VIP TOEFL iBT 2026 Placement Test

Reading: Stage 2B (14 Minutes)

Complete the Words

- Fill in the missing letters in the paragraph.

Urban planning helps cities manage growth while balancing housing, transport, and green space for residents and businesses. Planners (1) **coord**_ _ _ _ _ agencies, (2) **al**_ _ _ budgets, (3) **a**_ _ set (4) **poli**_ _ _ _ that (5) **imp**_ _ _ _ safety (6) **a**_ _ access. (7) **Well-desi**_ _ _ _ streets (8) **a**_ _ transit (9) **red**_ _ _ congestion (10) **a**_ _ connect neighborhoods to schools, clinics, and markets. Public consultations allow residents to raise concerns and suggest changes. When plans include affordable housing and protected parks, development can proceed without displacing long-time neighbors. Regular reviews track outcomes and guide adjustments as needs evolve.

1. coord _ _ _ _ _ 2. al _ _ _ 3. a _ _ 4. poli _ _ _ _

5. imp _ _ _ _ 6. a _ _ 7. well-desi _ _ _ _ 8. a _ _ 9. red _ _ _

10. a _ _

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Read an Academic Text

- Read and choose the correct answer.

History (The Fall of the Roman Empire)

The decline of the Roman Empire has long intrigued historians, who argue that a complex combination of internal and external factors led to its collapse. Within the empire, political instability weakened central authority. Many emperors ruled for only brief periods, creating confusion and frequent struggles for power. Corruption and poor leadership reduced public confidence, while heavy taxation and the widespread use of slave labor slowed economic innovation. These problems discouraged citizens from taking part in government and trade. As trust in the state declined, the army also became less disciplined and loyal, leaving Rome increasingly vulnerable.

External pressures further accelerated the empire's decline. Invasions by Germanic tribes such as the Visigoths and Vandals placed enormous strain on Roman defenses. In 410 CE, the Visigoths famously sacked Rome, destroying parts of the city and shocking the ancient world. The Western Empire eventually fell in 476 CE, marking the end of Roman rule in Western Europe. However, the Eastern Empire, known as Byzantium, continued to prosper for another thousand years. The fall of Rome demonstrates that even the most powerful civilizations can deteriorate gradually through a combination of political weakness, economic decline, and repeated military challenges rather than a single catastrophic event.

Questions:

1) Which of the following was an internal problem of Rome?
   A. Military pressure from migrating tribes along its borders
   B. Heavy taxation and corruption
   C. Administrative interference from the Eastern Empire
   D. A stable but overly centralized government

2) The word *sacked* in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to:
   A. Destroyed and looted
   B. Captured and governed
   C. Surrounded and isolated
   D. Occupied peacefully

3) What can be inferred about the Eastern Roman Empire?
   A. It experienced a sudden collapse similar to the West
   B. It survived longer than the Western Empire
   C. It depended entirely on Western military protection
   D. It avoided the political problems faced by Rom

4) Look at the four squares [■] that indicate where the following sentence could be added:

Type text here

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Sentence:
As these weaknesses accumulated, Rome found it increasingly difficult to respond effectively to outside threats.

Paragraph 1:
The decline of the Roman Empire has long intrigued historians, who argue that a complex combination of internal and external factors led to its collapse. ■ Within the empire, political instability weakened central authority. Many emperors ruled for only brief periods, creating confusion and frequent struggles for power. ■ Corruption and poor leadership reduced public confidence, while heavy taxation and the widespread use of slave labor slowed economic innovation. ■ These problems discouraged citizens from taking part in government and trade. As trust in the state declined, the army also became less disciplined and loyal, leaving Rome increasingly vulnerable. ■

Where would the sentence best fit?
A. First Square
B. Second Square
C. Third Square
D. Fourth Square

5) What is the main purpose of this passage?
A. To argue that foreign invasions alone caused Rome's collapse
B. To narrate the cultural achievements of Byzantium
C. To explain multiple factors that led to Rome's decline
D. To evaluate whether Rome could have prevented its fall

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