# Reading Comprehension

## Directions

In this section of the test, you will read six texts and answer 42 questions. Choose the correct answer to each question and mark the letter of the correct answer on your answer sheet.

Before you start, read the sample text and the sample questions below.

### Sample Text

Erosion is one of nature's most powerful forces. It can happen in many ways, including through the wind, rain, snow, and ice. Erosion frequently takes place over a long period of time. This is how canyons and deserts are often created. Yet it is also possible for erosion to take place overnight.

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#### Sample Question 1

What is this text mostly about?

(A) How deserts are created
(B) A natural force
(C) Canyons and deserts
(D) Wind erosion

The correct answer is (B), "A natural force."

#### Sample Question 2

Which of the following is true regarding erosion?

(A) It can happen in many ways.
(B) Water most commonly causes it.
(C) It can create deserts overnight.
(D) It is stronger than anything in nature.

The correct answer is (A), "It can happen in many ways."

LIVEWORKSHEETS

**Questions 1-6** are about the following note.

Please read the following carefully as it describes my expectations of you during this class.

Everyone must do the reading assignments since we will have class discussions. Your participation in these discussions will be a part (ten percent) of your grade in my class. In addition, we will have one written homework assignment each week. In most cases, it will be a short (3-page) paper on a topic we are studying. You will be graded on these assignments. We will have four tests during the semester. Each one will be worth twenty percent of your final grade.

There will be times when I will call on you during class. Please attempt to answer my inquiries. Do not simply confess that you do not know the correct response. I expect everybody to try hard in my class. Furthermore, I want you all to take notes during my class. I will provide you with an outline of the material we will study each day; however, you need to write down the important information that I mention in your notebooks. I welcome questions in class and urge you to ask them if you ever fail to understand something.

1. What is the note mainly about?
   (A) The teacher's expectations for the students in class
   (B) How the students can get a high grade from the teacher
   (C) The type of homework the students will have to do
   (D) What the teacher's grading style for the class is

2. Based on the note, what is probably true about the students' homework assignments?
   (A) The teacher will grade and return them within two days.
   (B) They are worth a small percentage of the students' final grades.
   (C) The students are expected to write them by hand.
   (D) Some students will have to read their papers to the class.

3. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the note about something that the students will be graded on?
   (A) Homework assignments
   (B) Attendance
   (C) Tests
   (D) Class participation

4. In line 10, the word inquiries is closest in meaning to _____.
   (A) investigations
   (B) demands
   (C) examinations
   (D) questions

5. In line 10, the word confess is closest in meaning to _____.
   (A) blame
   (B) admit
   (C) decide
   (D) falsify

6. What does the teacher say about taking notes?
   (A) The students should take all of their notes in outline form.
   (B) It is permissible for students to use laptops to take notes.
   (C) The teacher wants students to write them in their notebooks.
   (D) The students have to show the teacher their notebooks at times.

**Questions 7-12** are about the following schedule.

A schedule for the school's newest clubs was released last Friday. Since that time, there have been a few changes to the schedule. Please look at the following changes and take note of them, especially if you are considering joining one of the clubs. As these are the initial meetings, students who desire to join these clubs must be present; otherwise, they will not be allowed to join. All of the days in the schedule are this week.

| Club | Faculty Advisor | Meeting Time | Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Geography Club | John Collins | Thursday, 2:00 | Meeting time is different |
| Photography Club | Susan Smith | Thursday, 2:00 | Will meet in room 101, not room 110 |
| Chemistry Club | Emily Jenkins | Friday, 11:00 | Is no longer free of charge; requires $40 membership fee |
| History Club | Rodge Tuscani | Friday, 3:00 | Meeting day is different |

In addition, the chess club and the hiking club have both been cancelled this year due to a lack of interest. Fewer than the required number of students signed up for both clubs, so they will not exist during the fall and spring semesters. If more students express an interest in them next year, they will be reinstated.

7. What is the purpose of the schedule?
   (A) To mention some of the school's newest clubs
   (B) To advise students on which clubs to join
   (C) To let students know about their faculty advisors
   (D) To make students aware of some recent changes

8. What does the author point out by writing that students should take note of the following changes in line 2?
   (A) They need to memorize all of the changes that occurred.
   (B) They should be aware of the changes that were made.
   (C) They ought to write down the changes that happened.
   (D) They have to tell their classmates about the changes.

