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## Section 3: Reading Comprehension

50 QUESTIONS 55 MINUTES

**Directions:** In this section, you will read several passages. Each one is followed by a number of questions about it. For questions 1–50, 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.

### Questions 1–10

Precipitation, commonly referred to as rainfall, is a measure of the quantity of water in the form of either rain, hail, or snow which reaches the ground. The average annual precipitation over the whole of the United States is thirty-six inches. It should be understood however, that a foot of snow is not equal to a foot of precipitation. A general formula for computing the precipitation of snowfall is that ten inches of snow is equal to one inch of precipitation. In New York State, for example, twenty inches of snow in one year would be recorded as only two inches of precipitation. Forty inches of rain would be recorded as forty inches of precipitation. The total annual precipitation would be recorded as forty-two inches.

The amount of precipitation is a combined result of several factors, including location, altitude, proximity to the sea, and the direction of prevailing winds. Most of the precipitation in the United States is brought originally by prevailing winds from the Pacific Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Great Lakes. Because these prevailing winds generally come from the West, the Pacific Coast receives more annual precipitation than the Atlantic Coast. Along the Pacific Coast itself, however, altitude causes some diversity in rainfall. The mountain ranges of the United States, especially the Rocky Mountain Range and the Appalachian Mountain Range, influence the amount of precipitation in their areas. East of the Rocky Mountains, the annual precipitation decreases substantially from that west of the Rocky Mountains. The precipitation north of the Appalachian Mountains is about 40 percent less than that south of the Appalachian Mountains.

1. What does this passage mainly discuss?
  - (A) Precipitation
  - (B) Snowfall
  - (C) New York State
  - (D) A general formula
2. Which of the following is another word that is often used in place of precipitation?
  - (A) Humidity
  - (B) Wetness
  - (C) Rainfall
  - (D) Rain-snow
3. The term *precipitation* includes
  - (A) only rainfall
  - (B) rain, hail, and snow
  - (C) rain, snow, and humidity
  - (D) rain, hail, and humidity

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4. What is the average annual rainfall in inches in the United States?  
 (A) Thirty-six inches  
 (B) Thirty-eight inches  
 (C) Forty inches  
 (D) Forty-two inches
5. If a state has 40 inches of snow in a year, by how much does this increase the annual precipitation?  
 (A) By two feet  
 (B) By four inches  
 (C) By four feet  
 (D) By 40 inches
6. The phrase "proximity to" in line 10 is closest in meaning to  
 (A) communication with  
 (B) dependence on  
 (C) nearness to  
 (D) similarity to
7. Where is the annual precipitation highest?  
 (A) The Atlantic Coast  
 (B) The Great Lakes  
 (C) The Gulf of Mexico  
 (D) The Pacific Coast
8. Which of the following was NOT mentioned as a factor in determining the amount of precipitation that an area will receive?  
 (A) Mountains  
 (B) Latitude  
 (C) The sea  
 (D) Wind
9. The word "substantially" in line 17 could best be replaced by  
 (A) fundamentally  
 (B) slightly  
 (C) completely  
 (D) apparently
10. The word "that" in line 19 refers to  
 (A) decreases  
 (B) precipitation  
 (C) areas  
 (D) mountain ranges

#### Questions 11–20

Course numbers are an indication of which courses are open to various categories of students at the University. Undergraduate courses with the numbers 100 or 200 are generally introductory courses appropriate for freshmen or sophomores, whereas courses with the numbers 300 or 400 often have prerequisites and are open to juniors and seniors only. Courses with the numbers 800 or above are open only to graduate students. Certain graduate courses, generally those devoted to introductory material, are numbered 400 for undergraduate students who qualify to take them and 600 for graduate students. Courses designed for students seeking a professional degree carry a 500 number for undergraduate students and a 700 number for graduate students. Courses numbered 99 or below are special interest courses that do not carry academic credit. If students elect to take a special interest course, it will not count toward the number of hours needed to complete graduation requirements.

A full-time undergraduate student is expected to take courses that total twelve to eighteen credit hours. A full-time graduate student is expected to take courses that total ten to sixteen credit hours. Students holding assistantships are expected to enroll for proportionately fewer hours. A part-time graduate student may register for a minimum of three credit hours.

