**Main Ideas and Supporting Details**

**Number 1. Identifying the main idea**

*Circle the main idea of the following paragraph.*

Americans like toast, eggs, and cereal. In China people eat congee, a thick rice. People in Japan often have a soup called miso. Pancakes made from lentil beans are favored in India. Bread and coffee with milk are the most popular breakfast foods in France. Breakfast around the world is a matter of different tastes.

The main idea of the paragraph is:

A. people in China and Japan like different foods

B. cereal is a popular breakfast food in the United States

C. people eat different foods for breakfast around the world

**Number 2. Matching main idea and supporting details**

*Circle three relevant supporting details of the following main idea.*

Main Idea: Elephants are very intelligent animals.

A. For years, hunters shot elephants to obtain the ivory from their tusks.

B. Like chimps, elephants can recognize their reflections in mirrors.

C. Elephants tear off branches of trees to use as fly swatters.

D. Elephants have been seen keeping vigil over their dead companions.

E. An elephant can live as long as sixty-five years.

F. Elephants should not be forced to perform in circuses.

**Number 3. Outlining**

*Write an outline of the following paragraph in the space provided.*

1Serious depression, as opposed to the fleeting kind we all feel at times, has definite warning signs. 2One symptom of depression is a change in sleep patterns—either sleeplessness or sleeping too much. 3In addition, abnormal eating patterns may develop, either eating too much or loss of appetite. 4A third sign is trouble in thinking or concentrating—even to the point of finding it difficult to read a magazine or newspaper. 5And last of all, a general feeling of hopelessness may signal depression. 6People feel indifferent to their families and jobs and may begin to think that life is not worth living.

Main Idea: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Supporting detail: 1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Supporting detail: 2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Supporting detail: 3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Supporting detail: 4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_