Selecting and Reporting the News Exercise

(from "Reporting for the Media" by John R. Bender, Lucinda D. Davenport, Michael W. Drager, Fred Fedler)

Rank the following nine stories by their newsworthiness, starting with "1" for the most newsworthy:

A. _____ The U.S. Department of Education released a report today that said high school students in your city have reached an all-time high in scoring on their SAT exams.

B. _____ The state approved a plan to build a six-lane bypass around your city that will cost $284 million and destroy thousands of acres of prime agricultural and developable land.

C. _____ A city man was charged in an arson fire that destroyed an apartment building and killed eight people, including five children.

D. _____ FBI investigators visited the public libraries in your city to check on the reading records of several local residents whom the FBI believe may be linked to terrorism.

E. _____ Three Israelis and 10 Palestinians were killed in a suicide bombing at a bus stop in a suburb of Tel Aviv.

F. _____ The parents of quintuplets in your city saw their five children off to school for the first time, as the three boys and two girls were picked up by a bus that took them to kindergarten.

G. _____ More than 100 people were killed and another 800 injured when a runaway passenger train collided with a freight train in Tanzania.

H. _____ Tennis star Serena Williams today announced that she is retiring from tennis and plans to become a sports announcer.

I. _____ City officials agreed at their Tuesday night council meeting to spend $128 million to build a new trash incinerator that would burn trash from the city as well as from six surrounding counties.