page 730 is to
   A. show how complicated a theater production in the Globe Theater was.
   B. show the different sections of the Globe Theater not normally seen.
   C. show how each section of the Globe Theater was used during production.
   D. B and C only.

9. What is the purpose of the bolded text on page 730?
   A. to inform the reader that an important piece of information has shown up
   B. to make the reader aware of a vocabulary term
   C. to make the words stand out from the other text
   D. to make sure the reader is paying attention to the text

10. What is the purpose of the italics on page 730?
    A. to put emphasis on that word
    B. to make that word stand out
    C. to keep the reader’s attention
    D. to show a vocabulary term