REVIEW A GRAPH
The Wage Gap

In the decades since the Equal Rights Amendment was first written, American women have made some great strides. But when it comes to salaries, women still have a long way to go to achieve equality. On average, female workers today earn about 79 percent of what their male counterparts make for similar work. That means that for every dollar a man earns, a woman in the same occupation earns just 79 cents.

This bar graph compares women’s earnings with men’s for selected jobs. As you can see, the wage gap varies widely by industry. Study the graph, then answer the questions.

Questions

1. A female accountant earns about how much for every dollar a male accountant makes?
   - A) 71 cents
   - B) 81 cents
   - C) 87 cents
   - D) 97 cents

2. Which of these jobs has the largest pay gap?
   - A) chief executive
   - B) lawyer
   - C) middle school teacher
   - D) personal financial adviser

3. For which of these jobs do women earn more than men, on average?
   - A) cook
   - B) chief executive
   - C) real estate agent
   - D) stock clerk

4. For every dollar a male police officer earns, a female police officer earns about how much less?
   - A) 14 cents
   - B) 29 cents
   - C) 42 cents
   - D) 71 cents

5. Which can you conclude based on this graph?
   - A) Female workers today earn less than they did in 1923.
   - B) The gender pay gap is about the same for physicians and cooks.
   - C) The gender pay gap varies by industry.
   - D) A female stock clerk earns more than a female real estate agent.

Writing Prompt: Women’s rights advocates often say that the gender pay gap isn’t just a “women’s issue.” What do you think they mean? How might the gender pay gap affect men and children in today’s society? On a separate sheet of paper, write two paragraphs explaining your answer.