9. What can be inferred from the schedule about the photography club?
   (A) It will provide all of its members with cameras.
   (B) It is going to focus mostly on digital photography.
   (C) Its members cannot belong to the geography club.
   (D) Susan Smith will hold its meetings in her classroom.

10. According to the passage, all of the following clubs will exist this year EXCEPT _____.
    (A) the hiking club
    (B) the geology club
    (C) the history club
    (D) the chemistry club

11. In line 8, the word express is closest in meaning to _____.
    (A) demand
    (B) foresee
    (C) show
    (D) approve of

12. In line 9, the word they refers to _____.
    (A) the required number of students
    (B) both clubs
    (C) the fall and spring semesters
    (D) more students

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

**Questions 13-18** are about the following article in the newspaper.

Last weekend, six students from the Donoho School went on a fascinating trip back in time. These students accompanied Jacksonville State University professor William Bannister on a fossil hunt.

The students, professor, and three graduate assistants headed to a valley near Cheaha Mountain. The valley was not previously known to have any fossils in it. However, two months ago, some campers in the valley stumbled upon some bones sticking out from the ground. When they brought them to the museum, they were told that the bones were those of a brontosaurus, a species of dinosaur.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Damke Foundation, the students were able to accompany the professor on his dig. They spent most of both Saturday and Sunday carefully digging in the area.

"We found a few bones," said Wendy Jacobs, a Donoho senior. "We're not sure which animal they're from, but the professor assured us they were from a dinosaur."

The students, all of whom intend to major in science at college, are looking forward to returning this coming weekend. "There's enough money in the grant for the next month, so we should get to return at least three more times," said Donoho student Philip Peters.

13. What would be the most appropriate headline for this article?
(A) Dinosaur Fossils Found near Cheaha Mountain
(B) Donoho Students Meet Professor Bannister
(C) Local Students Go Fossil Hunting
(D) Dinosaurs: Did They Live around Here?

14. In line 6, the phrase stumbled upon is closest in meaning to _____.
(A) tripped on
(B) accidentally found
(C) dug up
(D) conducted research on

15. In line 7, the word them refers to _____.
(A) three graduate assistants
(B) any fossils
(C) some campers
(D) some bones

16. Why does the author mention the Damke Foundation?
(A) To claim it has an interest in dinosaurs
(B) To note a group that is financing the students
(C) To focus on its relationship with the Donoho School
(D) To claim that it sponsors many local digs

17. Who is Wendy Jacobs?
(A) A student at Jacksonville State University
(B) One of Professor Bannister's graduate assistants
(C) A fourth-year student at the Donoho School
(D) A representative of the Damke Foundation

18. According to the article, when will the students go back to the dig site?
(A) Within a week
(B) In two months
(C) During summer vacation
(D) Next autumn

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

**Questions 19-26** are about the following passage.



Mars has captured the imaginations of people since ancient times. People have long wondered if the planet is home to alien life. Over the years, a number of theories concerning this matter have arisen.

In the nineteenth century, there were finally telescopes made that could closely examine at the surface of the Red Planet. While looking at Mars, an Italian astronomer saw many straight channels on its surface. These were most likely caused by the action of either the wind or water in the distant past. When he published his observations, he used the Italian word *canali*, which means "channels." However, English-speaking astronomers interpreted the word as "canals" and assumed that he was referring to something akin to manmade canals on Earth.

An American astronomer, Percival Lowell, believed that these "canals" had been built by a race of intelligent beings that had lived – and might still be living – on Mars. The result of that highly publicized claim was that a great number of myths about Mars suddenly arose. For instance, H. G. Wells wrote *The War of the Worlds*, a book about a Martian invasion of Earth, in 1898. Over the next few decades, Mars and Martians featured in countless science fiction stories, movies, and TV shows.

Years later, in the 1960s and 1970s, the United States sent several satellites to investigate Mars more closely. The satellites found no canals, but one picture suddenly ignited a great deal of interest in Mars. In 1976, *Viking 1* took a snapshot of the Martian surface. In the picture was what appeared to be an enormous human face. It was so large that it measured more than three kilometers long. This convinced people that there was – or had been – intelligent life on Mars.

