

## Questions 11-20

By the 1920s in the United States, great change had been made in daily life by an accumulation of inventions that had been produced in increasing numbers since the Civil War. These technological innovations created what, in effect, was a social revolution.

Improvements in communications served to knit more closely citizens of diverse ethnic and political backgrounds. Rapid printing presses, typesetting devices, and page-plate processes made printed matter more widely accessible. The telephone simplified person-to-person communication. The phonograph, the silent motion picture, the radio, and the sound picture for the first time made auditory and visual impact simultaneously possible over the whole country and had the inevitable, and perhaps undesirable, effect of establishing a trend to national conformity in thought and feeling. One could call this revolution the nationalization of thought and taste.

Improvements in transportation made all parts of the country less remote from each other when measured by the time required to go from one place to another. Bicycles and trolleys put the nation on wheels. Then the automobile provided the means for speed and mobility, now so dear to Americans, and brought a demand for better highways. By the 1920s cargo trucks were beginning to cut into railroad revenues, and the latest wonder, the airplane, was a fairly common sight.

The transport revolution was made possible by the development and perfection of new engines and motors. The internal-combustion engine, using gasoline or oil, could be built in compact power units admirably suited to automobiles, aircraft, and boats. The use of electricity, generated by water power or coal-burning plants, simplified the problems of mechanical power for industrial use and made electrical illumination commonplace in cities, indoors and out. Electricity also powered an increasing variety of domestic appliances.

11. The passage focuses on the United States in the 1920s primarily in terms of the  
(A) creativity of American inventors  
(B) decline in social relationships  
(C) influence of technology on society  
(D) negative side of technological progress
12. The word "knit" in line 5 is closest in meaning to  
(A) unite  
(B) attract  
(C) inform  
(D) study
13. The word "accessible" in line 7 is closest in meaning to  
(A) understandable  
(B) read  
(C) printed  
(D) available
14. According to the author, expanded communications led to a decrease in  
(A) individuality  
(B) travel  
(C) patriotism  
(D) entertainment
15. The words "each other" in line 15 refer to  
(A) improvements in transportation  
(B) parts of the country  
(C) bicycles and trolleys  
(D) better highways
16. The word "mobility" in line 17 is closest in meaning to  
(A) excitement  
(B) movement  
(C) modernity  
(D) control
17. According to the passage, which of the following modes of transportation was negatively affected by motor vehicles?  
(A) Trolleys  
(B) Bicycles  
(C) Trains  
(D) Airplanes
18. The passage suggests that a major advantage of the internal-combustion engine was its  
(A) safety  
(B) size  
(C) durability  
(D) price