

## Construct Meaning: Supporting Evidence 1

**Read the passage below and then answer the questions. The following excerpt was taken from [www.go.grolier.com](http://www.go.grolier.com).**

Florence Nightingale, an Englishwoman, was the founder of modern nursing and a pioneer in hygiene and sanitation. She was born on May 12, 1820, in Florence, Italy, the younger of two daughters. Florence was brought up in great luxury in England and was tutored by her father in English literature, history, philosophy, and several languages. In 1837, at age 17, she wrote that she had heard the voice of God calling her to service. Several years later, she decided that this had been a call to nurse the sick.

Her family strongly opposed this choice. Nursing was considered unsuitable for a lady, and Florence was expected to devote herself instead to a husband, family, and social activities. She did not want this kind of life, however, and refused to marry.

In 1851, Nightingale traveled to Kaiserswerth, Germany, to gain nursing experience and soon became an expert on hospital administration. In 1853 she took her first post--managing a small hospital for women on Harley Street in London (later called the Florence Nightingale Hospital for Gentlewomen). She revolutionized the hospital's administration by emphasizing training for nurses and better patient care.

In 1854, shortly after the Crimean War broke out (between Russia, Britain, France, the Turkish Ottoman Empire, and Sardinia), news reached London of the terrible state of hospitals in the Russian Crimea (a peninsula in the Black Sea). Because Nightingale had been so successful with her hospital in London, Sidney Herbert, war secretary for the British government, asked her to recruit nurses to care for war victims. On October 21, 1854, she and 38 nurses sailed for the Crimea. There they found more than 5,000 wounded and sick soldiers in so-called hospitals: bare, unsanitary buildings with no facilities for medical care.

After Nightingale's assignment was reported in the British press, readers of the *London Times* raised funds to help her with her work. At first she made improvements in the patients' meals. She then equipped the hospitals and made them sanitary, and also inspected each ward daily. Although she encountered resistance from those who did not want a woman involved with such matters, she eventually triumphed and saved many lives.

When Nightingale returned to England in 1856, she was hailed as a heroine but refused all honors and went into seclusion. Although many believed she had died, she had actually come home to continue her work for the soldiers. She believed that personal popularity would create prejudices against her in the government. Quietly, unknown to the public, she worked for army reform. In this she was encouraged by Queen Victoria and helped by Sidney Herbert. For the first time, army living conditions were scientifically examined and stricter health and sanitary measures were adopted. In 1858, Nightingale published a lengthy report on army hospitals. She also published many other works, including a short book for the general public on basic nursing care.

Florence Nightingale's study of army hospitals led her to work with civilian hospitals and public health. In 1860, with donated money, she opened the Nightingale Training School for Nurses at St. Thomas's Hospital, London. This was the beginning of modern nursing. Women all over the world were increasingly drawn to the nursing profession, particularly in the United States during the Civil War (1861-65).

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Although Nightingale became an invalid due to illness contracted during the war, she continued working for several more years and assisted the British War Office. She drew up regulations, reported on plans for new barracks, and reviewed papers on sanitation. In 1907 she became the first woman to receive the British Order of Merit. She died in London at age 90 on August 13, 1910.

**Now choose the best answer for each question.**

1. The first sentence states that Florence Nightingale was “the founder of modern nursing.” Which of these means the same as the phrase?
  - A. She found a nurse.
  - B. She established a foundry.
  - C. She started nursing as we know it today.
  - D. She created a nursery.
2. Which of these is evidence that her family did not want her to become a nurse?
  - A. Her family strongly opposed this choice.
  - B. She refused to get married.
  - C. She wanted social activities.
  - D. Nursing was suitable for a lady.
3. Which of these ideas from the passage is the best evidence that Florence Nightingale drastically changed hospital care?
  - A. She revolutionized the hospital’s administration by emphasizing training for nurses and better patient care.
  - B. She and 38 nurses sailed for the Crimean.
  - C. She took her first post in Germany.
  - D. She was tutored by her father in English literature, history, philosophy, and several languages.

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4. Which of these statements supports the idea that Florence Nightingale worked for army reform?
- A. She published a short book on basic nursing care.
  - B. For the first time, army living conditions were scientifically examined and stricter health and sanitary measures were adopted.
  - C. She believed that personal popularity would create problems with the government.
  - D. She returned to England and went into seclusion.
5. Which of these does not support the idea that Florence Nightingale changed war victims' health care for the better?
- A. She improved patients' meals.
  - B. She equipped the hospitals and made them sanitary.
  - C. She inspected the wards daily.
  - D. Her assignment was reported in the British press.
6. Which of these is evidence that Florence Nightingale did not seek personal recognition for her good works?
- A. Although hailed as a heroine, Florence Nightingale refused public acclaim.
  - B. She also published many other works, including a short work for the general public on basic nursing care.
  - C. She was encouraged by Queen Victoria and helped by Sidney Herbert.
  - D. Her assignments were reported in the British press.
7. Which of these statements from the passage does not support the idea that Florence Nightingale's experience with the military contributed to improvements in public health?
- A. Florence Nightingale became an invalid due to illness contracted during the war.
  - B. Florence Nightingale study of army hospitals led her to work with civilian hospitals.
  - C. Because of Florence Nightingale's work all over the world, women were drawn to the nursing profession.
  - D. She opened the Nightingale Training School.

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8. The sixth line in the fourth paragraph states that "There they found more than five thousand wounded and sick soldiers in so-called hospitals." Which of these means the same as "so-called"?
- A. popularly known as
  - B. nicknamed
  - C. called socially
  - D. having the name but not the attributes
9. Which of these statements would make Florence Nightingale a typical woman of her times?
- A. She changed hospital life for soldiers.
  - B. She refused to get married.
  - C. She and 38 nurses cared for Crimean War victims.
  - D. She devoted herself to a husband, family, and social activities.
10. Which of these statements is best supported by the passage?
- A. Nursing is still considered unsuitable for ladies.
  - B. The nursing profession owes its present status to the extraordinary works of Florence Nightingale.
  - C. Nurses today are called to service by the voice of God.
  - D. The nursing profession began in Florence, Italy in 1820.

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### Answer Key

1. C
2. A
3. A
4. B
5. D
6. A
7. C
8. D
9. D
10. B