



TOEFL READING PRACTICE: SKILL 6 AND 7

PASSAGE ONE (Questions 1–4)

The most conservative sect of the Mennonite Church is the Old Order Amish, with 33,000 members living mainly today in the states of Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana. Their lifestyle reflects their belief in the doctrines of separation from the world and simplicity of life. The Amish have steadfastly rejected the societal changes that have occurred in the previous three hundred years, preferring instead to remain securely rooted in a seventeenth-century lifestyle. They live on farms without radios, televisions, telephones, electric lights, and cars; they dress in plainly styled and colored old-fashioned clothes; and they farm their lands with horses and tools rather than modern farm equipment. They have a highly communal form of living, with barn raisings and quilting bees as commonplace activities.

1. The paragraph preceding this passage most probably discusses
  - (A) other, more liberal sects of Mennonites
  - (B) where Mennonites live
  - (C) the communal Amish lifestyle
  - (D) the most conservative Mennonites
2. Which of the following would probably NOT be found on an Amish farm?
  - (A) A hammer
  - (B) A cart
  - (C) A long dress
  - (D) A refrigerator
3. It can be inferred from the passage that a quilting bee
  - (A) involves a group of people
  - (B) is necessary when raising bees
  - (C) always follows a barn raising
  - (D) provides needed solitude
4. Which of the following is most likely the topic of the paragraph following the passage?
  - (A) The effects of the communal lifestyle on the Old Order Amish
  - (B) How the Old Order Amish differ from the Mennonites
  - (C) The effect of modern technology on the Old Order Amish
  - (D) The doctrines of the Old Order Amish

PASSAGE TWO (Questions 5–8)

Various other Native American tribes also lived on the Great Plains. The Sioux, a group of seven Native American tribes, are best known for the fiercely combative posture against encroaching White civilization in the 1800s. Although they are popularly referred to as Sioux, these Native American tribes did not call themselves Sioux; the name was given to them by an enemy tribe. The seven Sioux tribes called themselves by some variation of the word *Dakota*, which means “allies” in their language. Four tribes of the eastern Sioux community living in Minnesota were known by the name *Dakota*. The Nakota included two tribes that left the eastern woodlands and moved out onto the plains. The Teton Sioux, or Lakota, moved even farther west to the plains of the present-day states of North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming.



5. The paragraph preceding this passage most probably discusses
  - (A) how the Sioux battled the white man
  - (B) one of the tribes of the plains
  - (C) where the Sioux lived
  - (D) Native American tribes on the East Coast
6. Which of the following represents a likely reaction of the Sioux in the 1800s to the encroaching white civilization?
  - (A) The Sioux would probably help the whites to settle in the West.
  - (B) The Sioux would probably attack the white settlers.
  - (C) The Sioux would probably invite the whites to smoke a peace pipe.
  - (D) The Sioux would probably join together in hunting parties with the white settlers.
7. It is implied in the passage that the seven Sioux tribes called each other by some form of the word *Dakota* because they were
  - (A) united in a cause
  - (B) all living in North Dakota
  - (C) fiercely combative
  - (D) enemies
8. It can be inferred from the passage that the present-day states of North and South Dakota
  - (A) are east of Minnesota
  - (B) are home to the four tribes known by the name *Dakota*
  - (C) received their names from the tribes living there
  - (D) are part of the eastern woodlands

PASSAGE THREE (Questions 9–12)

The extinction of many species of birds has undoubtedly been hastened by modern man; since 1600 it has been estimated that approximately 100 bird species have become extinct over the world. In North America, the first species known to be annihilated was the great auk, a flightless bird that served as an easy source of food and bait for Atlantic fishermen through the beginning of the nineteenth century.

Shortly after the great auk's extinction, two other North American species, the Carolina parakeet and the passenger pigeon, began dwindling noticeably in numbers. The last Carolina parakeet and the last passenger pigeon in captivity both died in September 1914. In addition to these extinct species, several others such as the bald eagle, the peregrine falcon, and the California condor are today recognized as endangered; steps are being taken to prevent their extinction.

