

ENGLISH ON CAMPUS
PLACEMENT TEST

READING SECTION

In this section of the Written Placement Test, you will read six short articles and answer some questions about them. Circle your answers on the answer sheet.

Article One: *What are you doing today?*

Christine Johnson (student): "What am I doing today? I'm shopping for summer clothes. I'm buying a bathing suit. I'm also looking for sandals. I'm getting ready for a vacation at the beach."

1. Today Christine is looking for _____
- a. a beach
 - b. summer clothes
 - c. a coat

Article Two: *What does he like to do?*

Carl Simmons is a high school student. He likes music and baseball. He listens to music every night, all year long, but he can only play baseball in the summer. He plays three times a week in June, July, and August. That's why summer is his favorite time of the year.

2. Carl likes summer because he _____
- a. likes to play baseball
 - b. is a high school student
 - c. listens to music every night

Article Three: *What is your work schedule?*

Randall Kelly (restaurant cook): "I get up at 5:00 a.m., get dressed, and drive to work. The restaurant opens at 6:00 a.m. sharp. We serve breakfast until eleven and lunch until three. Then I go home. I go to bed around 9:00 p.m., and hope that the telephone doesn't ring. I don't work on Saturdays or Sundays. I only work on weekdays."

3. Randall starts work at _____
- a. 5:00 A.M.
 - b. 6:00 A.M.
 - c. 11:00 A.M.
4. One meal that Randall *doesn't* cook at the restaurant is _____
- a. breakfast
 - b. lunch
 - c. supper
5. Randall *doesn't* like to get phone calls after _____
- a. at work
 - b. on Saturdays or Sundays
 - c. after he goes to bed

Article Four: *How does he like his job?*

Robert Lyndon has a new job. He is a technician at a computer store. He usually answers the telephone and helps customers who have problems with their new computers. Sometimes he can help them by phone, but sometimes people have serious problems. These people bring their computers back to the store and Robert repairs them.

Robert also teaches classes on computers. Every Thursday afternoon, he invites customers to come to the store. He teaches them how to use their new computers and answers their questions. Robert enjoys his new job because he likes to help people.

6. Customers who have serious problems with their computers _____
 - a. take their computers back to Robert
 - b. work in a computer store
 - c. ask Robert to come to their offices
7. Robert teaches people how to _____ computers.
 - a. repair
 - b. use
 - c. buy
8. Robert likes his job because _____.
 - a. he likes to help people
 - b. it is a new job for him
 - c. people have problems with computers

Article Five: *Touchy topics*

In North America when people meet each other for the first time, they talk about things like family, work, school, or sports. They ask questions like, "Do you have any brothers or sisters?" "Where do you work?", "What school do you go to?" and "Do you like sports?" They also ask questions like "Where do you come from?" and "Where do you live?" These are polite questions. They are not personal or private.

But some things are personal or private, and questions about them are not polite. People don't ask questions about a person's salary. They don't ask how much someone paid for something. It is OK to ask children how old they are, but it is not polite to ask older people their age. It is also not polite to ask people questions about politics or religion unless you know them well. People don't ask unmarried people "Why are you single?" and they don't ask a married couple with no children "Why don't you have any children?"

9. The author of this article wants readers to _____.
 - a. be very friendly to people from North America
 - b. find out a lot about North Americans
 - c. know what questions are polite in North America
10. According to this article, when meeting North Americans it is OK to ask them about their _____.
 - a. average salary
 - b. favorite sports
 - c. religious beliefs
11. When meeting North Americans for the first time, DON'T ask, _____.
 - a. "Do you come from a big family?"

- b. "Do you like to play baseball?"
 - c. "How much did your shoes cost?"
12. In North America, it's OK to discuss politics with _____
- a. married couples
 - b. good friends
 - c. older people
13. Information people *don't* discuss with others is considered _____
- a. "private"
 - b. "political"
 - c. "polite"

Article Six: *Marking territory*

In everyday language, we talk of "my place," "our home," and "their neighborhood." We think of our home as our own private territory. People need a place of their own, where they can get away from others and feel a sense of being in charge. Even within families, we attach ourselves to personal territories; for example, the kitchen tends to "belong" to the one who prepares the meals. We like to have our own workrooms and our own bedrooms, or at least our own side of the bed! People personalize their territories to emphasize where one ends and another begins.

Personalizing our territories shows how attached we feel to them. A study of American university dormitories showed how personalization of students' spaces was related to their sense of belonging to the university as a whole. The investigators counted the number of personal items in the students' rooms, such as posters, stereos, and rugs, and found that the students who dropped out had the least number of personal items on display.

