

TOEFL READING PRACTICE: OVERALL QUESTIONS

PASSAGE ONE (Questions 1–7)

- Line 3A The causes of schizophrenia are not clear, but schizophrenia has long been attributed to
 faulty parenting. 3B In cases where schizophrenia developed, the parents were often considered
 responsible. 3C However, recent studies are now pointing to heredity and prenatal environmental
 factors as the chief culprits in this disease. 3D
- (5) Recent studies of identical twins have been used to demonstrate that heredity plays a role in
 the development of schizophrenia. These studies have shown that in cases where one identical
 twin is afflicted with schizophrenia, the other twin has a 50 percent probability of also suffering
 from it.
- (10) 5A However, heredity is not believed to be the only culprit. 5B Studies of the fingerprints of
 identical twins have lent credence to the theory that prenatal environmental factors are likely
 contributors to the development of schizophrenia. 5C In studies of pairs of identical twins in
 which one is afflicted with schizophrenia and one is not, abnormalities were found in the
 fingerprints of one-third of the twins, always in the afflicted twin. 5D Since fingers develop in the
 second trimester of pregnancy, the hypothesis has been proposed that the abnormalities in the
 fingerprints were due to a second-trimester trauma that affected only one of the twins and that
 (15) this same trauma was a factor in the onset of schizophrenia. 5E

1. The author's purpose in this passage is to
 - (A) enumerate examples
 - (B) cause the development of schizophrenia
 - (C) prove that faulty parenting is the main cause of schizophrenia
 - (D) refute a common misconception
2. Where in the passage does the author discuss the traditionally held view about the cause of schizophrenia?
 - (A) Lines 1–2
 - (B) Lines 3–4
 - (C) Lines 6–8
 - (D) Lines 9–11
3. The following sentence can be added to paragraph 1.

They were faulted for having been uncaring, or manipulative, or emotionally abusive.

Where would it best fit into the paragraph? Click on the square (■) to add the sentence to the paragraph.
4. Where in the passage does the author present the idea that people may inherit the tendency for schizophrenia?
 - (A) Lines 3–4
 - (B) Line 9
 - (C) Lines 11–13
 - (D) Lines 13–16
5. The following sentence can be added to paragraph 3.

Further research into this hypothesis is ongoing.

Where would it best fit into the paragraph? Click on the square (■) to add the sentence to the paragraph.
6. Click on the sentence in paragraph 3 that gives the fraction of twins under study with irregular fingerprints.
7. This passage would probably be assigned reading in which of the following courses?
 - (A) Criminology
 - (B) Public Administration
 - (C) Statistics
 - (D) Psychology

PASSAGE TWO (Questions 8–13)

Line 10A To Americans, the Pony Express was a fixture of the Old West; most Americans are
(5) rather surprised to find out that in reality the Pony Express was in existence for only a short
period of time, about a year and a half. 10B A short-lived forefather of “express” mail service, the
Pony Express operated between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California, a distance of
just under 2,000 miles. 10C Letters and small packages could be delivered in under 10 days instead
of the 3 to 4 weeks that it had taken prior to the institution of the Pony Express. 10D

(10) In 1860, St. Joseph was the westernmost terminal of the country’s railroad system; mail
destined for the West Coast could come to St. Joe by train, but the only way to get it farther west
was on horseback. The Pony Express service was established on April 3, 1860, to fill this need: a
letter carried on horseback with only minimal downtime for changes in horses and riders could
cover 200 miles in one twenty-four hour period.

(15) The Pony Express system consisted of approximately 80 riders, 400 horses, and 190 stations
every 10 to 15 miles along the route. One rider took a mail pouch and carried it for 75 miles,
changing his tired horse for a fresh one at every station; he then passed the pouch to another
rider. Riders traveled day and night, and the mail never stopped.

12A On October 24, 1861, only a year and a half after the start of the Pony Express, the first
transcontinental telegraph opened for business, ending the need for the Pony Express. 12B The
Pony Express officially closed for business on October 26, 1861. 12C Obviously, its owners were
quick to recognize that the need for their services no longer existed. 12D

8. In which course would this passage most likely be assigned reading?
(A) Veterinary Medicine
(B) Speech Communication
(C) Audiology
(D) American History
9. Where in the passage does the author mention the amount of time it took to deliver a letter before the Pony Express?
(A) Lines 1–3
(B) Lines 5–6
(C) Lines 9–11
(D) Lines 12–13
10. The following sentence could be added to paragraph 1.
This brief existence started in 1860 and was over before the end of 1861.
Where would it best fit into the paragraph? Click on the square (■) to add the sentence to the paragraph.
11. Where in the passage does the author mention the technological device that put the Pony Express out of business?
(A) Lines 5–6
(B) Lines 9–11
(C) Lines 12–13
(D) Lines 16–17
12. The following sentence could be added to paragraph 4.
Only two days later, the Pony Express went out of business.
Where would it best fit into the paragraph? Click on the square (■) to add the sentence to the paragraph.
13. What is the author’s purpose in writing this passage?
(A) To warn of the dire effects of ending the Pony Express
(B) To describe a little-known reality about a historical subject
(C) To incite readers to action on behalf of the Pony Express
(D) To describe the development of express mail service

