READING POST-TEST (Paper)

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.

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.

Line (5)

Example I **Sample Answer**

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

Ⓐ ● Ⓒ Ⓓ

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

Example II **Sample Answer**

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

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

Ⓐ Ⓑ ● Ⓓ

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 (C).

Now begin work on the questions.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Questions 1–10

A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon moves in front of the Sun and hides at least some part of the Sun from the earth. In a partial eclipse, the Moon covers part of the Sun; in an annular eclipse, the Moon covers the center of the Sun, leaving a bright ring of light around the Moon; in a total eclipse, the Sun is completely covered by the Moon.

Line (5) It seems rather improbable that a celestial body the size of the Moon could completely block out the tremendously immense Sun, as happens during a total eclipse, but this is exactly what happens. Although the Moon is considerably smaller in size than the Sun, the Moon is able to cover the Sun because of their relative distances from Earth. A total eclipse can last up to 7 minutes, during which time the Moon's shadow moves across Earth at a rate of about .6 kilometers per second.

1. This passage mainly
   (A) describes how long an eclipse will last
   (B) gives facts about the Moon
   (C) explains how the Sun is able to obscure the Moon
   (D) informs the reader about solar eclipses

2. In which type of eclipse is the Sun obscured in its entirety?
   (A) A partial eclipse
   (B) An annular eclipse
   (C) A total eclipse
   (D) A celestial eclipse

3. The word "ring" in line 3 could best be replaced by
   (A) piece of gold
   (B) circle
   (C) jewel
   (D) bell

4. A "celestial body" in line 5 is most probably one that is found
   (A) within the Moon's shadow
   (B) somewhere in the sky
   (C) on the surface of the Sun
   (D) inside Earth's atmosphere

5. What is the meaning of "block out" in line 5?
   (A) Square
   (B) Cover
   (C) Evaporate
   (D) Shrink

6. According to the passage, how can the Moon hide the Sun during a total eclipse?
   (A) The fact that the Moon is closer to Earth than the Sun makes up for the Moon's smaller size.
   (B) The Moon can only obscure the Sun because of the Moon's great distance from the earth.
   (C) Because the Sun is relatively close to Earth, the Sun can be eclipsed by the Moon.
   (D) The Moon hides the Sun because of the Moon's considerable size.

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7. The word "relative" in line 8 could best be replaced by

   (A) familial
   (B) infinite
   (C) comparative
   (D) paternal

8. The passage states that which of the following happens during an eclipse?

   (A) The Moon hides from the Sun.
   (B) The Moon is obscured by the Sun.
   (C) The Moon begins moving at a speed of .6 kilometers per second.
   (D) The Moon's shadow crosses Earth.

9. The word "rate" in line 9 is closest in meaning to

   (A) form
   (B) speed
   (C) distance
   (D) rotation

10. Where in the passage does the author mention the rate of a total eclipse?

   (A) Lines 1–2
   (B) Lines 2–4
   (C) Lines 5–6
   (D) Lines 8–9

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Questions 11–20

While the bald eagle is one national symbol of the United States, it is not the only one. Uncle Sam, a bearded gentleman costumed in the red, white, and blue stars and stripes of the nation's flag, is another well-known national symbol. According to legend, this character is based on Samuel
Line Wilson, the owner of a meat-packing business in Troy, New York. During the War of 1812, Sam
(5) Wilson's company was granted a government contract to supply meat to the nation's soldiers; this meat was supplied to the army in barrels stamped with the initials U.S., which stood for United States. However, the country was at that time relatively young, and the initials U.S. were not commonly used. Many people questioned what the initials represented, and the standard reply became "Uncle Sam," for the owner of the barrels. It is now generally accepted that the figure of
(10) Uncle Sam is based on Samuel Wilson, and the U.S. Congress has made it official by adopting a resolution naming Samuel Wilson as the inspiration for Uncle Sam.

11. The paragraph preceding this passage most probably discusses
    (A) the War of 1812
    (B) the bald eagle, which symbolizes the United States
    (C) Sam Wilson's meat-packing company
    (D) the costume worn by Uncle Sam

12. Which of the following is the most appropriate title for this passage?
    (A) The Bald Eagle
    (B) The Symbols of the United States
    (C) Samuel Wilson
    (D) Uncle Sam—Symbol of the Nation

13. Which of the following is NOT mentioned about Uncle Sam's appearance?
    (A) He wears facial hair.
    (B) There is some blue in his clothing.
    (C) He is bald.
    (D) His clothes have stripes in them.

14. The word "costumed" in line 2 could most easily be replaced by
    (A) dressed
    (B) nationalized
    (C) hidden
    (D) seen

15. Sam Wilson was the proprietor of what type of business?
    (A) A costume company
    (B) A meat-packing company
    (C) A military clothier
    (D) A barrel-making company

16. The word "granted" in line 5 means
    (A) refused
    (B) underbid for
    (C) told about
    (D) given

17. According to the passage, what was in the barrels stamped U.S.?
    (A) Sam Wilson
    (B) Food for the army
    (C) Weapons to be used in the war
    (D) Company contracts

18. The word "initials" in line 6 means
    (A) nicknames
    (B) family names
    (C) first letters of words
    (D) company names

19. The word "official" in line 10 is closest in meaning to
    (A) authorized
    (B) professional
    (C) dutiful
    (D) accidental

20. In 1812, people most probably answered that the letters "U.S." written on the barrels stood for "Uncle Sam" because
    (A) Congress required it
    (B) Samuel Wilson was their favorite uncle
    (C) Sam Wilson preferred it
    (D) they were not exactly sure what the letters meant

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Questions 21–31

Most people think of deserts as dry, flat areas with little vegetation and little or no rainfall, but this is hardly true. Many deserts have varied geographical formations ranging from soft, rolling hills to stark, jagged cliffs, and most deserts have a permanent source of water. Although deserts do not receive a high amount of rainfall—to be classified as a desert, an area must get less than twenty-five centimeters of rainfall per year—there are many plants that thrive on only small amounts of water, and deserts are often full of such plant life.

