

Section 3

Reading Comprehension

Time: 55 minutes

Now set your clock for 55 minutes.

Directions: In this section you will read several passages. Each one is followed by several questions about it. For questions 1–50, 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 following a passage on the basis of what is stated or implied in that passage.

Read the following passage.

The railroad was not the first institution to impose regularity on society or to draw attention to the importance of precise timekeeping. For as long as merchants have set out their wares at daybreak and communal festivities have been celebrated, people have been in rough
Line agreement with their neighbors as to the time of day. The value of this tradition is today
(5) more apparent than ever. Were it not for public acceptance of a single yardstick of time, social life would be unbearably chaotic; the massive daily transfers of goods, services, and information would proceed in fits and starts; the very fabric of modern society would begin to unravel.

Example I

Sample Answer

Ⓐ Ⓑ ● Ⓓ

What is the main idea of the passage?

(A) In modern society we must make more time for our neighbors.
(B) The traditions of society are timeless.
(C) An accepted way of measuring time is essential for the smooth functioning of society.
(D) Society judges people by the times at which they conduct certain activities.

The main idea of the passage is that societies need to agree about how time is to be measured in order to function smoothly. Therefore, you should choose (C).

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Example II

Sample Answer

Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ ●

In line 5, the phrase "this tradition" refers to

(A) the practice of starting the business day at dawn
(B) friendly relations between neighbors
(C) the railroad's reliance on time schedules
(D) people's agreement on the measurement of time

The phrase "this tradition" refers to the preceding clause, "people have been in rough agreement with their neighbors as to the time of day." Therefore, you should choose (D).

NOW BEGIN WORK ON THE QUESTIONS.

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Questions 1–7

Hotels were among the earliest facilities that bound the United States together. They were both creatures and creators of communities, as well as symptoms of the frenetic quest for community. Even in the first part of the nineteenth century, Americans
Line were already forming the habit of gathering from all corners of the nation for both public
(5) and private, business and pleasure, purposes. Conventions were the new occasions, and hotels were distinctively American facilities making conventions possible. The first national convention of a major party to choose a candidate for president (that of the National Republican Party, which met on December 12, 1831, and nominated Henry Clay for president) was held in Baltimore, at a hotel that was then reputed to be the best in the
(10) country. The presence in Baltimore of Barnum's City Hotel, a six-story building with two hundred apartments, helps explain why many other early national political conventions were held there.

In the longer run, American hotels made other national conventions not only possible but pleasant and convivial. The growing custom of regularly assembling from
(15) afar the representatives of all kinds of groups—not only for political conventions, but also for commercial, professional, learned, and avocational ones—in turn supported the multiplying hotels. By the mid-twentieth century, conventions accounted for over a third of the yearly room occupancy of all hotels in the nation; about 18,000 different conventions were held annually with a total attendance of about ten million persons.

(20) Nineteenth-century American hotelkeepers, who were no longer the genial, deferential "hosts" of the eighteenth-century European inn, became leading citizens. Holding a large stake in the community, they exercised power to make it prosper. As owners or managers of the local "palace of the public," they were makers and shapers of a principal community attraction. Travelers from abroad were mildly shocked by this high
(25) social position.

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1. The word "bound" in line 1 is closest in meaning to
   (A) led
   (B) protected
   (C) tied
   (D) strengthened

2. The National Republican Party is mentioned in line 8 as an example of a group
   (A) from Baltimore
   (B) of learned people
   (C) owning a hotel
   (D) holding a convention

3. The word "assembling" in line 14 is closest in meaning to
   (A) announcing
   (B) motivating
   (C) gathering
   (D) contracting

4. The word "ones" in line 16 refers to
   (A) hotels
   (B) conventions
   (C) kinds
   (D) representatives

5. The word "it" in line 22 refers to
   (A) European inn
   (B) host
   (C) community
   (D) public

6. It can be inferred from the passage that early hotelkeepers in the United States were
   (A) active politicians
   (B) European immigrants
   (C) professional builders
   (D) influential citizens

7. Which of the following statements about early American hotels is NOT mentioned in the passage?
   (A) Travelers from abroad did not enjoy staying in them.
   (B) Conventions were held in them.
   (C) People used them for both business and pleasure.
   (D) They were important to the community.