PASSAGE THREE (Questions 14–18)

Line The grand jury is an important part of the American legal system. 16A The grand jury is
(5) composed of private citizens who are appointed to serve for a designated period of time. 16B
Grand juries, which hold meetings in private, serve one of two functions: charging or
investigatory. 16C A grand jury that is serving a charging function listens to evidence presented by
the prosecutor and decides whether or not the prosecution has adequate evidence to charge a
suspect with a crime; if the grand jury feels that there is adequate evidence, then it issues an
indictment, and the suspect must then proceed with a trial. 16D A grand jury that is serving an
investigatory function investigates cases of suspected dishonesty, often by public officials. 16E

- The primary reason for the existence of the grand jury is that it is supposed to ensure that
- (10) citizens are not subject to unfair prosecution; under the grand jury system, prosecutors must first convince an unbiased group of citizens that there is justification for the charges that they want to bring. However, the grand jury system has come under attack from numerous directions. Grand juries are routinely criticized for being too slow and too costly; the grand jury system really means that there are two trials, the grand jury hearing to decide whether or not there should be a trial
- (15) and then the actual trial itself. Another criticism of the grand jury results from the fact that the meetings are held in private; the grand jury is not open to public scrutiny and is therefore not publicly responsible for its actions, and this has cast doubt on some of its findings. A final common criticism of the grand jury is that the evidence it hears is one-sided, from the perspective of the prosecution, so that the grand jury serves as the right arm of the prosecution rather than
- (20) as a defender of the rights of a suspect.

14. In which course might this passage be assigned reading?
- (A) Sociology of Criminal Behavior
(B) Introduction to Law
(C) American History
(D) Research Methodologies
15. Click on the sentence in paragraph 1 that mentions who serves on a grand jury.
16. The following sentence could be added to paragraph 1.
- The investigatory function of the grand jury is different from the charging function.**
- Where would it best fit into the paragraph? Click on the square (■) to add the sentence to the paragraph.
17. Where in the passage does the author discuss the problem associated with holding grand jury meetings in private?
- (A) Lines 4–6
(B) Lines 7–8
(C) Lines 10–12
(D) Lines 15–17
18. How does the author seem to feel about the grand jury system?
- (A) Quite assured as to its usefulness
(B) Somewhat doubtful about its effectiveness
(C) Highly supportive of its use
(D) Extremely negative about all aspects

PASSAGE ONE (Questions 1–11)

- Another noteworthy trend in twentieth-century music in the United States was the use of folk and popular music as a base for more serious compositions. **10A** The motivation for these borrowings from traditional music might be a desire on the part of a composer to return to simpler forms, to enhance patriotic feelings, or to establish an immediate rapport with an
- Line (5) audience. **10B** For whatever reason, composers such as Aaron Copland and Charles Ives offered compositions featuring novel musical forms flavored with refrains from traditional Americana. **10C** Copland drew upon folk music, particularly as sources for the music he wrote for the ballets *Billy the Kid*, *Rodeo*, and *Appalachian Spring*. **10D** Ives employed the whole gamut of patriotic songs, hymns, jazz, and popular songs in his compositions.

1. The paragraph preceding this passage most probably discusses
 - (A) nineteenth-century music
 - (B) one development in music in the last century
 - (C) the works of Aaron Copland
 - (D) the history of folk and popular music
2. Which of the following best describes the main idea of the passage?
 - (A) Traditional music flavored some American musical compositions in the twentieth century.
 - (B) Ives and Copland have used folk and popular music in their compositions.
 - (C) A variety of explanations exist as to why a composer might use traditional sources of music.
 - (D) Traditional music is composed of various types of folk and popular music.
3. It can be inferred from this passage that the author is not sure
 - (A) when Ives wrote his compositions
 - (B) that Ives and Copland actually borrowed from traditional music
 - (C) why certain composers borrowed from folk and popular music
 - (D) if Copland really featured new musical forms
4. Look at the word novel in the passage. This word could best be replaced by
 - ☐ literary
 - ☐ new
 - ☐ cultural
 - ☐ bookish
5. Look at the word he in the passage. Click on the word or phrase that he refers to.
6. Which of the following is NOT listed in the passage as a source for Ives's compositions?
 - (A) National music
 - (B) Religious music
 - (C) Jazz
 - (D) American novels
7. Click on the word in the passage that could best be replaced by "range."
8. Click on the sentence in the passage that gives reasons composers might use traditional melodies in their compositions.
9. Click on the sentence in the passage that lists examples of titles of Copland's works.