Desert plants have a variety of mechanisms for obtaining the water needed for survival. Some plants, such as cactus, are able to store large amounts of water in their leaves or stems; after a rainfall these plants absorb a large supply of water to last until the next rainfall. Other plants, such as the mesquite, have extraordinarily deep root systems that allow them to obtain water from far below the desert's arid surface.

21. What is the main topic of the passage?
    (A) Deserts are dry, flat areas with few plants.
    (B) There is little rainfall in the desert.
    (C) Many kinds of vegetation can survive with little water.
    (D) Deserts are not really flat areas with little plant life.

22. The passage implies that
    (A) the typical conception of a desert is incorrect
    (B) all deserts are dry, flat areas
    (C) most people are well informed about deserts
    (D) the lack of rainfall in deserts causes the lack of vegetation

23. The passage describes the geography of deserts as
    (A) flat
    (B) sandy
    (C) varied
    (D) void of vegetation

24. The word "source" in line 3 means
    (A) supply
    (B) storage space
    (C) need
    (D) lack

25. According to the passage, what causes an area to be classified as a desert?
    (A) The type of plants
    (B) The geographical formations
    (C) The amount of precipitation
    (D) The source of water

26. The word "thrive" in line 5 means
    (A) suffer
    (B) grow well
    (C) minimally survive
    (D) decay

27. The word "mechanisms" in line 7 could most easily be replaced by
    (A) machines
    (B) pumps
    (C) sources
    (D) methods

28. Which of the following is mentioned in the passage about cacti?
    (A) They have deep root systems.
    (B) They retain water from one rainfall to the next.
    (C) They survive in the desert because they do not need water.
    (D) They get water from deep below the surface of the desert.

29. "Mesquite" in line 10 is probably
    (A) a type of tree
    (B) a desert animal
    (C) a type of cactus
    (D) a geographical formation in the desert

30. The word "arid" in line 11 means
    (A) deep
    (B) dry
    (C) sandy
    (D) superficial

31. Where in the passage does the author describe desert vegetation that keeps water in its leaves?
    (A) Lines 1–2
    (B) Lines 3–6
    (C) Lines 7–9
    (D) Lines 9–11

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Questions 32–41

American jazz is a conglomeration of sounds borrowed from such varied sources as American and African folk music, European classical music, and Christian gospel songs. One of the recognizable characteristics of jazz is its use of improvisation: certain parts of the music are written
Line out and played the same way by various performers, and other improvised parts are created
(5) spontaneously during a performance and vary widely from performer to performer.

The earliest form of jazz was ragtime, lively songs or *rags* performed on the piano, and the best-known of the ragtime performers and composers was Scott Joplin. Born in 1868 to former slaves, Scott Joplin earned his living from a very early age playing the piano in bars along the Mississippi. One of his regular jobs was in the Maple Leaf Club in Sedalia, Missouri. It was there that he began
(10) writing the more than 500 compositions that he was to produce, the most famous of which was "The Maple Leaf Rag."

32. This passage is about
    (A) jazz in general and one specific type of jazz
    (B) the various sources of jazz
    (C) the life of Scott Joplin
    (D) the major characteristics of jazz

33. The word "conglomeration" in line 1 could best be replaced by
    (A) disharmony
    (B) mixture
    (C) purity
    (D) treasure

34. In line 3, the word "improvisation" involves which of the following?
    (A) Playing the written parts of the music
    (B) Performing similarly to other musicians
    (C) Making up music while playing
    (D) Playing a varied selection of musical compositions

35. According to the passage, ragtime was
    (A) generally performed on a variety of instruments
    (B) the first type of jazz
    (C) extremely soothing and sedate
    (D) performed only at the Maple Leaf Club in Sedalia

36. Which of the following statements is true according to the passage?
    (A) Scott Joplin was a slave when he was born.
    (B) Scott Joplin's parents had been slaves before Scott was born.
    (C) Scott Joplin had formerly been a slave, but he no longer was after 1868.
    (D) Scott Joplin's parents were slaves when Scott was born.

37. The word "living" in line 8 could most easily be replaced by
    (A) money
    (B) life-style
    (C) enjoyment
    (D) health

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38. The word "regular" in line 9 could best be replaced by

(A) popular
(B) steady
(C) unusual
(D) boring

39. The word "which" in line 10 refers to

(A) regular jobs
(B) the Maple Leaf Club
(C) Sedalia, Missouri
(D) 500 compositions

40. The name of Scott Joplin's most famous composition probably came from

(A) the name of a saloon where he performed
(B) the maple tree near his Sedalia home
(C) the name of the town where he was born
(D) the school where he learned to play the piano

41. The paragraph following the passage probably discusses

(A) Sedalia, Missouri
(B) the Maple Leaf Club
(C) the numerous compositions of Scott Joplin
(D) the life of Scott Joplin

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