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Questions 8–15

With Robert Laurent and William Zorach, direct carving enters into the story of modern sculpture in the United States. Direct carving—in which the sculptors themselves carve stone or wood with mallet and chisel—must be recognized as
Line something more than just a technique. Implicit in it is an aesthetic principle as well:
(5) that the medium has certain qualities of beauty and expressiveness with which sculptors must bring their own aesthetic sensibilities into harmony. For example, sometimes the shape or veining in a piece of stone or wood suggests, perhaps even dictates, not only the ultimate form, but even the subject matter.

The technique of direct carving was a break with the nineteenth-century tradition in
(10) which the making of a clay model was considered the creative act and the work was then turned over to studio assistants to be cast in plaster or bronze or carved in marble. Neoclassical sculptors seldom held a mallet or chisel in their own hands, readily conceding that the assistants they employed were far better than they were at carving the finished marble.

(15) With the turn-of-the-century Arts and Crafts movement and the discovery of nontraditional sources of inspiration, such as wooden African figures and masks, there arose a new urge for hands-on, personal execution of art and an interaction with the medium. Even as early as the 1880s and 1890s, nonconformist European artists were attempting direct carving. By the second decade of the twentieth century, Americans—Laurent
(20) and Zorach most notably—had adopted it as their primary means of working.

Born in France, Robert Laurent (1890–1970) was a prodigy who received his education in the United States. In 1905 he was sent to Paris as an apprentice to an art dealer, and in the years that followed he witnessed the birth of Cubism, discovered primitive art, and learned the techniques of woodcarving from a frame maker.

(25) Back in New York City by 1910, Laurent began carving pieces such as *The Priestess*, which reveals his fascination with African, pre-Columbian, and South Pacific art. Taking a walnut plank, the sculptor carved the expressive, stylized design. It is one of the earliest examples of direct carving in American sculpture. The plank's form dictated the rigidly frontal view and the low relief. Even its irregular shape must
(30) have appealed to Laurent as a break with a long-standing tradition that required a sculptor to work within a perfect rectangle or square.

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8. The word "medium" in line 5 could be used to refer to

(A) stone or wood
(B) mallet and chisel
(C) technique
(D) principle

9. What is one of the fundamental principles of direct carving?

(A) A sculptor must work with talented assistants.
(B) The subject of a sculpture should be derived from classical stories.
(C) The material is an important element in a sculpture.
(D) Designing a sculpture is a more creative activity than carving it.

10. The word "dictates" in line 8 is closest in meaning to

(A) reads aloud
(B) determines
(C) includes
(D) records

11. How does direct carving differ from the nineteenth-century tradition of sculpture?

(A) Sculptors are personally involved in the carving of a piece.
(B) Sculptors find their inspiration in neoclassical sources.
(C) Sculptors have replaced the mallet and chisel with other tools.
(D) Sculptors receive more formal training.

12. The word "witnessed" in line 23 is closest in meaning to

(A) influenced
(B) studied
(C) validated
(D) observed

13. Where did Robert Laurent learn to carve?

(A) New York
(B) Africa
(C) The South Pacific
(D) Paris

14. The phase "a break with" in line 30 is closest in meaning to

(A) a destruction of
(B) a departure from
(C) a collapse of
(D) a solution to

15. The piece titled *The Priestess* has all of the following characteristics EXCEPT:

(A) The design is stylized.
(B) It is made of marble.
(C) The carving is not deep.
(D) It depicts the front of a person.