In 2001, however, the mystery of the Martian face was solved by *Mars Global Surveyor*. The pictures that it transmitted proved that the face was just a mesa, a type of geological formation. As for the "eyes, nose, and mouth" of the face, they were merely shadows. Despite this proof, many people are still convinced that signs of life could be found on Mars someday.

19. What is the best title for the passage?
(A) The Martian Face and Other Mysteries
(B) What Are Martians Thought to Look Like?
(C) Martian Civilization: What Happened to It?
(D) Mars and the Belief That Life Exists on It

20. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage about Mars?
(A) It is farther from the sun than Earth.
(B) One of its nicknames is the Red Planet.
(C) Humans hope to visit it someday.
(D) It almost surely had life on it at some point.

21. In line 15, the phrase akin to is closest in meaning to _____.
(A) useful to
(B) resembling
(C) imitated by
(D) precisely like

22. The author uses *The War of the Worlds* as an example of _____.
(A) evidence supporting the possibility of life on Mars
(B) a work inspired by thoughts of Mars
(C) a story based on Percival Lowell's work
(D) a bestselling novel and movie

23. What does the author point out by writing that a picture ignited a great deal of interest in Mars in line 25?
(A) Schools focused on educating students on Mars.
(B) More pictures of Mars became available.
(C) People wanted more satellites to be sent to Mars.
(D) Many people began to think about Mars.

24. What does the author say about the Martian face?
(A) It was discovered by a satellite.
(B) It proved there was life on Mars.
(C) It was found near some channels.
(D) It is located near some mesas.

25. What did *Mars Global Surveyor* do?
(A) It searched for hidden canals on Mars.
(B) It mapped part of the surface of Mars.
(C) It showed what the Martian face really was.
(D) It looked for signs of life on Mars.

26. In line 30, the word it refers to _____.
(A) the mystery
(B) the Martian face
(C) *Mars Global Surveyor*
(D) a map

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**Questions 27-34** are about the following story.

"Jeremy, how do you manage to do it?" asked Don.

"What are you talking about, Don?" Jeremy responded with a confused look on his face.

"Don't play dumb," responded Don. "I'm talking about how you always seem to get the highest grade in every class. I mean, no one but you got higher than a 92 on the science test Mrs. Sellers just gave us back."

Don was feeling rather upset because he had gotten a 75 on his science test while Jeremy had received a 99. Even worse, Jeremy had told him that he had not studied for the test.

"Well, I actually do a lot of things," responded Jeremy.

"Don't just sit there silently. Spill the beans, and fill me in," demanded Don. "I'm tired of studying for hours at a time only to get C's and B's. I want to start getting A's like you."

"Okay," said Jeremy. "Here's my secret . . . I pay attention in class, and I take good notes. That's really all there is to it."

"But I do the same thing," insisted Don.

"Do you?" Jeremy said with a knowing look on his face. "I seem to remember looking over at your desk in history class the other day only to see you with your head on it. You even started snoring at one point."

"Oh, yeah. Right. I had forgotten about that," said Don. "But that was only one time."

"And don't forget how, in math and English class yesterday, you were listening to music instead of taking notes," Jeremy continued.

"Er . . ." responded Don.

"Look, Don. It's really simple. If you take notes in class, pay attention, and then review your notes at home later the same night, you will be able to remember practically everything. Assuming you do that, you won't have to study the night before a test, but you'll still do well," stated Jeremy.

"I don't know," said Don with a skeptical look. "It just seems strange to me."

"Try my way for a week and see what happens," said Jeremy. "I'll even lend you my notes . . . but only if you don't fall asleep and don't listen to music in class anymore."

"It's a deal," said Don with a smile.



27. What would be the best title for the story?
(A) The Best Student at School
(B) The Secret to Jeremy's Success
(C) Two Friends: Don and Jeremy
(D) Don and His School Performance

28. Why is Don in a bad mood?
(A) His teacher yelled at him for sleeping in class.
(B) He cannot understand the class material.
(C) He forgot to study for his science test.
(D) He performed poorly on a recent test.

