

TOEFL Junior Practice test 1

Reading Comprehension

Directions

In this section of the test, you will read six texts and answer 42 questions. Choose the correct answer to each question and mark the letter of the correct answer on your answer sheet.

Before you start, read the sample text and the sample questions below.

Sample Text

Erosion is one of nature's most powerful forces. It can happen in many ways, including through the wind, rain, snow, and ice. Erosion frequently takes place over a long period of time. This is how canyons and deserts are often created. Yet it is also possible for erosion to take place overnight.

Sample Question 1

What is this text mostly about?

- (A) How deserts are created
- (B) A natural force
- (C) Canyons and deserts
- (D) Wind erosion

The correct answer is (B), "A natural force."

Sample Question 2

Which of the following is true regarding erosion?

- (A) It can happen in many ways.
- (B) Water most commonly causes it.
- (C) It can create deserts overnight.
- (D) It is stronger than anything in nature.

The correct answer is (A), "It can happen in many ways."

Questions 1-6 are about the following letter.

Dear Parents,

We have almost arrived at the end of another school year. The last day of school is going to be held on Friday, May 15. All students should have their lockers cleaned out no later than 3:30 on that day.

This year, we have accomplished a number of our objectives. Several of our students received academic awards, such as for winning the city spelling bee (Teresa Kelly), winning the state math competition (Rohit Apu), and winning the county essay-writing contest (Julie Johnston). Furthermore, our athletic teams all had winning records and the girls' volleyball team, led by Coach Alice Stevens, managed to come in second place in the entire state.

Let me remind you as summer begins that all returning students must do their summer reading. Enclosed with this letter is a list of the books from which each student must choose. All students have to read at least five books and write short reports on them during the summer.

Allow me to close by noting that I am always willing to meet with you and to address any of your concerns about the school. You can feel free to swing by and chat with me anytime.

Sincerely,

Gregory Jenkins
Principal

Questions 7-12 are about the following article in the school newspaper.

Last Saturday, October 10, the school's math team took part in the Hampton Junior Math Tournament. The event was held in the auditorium at Lakeview High School. There were students from twenty-seven schools that participated in the competition.

- 5 Mrs. Gibbons, the math teacher, led our school's team at the competition. There were seven students from our school who took part in the contest. By the time the competition ended, we were in third place with a total of eighty-five points. The first place winner, Trinity High School, scored ninety-one points while Copeland Academy came in second with eighty-six points. Our performance was a dramatic improvement from last year's team, which failed to score a single point.

Overall, Molly Reed led the team by scoring an incredible twenty-five points. That made her the leading scorer in the entire tournament.

- After the competition ended, Mrs. Gibbons said, "I'm so proud of this group. They took on teams that had twice as many students, but they still managed to capture third place. What an incredible achievement."

1. In line 5, the word **objectives** is closest in meaning to _____.

(A) skills
(B) experiences
(C) goals
(D) achievements

3. What can be inferred from the letter about the school?

(A) It has a successful athletics program.
(B) It has already held its graduation ceremony.
(C) It has seen its enrollment decline.
(D) It has a large library available to students.

5. In line 14, the word **them** refers to _____.

(A) all returning students
(B) all students
(C) five books
(D) short reports

2. Who is Julie Johnston?

(A) The coach of the school's volleyball team
(B) The principal of the school
(C) The winner of an essay-writing contest
(D) The school's best speller

4. Which of the following statements does paragraph 3 support?

(A) Students may submit their reports over the Internet.
(B) Every student must write five book reports during summer.
(C) Students are expected to turn in reports each month.
(D) All students must read the same five books during summer.

6. What does Gregory Jenkins point out by writing that people can feel free to swing by in line 16?

(A) He schedules his own meetings with parents.
(B) All visitors are welcome to visit his office.
(C) He encourages parents to be involved at the school.
(D) Students should spend more time on campus.

7. Which headline best summarizes the article?

(A) Math Team Comes in Third in Competition
(B) Mrs. Gibbons Takes Math Team to Lakeview High
(C) Molly Reed Selected Captain of the Math Team
(D) School to Compete in Math Competition

9. Which of the following is NOT mentioned about the math competition?

(A) How many teams participated
(B) What prizes were awarded
(C) When it took place
(D) Which team came in first

11. Which of the following is true regarding Molly Reed?

(A) She has been on the math team for the past two years.
(B) She scored more points than anyone at the tournament.
(C) She was the only student from the school who scored.
(D) She received a prize for her achievement.

