

# Objective Placement Test C

## General Directions

The Objective Placement Test has three sections: Listening, Reading, and Language Use. There are 70 questions. You are allowed 50 minutes to complete the test.

In Section I, the Listening section, you will hear nine conversations and answer one or more questions about each one. Before you listen to a conversation, read the question or questions. Then listen to the conversation. Answer the questions after the conversation ends. Choose the correct answer for each question and fill in your choice on your answer sheet. You will hear the conversation only once. The first conversation is an example. You have 15 minutes to complete this section.

Section II, the Reading section, has several short passages. After you read each passage, choose the correct answer for each question and fill in your choice on your answer sheet. You have 20 minutes to complete this section.

Section III, the Language Use section, has 30 items. Choose the correct completion for each item and fill in your choice on your answer sheet. You have 15 minutes to complete this section.

Mark your answers clearly on your answer sheet. If you want to change an answer, erase your first answer completely. If you want to take notes during the test, write on the paper you were given.

## Section I: Listening

In this section of the test, you will hear conversations and answer some questions about them. For each conversation, first read the situation and the question or questions. Then listen to the conversation. Answer the questions after you hear the conversation. Respond to the questions by marking the correct answer (*a*, *b*, *c*, or *d*) on your answer sheet.

Read the example situation and question.

### Example

*Situation:* Ellen Fox needs to find a place to live. She calls Rooms for Rent to make an appointment.

Ellen can talk to someone \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. at 10:00 today
- b. later today
- c. tomorrow morning
- d. tomorrow afternoon

Now listen to the example conversation.

[EXAMPLE CONVERSATION]

Now answer the example question.

The answer for the example is *c*, *tomorrow morning*. The letter *c* is filled in on your answer sheet.

Now go on to page 3.

*Situation 1:* Ann and Tomas are at a coffee shop. They're talking when Yoshi comes in.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ are meeting for the first time.
  - a. Ann and Tomas
  - b. Ann and Yoshi
  - c. Yoshi and Tomas
  - d. Ann, Tomas, and Yoshi

*Situation 2:* Rick and Sharon are at a restaurant.

2. Sharon \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. usually eats fish
  - b. is eating the chicken
  - c. is going to have fish
  - d. prefers fish to chicken

*Situation 3:* Sven calls Marcos's home. Marcos's roommate answers the telephone.

3. Marcos \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. comes to the phone
  - b. is at a meeting
  - c. will be home by 4:30
  - d. will take a message

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*Situation 4:* A reporter is giving today's weather forecast.

4. It's hot and dry in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Colorado
  - b. Florida
  - c. Miami
  - d. Boston
5. In Miami, it will be \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. clear
  - b. rainy
  - c. dry
  - d. cold

*Situation 5:* Dom calls Phil about playing golf.

6. They're going to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. have lunch together
  - b. play golf next week
  - c. go to a business meeting
  - d. meet early in the morning
7. Phil can't play golf tomorrow afternoon because he \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. is meeting someone for lunch
  - b. has a meeting until 4:00
  - c. is getting ready for a meeting
  - d. needs to leave a meeting early

Now go on to page 5.

*Situation 6:* Sherry and Jill are both going on summer vacations with their families. They are talking about their plans.

8. Jill and her family usually \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. stay at home
  - b. take a trip together
  - c. do different things
  - d. visit art museums
9. Sherry wishes she had time to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. visit Jill's family
  - b. read more
  - c. take a trip
  - d. go shopping

*Situation 7:* Melanie is talking to George about her laptop computer.

10. Melanie is angry because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. she can't use her computer
  - b. her friends don't have a computer
  - c. Carol doesn't want to return the computer
  - d. George won't lend her his computer
11. Carol \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. lent her computer to a friend
  - b. broke Melanie's computer
  - c. borrowed a computer from George
  - d. just bought her own computer
12. George doesn't usually lend things because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. he doesn't have that much to lend
  - b. his friends don't need to borrow anything
  - c. lending things can change a friendship
  - d. it's better to borrow from a bank

Now go on to page 6.

*Situation 8:* Henry and Gloria are talking about their trips abroad.

13. Henry went to Mexico \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. by himself  
b. with his parents  
c. after school  
d. to visit a friend
14. When Henry says that he "would have liked to have seen Brazil," he means that he \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. went there, and he liked it  
b. went there, but he didn't like it  
c. wanted to go there, but he couldn't  
d. didn't want to go there, so he didn't
15. Gloria went to Poland because \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. she wanted to learn the language  
b. she traveled there with a friend  
c. her family moved there  
d. her sister invited her
16. Dottie \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. wanted to go home  
b. learned Polish quickly  
c. got a job in Poland  
d. loved new things

Now go on to page 7.



*Situation 9:* Barbara and Eddie are talking about their new jobs.