29. In line 4, the phrase play dumb is closest in meaning to _____.
(A) act in a silly manner
(B) pretend not to know something
(C) forget how to speak
(D) make fun of someone

30. Based on the passage, what is probably true about Jeremy?
(A) He wants Don to do better than him in class.
(B) He is willing to tutor Don in some of his classes.
(C) He doubts that Don tries as hard as he claims to.
(D) He is lying to Don when he says he does not study.

31. According to the passage, all of the following statements are true about Don EXCEPT _____.
(A) he fell asleep in his history class
(B) he is displeased with his performance in science
(C) he ignored the teacher in his math class
(D) he got a low grade on his English test

32. What does Jeremy tell Don to do?
(A) Study for several hours the night before a test
(B) Go over his notes at home every night
(C) Start reviewing three days before a test
(D) Ask his teachers how to get good study habits

33. In line 28, the word skeptical is closest in meaning to _____.
(A) doubtful
(B) amused
(C) confused
(D) understanding

34. What does the author imply about Don?
(A) He will develop better study habits than Jeremy.
(B) He is hoping to go to a good college.
(C) He intends to follow Jeremy's advice.
(D) He prefers playing sports to studying.

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**Questions 35-42** are about the following passage.

The Great Lakes are the largest group of freshwater lakes in the world. All five are located on the border between Canada and the United States. The names of the Great Lakes are Erie, Ontario, Michigan, Huron, and Superior. The smallest of the group is Lake Ontario while Lake Superior is the largest. Lakes Ontario, Erie, Huron, and Superior are shared by Canada and the United States. Lake Michigan, however, lies entirely within the borders of the United States.

Geologically speaking, the Great Lakes are relatively young. They were formed about 10,000 years ago due to the action of receding glaciers. At the time of their creation, massive glaciers – some several kilometers thick – were retreating as they melted and the last ice age came to an end. The great weight of the ice sheets gouged out enormous holes in parts of the land. Then, the melting ice turned into water and filled in the holes with water. In this way were the Great Lakes formed. The Great Lakes have a combined surface area of more than 240,000 square kilometers. There are also around 35,000 islands in the lakes, yet most of them are quite small. Lake Superior is the deepest at more than 400 meters in places. But most of the Great Lakes average less than 100 meters in depth. Due to their immense size, the Great Lakes comprise around 21% of the entire planet's supply of fresh water.

All five of the lakes are connected by both rivers and channels that run between them. The entire system flows to the Atlantic Ocean by way of the St. Lawrence River in Canada. Together with the St. Lawrence River, the Great Lakes form the largest inland waterway in the world. As a result, millions of people live near the Great Lakes. Among the major cities that lie alongside them are Chicago, Toronto, Detroit, Milwaukee, Cleveland, and Buffalo. Each year, thousands of ships transport billions of dollars worth of goods through the numerous ports along the Great Lakes. This has transformed many port cities into major transportation centers in Canada and the United States.

35. What is this passage mostly about?
(A) The formation of the Great Lakes
(B) The cities around the Great Lakes
(C) The geography of the Great Lakes
(D) The sizes of the Great Lakes

36. Which of the Great Lakes is the biggest?
(A) Lake Huron
(B) Lake Superior
(C) Lake Erie
(D) Lake Ontario

37. In line 8, the word receding is closest in meaning to _____.
(A) retreating
(B) removing
(C) revitalizing
(D) resulting

38. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a cause of the formation of the Great Lakes?
(A) The end of the ice age
(B) The movement of glaciers
(C) The melting of ice
(D) The falling of rain and snow

39. Which of the following is true regarding the islands in the Great Lakes?
(A) More than 240,000 have been identified.
(B) Some are more than 400 meters long.
(C) There are tens of thousands of them.
(D) Most of them are extremely large.

40. In line 17, the word immense is closest in meaning to _____.
(A) variable
(B) huge
(C) considerate
(D) relative

41. Why does the author talk about the St. Lawrence River?
(A) To point out that it flows entirely through Canada
(B) To state that there are many channels connecting it to the Great Lakes
(C) To mention that it connects the Great Lakes with the Atlantic Ocean
(D) To claim that it is too narrow for some ships to sail on

42. According to the passage, which is true about the port cities that are beside the Great Lakes?
(A) All of them have increasing populations.
(B) The same kinds of good are transported in them.
(C) They serve as important transportation centers.
(D) Some of them are also manufacturing centers.

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