

PART II

USAGE AND READING COMPREHENSION

INSTRUCTIONS:

This section contains **TWO** passages. Read the passages carefully and answer the questions that follow. There is a cloze exercise based on the first passage, which is the usage part of the examination.

ALL questions must be answered in complete sentences and in your own words unless otherwise indicated.

All answers must be based on information in the passages.

Special attention should be given to the directions for each question.

PASSAGE I**Getting ‘Boared’ in the Abacos!**

Like most things in the Abacos, it all began centuries ago with the original settlers. Along with chests of household articles, seeds and infant plants, medicine and bottles of rum, the first settlers brought livestock with them, such as horses, chickens, dogs, cats and pigs. On Abaco there were acres of thick, wild forests which were ideal for the pigs, as they could roam and make dozens of babies. They could also hide.

5 Yes, unfortunately for the pigs, there were persons who hunted them. Today, the hunting continues.

In Abaco, people like Philip Albury can recall stories about his great grandfather returning from the hunt, lugging a wild pig, also called a boar, on his back. Philip himself has been hunting since he was a boy and still enjoys occasional treks into the bush when he can spare time away from work.

10 He told me that there were once countless boars roaming the Abacos. The boars at that time were much smaller in size due to the extreme competition for food. With the advent of better roads, trucks, guns and hunting dogs, the wild hogs are becoming fewer in number. Yet there are some which grow to impressive and often dangerous proportions. The heaviest boar Philip has caught weighed about 200 pounds.

15 Nowadays, there are two types of boar-hunting. “Watching” is usually done in the summer months and, as the word implies, involves the hunter sitting in an open area often frequented by wild boars because of its waterhole or flourishing fruit trees. As the boars come to eat, the hunters, armed and ready, launch a surprise attack. The second practice is to hunt with dogs.

20 When in the wilds, the dogs on the back of a hunting truck give an indication that the boars are on the loose in the area. With the first scent, the hunters, who have been closely watching their dogs, obey the animals’ command to stop the truck. **Then the dogs fly from the back of the truck, hot on the trail of wild boar.** At this point, all the hunters have to do is to wait and watch. The dogs chase the boars throughout the bush. As the hunters listen to the tone of the barking, they can discern where the animals are. Eventually, the chase will lead the boars to the open road, where the hunters, guns at the ready, await their arrival.

25 Boar-hunting is usually done very early at about 4:00 a.m., because the morning drafts, which are currents of air, allow the scent of the boars to be absorbed by the dew on the shrubbery much more easily than later in the day. Another popular time is at twilight. The trek can take six to seven hours before a hunter spots a boar. That is a very long time. Therefore, good hunters are patient and focused.

30 Boars are more distinctive in their appearance than their tamer relatives, the domestic pig. They have a prominent jaw that developed after years of crushing roots and seed husks for their survival. They are also much leaner, which accounts for their tremendous speed. The snout is very long and they grow tusks up to six inches long, sharp and deadly. Apart from self-defense, these tusks are used to search for and dig roots out of the ground. Their thick covering of grey and brown hair camouflages the boars in their natural setting. Boars are prolific breeders, producing many offspring. However, poachers and irresponsible hunters are the biggest threats to ensuring that a wild boar population continues to exist.

35 Hunters agree that The Bahamas needs a Wild Boar Hunters Association. The Association’s goals would include protectionist legal actions, such as setting aside a hunting season during the winter months and declaring selected areas in the forests as “hunt-free” zones. The zones would be rotated every two or three seasons. These measures would allow the wild boar an opportunity to breed and thrive without becoming almost extinct in any one area of the Abacos.

Adapted from an article on www.go-abacos.com/news



USAGE
CLOZE EXERCISE: QUESTIONS 17–26

The following sentences are based on information found in lines 1–38 of the passage on page 10. Fill in the blanks in each sentence with a single word so as to complete the sense. The word you use should be made out of a word already used in the passage. The blanks are numbered from 17 to 26.

Getting ‘Boared’ in the Abacos!

Like most things in the Abacos, it all began centuries ago with the original settlers. Along with chests of household articles, seeds and infant plants, medicine and bottles of rum, the first settlers brought livestock with them, such as horses, chickens, dogs, cats and pigs. On Abaco there were acres of thick, wild forests which were ideal for the pigs, as they could roam and make dozens of babies. They could also hide. Yes, unfortunately for these pigs, there were persons who hunted them. Today, the hunting continues.

In Abaco, people like Philip Albury can recall stories about his great grandfather returning from the hunt, lugging a wild boar on his back. Philip himself has been hunting since he was a boy and still enjoys (17) _____ (line 8) trekking into the bush when he can spare time away from work.

He told me that there were once countless boars roaming the Abacos. The boars at that time were much smaller in size because they had to (18) _____ (line 10) for food. With the advent of better roads, trucks, guns and hunting dogs, the wild hogs are becoming fewer in number. Yet there are some which grow to impressive and often dangerous proportions. The heaviest boar Philip has caught weighed about 200 pounds.

Nowadays, there are two types of boar-hunting. “Watching” is usually done in the summer months and, as the word implies, involves the hunter sitting in an open area which wild boars (19) _____ (line 14) visit because of its waterhole or flourishing fruit trees. As the boars come to eat, the hunters, armed and ready, launch a surprise attack. The second practice is to hunt with dogs.

When in the wilds, the dogs on the back of a hunting truck (20) _____ (line 17) that the boars are on the loose in the area. With the first scent, the hunters, who have been closely watching their dogs, obey the animals’ command to stop the truck. Then the dogs fly from the back of the truck, hot on the trail of wild boar. At this point, all the hunters have to do is to wait and watch. The dogs chase the boars throughout the bush. As the hunters listen to the tone of the barking, they can discern where the animals are. Eventually, the chase will lead the boars to the open road, where the hunters, guns at the ready, wait for them to (21) _____ (line 22).

The (22) _____ (line 23) time for boar-hunting is very early at about 4:00 a.m., because the morning drafts, which are currents of air, allow the scent of the boars to be absorbed by the dew on the shrubbery much more easily than later in the day. Another popular time is at twilight. The trek can take six to seven hours before a hunter spots a boar. That is a very long time. Therefore, good hunters develop (23) _____ (line 26) and the ability to focus.

Boars are more distinctive in their appearance than their tamer relatives, the domestic pig. They have a prominent jaw that developed after years of crushing roots and seed husks in order to (24) _____ (line 28). They are also much leaner, which accounts for their tremendous speed. The snout is very long and they grow tusks up to six inches long, sharp and deadly. Apart from self-defense, these tusks are used to search for and dig roots out of the ground. Their thick covering of grey and brown hair camouflages the boars in their natural setting. Boars are prolific breeders. This means that their (25) _____ (line 32) of offspring is huge. However, poachers and irresponsible hunters are the biggest threats to ensuring that a wild boar population continues to exist.

Hunters agree that The Bahamas needs a Wild Boar Hunters Association. The Association’s goals would include protectionist legal actions, such as setting aside a hunting season during the winter months and declaring selected areas in the forests as “hunt-free” zones. The zones would be rotated every two or three seasons. These measures would allow the wild boars an opportunity to breed and thrive without the threat of (26) _____ (line 38) in any one area of the Abacos.

*Adapted from an article on
www.go-abacos.com/news*

TOTAL MARKS = [10]