17. Before Eddie began his job at Delaney's, he had already \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. finished his classes  
b. had a job as a manager  
c. worked with Barbara  
d. sold clothes in a store
18. At Delaney's, Eddie works \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. on weekends and holidays  
b. in the jewelry department  
c. as a manager  
d. with a friend
19. Barbara always wanted to \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. get a job at Delaney's  
b. work in a jewelry store  
c. live with her grandfather  
d. become a nurse
20. Barbara \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. makes beautiful things  
b. takes nursing classes  
c. sells jewelry  
d. hates her job

Now go on to page 8 and begin the Reading section.

## Section II: Reading

In this section of the Objective Placement Test, you will read some short passages and answer questions about them. Choose the word or words that best complete the sentence. For each item, fill in your answer on the answer sheet. You will have 20 minutes to complete this section.

*Passage 1: What are you doing this weekend?*

MARA: Sunday is the day when I usually have lunch with my friends downtown. But this week there's a concert on Saturday, so I'll see my friends then. Sunday I'm staying home.

21. This Saturday Mara's going to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. stay at home  
 b. have lunch downtown  
 c. go to a concert  
 d. fix lunch for her friends

*Passage 2: What do you do?*

EILEEN SWEET: I'm a hostess at a big restaurant. I greet people at the door and take them to their tables. Day after day, I always do the same thing. Someday I hope to have a more interesting job, but it's OK for now.

22. Eileen thinks that her job is \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. difficult  
 b. interesting  
 c. important  
 d. boring

Now go on to page 9.



Passage 3: A vacation postcard

Dear Millie,

You wouldn't believe Costa Rica! It's really peaceful. Judy and I have been staying in a tent at a campground on the beach. We're studying a little Spanish with a cute guy who teaches English in school here, but I think he's learning more English than we are Spanish. Judy brought her guitar, so we enjoy singing around the campfire at night.

Love,  
Sheila

23. Sheila and Judy are \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. traveling with Millie  
 b. taking guitar lessons  
 c. camping at the beach  
 d. learning lots of Spanish

Passage 4: Concentration, a special talent

People who have the capacity for intense concentration have a great advantage. Such people have the ability to ignore stimuli (sights, sounds, or anything that can distract a person) and are more likely to stay with the task at hand and to solve it. This ability can make all the difference between winning and losing in certain situations – for example, for the championship runner competing for a gold medal at the Olympics.

24. In this reading, *concentration* refers to a person's ability to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. stay in one place  
 b. focus on a task  
 c. hear certain sounds  
 d. ignore instructions
25. Athletes who can concentrate are more likely to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. compete  
 b. win  
 c. relax  
 d. run

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*Passage 5: The Scot and the tea kettle*

According to one story, a Scottish boy watched the steam lift the top off his mother's tea kettle and realized the power of steam to make machines work. That boy, James Watt, would then go on to invent the modern steam engine in 1769. Actually, the history of steam technology records the successful work of several scientists and engineers before Watt. For example, in 1698, Thomas Savery had introduced a simple steam pump to remove water from mines, and 14 years later Thomas Newcomen invented a better pump. But these pumps weren't efficient because they used so much fuel. In 1769, the Scottish boy, James Watt, figured out a way to save three-quarters of the fuel. To honor him, his last name became the name of a unit of energy.

26. The example of the boiling tea kettle shows that steam is \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. useful  
b. efficient  
c. powerful  
d. necessary
27. The first steam engines \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. didn't pump water  
b. cost too much to build  
c. were difficult to make  
d. used too much fuel

Now go on to page 11.

*Passage 6: Wide open spaces*

Visitors to the United States, especially those from Japan or the smaller countries of Europe, are likely to comment on the size and scale of everything. Although the downtown sections of some of the older cities such as Boston and Philadelphia may look similar to their own larger cities, other aspects are likely to appear "out of scale." For example, the average American farm is huge in comparison with the typical family farm of Europe and Asia. Across the Great Plains, farmers use great machines to plant and harvest enormous quantities of wheat. Such farms offer a dramatic contrast to the tiny farms of Europe or Asia, where intense human labor is more important. The main cities of the United States are connected by a vast system of highways and superhighways moving endless streams of cars and trucks, while on the edge of the cities, suburban developments and shopping centers with huge parking lots stretch for mile after mile. It's as if Americans made everything larger, just to use up the available space.

28. To visitors, everything in the United States seems \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. larger
  - b. similar
  - c. more expensive
  - d. interesting
  
29. To Japanese and European visitors, the downtown sections of Boston and Philadelphia seem \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. out of scale
  - b. the right size
  - c. too old
  - d. very beautiful
  
30. The typical American farm \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. is similar to farms everywhere
  - b. uses a lot of machinery
  - c. is run by large families
  - d. doesn't require much work
  
31. The article implies that people in the United States are influenced by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. the amount of available space
  - b. the need to grow lots of food
  - c. visitors' impressions of their country
  - d. farming practices in Europe and Asia

Now go on to page 12.