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An overload, that is, more than the maximum number of hours, may be taken with the approval of an academic advisor. To register for an overload, students must submit the appropriate approval form when registering. Overloads above 24 hours will not be approved under any circumstances.

11. Where would this passage most likely be found?
- (A) In a syllabus  
(B) In a college catalog  
(C) In an undergraduate course  
(D) In a graduate course
12. What is the purpose of the passage?
- (A) To inform  
(B) To persuade  
(C) To criticize  
(D) To apologize
13. The word "prerequisites" in line 4 is closest in meaning to
- (A) courses required before enrolling  
(B) courses needed for graduation  
(C) courses that include additional charges  
(D) courses that do not carry academic credit
14. The word "those" in line 6 refers to
- (A) graduate students  
(B) graduate courses  
(C) introductory courses  
(D) course numbers
15. Which classification of students would be eligible to enroll in Mechanical Engineering 850?
- (A) A graduate student  
(B) A part-time student  
(C) A full-time student  
(D) An undergraduate student
16. If an undergraduate student uses the number 520 to register for an accounting course, what number would a graduate student probably use to register for the same course?
- (A) Accounting 520  
(B) Accounting 620  
(C) Accounting 720  
(D) Accounting 820
17. How is a student who registers for eight credit hours classified?
- (A) Full-time student  
(B) Graduate student  
(C) Part-time student  
(D) Non-degree student
18. Which of the following courses would not be included in the list of courses for graduation?
- (A) English 90  
(B) English 100  
(C) English 300  
(D) English 400
19. A graduate student may NOT
- (A) enroll in a course numbered 610  
(B) register for only one one-hour course  
(C) register for courses if he has an assistantship  
(D) enroll in an introductory course
20. The phrase "under any circumstances" in lines 18 is closest in meaning to
- (A) without cause  
(B) without permission  
(C) without exception  
(D) without a good reason

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Questions 21–30

During the nineteenth century, women in the United States organized and participated in a large number of reform movements, including movements to reorganize the prison system, improve education, ban the sale of alcohol, and, most importantly, to free the slaves. Some

*Line* women saw similarities in the social status of women and slaves. Women like Elizabeth Cady

- (5) Stanton and Lucy Stone were feminists and abolitionists who supported the rights of both women and blacks. A number of male abolitionists, including William Lloyd Garrison and Wendell Philips, also supported the rights of women to speak and participate equally with men in antislavery activities. Probably more than any other movement, abolitionism offered women a previously denied entry into politics. They became involved primarily in order to
- (10) better their living conditions and the conditions of others.

When the Civil War ended in 1865, the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution adopted in 1868 and 1870 granted citizenship and suffrage to blacks but not to women. Discouraged but resolved, feminists influenced more and more women to demand the right to vote. In 1869, the Wyoming Territory had yielded to demands by feminists, but

- (15) eastern states resisted more stubbornly than before. A women's suffrage bill had been presented to every Congress since 1878 but it continually failed to pass until 1920, when the Nineteenth Amendment granted women the right to vote.

21. With what topic is the passage primarily concerned?
- (A) The Wyoming Territory  
(B) The Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments  
(C) Abolitionists  
(D) Women's suffrage
22. The word "ban" in line 3 most nearly means to
- (A) encourage  
(B) publish  
(C) prohibit  
(D) limit
23. The word "supported" in line 5 could best be replaced by
- (A) disregarded  
(B) acknowledged  
(C) contested  
(D) promoted
24. According to the passage, why did women become active in politics?
- (A) To improve the conditions of life that existed at the time  
(B) To support Elizabeth Cady Stanton for president  
(C) To be elected to public office  
(D) To amend the Declaration of Independence
25. The word "primarily" in line 9 is closest in meaning to
- (A) above all  
(B) somewhat  
(C) finally  
(D) always

