

SECTION 3
READING COMPREHENSION
Time—55 minutes
(including the reading of the directions)
Now set your clock for 55 minutes.

This section is designed to measure your ability to read and understand short passages similar in topic and style to those that students are likely to encounter in North American universities and colleges. This section contains reading passages and questions about the passages.

Directions: In this section you will read several passages. Each one is followed by a number of questions about it. You are to choose the **one** best answer, (A), (B), (C), or (D), to each question. Then, on your answer sheet, find the number of the question and fill in the space that corresponds to the letter of the answer you have chosen.

Answer all questions about the information in a passage on the basis of what is **stated** or **implied** in that passage.

Read the following passage:

John Quincy Adams, who served as the sixth president of the United States from 1825 to 1829, is today recognized for his masterful statesmanship and diplomacy. He dedicated his life to public service, both in the presidency and in the various other political offices that he held. Throughout his political career he demonstrated his unswerving belief in freedom of speech, the antislavery cause, and the right of Americans to be free from European and Asian domination.

Example I

To what did John Quincy Adams devote his life?

- (A) Improving his personal life
- (B) Serving the public
- (C) Increasing his fortune
- (D) Working on his private business

Sample Answer

- (A)
- ☒ (B)
- (C)
- (D)

According to the passage, John Quincy Adams "dedicated his life to public service." Therefore, you should choose answer (B).

Example II

In line 4, the word "unswerving" is closest in meaning to

- (A) moveable
- (B) insignificant
- (C) unchanging
- (D) diplomatic

Sample Answer

- (A)
- (B)
- ☒ (C)
- (D)

The passage states that John Quincy Adams demonstrated his unswerving belief "throughout his career." This implies that the belief did not change. Therefore, you should choose answer (C).

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Questions 1-9

Line John James Audubon, nineteenth-century artist and naturalist, is known as one of the foremost
(5) authorities on North American birds. Born in Les Cayes, Haiti, in 1785, Audubon was raised in France and studied art under French artist Jacques-Louis David. After settling on his father's Pennsylvania estate at the age of eighteen, he first began to study and paint birds.

(10) In his young adulthood, Audubon undertook numerous enterprises, generally without a tremendous amount of success; at various times during his life he was involved in a mercantile business, a lumber and grist mill, a taxidermy business, and a school. His general mode of operating a business was to leave it either unattended or in the hands of a partner and take off on excursions through the wilds to paint the natural life that he saw. His business career came to an end in 1819 when he was jailed for debt and forced to file for bankruptcy.

(15) It was at that time that Audubon began to seriously pursue the dream of publishing a collection of his paintings of birds. For the next six years he painted birds in their natural habitats while his wife worked as a teacher to support the family. His *Birds of America*, which included engravings of 435 of his colorful and lifelike watercolors, was published in parts during the period from 1826 to 1838 in England. After the success of the English editions, American editions of his work were published in 1839, and his fame and fortune were ensured.

1. This passage is mainly about
 - (A) North American birds
 - (B) Audubon's route to success as a painter of birds
 - (C) the works that Audubon published
 - (D) Audubon's preference for travel in natural habitats
2. The word "foremost" in line 1 is closest in meaning to
 - (A) prior
 - (B) leading
 - (C) first
 - (D) largest
3. In the second paragraph, the author mainly discusses
 - (A) how Audubon developed his painting style
 - (B) Audubon's involvement in a mercantile business
 - (C) where Audubon went on his excursions
 - (D) Audubon's unsuccessful business practices
4. The word "mode" in line 7 could best be replaced by
 - (A) method
 - (B) vogue
 - (C) average
 - (D) trend
5. Audubon decided not to continue to pursue business when
 - (A) he was injured in an accident at a grist mill
 - (B) he decided to study art in France
 - (C) he was put in prison because he owed money
 - (D) he made enough money from his paintings
6. The word "pursue" in line 11 is closest in meaning to
 - (A) imagine
 - (B) share
 - (C) follow
 - (D) deny

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7. According to the passage, Audubon's paintings
- (A) were realistic portrayals
 - (B) used only black, white, and gray
 - (C) were done in oils
 - (D) depicted birds in cages
8. The word "support" in line 13 could best be replaced by
- (A) tolerate
 - (B) provide for
 - (C) side with
 - (D) fight for
9. It can be inferred from the passage that after 1839 Audubon
- (A) unsuccessfully tried to develop new businesses
 - (B) continued to be supported by his wife
 - (C) traveled to Europe
 - (D) became wealthy

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Questions 10–19

Line These stories of killer bees in the news in recent years have attracted a lot of attention as the
(5) bees have made their way from South America to North America. Killer bees are reputed to be extremely aggressive in nature, although experts say that their aggression may have been somewhat inflated.