The same thing is true of neighborhoods. Look around you in your own neighborhood. Look at the houses or apartments that show personalization: new fences and boundary markers, door colors that stand out from the rest, or freshly painted window frames. Noting how territories are marked should allow you to predict who is most likely to stay and become involved in the community.

14. The purpose of this article is to describe why people _____
- a. buy their houses
 - b. move to a new city
 - c. personalize their places
15. According to this article, people need to have _____
- a. places of their own
 - b. many workrooms
 - c. more time with friends
16. Students who display only a few personal items in their rooms are more likely to quit school than students who display many. This information is _____
- a. an opinion of the author
 - b. a researcher's findings
 - c. a well-known fact
17. According to this article, if people make their homes look different from the others around them, they are likely to _____
- a. be good painters

- b. stay in the neighborhood
 - c. send their children to the university
18. *Territory* is closest in meaning to _____
- a. *boundary*
 - b. *display*
 - c. *area*

LANGUAGE USE SECTION

In this section of the test, you will answer questions about the use of English. For each item, choose the word or words that best complete the sentence. Circle your answers on the answer sheet.

19. _____ aren't my books. They're Linda's.
- a. This
 - b. These
 - c. That
20. "Is Mary here?"
"No _____"
- a. she isn't
 - b. he's not
 - c. it isn't
21. The girls _____ in the yard right now.
- a. play
 - b. are playing
 - c. is playing
22. "_____ John live in Chicago?"
"No, he lives in New York."
- a. Do
 - b. Is
 - c. Does
23. Write on the blackboard. _____ write on the wall!
- a. Don't
 - b. Shouldn't
 - c. Doesn't
24. Michelle isn't a good swimmer. She _____ swim very well.
- a. don't
 - b. can't
 - c. wasn't
25. There aren't _____ people at the beach today
- a. any
 - b. some
 - c. no
26. Your clothes are ready. Pick _____ up this afternoon.
- a. they

- b. their
c. them
27. Let's go to the store. We need _____ some food.
a. to buy
b. buy
c. buying
28. "Where _____ last night?"
"I was at home."
a. you were
b. was you
c. were you
29. Where _____ you go for dinner last night?
a. do
b. were
c. did
30. What are you _____ to do after class today?
a. doing
b. going
c. have
31. "Is this your umbrella?"
"No, it's not _____"
a. me
b. my
c. mine
32. "Excuse me, I'm looking for a restaurant."
"No problem. There's _____ across the street."
a. some
b. one
c. ones
33. "Good morning, sir. What would you like for breakfast?"
"_____ toast and coffee, please."
a. I'll have
b. I have
c. I would
34. I was born in Brazil, but I _____ up in the U.S.
a. was growing
b. grow
c. grew
35. I think that mathematics is _____ than biology
a. most difficult
b. more difficult
c. too difficult

36. "Have you ever visited Asia?"
"Yes, I _____ there last year."
a. have gone
b. went
c. would go
37. When you see Angela, could you please _____ call me?
a. tell her to
b. tell her
c. tell her that
38. I _____ when the burglars entered the house.
a. have slept
b. am sleeping
c. was sleeping
39. I _____ at that restaurant a lot before I moved to my new neighborhood.
a. used to eat
b. am eating
c. have eaten
40. Is New York as _____ as Tokyo?
a. big
b. bigger
c. the biggest
41. I have to send a letter. Could you tell me _____?
a. where is the post office
b. where the post office is
c. the post office is where
42. This suit is very dirty. It needs to _____.
a. be cleaned
b. cleaning
c. have cleaned
43. "I can't play tennis."
_____ can I."
a. So
b. Either
c. Neither
44. Michael and Steven _____ on the same basketball team since they entered the university
a. are playing
b. have been playing
c. play
45. Jack still hasn't written his term paper; but he told his parents that he _____ it, and they believed him.
a. had finished

- b. has finished
c. was finished
46. Something terrible happened while we _____ dinner.
a. were having
b. are having
c. will be having
47. I have very _____ time for physical exercise.
a. few
b. many
c. little
48. By the time I finish my university studies, I _____ taken more than forty different courses
a. will have
b. will be
c. will
49. If Robert _____ his job, he would have been able to take a vacation this year.
a. didn't lose
b. wouldn't lose
c. hadn't lost
50. _____ is very important nowadays.
a. Learn about computers
b. Learning about computers
c. Learn to use computers
51. The Nile River _____ is located in Egypt, is the longest river in the world.
a. who
b. that
c. which
52. Jennifer slept for ten hours last night.
She _____ very tired.
a. should have been
b. must have been
c. couldn't have been

END OF TEST