Question 1-11 are based on the following passage.

This passage is adapted from Jan Delhey and Christian Kroll, "A 'Happiness Test' for the New Measures of National Well-Being: How Much Better than GDP Are They?" ©2012 by WZB Berlin Social Science Center.

There is currently a broad global movement away from considerations of mere economic success towards a new public policy goal involving a broader notion of quality of life. This movement has also spurred a rethinking of which statistics inform us best about a country's situation and how its citizens are faring. For decades, the gold standard was a macroeconomic indicator: the GDP - gross domestic product, calculated per capita. This is the most prominent yardstick that the media, politicians and the public consider when they try to assess how a country is performing. However, this measure was never meant to be a measure of the welfare of nations (as its creator Simon Kuznets warned in the 1930s) and so there is growing skepticism about the GDP's usefulness as a measure of national well-being. Slogans such as "beyond GDP" or "redefining progress" challenge the preoccupation with the GDP.

Three key strategies have been employed to develop a better measure of well-being: *healing* the GDP, *complementing* the GDP, and *replacing* the GDP .

The first group of initiatives tries to deal with the downsides of the GDP by attempting to fix the indicator itself. . .

One key aim of this group of measures is to account for sustainability and the environmental damage associated with GDP growth. For example, the Index of Sustainable Economic Welfare and the Genuine Progress Indicator are both based on the consumption of private households. However, they also reflect additional social factors such as household labor and education with a rising value, while air pollution and environmental damage lower the score. As a consequence, the downsides of economic growth and modernization ought to be accounted for whilst retaining the benefits of the GDP, namely a single figure that captures different entities and is comparable across nations.

The second group of measures moves further away from the GDP as a yardstick than the previous approaches but does not abandon the sum of goods and services altogether. Instead, this group of measures seeks to assess national well-being by complementing the GDP with a number of key social indicators.

For example, the Human Development Index comprises the three dimensions health, education, and material living conditions, which are measured by life expectancy, years of schooling, and GNI [gross national income], respectively.

While the method of complementing the GDP with further indicators is able to overcome the controversial monetization from which the measures that try to "heal GDP" suffer, the standardization of different units is also controversial. In particular, merging different units into a single standardized index is methodologically challenging and again requires value judgements by the researcher.

The most radical departure from the GDP is embodied by the third group of measures, which seeks alternative indicators of well-being without accounting for the sum of goods and services produced in an economy. The logic behind this approach is that the GDP has always been and remains a means to an end rather than the end itself.

Famous examples include the Happy Planet Index calculated by the New Economics Foundation. The index comprises life expectancy, life satisfaction, and the ecological footprint and is therefore able to demonstrate how many resources countries need in order to produce a certain level of health and subjective well-being.

Replacing the GDP altogether is quite a drastic strategy for assessing national well-being, as not only is economic growth a prerequisite for many of the social goods that make life enjoyable but the metric of GDP is also highly correlated with such other factors. Thus, by arguing that the GDP is only a means to an end, these measures are in danger of making a conceptual assumption that is notable in theory but can be challenged in practice on the basis of actual causal mechanisms and empirical data.

Happy Planet Index (HPI) by Geographic Subregion
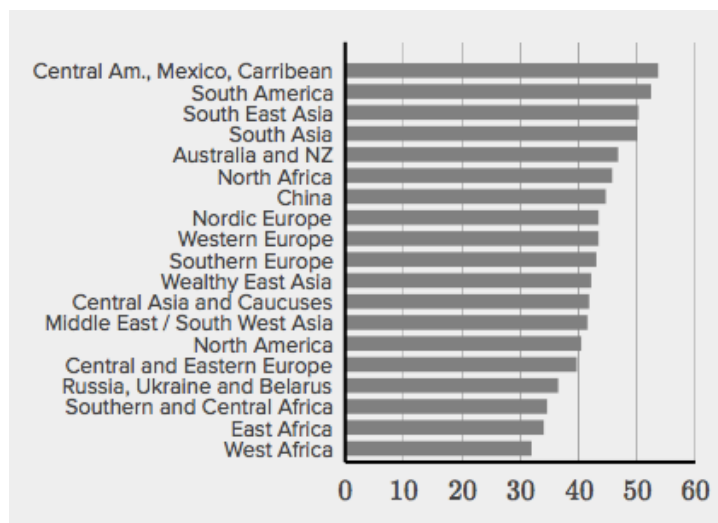
Adapted from "The Unhappy Planet Index 2.0," ©2009 by nef (the new economics foundation)

CONTINUE

1

The authors' central claim in the passage is that
A) replacing the GDP outright may seem appealing, but its alternatives would be difficult and dangerous to implement.
B) well-being and economics have not been shown to correlate to any significant degree.
C) the GDP can only measure economics, while happiness must be considered primarily in terms of other factors.
D) there is a growing movement to improve the way in which a country's well-being is measured.

2

In the first paragraph, the reference to Simon Kuznets mainly serves to
A) emphasize that the GDP is a respected and valid tool.
B) underscore a common concern about the GDP by citing a critic.
C) clarify an abstract point about the development of the GDP by mentioning its creator.
D) strengthen the argument that the GDP does not adequately measure well-being.

3

As used in line 8, "prominent" most nearly means
A) pronounced.
B) remarkable.
C) recognized.
D) projecting.

4

The authors imply that the "first group of initiatives" would primarily
A) change the measurement approach to encompass only social factors.
B) take both positive and negative factors into account universally.
C) show the positive effects of modernization in its new measurements.
D) shift the measurement of GDP so that it is calculated per capita.

5

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?
A) lines 17–19 ("Three . . . the GDP")
B) lines 20–22 ("The first . . . itself")
C) lines 25–27 ("For example . . . households")
D) lines 30–34 ("As a consequence . . . nations")

6

As used in line 33, "figure" most nearly means
A) symbol.
B) number.
C) level.
D) structure.

7

It can be inferred that the alternative approach to measuring happiness that is most different from the current approach is based on the belief that
A) GDP is a helpful measurement of how economics contribute to welfare in different countries.
B) the sum of goods and services produced by a country is not a necessary factor in determining a country's well-being.
C) material living conditions and life expectancy have no effect on individual happiness.
D) economic prosperity is a good predictor of life expectancy and is particularly useful for comparing life expectancies around the world.

8

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?
A) lines 52–55 ("The most . . . economy")
B) lines 55–57 ("The logic . . . itself")
C) lines 58–59 ("Famous . . . Foundation")
D) lines 59–63 ("The index . . . well-being")

9

According to the graph, the region with the fourth-lowest HPI score is
A) Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus.
B) Central and Eastern Europe.
C) South Asia.
D) North America.

10

Based on the passage, which of the following is most likely to contribute to South America's HPI ranking?
A) A somewhat high duration of education
B) A moderately low gross national income
C) A fairly low production of services
D) A relatively high life expectancy

CONTINUE ▶

11

The greatest number of geographic regions have an HPI score in which range?

A) 20-30

B) 30-40

C) 40-50

D) 50-60