(10) The killer bee is a hybrid—or combination—of the very mild European strain of honeybee and the considerably more aggressive African bee, which was created when the African strain was imported into Brazil in 1955. The African bees were brought into Brazil because their aggression was considered an advantage: they were far more productive than their European counterparts in that they spent a higher percentage of their time working and continued working longer in inclement weather than did the European bees.

(15) These killer bees have been known to attack humans and animals, and some fatalities have occurred. Experts point out, however, that the mixed breed known as the killer bee is actually not at all as aggressive as the pure African bee. They also point out that the attacks have a chemical cause. A killer bee stings only when it has been disturbed; it is not aggressive by nature. However, after a disturbed bee stings and flies away, it leaves its stinger embedded in the victim. In the vicera attached to the embedded stinger is the chemical isoamyl acetate, which has an odor that attracts other bees. As other bees approach the victim of the original sting, the victim tends to panic, thus disturbing other bees and causing them to sting. The new stings create more of the chemical isoamyl acetate, which attracts more bees and increases the panic level of the victim. Killer bees tend to travel in large (20) clusters or swarms and thus respond in large numbers to the production of isoamyl acetate.

10. The subject of the preceding paragraph was most likely
 - (A) ways of producing honey
 - (B) stories in the media about killer bees
 - (C) the chemical nature of killer bee attacks
 - (D) the creation of the killer bee
11. The main idea of this passage is that killer bees
 - (A) have been in the news a lot recently
 - (B) have been moving unexpectedly rapidly through the Americas
 - (C) are not as aggressive as their reputation suggests
 - (D) are a hybrid rather than a pure breed
12. The word "inflated" in line 4 could best be replaced by
 - (A) exaggerated
 - (B) blown
 - (C) aired
 - (D) burst
13. It can be inferred from the passage that the killer bee
 - (A) traveled from Brazil to Africa in 1955
 - (B) was a predecessor of the African bee
 - (C) was carried from Africa to Brazil in 1955
 - (D) did not exist early in the twentieth century
14. Why were African bees considered beneficial?
 - (A) They produced an unusual type of honey.
 - (B) They spent their time traveling.
 - (C) They were very aggressive.
 - (D) They hid from inclement weather.
15. A "hybrid" in line 5 is
 - (A) a mixture
 - (B) a relative
 - (C) a predecessor
 - (D) an enemy

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16. It is stated in the passage that killer bees
- (A) are more deadly than African bees
 - (B) are less aggressive than African bees
 - (C) never attack animals
 - (D) always attack African bees
17. The pronoun "They" in line 13 refers to
- (A) killer bees
 - (B) humans and animals
 - (C) fatalities
 - (D) experts
18. What is NOT mentioned in the passage as a contributing factor in an attack by killer bees?
- (A) Panic by the victim
 - (B) An odorous chemical
 - (C) Disturbance of the bees
 - (D) Inclement weather
19. Where in the passage does the author describe the size of the groups in which killer bees move?
- (A) Lines 2-4
 - (B) Lines 5-7
 - (C) Lines 11-12
 - (D) Lines 19-20

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Questions 20–28

There is a common expression in the English language referring to a blue moon. When people say that something happens “only once in a blue moon,” they mean that it happens only very rarely, once in a great while. This expression has been around for at least a century and a half; there are references to this expression that date from the second half of the nineteenth century.

Line
(5)

The expression “a blue moon” has come to refer to the second full moon occurring in any given calendar month. A second full moon is not called a blue moon because it is particularly blue or is any different in hue from the first full moon of the month. Instead, it is called a blue moon because it is so rare. The moon needs a little more than 29 days to complete the cycle from full moon to full moon. Because every month except February has more than 29 days, every month will have at least one full moon (except February, which will have a full moon unless there is a full moon at the very end of January and another full moon at the very beginning of March). It is on the occasion when a given calendar month has a second full moon that a blue moon occurs. This does not happen very often, only three or four times in a decade.

(10)

The blue moons of today are called blue moons because of their rarity and not because of their color; however, the expression “blue moon” may have come into existence in reference to unusual circumstances in which the moon actually appeared blue. Certain natural phenomena of gigantic proportions can actually change the appearance of the moon from Earth. The eruption of the Krakatao volcano in 1883 left dust particles in the atmosphere, which clouded the sun and gave the moon a bluish tint. This particular occurrence of the blue moon may have given rise to the expression that we use today. Another example occurred more than a century later. When Mount Pinatubo erupted in the Philippines in 1991, the moon again took on a blue tint.