Passage 7: Staying in touch

People don't need to be in close physical contact to feel "connected" emotionally. Over the years, various means of communication have been used to enable human beings to keep in contact with one another. Letters, telegrams, and telephones have allowed individuals located in different places to share news and to interact with family, friends, and business relationships.

In today's world, with more and more people on the move, long-distance communication has become even more important. At the same time, changes in technology, particularly the introduction of computers and the increasing use of electronic mail, have made it easier than ever to stay in contact. There are two main reasons why e-mail has become so widespread: time and money. Although mail service and telephones can be found almost everywhere, a letter can take a long time to arrive and phone calls are often quite expensive.

E-mail seems to be replacing other forms of communication for many purposes. As the use of computers has spread, many people use e-mail rather than regular mail to send personal messages. Because it has become so easy to send pictures and information via the Internet, it has also become commonplace to use e-mail in business. E-mail has even given rise to a new type of communication, the "chat room," where groups of people who do not know each other personally can talk about topics of mutual interest. While some people are enthusiastic about communication in the modern age, others regret the growing depersonalization brought on by the use of e-mail. Communication has become so easy and yet so removed from the normal process of face-to-face interaction that researchers have concluded that a whole new culture of communication may be forming.

32. The main idea of the article is that \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. these days people don't communicate enough  
 b. modern means of communication cost too much  
 c. letter and phone calls are more effective  
 d. e-mail is changing the way we live
33. Modern communications enable people to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. see each other more often  
 b. write more letters and telegrams  
 c. keep in contact with one another  
 d. move from place to place quickly
34. In comparison with a telephone call, e-mail is \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. more acceptable  
 b. more personal  
 c. slower  
 d. cheaper
35. \_\_\_\_\_ is a new type of communication made possible by e-mail.  
 a. A personal message  
 b. A chat room  
 c. Long-distance discussion  
 d. Sending information

Now go on to page 13.

Passage 8: Biofeedback

When biofeedback was first developed a number of years ago, it caused a lot of excitement. People hoped that biofeedback could be used to cure all kinds of physical and mental problems.

Biofeedback is the name for a medical technique that helps people treat certain problems by becoming more aware of their own bodies. In biofeedback, instruments that measure bodily functions such as muscle tension, temperature, and blood flow are attached to the body. The instruments produce signals – for example, a series of sounds (beeps) or a flashing light – that the person can hear or see. The patient then uses the information to help gain control over the function.

The most widely used biofeedback instrument is the electromyograph, or EMG. The EMG is used to measure muscle tension. It is made up of several electrodes, which are placed on the skin near a particular area, depending on the symptom. For example, for headaches, a symptom often caused by excessive tension in the neck muscles, the electrodes are placed on the forehead or near the back of the neck. When the tension is present, the EMG produces a signal and the patient is taught to respond by relaxing the appropriate muscles. In many cases, the relaxation of these muscles causes the headache to go away.

While biofeedback has not turned out to be a cure-all, it has been used successfully to treat a limited number of problems – especially those caused by chronic tension.

36. At first, people were very \_\_\_\_\_ biofeedback.

- a. nervous about
- b. interested in
- c. familiar with
- d. opposed to

37. Biofeedback instruments \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. act like a kind of medicine
- b. cause people to get excited
- c. are put on a patient's body
- d. teach people to exercise

38. Blood flow is an example of a \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. technique
- b. signal
- c. function
- d. problem

39. The EMG \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. relaxes the muscles
- b. measures tension
- c. causes movement
- d. produces symptoms

40. According to the article, biofeedback \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. is more popular than ever
- b. causes chronic tension
- c. cures all types of headaches
- d. has had limited success

Now go on to page 14 and begin the Language Use section.



## Section III: Language Use

In this section, you will answer questions about the use of English. Choose the word or words that best complete the sentence. For each item, fill in your answer on the answer sheet. You will have 15 minutes to complete this section.

41. "Are the bags ready?"  
"Yes, \_\_\_\_\_."  
a. they're  
b. there are  
c. their  
d. they are
42. I live \_\_\_\_\_ 4040 Oak Avenue.  
a. on  
b. at  
c. in  
d. next
43. "I like to cook."  
"\_\_\_\_\_ do I."  
a. And  
b. So  
c. Also  
d. Top
44. David enjoys \_\_\_\_\_ sports on TV.  
a. watching  
b. watch  
c. to watch  
d. watched
45. \_\_\_\_\_ everyone I know plays a musical instrument.  
a. The most  
b. Almost  
c. All  
d. Most of
46. Yesterday's game caused a lot of \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. excited  
b. exciting  
c. excite  
d. excitement

Now go on to page 15.



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### Objective Placement Test C