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Questions 16–26

Birds that feed in flocks commonly retire together into roosts. The reasons for roosting communally are not always obvious, but there are some likely benefits. In winter especially, it is important for birds to keep warm at night and conserve precious food
Line reserves. One way to do this is to find a sheltered roost. Solitary roosters shelter in
(5) dense vegetation or enter a cavity—horned larks dig holes in the ground and ptarmigan burrow into snow banks—but the effect of sheltering is magnified by several birds huddling together in the roosts, as wrens, swifts, brown creepers, bluebirds, and anis do. Body contact reduces the surface area exposed to the cold air, so the birds keep each other warm. Two kinglets huddling together were found to
(10) reduce their heat losses by a quarter, and three together saved a third of their heat.

The second possible benefit of communal roosts is that they act as information centers. During the day, parties of birds will have spread out to forage over a very large area. When they return in the evening some will have fed well, but others may have found little to eat. Some investigators have observed that when the birds set out
(15) again next morning, those birds that did not feed well on the previous day appear to follow those that did. The behavior of common and lesser kestrels may illustrate different feeding behaviors of similar birds with different roosting habits. The common kestrel hunts vertebrate animals in a small, familiar hunting ground, whereas the very similar lesser kestrel feeds on insects over a large area. The common kestrel roosts and
(20) hunts alone, but the lesser kestrel roosts and hunts in flocks, possibly so that one bird can learn from others where to find insect swarms.

Finally, there is safety in numbers at communal roosts since there will always be a few birds awake at any given moment to give the alarm. But this increased protection is partially counteracted by the fact that mass roosts attract predators and are especially
(25) vulnerable if they are on the ground. Even those in trees can be attacked by birds of prey. The birds on the edge are at greatest risk since predators find it easier to catch small birds perching at the margins of the roost.

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16. What does the passage mainly discuss?

(A) How birds find and store food
(B) How birds maintain body heat in the winter
(C) Why birds need to establish territory
(D) Why some species of birds nest together

17. The word "conserve" in line 3 is closest in meaning to

(A) retain
(B) watch
(C) locate
(D) share

18. Ptarmigan keep warm in the winter by

(A) huddling together on the ground with other birds
(B) building nests in trees
(C) burrowing into dense patches of vegetation
(D) digging tunnels into the snow

19. The word "magnified" in line 6 is closest in meaning to

(A) caused
(B) modified
(C) intensified
(D) combined

20. The author mentions kinglets in line 9 as an example of birds that

(A) protect themselves by nesting in holes
(B) nest with other species of birds
(C) nest together for warmth
(D) usually feed and nest in pairs

21. The word "forage" in line 12 is closest in meaning to

(A) fly
(B) assemble
(C) feed
(D) rest

22. Which of the following statements about lesser and common kestrels is true?

(A) The lesser kestrel and the common kestrel have similar diets.
(B) The lesser kestrel feeds sociably, but the common kestrel does not.
(C) The common kestrel nests in larger flocks than does the lesser kestrel.
(D) The common kestrel nests in trees; the lesser kestrel nests on the ground.

23. The word "counteracted' in line 24 is closest in meaning to

(A) suggested
(B) negated
(C) measured
(D) shielded

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24. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the passage as an advantage derived by birds that huddle together while sleeping?
    (A) Some members of the flock warn others of impending dangers.
    (B) Staying together provides a greater amount of heat for the whole flock.
    (C) Some birds in the flock function as information centers for others who are looking for food.
    (D) Several members of the flock care for the young.

25. Which of the following is a disadvantage of communal roosts that is mentioned in the passage?
    (A) Diseases easily spread among the birds.
    (B) Groups are more attractive to predators than individual birds are.
    (C) Food supplies are quickly depleted.
    (D) Some birds in the group will attack the others.

26. The word "they" in line 25 refers to
    (A) a few birds
    (B) mass roosts
    (C) predators
    (D) trees

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SECTION 3 CONTINUES.
TURN THE PAGE AND READ THE NEXT PASSAGE.