8. What is the purpose of this article?

(A) To recruit some students for the math team
(B) To describe the results of an academic competition
(C) To praise the math team for trying its best
(D) To encourage more students to do extracurricular activities

10. In line 9, the word **dramatic** is closest in meaning to _____.

(A) tremendous
(B) sincere
(C) indescribable
(D) unexpected

12. What does Mrs. Gibbons say about the math team?

(A) She is disappointed it did not win the competition.
(B) Its members did a lot of preparing for the event.
(C) She intends to recruit more students for it.
(D) It was successful against some much bigger teams.

Questions 13-18 are about the following note from the school administration.

Please be aware that the school is planning to field several athletic teams during the spring semester. The coaches have scheduled tryouts for these teams during the next two weeks. All tryouts run from 3:30 to 5:30. Here is the schedule:

Sport	Coach	Tryout Time	Note
Girls' Softball	Mrs. Marbut	Tues-Wed, March 2-3	Meet on the baseball field
Boys' Baseball	Mr. Powell	Wed-Thurs, March 3-4	Meet on the baseball field
Boys' Soccer	Mr. McCloud	Mon-Tues, March 8-9	None
Track and Field	Mr. Roberts	Wed-Thurs, March 10-11	Boys and girls may both participate.

There will not be a girls' soccer team this year. However, according to state rules, girls may participate in the boys' soccer team. All interested girls should speak with Coach McCloud prior to tryouts. The coaches have all agreed that any student may participate in two athletic teams so long as one is the track team. Those students wishing to play two sports must speak with both coaches prior to tryouts. Finally, all students must submit an injury release form to the coach of the team they want to play on. No students will be permitted to try out until it has been turned in.

Questions 19-26 are about the following passage.

The Age of Exploration lasted from the early part of the fifteenth century to the early years of the seventeenth century. During that time, adventurers from throughout Europe sailed around the world. The majority of these men came from Spain, Portugal, and England. One of the greatest of all English adventurers during this time was Sir Francis Drake. He lived from 1540 to 1596. Drake accomplished a number of feats that led him to be highly revered in England, yet he was considered a pirate by people in other countries, particularly Spain.



After the New World was discovered by Christopher Columbus, the Spanish led the way in establishing colonies there. They were particularly dominant in Central America and South America. Their soldiers, called conquistadors, effectively defeated the Aztec and Inca empires. On account of their strength in the New World, the Spanish acquired a great amount of treasure. Thus there were constantly ships filled with treasure sailing across the Atlantic Ocean to Spain.

Many sailors from other countries tried to capture these ships. Drake was one of these men. In 1573, he and his crew engaged in an act of piracy against a convoy of Spanish ships. They managed to capture the ships near Panama. Seizing their treasure of gold and silver, Drake and his men returned to England. This act brought him to the attention of Queen Elizabeth. She sponsored another expedition of Drake's that sailed to the New World in 1577. Drake had five small ships and nearly 200 men. They raided Spanish holdings in South America and then sailed into the Pacific Ocean. There, Drake captured two Spanish treasure ships before sailing west across the Pacific. In September 1580, one of Drake's ships and fifty-six men reached home after having circumnavigated the world.

Drake was knighted by the queen in 1581. By then, he was considered the best and most daring sailor in England. In 1585, war broke out between England and Spain. Three years later, King Philip II of Spain sent an enormous fleet, called the Spanish Armada, to defeat England. Drake was made second in command of the English fleet that emerged victorious against the Spanish. A few years later, in 1595, Drake returned to the New World. This time, however, his luck ran out. He caught a disease and died in Panama in January 1596.

13. What is this note mostly about?

- (A) When teams will play their games in the spring semester
- (B) How students can try out for athletic teams
- (C) Why the safety of all student-athletes is important
- (D) The upcoming schedule for athletic events

15. Why does the author mention Coach McCloud?

- (A) To credit him with the decision to let girls play soccer
- (B) To tell the students that he is the new coach of the soccer team
- (C) To let girls know they should speak with him about playing soccer
- (D) To congratulate him for the achievements of the soccer team

17. According to the note, what must students do before they can try out for a team?

- (A) Get permission from their parents
- (B) Turn in a form to one of the coaches
- (C) Talk to the coach of the team
- (D) Make sure that their grades are sufficient

14. Which sport will have its tryouts on March 8?

- (A) Girls' softball
- (B) Boys' baseball
- (C) Boys' soccer
- (D) Track and field

16. Based on the passage, which is probably true about the school's coaches?

- (A) They communicate with one another.
- (B) They have worked there for several years.
- (C) They have good relationships with the students.
- (D) They coach teams that are successful.

