

TOEFL PRACTICE.

Student's name: _____ Group: _____

Date: _____

Reading.

Directions: In this section you will read several passages. Each passage is followed by several 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 following a passage on the basis of what is **stated** or **implied** in the passage

Read the following sample 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 agreement with their neighbors as to the time of day. The value of this tradition is today 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

A B C D

What is the main idea of the passage?

- A) In modern society, we must take 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).

Reading 1.

Questions 1-9

In the United States during the late 1800s, innovation thrived and spurred economic growth and the efficiency of business and commerce. An array of new inventions and technical processes appeared, and these soon-to-be-familiar staples of American life quickly became indispensable to business—the telephone, the electric lightbulb, the **Line 5** cash register, and the typewriter, among others.

During this period, more and more businesses perfected the so-called American System of manufacturing, which dated back half a century and relied on the mass production of interchangeable parts. Factory workers made large numbers of a particular part, each part exactly the same size and shape. This system enabled **Line 10** manufacturers to assemble products more cheaply and efficiently, to repair products easily with new parts, and to redesign products quickly. The engineers who designed the modern bicycle (which has wheels of equal size) used the American system to make their product affordable to almost anyone who wanted one. The bicycle craze of the late nineteenth century resulted from the novelty and cheapness of this new form of **Line 15** transportation and recreation, one enjoyed by males and females of all ages. Production techniques used to make bicycles were adapted to the manufacture of automobiles.

New technical processes also facilitated the manufacture and marketing of foods and other consumer goods. Distributors developed pressure-sealed cans, which enabled **Line 20** them to market agricultural products in far-flung parts of the country. Innovative techniques for sheet-metal stamping and electric-resistance welding transformed a variety of industries. By 1880, 90 percent of American steel was made by the Bessemer process, which injected air into molten iron to yield steel (a far more industrially useful substance).

Line 25 The agriculture business benefited from engineering innovations as well, which often reached across national boundaries. In the 1870's, exports to distant lands included farm implements and engineering technology, and the latter contributed to the construction of dams and canals necessary for the development of new steam- and water-powered mills. For all of the benefits these new processes and technological **Line 30** advances bestowed on consumers and businesses, the transition was difficult for many: both farm workers and employees displaced by innovations now found themselves without work.

- 1.- What aspect of the 1800s does the passage mainly discuss?
 - a. How technological advances helped develop the economy.
 - b. Why the 1800s produced so many new devices and processes
 - c. How the American system of manufacturing influenced economic growth worldwide.
 - d. Why the production of steel made possible industrial development and new inventions.
2. The phrase "indispensable to" in line 4 is closest in meaning to.
 - a. helpful to
 - b. accepted in
 - c. popular in
 - d. necessary for
3. The second paragraph indicates that the American system of manufacturing is based on which of the following principles?
 - a. The employment of highly trained and well-qualified factory workers.
 - b. The use of affordable and easily available materials.
 - c. The production on a large scale of parts of identical size and shape.
 - d. The manufacture of products that the public wants and needs.
4. All the following are mentioned as advantages of the American system of manufacturing EXCEPT.
 - a. faster and cheaper assembly of products.
 - b. fewer workers needed to make a product.
 - c. the ease with which broken parts could be replaced.
 - d. the capacity to improve the design of a product.
5. The word "one" in line 13 refers to
 - a. anyone
 - b. the American system
 - c. equal size

d. modern bicycle

6. According to the passage, how did the production of bicycles affect the manufacturing of automobiles?

- a. People began to realize that a better form of transportation was needed.
- b. Methods that had been used in the production of bicycles were applied to the manufacturing of automobiles.
- c. Manufacturers realized that there would be a market for a variety of transportation alternatives.
- d. Automobile manufacturers recognized that the market for automobiles would remain small for a long time because of the greater cost of automobiles.

7. The word "facilitated" in line 18 is closest in meaning to

- a. combined
- b. made easier
- c. increased
- d. became cheaper for

8. According to the passage, why was the Bessemer process important?

- a. It made sheet-metal stamping and welding possible.
- b. It introduced a faster method of production that could be applied to a variety of industries.
- c. It injected iron with air to make it less expensive.
- d. It produced material that was better suited to industrial needs than what had been used in the past.

9. The phrase "bestowed on" in line 30 is closest in meaning to:

- a. made obvious to
- b. accumulated for
- c. provided to
- d. symbolized for

Reading 2.

Questions 10-18

Average seawater has a concentration of about 34 grams of dissolved salts per 1,000 grams of mixture. This ratio is referred to as the salinity and is expressed as 34 parts per thousand (ppt). Although dissolved salts are well mixed throughout the oceans, the salinity values vary over wide limits that reflect areas of localized high **Line 5** rates of precipitation or river runoff or high rates of evaporation. Stated differently, salinity is really a measure of how rapidly water moves into and out of the salty soup called ocean.

It is difficult to determine at just what point in geological time the oceans first became salty. There are three sources of evidence that suggest that the water became

Line 10 salty shortly after they began to fill the earliest basins. The first of these is the fossil record. Fossils of the late Precambrian period (over 600 million years ago) reveal the existence of burrowing worms similar to the types of worms that still burrow today in the salt sediment of the seafloor. In the Cambrian period (over 500 million years ago) skeletonized fauna existed, examples of which are the trilobites, crablike animals

Line 15 that had segmented exoskeletons and apparently fed on detrital material on the ocean floor: similar marine animals exist today. These data suggest that life-forms had at their early period already adapted to life in a saline fluid. A second source of evidence comes from analyses of the evaporated salts left behind when ancient basins dried up; these ancient salts are similar to those found in modern evaporates, sedimentary rocks

Line 20 that result from the evaporation of seawater in an enclosed basin. The third came with the discovery that each salt constituent has a characteristic residence time (or cycling period) between the time of first entry into seawater and that of final exit, when it is fixed permanently in ocean sediment. Further, for the elements whose residence times have been measured it is found that the average cycle times are much shorter than the

Line 25 estimated age of ocean water itself. This eliminates any hypothesis that present-day salt concentrations are simply accumulations over the geologic history of earth.

1. The word "localized" in line 4 is closest in meaning to
 - a. rapidly increasing
 - b. averaged over time
 - c. limited in area
 - d. permanently established
2. The author mentions all of the following as factors that can affect salinity EXCEPT the :
 - a. rate of evaporation
 - b. amount of precipitation.
 - c. rate of change in the size of oceans
 - d. amount of water that rivers deliver to the sea.
3. The second paragraph mainly discusses:
 - a. how to measure salinity in water
 - b. the process by which water gains salinity over time.
 - c. how different organisms have gradually adapted to saline water
 - d. evidence that points toward the very early salinization of Earth's water.
4. The word "these" in line 10 refers to
 - a. sources of evidence
 - b. waters
 - c. earliest basins
 - d. fossils
5. The second paragraph suggests that the modern crab may be a descendant of:
 - a. worms
 - b. trilobites
 - c. marine organisms of the Precambrian period
 - d. marine animals that had no skeletal systems.
6. The word "fluid" in line 17 is closest in meaning to
 - a. site
 - b. source
 - c. liquid
 - d. deposit

7. The word "characteristics" in line 21 is closest in meaning to
- a. lengthy
 - b. changeable
 - c. final
 - d. typical
8. Which of the following terms is defined in the passage?
- a. "precipitation" (line 5)
 - b. "geological time" (line 8)
 - c. "fossil record" (line 11)
 - d. "evaporites" (line 19)
9. According to the passage,
- a. the fossil record
 - b. the depth of the ocean
 - c. traces of salts in ancient basins
 - d. the cycling period of salt constituents