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Questions 27–38

Perhaps the most striking quality of satiric literature is its freshness, its originality of perspective. Satire rarely offers original ideas. Instead, it presents the familiar in a new form. Satirists do not offer the world new philosophies. What they do is look at
Line familiar conditions from a perspective that makes these conditions seem foolish,
(5) harmful, or affected. Satire jars us out of complacence into a pleasantly shocked realization that many of the values we unquestioningly accept are false. *Don Quixote* makes chivalry seem absurd; *Brave New World* ridicules the pretensions of science; *A Modest Proposal* dramatizes starvation by advocating cannibalism. None of these ideas is original. Chivalry was suspect before Cervantes, humanists objected to the claims of
(10) pure science before Aldous Huxley, and people were aware of famine before Swift. It was not the originality of the idea that made these satires popular. It was the manner of expression, the satiric method, that made them interesting and entertaining. Satires are read because they are aesthetically satisfying works of art, not because they are morally wholesome or ethically instructive. They are stimulating and refreshing because with
(15) commonsense briskness they brush away illusions and secondhand opinions. With spontaneous irreverence, satire rearranges perspectives, scrambles familiar objects into incongruous juxtaposition, and speaks in a personal idiom instead of abstract platitude.

Satire exists because there is need for it. It has lived because readers appreciate a refreshing stimulus, an irreverent reminder that they live in a world of platitudinous
(20) thinking, cheap moralizing, and foolish philosophy. Satire serves to prod people into an awareness of truth, though rarely to any action on behalf of truth. Satire tends to remind people that much of what they see, hear, and read in popular media is sanctimonious, sentimental, and only partially true. Life resembles in only a slight degree the popular image of it. Soldiers rarely hold the ideals that movies attribute to
(25) them, nor do ordinary citizens devote their lives to unselfish service of humanity. Intelligent people know these things but tend to forget them when they do not hear them expressed.

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27. What does the passage mainly discuss?
    (A) Difficulties of writing satiric literature
    (B) Popular topics of satire
    (C) New philosophies emerging from satiric literature
    (D) Reasons for the popularity of satire

28. The word "realization" in line 6 is closest in meaning to
    (A) certainty
    (B) awareness
    (C) surprise
    (D) confusion

29. Why does the author mention *Don Quixote*, *Brave New World*, and *A Modest Proposal* in lines 6–8 ?
    (A) They are famous examples of satiric literature.
    (B) They present commonsense solutions to problems.
    (C) They are appropriate for readers of all ages.
    (D) They are books with similar stories.

30. The word "aesthetically" in line 13 is closest in meaning to
    (A) artistically
    (B) exceptionally
    (C) realistically
    (D) dependably

31. Which of the following can be found in satiric literature?
    (A) Newly emerging philosophies
    (B) Odd combinations of objects and ideas
    (C) Abstract discussion of morals and ethics
    (D) Wholesome characters who are unselfish

32. According to the passage, there is a need for satire because people need to be
    (A) informed about new scientific developments
    (B) exposed to original philosophies when they are formulated
    (C) reminded that popular ideas are often inaccurate
    (D) told how they can be of service to their communities

33. The word "refreshing" in line 19 is closest in meaning to
    (A) popular
    (B) ridiculous
    (C) meaningful
    (D) unusual

34. The word "they" in line 22 refers to
    (A) people
    (B) media
    (C) ideals
    (D) movies

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35. The word "devote" in line 25 is closest in meaning to

(A) distinguish
(B) feel affection
(C) prefer
(D) dedicate

36. As a result of reading satiric literature, readers will be most likely to

(A) teach themselves to write fiction
(B) accept conventional points of view
(C) become better informed about current affairs
(D) reexamine their opinions and values

37. The various purposes of satire include all of the following EXCEPT

(A) introducing readers to unfamiliar situations
(B) brushing away illusions
(C) reminding readers of the truth
(D) exposing false values

38. Why does the author mention "service of humanity" in line 25 ?

(A) People need to be reminded to take action.
(B) Readers appreciate knowing about it.
(C) It is an ideal that is rarely achieved.
(D) Popular media often distort such stories.

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SECTION 3 CONTINUES.
TURN THE PAGE AND READ THE NEXT PASSAGE.

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