9. The number of bird species that have become extinct in the United States since 1600 most probably is
  - (A) more than 100
  - (B) exactly 100
  - (C) less than 100
  - (D) exactly three
10. The passage implies that the great auk disappeared
  - (A) before 1600
  - (B) in the 1600s
  - (C) in the 1800s
  - (D) in the last fifty years
11. It can be inferred from the passage that the great auk was killed because
  - (A) it was eating the fishermen's catch
  - (B) fishermen wanted to eat it
  - (C) it flew over fishing areas
  - (D) it baited fishermen
12. The paragraph following this passage most probably discusses
  - (A) what is being done to save endangered birds
  - (B) what the bald eagle symbolizes to Americans
  - (C) how several bird species became endangered
  - (D) other extinct species



PASSAGE TWO (Questions 9–14)

Manic depression is another psychiatric illness that mainly affects the mood. A patient suffering from this disease will alternate between periods of manic excitement and extreme depression, with or without relatively normal periods in between. The changes in mood suffered by a manic-depressive patient go far beyond the day-to-day mood changes experienced by the general population. In the period of manic excitement, the mood elevation can become so intense that it can result in extended insomnia, extreme irritability, and heightened aggressiveness. In the period of depression, which may last for several weeks or months, a patient experiences feelings of general fatigue, uselessness, and hopelessness, and, in serious cases, may contemplate suicide.

9. The paragraph preceding this passage most probably discusses
- (A) when manic depression develops
  - (B) a different type of mental disease
  - (C) how moods are determined
  - (D) how manic depression can result in suicide
10. The topic of this passage is
- (A) various psychiatric illnesses
  - (B) how depression affects the mood
  - (C) the intense period of manic excitement
  - (D) the mood changes of manic depression
11. Click on the drawing of the person who is most likely a manic-depressive patient in a manic phase.
12. The passage indicates that most people
- (A) never undergo mood changes
  - (B) experience occasional shifts in mood
  - (C) switch wildly from highs to lows
  - (D) become highly depressed
13. Look at the word *it* in the passage. Click on the word or phrase it refers to.
14. The passage implies that
- (A) changes from excitement to depression occur frequently and often
  - (B) only manic-depressive patients experience aggression
  - (C) the depressive phase of this disease can be more harmful than the manic phase
  - (D) suicide is inevitable in cases of manic depression



PASSAGE THREE (Questions 15–23)

Unlike earlier campaigns, the 1960 presidential campaign featured a politically innovative and highly influential series of televised debates in the contest between the Republicans and the Democrats. Debates that could be viewed by such a wide audience had never before been part of the presidential campaigns, and through these debates, the far-reaching medium of television showed how effective it could be in influencing the outcome of an election.

The two parties to face off in the election selected very different candidates. John Kennedy, a young senator from Massachusetts without much experience and recognition in national politics, established an early lead among democratic hopefuls, and was nominated on the first ballot at the Los Angeles convention to be the representative of the Democratic party in the presidential elections. The older and more experienced Richard Nixon, then serving as vice president of the United States under Eisenhower, received the nomination of the Republican party. Both Nixon and Kennedy campaigned vigorously throughout the country and then took the unprecedented step of appearing in face-to-face debates on television.

Experts in the politics of presidential elections contend that the debates were a pivotal force in the elections. In front of a viewership of more than 100 million citizens, Kennedy masterfully overcame Nixon's advantage as the better-known and more experienced candidate and reversed the public perception of him as too inexperienced and immature for the presidency. In an election that was extremely close, it was perhaps these debates that brought victory to Kennedy.



15. The paragraph preceding the passage most likely discussed
- (A) presidential elections prior to 1960
  - (B) planning for the 1960 election
  - (C) the history of television prior to 1960
  - (D) the outcome of the 1960 presidential election
16. Which of the following best expresses the main idea of the passage?
- (A) Kennedy defeated Nixon in the 1960 presidential election.
  - (B) Television debates were instrumental in the outcome of the 1960 presidential election.
  - (C) Television debates have long been a part of campaigning.
  - (D) Kennedy was the leading Democratic candidate in the 1960 presidential election.
17. Look at the word it in paragraph 1. Click on the word or phrase that it refers to.
18. The passage implies that Kennedy
- (A) was a long shot to receive the Democratic presidential nomination
  - (B) won the Democratic presidential nomination fairly easily
  - (C) was not a front runner in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination
  - (D) came from behind to win the Democratic presidential nomination
19. The passage states that the television debates between presidential candidates in 1960
- (A) did not influence the selection of the president
  - (B) were the final televised debates
  - (C) were fairly usual in the history of presidential campaigns
  - (D) were the first presidential campaign debates to be televised
20. Which of the following is NOT mentioned about Richard Nixon?
- (A) He was serving as vice president.
  - (B) He was the Republican party's candidate for president.
  - (C) He campaigned strongly all over the country.
  - (D) He was nominated on the first ballot.
21. The passage states that in the debates with Nixon, Kennedy demonstrated to the American people that he was
- (A) old enough to be president
  - (B) more experienced than Nixon
  - (C) better known than Nixon
  - (D) too inexperienced to serve as president
22. The pronoun "him" in line 17 refers to
- (A) John Kennedy
  - (B) Richard Nixon
  - (C) Eisenhower
  - (D) the better-known and more experienced candidate
23. Click on the paragraph that describes the two candidates in the election.