18. In line 10, the word it refers to

- (A) the track team
- (B) an injury release form
- (C) the coach
- (D) the team

19. What is the passage mainly about?

- (A) The colonizing of the New World
- (B) The adventures of Sir Francis Drake
- (C) Queen Elizabeth and King Philip II
- (D) Acts of piracy by Sir Francis Drake

20. In line 9, the word revered is closest in meaning to

- (A) feared
- (B) famed
- (C) noticed
- (D) regarded

21. Why does the author mention conquistadors?

- (A) To explain what the word means
- (B) To claim that they gathered a great amount of treasure
- (C) To note their defeat of two empires
- (D) To praise them for their fighting ability

22. According to the author, why did many sailors attempt to capture Spanish ships?

- (A) Their countries were at war with Spain.
- (B) They wanted to seize the ships' treasures.
- (C) They desired to enslave the Spanish sailors.
- (D) It was common for ships' crews to fight then.

23. What did Sir Francis Drake do in 1580?

- (A) He completed a trip around the world.
- (B) He destroyed a Spanish convoy in Panama.
- (C) He made plans to fight the Spanish Armada.
- (D) He attacked Spanish colonies in the New World.

24. According to the passage, all of the following are mentioned about Sir Francis Drake EXCEPT

- (A) what the name of his ship was
- (B) when he was born and died
- (C) which country's sailors he often fought
- (D) how various people felt about him

25. What can be inferred from the passage about the Spanish Armada?

- (A) It sank a large number of English ships.
- (B) It lost to the English fleet that it fought.
- (C) It had more ships than any other fleet.
- (D) It was completely destroyed in two battles.

26. In line 32, the phrase ran out is closest in meaning to

- (A) changed
- (B) escaped
- (C) removed
- (D) ended

There are a number of natural disasters that can strike across the globe. Two that are frequently linked to one another are earthquakes and tsunamis. Both of them can cause a great amount of devastation when they hit. However, tsunamis are the direct result of earthquakes and cannot happen without them.

The Earth has three main parts. They are the crust, the mantle, and the core. The crust is the outer layer of the Earth. It is not a single piece of land. Instead, it is comprised of a number of plates. There are a few enormous plates and many smaller ones. These plates essentially rest upon the mantle, which is fluid. As a result, the plates are in constant – yet slow – motion. The plates may move away from or toward other plates. In some cases, they collide violently with the plates adjoining them. The movement of the plates causes tension in the rock. Over a long time, this tension may build up. When it is released, an earthquake happens.

Tens of thousands of earthquakes happen every year. The vast majority are so small that only scientific instruments can perceive them. Others are powerful enough that people can feel them, yet they cause little harm or damage. More powerful earthquakes, however, can cause buildings, bridges, and other structures to collapse. They may additionally injure and kill thousands of people and might even cause the land to change its appearance.

Since most of the Earth's surface is water, numerous earthquakes happen beneath the planet's oceans. Underwater earthquakes cause the seafloor to move. This results in the displacement of water in the ocean. When this occurs, a tsunami may form. This is a wave that forms on the surface and moves in all directions from the place where the earthquake happened. A tsunami moves extremely quickly and can travel thousands of kilometers. As it approaches land, the water near the coast gets sucked out to sea. This causes the tsunami to increase in height. Minutes later, the tsunami arrives. A large tsunami – one more than ten meters in height – can travel far inland. As it does that, it can flood the land, destroy human settlements, and kill large numbers of people.



27. What is the passage mainly about?

- (A) How earthquakes and tsunamis occur
- (B) What kind of damage natural disasters can cause
- (C) Why tsunamis are deadlier than earthquakes
- (D) When earthquakes are the most likely to happen

28. Which of the following statements does paragraph 1 support?

- (A) The most severe type of natural disaster is an earthquake.
- (B) Earthquakes cause more destruction than tsunamis.
- (C) A tsunami happens in tandem with an earthquake.
- (D) Earthquakes frequently take place after tsunamis do.

