

Reading choices

Read the opinionative letter and choose the best answer for each one of the questions below:

1) What fact are the authors referring to in the letter?

- a) They are referring to a piece of news published on August 18th, called *Paying for our sins*.
- b) They are referring to the news *Gateway to the Globe*, published on July 28th.
- c) They are referring to the text *The taxes of sin*, published on July 28th.
- d) They are referring to the text *Buttonwood*, published on July 14th.

2) Choose the statement that DOESN'T present the authors' opinion about the article they read at *The Economist*.

- a) It is almost unbelievable that *The Economist* aired the idea of saving money by letting smokers die ten years early.
- b) Countries can increase the progressivity of tobacco taxes by spending them on programmes to reduce poverty, as in fact most of them generally do.
- c) You failed to consider the evidence about the effect of tobacco taxes on society at large, and the poor in particular.
- d) You also underestimated the health and economic effects of the obesity epidemic, particularly the ominous global trends in child obesity caused by a poor-quality food environment of inexpensive sugary drinks, junk food and other highly processed foods replacing traditional diets.

3) Which of excerpts below is an evidence for the argument "*Countries can increase the progressivity of tobacco taxes by spending them on programmes to reduce poverty, as in fact most of them generally do*"?

- a) Since sugary drinks are in most cases the single largest contributor of added sugar to the diet it is right that soda taxes are part of anti-obesity strategies that reach the whole population at minimal cost.
- b) As shown by country-specific research from the World Bank Group, the poor tend to smoke more and are more price responsive on average than

richer individuals, so they get a far greater share of health benefits from higher tobacco taxes than they pay.

- c) The health benefits of tobacco taxes far exceed the increase in tax liability and they accrue disproportionately to lower-income households.
- d) In the Philippines, for example, the additional tax revenue generated by the sin tax reform in 2012 has helped expand health insurance coverage for 15m low-income families.

4) The statement *"As shown by country-specific research from the World Bank Group"* can be considered an evidence for which one of the arguments below?

- a) The poor tend to smoke more and are more price responsive on average than richer individuals, so they get a far greater share of health benefits from higher tobacco taxes than they pay.
- b) You failed to consider the evidence about the effect of tobacco taxes on society at large, and the poor in particular.
- c) The health benefits of tobacco taxes far exceed the increase in tax liability and they accrue disproportionately to lower-income households.
- d) It is almost unbelievable that *The Economist* aired the idea of saving money by letting smokers die ten years early.

5) What is the main subject of the article read by the authors of the letter?

- a) China expands
- b) The efficiency of sin taxes
- c) The 2008 financial crisis
- d) Mexico's manufacturing-industry

6) What is the evidence for the following argument: *"You also underestimated the health and economic effects of the obesity epidemic"*

- a) Deviated from your previous strong support for the policy.
- b) As shown by country-specific research from the World Bank Group.
- c) Particularly the ominous global trends in child obesity caused by a poor-quality food environment of inexpensive sugary drinks, junk food and other highly processed foods replacing traditional diets.
- d) In the Philippines, for example, the additional tax revenue generated by the sin tax reform in 2012 has helped expand health insurance coverage for 15m low-income families.

7) An opinionative letter is written for the newspaper editor. Match the sentence that highlight the existence of an interlocutor for the letter:

- a) Since sugary drinks are in most cases the single largest contributor of added sugar to the diet it is right that soda taxes are part of anti-obesity strategies that reach the whole population at minimal cost.
- b) When they quit their families benefit from the reduction in passive smoking and the lower likelihood that they will fall into extreme poverty from catastrophic medical expenses and lost earnings because of tobacco-related premature ill health, disability or death.
- c) You also underestimated the health and economic effects of the obesity epidemic, particularly the ominous global trends in child obesity caused by a poor-quality food environment of inexpensive sugary drinks, junk food and other highly processed foods replacing traditional diets.
- d) The health benefits of tobacco taxes far exceed the increase in tax liability and they accrue disproportionately to lower-income households.