Monaco, located on the north central coast of the Mediterranean Sea, is the world's smallest country and its second smallest monarchy. An ancient myth states that Hercules, the powerful Greek demigod, once journeyed through the Monaco area to fight and defeat several weaker gods with his prowess and valor. A temple named "Hercules Monoikos" was soon built to belaud the demigod's feat. Today, the country derives its toponym from the ancient term "Hercules Monoikos."

After a long period of decline, Monaco underwent revivification in 1228 and began to develop a strong national identity under a series of French and Italian rulers. Although these monarchs wielded absolute and plenary power for centuries, the country became a constitutional monarchy in 1911. A supreme court was created to trammel the monarch's authority and to balance power within the government. Monaco became a member of the United Nations in 1993.

The main source of income for this nation is tourism, and its Monte Carlo Casino is one of the most well known gambling institutions in the world. The Monaco Grand Prix, which is analogous to the renowned Indianapolis 500 motor race in the United States, is a Formula One race that has been held annually since 1929. It is considered by many to be one of the most important and eximious in the world—in fact, it is one of the three most famous motor races in the world. Exciting tourist attractions like the Grand Prix continue to draw international visitors to this small but glamorous nation.

1. In the third paragraph of this passage, the author's description of the Monaco Grand Prix as "eximious" means that it is

   A. modest.
   B. deadly.
   C. outdated.
   D. prestigious.

2. Read this sentence from the passage.

   An ancient myth states that Hercules, the powerful Greek demigod, once journeyed through the Monaco area and defeated several weaker gods with his prowess and valor.

   Based on its context in this sentence, the word "prowess" best fits which of the following definitions?
3. The author uses the word "toponym" in the first paragraph to mean

A. fame.
B. name.
C. geography.
D. religion.

4. Based on the first paragraph of this passage, to "belaud" means to

A. praise.
B. view.
C. understand.
D. mimic.

5. Based on the second paragraph of this passage, the word "revivification" has which of the following meanings?

A. renaming
B. restoration
C. anarchy
D. devastation

6. In the third paragraph of this passage, the author states that the Monaco Grand Prix is "analogous" to the Indianapolis 500 motor race. This means that the two events are

A. expensive.
B. obsolete.
C. similar.
D. identical.
7. Which of the following words could best replace "plenary" in the second paragraph without substantially changing the meaning of the sentence?

A. vicious
B. complete
C. brief
D. uncertain

8. Based on the context of the second paragraph, the reader can conclude that the word "trammel" means to

A. overthrow.
B. represent.
C. advocate.
D. restrict.

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Ready, Set, Klootschieten!

Klootschieten is a popular sport in the Netherlands that involves throwing a ball, or kloot, as far as possible across varying terrain. The three main styles are field, street, and standing. Each style of Klootschieten is unique, although most Klootschieters are adroit players in all three styles. Most players are able to switch effortlessly between styles during a single game.

Field Klootschieten can be played either by an individual or a team, and players attempt to reach a particular goal—usually a patch of grass or sand—in as few throws as possible. The arduous Klootschieten course is composed of curves, hills, and valleys that push players to their physical limits in their attempt to reach the goal.

Street Klootschieten is similar to the field style, but the course is mapped out in an urban rather than a rural location. Additionally, the street kloot is heavier than the one used for field games. Players in street Klootschieten face the extra challenge of keeping their kloot from running into ditches, gutters, or traffic. The field and street styles of this game require players to rely on strategy rather than physical puissance. In fact, the less powerful but more cunning players often win the top prize in this form of competition.

Standing Klootschieten is played by throwing the kloot from a standing position, and the player who throws the farthest wins the match. In May 2004, the European Klootschieten Championship was held in Westerstede, Germany. A German team named Friesischer Klootschießer Connection was able to surmount the competition to win all street, field, and standing trophies in both men and women's categories.

9. The word "surmount," as used in the fourth paragraph of this passage, has which of the following meanings?

A. to receive
B. to overcome
C. to join
D. to supervise
10. As it is used in the third paragraph of this passage, the word "puissance" has which of the following meanings?

- A. strength
- B. stature
- C. demeanor
- D. attitude

11. In the second paragraph of this passage, the author's description of the Klootschieten course as "arduous" means that it is

- A. uncomplicated.
- B. urban.
- C. high-tech.
- D. exhausting.

12. Which of the following words could be substituted for "adroit" in the first paragraph without substantially changing the meaning of the sentence?

- A. new
- B. exempt
- C. disorganized
- D. skilled