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26. What had occurred shortly after the Civil War?
- (A) The Wyoming Territory was admitted to the Union.  
 (B) A women's suffrage bill was introduced in Congress.  
 (C) The eastern states resisted the end of the war.  
 (D) Black people were granted the right to vote.
27. The word "suffrage" in line 12 could best be replaced by which of the following?
- (A) pain  
 (B) citizenship  
 (C) freedom from bondage  
 (D) the right to vote
28. What does the Nineteenth Amendment guarantee?
- (A) Voting rights for blacks  
 (B) Citizenship for blacks  
 (C) Voting rights for women  
 (D) Citizenship for women
29. The word "it" in line 16 refers to
- (A) bill  
 (B) Congress  
 (C) Nineteenth Amendment  
 (D) vote
30. When were women allowed to vote throughout the United States?
- (A) After 1866  
 (B) After 1870  
 (C) After 1878  
 (D) After 1920

#### Questions 31–40

Fertilizer is any substance that can be added to the soil to provide chemical elements essential for plant nutrition. Natural substances such as animal droppings and straw have been used as fertilizers for thousands of years, and lime has been used since the Romans introduced it during the Empire. It was not until the nineteenth century, in fact, that chemical fertilizers became popular. Today, both natural and synthetic fertilizers are available in a variety of forms.

A complete fertilizer is usually marked with a formula consisting of three numbers, such as 4-8-2 or 3-6-4, which designate the percentage content of nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash in the order stated.

- (10) Synthetic fertilizers are available in either solid or liquid form. Solids, in the shape of chemical granules are popular because they are easy to store and apply. Recently, liquids have shown an increase in popularity, accounting for about 20 percent of the nitrogen fertilizer used throughout the world. Formerly, powders were also used, but these were found to be less convenient than either solids or liquids.
- (15) Fertilizers have no harmful effects on the soil, the crop, or the consumer as long as they are used according to recommendations based on the results of local research. Occasionally, however, farmers may use more fertilizer than necessary, damaging not only the crop but also the animals or humans that eat it. Accumulations of fertilizer in the water supply accelerate the growth of algae and, consequently, may disturb the natural cycle of life, contributing to the death of fish. Too much fertilizer on grass can cause digestive disorders in cattle and in infants who drink cow's milk.



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31. With which of the following topics is the passage primarily concerned?
- (A) Local research and harmful effects of fertilizer  
 (B) Advantages and disadvantages of liquid fertilizer  
 (C) A formula for the production of fertilizer  
 (D) Content, form, and effects of fertilizer
32. The word "essential" in line 2 could best be replaced by which of the following?
- (A) limited  
 (B) preferred  
 (C) anticipated  
 (D) required
33. In the formula 3-6-4
- (A) the content of nitrogen is greater than that of potash  
 (B) the content of potash is greater than that of phosphoric acid  
 (C) the content of phosphoric acid is less than that of nitrogen  
 (D) the content of nitrogen is less than that of phosphoric acid
34. Which of the following has the smallest percentage content in the formula 4-8-2?
- (A) Nitrogen  
 (B) Phosphorus  
 (C) Acid  
 (D) Potash
35. What is the percentage of nitrogen in a 5-8-7 formula fertilizer?
- (A) 3 percent  
 (B) 5 percent  
 (C) 7 percent  
 (D) 8 percent
36. The word "designate" in line 8 could be replaced by
- (A) modify  
 (B) specify  
 (C) limit  
 (D) increase
37. Which of the following statements about fertilizer is true?
- (A) Powders are more popular than ever.  
 (B) Solids are difficult to store.  
 (C) Liquids are increasing in popularity.  
 (D) Chemical granules are difficult to apply.
38. The word "these" in line 13 refers to
- (A) powders  
 (B) solids  
 (C) liquids  
 (D) fertilizer
39. The word "convenient" in line 14 is closest in meaning to
- (A) effective  
 (B) plentiful  
 (C) easy to use  
 (D) cheap to produce
40. What happens when too much fertilizer is used?
- (A) Local research teams provide recommendations.  
 (B) Algae in the water supplies begin to die.  
 (C) Animals and humans may become ill.  
 (D) Crops have no harmful effects.

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Questions 41–50

In 1626, Peter Minuit, governor of the Dutch settlements in North America known as New Amsterdam, negotiated with Canarsee Indian chiefs for the purchase of Manhattan Island for merchandise valued at sixty guilders or about \$24.12. He purchased the island for the Dutch

West India Company.