(15)

(20)

20. This passage is about

- (A) an idiomatic expression
- (B) an unusual color
- (C) a month on the calendar
- (D) a phase of the moon

21. How long has the expression “once in a blue moon” been around?

- (A) For around 50 years
- (B) For less than 100 years
- (C) For more than 100 years
- (D) For 200 years

22. A blue moon could best be described as

- (A) a full moon that is not blue in color
- (B) a new moon that is blue in color
- (C) a full moon that is blue in color
- (D) a new moon that is not blue in color

23. The word “hue” in line 7 is closest in meaning to

- (A) shape
- (B) date
- (C) color
- (D) size

24. Which of the following might be the date of a “blue moon”?

- (A) January 1
- (B) February 28
- (C) April 15
- (D) December 31

25. How many blue moons would there most likely be in a century?

- (A) 4
- (B) 35
- (C) 70
- (D) 100

26. According to the passage, the moon actually looked blue

- (A) after large volcanic eruptions
- (B) when it occurred late in the month
- (C) several times a year
- (D) during the month of February

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27. The expression "given rise to" in line 19 could best be replaced by
- (A) created a need for
 - (B) elevated the level of
 - (C) spurred the creation of
 - (D) brightened the color of
28. Where in the passage does the author describe the duration of a lunar cycle?
- (A) Lines 1–3
 - (B) Lines 5–6
 - (C) Line 8
 - (D) Lines 12–13

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Questions 29–40

- The organization that today is known as the Bank of America did start out in America, but under quite a different name. Italian American A.P. Giannini established this bank on October 17, 1904, in a renovated saloon in San Francisco's Italian community of North Beach under the name
- (5) Bank of Italy, with immigrants and first-time bank customers comprising the majority of his first customers. During its development, Giannini's bank survived major crises in the form of a natural disaster and a major economic upheaval that not all other banks were able to overcome.
- (10) One major test for Giannini's bank occurred on April 18, 1906, when a massive earthquake struck San Francisco, followed by a raging fire that destroyed much of the city. Giannini obtained two wagons and teams of horses, filled the wagons with the bank's reserves, mostly in the form of gold, covered the reserves with crates of oranges, and escaped from the chaos of the city with his clients' funds protected. In the aftermath of the disaster, Giannini's bank was the first to resume operations. Unable to install the bank in a proper office setting, Giannini opened up shop on the Washington Street Wharf on a makeshift desk created from boards and barrels.
- (15) In the period following the 1906 fire, the Bank of Italy continued to prosper and expand. By 1918 there were twenty-four branches of the Bank of Italy, and by 1928 Giannini had acquired numerous other banks, including a Bank of America located in New York City. In 1930 he consolidated all the branches of the Bank of Italy, the Bank of America in New York City, and another Bank of America that he had formed in California into the Bank of America National Trust and Savings Association.
- (20) A second major crisis for the bank occurred during the Great Depression of the 1930s. Although Giannini had already retired prior to the darkest days of the Depression, he became incensed when his successor began selling off banks during the bad economic times. Giannini resumed leadership of the bank at the age of sixty-two. Under Giannini's leadership, the bank weathered the storm of the Depression and subsequently moved into a phase of overseas development.
29. According to the passage, Giannini
- (A) opened the Bank of America in 1904
 - (B) worked in a bank in Italy
 - (C) set up the Bank of America prior to setting up the Bank of Italy
 - (D) later changed the name of the Bank of Italy
30. Where did Giannini open his first bank?
- (A) In New York City
 - (B) In what used to be a bar
 - (C) On Washington Street Wharf
 - (D) On a makeshift desk
31. According to the passage, which of the following is NOT true about the San Francisco earthquake?
- (A) It happened in 1906.
 - (B) It occurred in the aftermath of a fire.
 - (C) It caused problems for Giannini's bank.
 - (D) It was a tremendous earthquake.
32. The word "raging" in line 8 could best be replaced by
- (A) angered
 - (B) localized
 - (C) intense
 - (D) feeble
33. It can be inferred from the passage that Giannini used crates of oranges after the earthquake
- (A) to hide the gold
 - (B) to fill up the wagons
 - (C) to provide nourishment for his customers
 - (D) to protect the gold from the fire
34. The word "chaos" in line 10 is closest in meaning to
- (A) legal system
 - (B) extreme heat
 - (C) overdevelopment
 - (D) total confusion

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35. The word "consolidated" in line 17 is closest in meaning to
 - (A) hardened
 - (B) merged
 - (C) moved
 - (D) sold
36. The passage states that after his retirement, Giannini
 - (A) began selling off banks
 - (B) caused economic misfortune to occur
 - (C) supported the bank's new management
 - (D) returned to work
37. The expression "weathered the storm of" in line 23 could best be replaced by
 - (A) found a cure for
 - (B) rained on the parade of
 - (C) survived the ordeal of
 - (D) blew its stack at
38. Where in the passage does the author describe Giannini's first banking clients?
 - (A) Lines 2-5
 - (B) Lines 7-8
 - (C) Lines 12-13
 - (D) Lines 14-16
39. How is the information in the passage presented?
 - (A) In chronological order
 - (B) In order of importance
 - (C) A cause followed by an effect
 - (D) Classifications with examples
40. The paragraph following the passage most likely discusses
 - (A) bank failures during the Great Depression
 - (B) a third major crisis of the Bank of America
 - (C) the international development of the Bank of America
 - (D) how Giannini spent his retirement

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