**Read the following story and complete the subsequent tasks.**

**The Story: Decisions, Decisions, Decisions**The alarm goes off, bringing Mike out of dreams to the reality of another school day in eighth grade. Ugh--the day of the math test, year 11 subject selection day, and his speech in English class. "If I didn't brush my teeth or wash my face, I would have two more minutes in bed," Mike thought. But then he changed his mind, thinking about what he would be doing that day. "This one won't make it with the kids in my class; this one won't please my English teacher who is judging my speech; this one won't pass my mother in the kitchen; but then this one might please them all." So it went, as he brushed his hair on the way to the kitchen.

If he didn't take time to eat anything, he would have some extra time to look over his math before his test. But he knew he never thought very well when his stomach was growling, so he grabbed some toast and orange juice before leaving for school.

First lesson he had his math test. This test would make the difference between a C or a B for this quarter, but he hadn't thought about that too much when he had time to study. Some of the questions were fairly easy. Some, he found, were tricky. Pete, the "brain" of the class, was sitting across the aisle from him and his paper was exposed. Mike could see Pete's answer to the fourth problem, but looked away and continued working on it himself. Oh well...he'll get the grade he deserved.

During his free period he decided to go to the course counsellor, instead of meeting with his friends. He had to make up his mind whether he would take Tech next year or History. He had to decide by the end of the day when he would be handing in his course registration sheet. The Tech he wanted wouldn't be offered in Year 11, and History would be harder if he waited to take it up in Year 12. The counsellor told him that the decision was up to him. Gee, thanks... always up to me! He already had a heavy academic load for next year, so he thought he would take the Tech course that was offered.

Thinking that most of his decisions for the day were over, he went to English class, getting into the mood for his speech on drugs and teenagers. He had worked hard on it and had practiced on every member of his family. Then Miss Carroll announced that there was only time for three of the four speeches. She asked who would rather wait until tomorrow. If Mike did, he would have still more time to practice, but if he didn't he would worry about it that night. He told Miss Carroll he would like to give it that day.

At noon, some of his buddies wanted him to go out to the oval with them during lunch. Some others want him to play on the softball team. He wanted to do both, but wanted to play ball more. He hoped he hadn't made his other friends mad.

When school was out he knew he had a science quiz the next day, a social studies report due in two days, and an invitation to play tennis with Bob--a great player--after school. He had promised his mother he would clean the garage and practice his trumpet today. So what was he going to do? Which was more important?

After dinner, he had a phone call from his friend, Frank, asking him to go to the baseball game Saturday. He had already told his Dad he would go fishing at the cabin. His Dad didn't have many weekends free, but he wasn’t always asked to the baseball game ether. He told Frank he’d let him know.

Two hours left before bed. His favourite TV program was on, and he had that quiz tomorrow. Could he get by in science without studying for the quiz? What would that do to his grade? At 11 p.m. he fell into bed exhausted from all the things he had to decide during the day. He thought of those waiting for him tomorrow. Life was just one decision after another.

Now that you have read the story;

1. Mark on the table below the decisions Mike has made that are almost automatic "A."

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1**  To get out of bed | **2**  To brush his teeth and wash his face | **3**  What shirt to wear | **4**  Whether to eat anything for breakfast | **5**  To go to class, or school, that day |
| **6**  To cheat on his math test | **7**  How to spend his free period | **8**  To take Tech or History next year | **9**  To back out of giving his speech in English | **10**  To go to the park or play ball during lunch |
| **11**  To play tennis after school, or clean the garage and practice the trumpet | **12**  To go to the baseball game with Frank or fishing with his father | **13**  To watch the TV program or study for his science test | **14**  To watch the TV program and stay up longer studying | **15**  To go to bed |

1. Mark the 5 most important (critical) decisions "C”.

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| --- |
|  |

What are the 5 most important decisions, and why?