- (5) The next year, Fort Amsterdam was built by the company at the extreme southern tip of the island. Because attempts to encourage Dutch immigration were not immediately successful, offers, generous by the standards of the era, were extended throughout Europe. Consequently, the settlement became the most heterogeneous of the North American colonies. By 1637, the fort had expanded into the village of New Amsterdam, and other small communities had
- (10) grown up around it, including New Haarlem and Stuyvesant's Bouwery, and New Amsterdam began to prosper, developing characteristics of religious and linguistic tolerance unusual for the times. By 1643, it was reported that eighteen different languages were heard in New Amsterdam alone.

- (15) Among the multilingual settlers was a large group of English colonists from Connecticut and Massachusetts who supported the English King's claim to all of New Netherlands set out in a charter that gave the territory to his brother James, the Duke of York. In 1664, when the English sent a formidable fleet of warships into the New Amsterdam harbor, Dutch governor Peter Stuyvesant surrendered without resistance.

- (20) When the English acquired the island, the village of New Amsterdam was renamed New York in honor of the Duke. By the onset of the Revolution, New York City was already a bustling commercial center. After the war, it was selected as the first capital of the United States. Although the government was eventually moved, first to Philadelphia and then to Washington, D.C., New York City has remained the unofficial commercial capital.

- (25) During the 1690s, New York became a haven for pirates who conspired with leading merchants to exchange supplies for their ships in return for a share in the plunder. As a colony, New York exchanged many agricultural products for English manufactured goods. In addition, trade with the West Indies prospered. Three centuries after his initial trade with the Indians, Minuit's tiny investment was worth more than seven billion dollars.

41. Which of the following would be the best title for this passage?
- (A) A History of New York City  
(B) An Account of the Dutch Colonies  
(C) A Biography of Peter Minuit  
(D) The First Capital of the United States
42. What did the Indians receive in exchange for their island?
- (A) Sixty Dutch guilders  
(B) \$24.12 U.S.  
(C) Goods and supplies  
(D) Land in New Amsterdam
43. Where was New Amsterdam located?
- (A) In Holland  
(B) In North America  
(C) On the island of Manhattan  
(D) In India
44. The word "heterogeneous" in line 8 could best be replaced by
- (A) liberal  
(B) renowned  
(C) diverse  
(D) prosperous

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45. Why were so many languages spoken in New Amsterdam?
- (A) The Dutch West India Company was owned by England.
- (B) The Dutch West India Company allowed freedom of speech.
- (C) The Dutch West India Company recruited settlers from many different countries in Europe.
- (D) The Indians who lived there before the Dutch West India Company purchase spoke many languages.
46. The word "formidable" in line 17 is closest in meaning to
- (A) powerful
- (B) modern
- (C) expensive
- (D) unexpected
47. The name of New Amsterdam was changed
- (A) to avoid a war with England
- (B) to honor the Duke of York
- (C) to attract more English colonists from Connecticut and Massachusetts
- (D) to encourage trade during the 1690s
48. The word "it" in line 21 refers to
- (A) Revolution
- (B) New York City
- (C) the island
- (D) the first capital
49. Which city was the first capital of the new United States?
- (A) New Amsterdam
- (B) New York
- (C) Philadelphia
- (D) Washington
50. On what date was Manhattan valued at \$7 billion?
- (A) 1626
- (B) 1726
- (C) 1656
- (D) 1926

**THIS IS THE END OF THE READING COMPREHENSION SECTION .**

**IF YOU FINISH BEFORE 55 MINUTES HAS ENDED, CHECK YOUR WORK ON SECTION 3 ONLY.**

**DO NOT READ OR WORK ON ANY OTHER SECTION OF THE TEST.**



To check your answers for the PBT Model Test, refer to the Answer Key on page 505.

← THE TEST OF WRITTEN ENGLISH (TWE) FOLLOWS.

**THE TEST OF WRITTEN ENGLISH (TWE) FOLLOWS.**

## Test of Written English (TWE)

When you take this Model Test, you should use one sheet of paper, both sides. Time the Model Test carefully. After you have read the topic, you should spend 30 minutes writing. For results that would be closest to the actual testing situation, it is recommended that an English teacher score your test, using the guidelines on page 453 of this book.

In your opinion, what is the best way to choose a marriage partner? Use specific reasons and examples why you think this approach is best.

### Notes