29. In line 6, the word it refers to

- (A) The mantle
- (B) The core
- (C) The crust
- (D) The Earth

30. In line 11, the word adjoining is closest in meaning to

- (A) approaching
- (B) bordering
- (C) residing
- (D) appearing

31. Which of the following is true regarding the crust?

- (A) It is the smallest of the Earth's three layers.
- (B) The mantle beneath it keeps it from moving too much.
- (C) It is thicker on land than it is under the water.
- (D) There are many separate pieces that make it up.

32. In line 14, the word perceive is closest in meaning to

- (A) comprehend
- (B) detect
- (C) locate
- (D) prevent

33. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in paragraph 3 about earthquakes?

- (A) How often powerful ones take place
- (B) How severe the majority of them are
- (C) What kind of damage they can cause
- (D) How many people they typically kill

34. Based on the passage, what is probably true about tsunamis?

- (A) They kill more people each year than earthquakes.
- (B) They can be deadly to people standing near shore.
- (C) They are able to move as fast as the speed of sound.
- (D) They cannot damage ships sailing on the ocean.

A large number of inventions require years of arduous research and development before they are perfected. For instance, Thomas Edison had to make more than 1,000 attempts to invent the incandescent light bulb before he finally succeeded. History is replete with numerous other examples of people trying, yet failing, to make inventions before they eventually succeeded. Yet some inventions have come about not through hard work but simply by accident.

In most cases, when someone unintentionally invented something, the inventor was attempting to create something else. For example, in the 1930s, chemist Roy Plunkett was attempting to make a new substance that could be used to refrigerate items. He mixed some chemicals together. Then, he put them into a pressurized container and cooled the mixture. By the time his experiment was complete, he had a new invention. It was not a new substance that could be used for refrigeration though. Instead, he had invented Teflon, which is today most commonly used to make nonstick pots and pans. Similarly, decades earlier, John Pemberton was a pharmacist in Atlanta, Georgia. He was attempting to create a tonic that people could use whenever they had headaches. While he was not successful in that endeavor, he managed to invent Coca-Cola, the world-famous carbonated soft drink.



Scientists have also made crucial discoveries by accident when they were conducting experiments. In 1928, Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin, an antibiotic, in this manner. He discovered some mold growing in a dish with some bacteria. He noticed that the bacteria seemed to be avoiding the mold. When he investigated further, he determined some of the many useful properties of penicillin, which has saved millions of lives over the past few decades. Likewise, in 1946, scientist Percy Spencer was conducting an experiment with microwaves. He had a candy bar in his pocket, and he noticed that it suddenly melted. He investigated and learned the reason why that had happened. Soon afterward, he built a device that could utilize microwaves to heat food: the microwave oven.



35. Which title best summarizes the main idea of the passage?

- (A) History's Most Important Inventions
- (B) Accidental Inventions and Discoveries
- (C) How to Become a Great Inventor
- (D) You Don't Always Get What You Want

36. In line 1, the word **arduous** is closest in meaning to _____.

- (A) detailed
- (B) tough
- (C) specific
- (D) constant

37. In line 4, the phrase **replete with** is closest in meaning to _____.

- (A) aware of
- (B) inspired by
- (C) full of
- (D) concerned about

38. In line 18, the word **endeavor** is closest in meaning to _____.

- (A) research
- (B) dream
- (C) request
- (D) attempt

39. What does the author say about Teflon?

- (A) People first used it as a refrigeration device.
- (B) It was created many years before Coca-Cola.
- (C) The man who made it was a pharmacist.
- (D) It is used for kitchenware nowadays.

40. Who was John Pemberton?

- (A) The person who made Teflon
- (B) The creator of Coca-Cola
- (C) The man who discovered penicillin
- (D) The inventor of the microwave

41. The author uses Alexander Fleming as an example of _____.

- (A) one of the most famous inventors in history
- (B) a person who made an accidental scientific discovery
- (C) someone who became a millionaire from his invention
- (D) a man who dedicated his life to medical science

42. What does the author imply about penicillin?

- (A) Doctors seldom use it nowadays.
- (B) Some people are not affected by it.
- (C) It is an invaluable medical supply.
- (D) Mold combines with bacteria to make it.