



Escuela de Ingeniería y Ciencias
UNAM

TOEFL ITP Practice Test

-LISTENING COMPREHENSION

-STRUCTURE AND WRITTEN EXPRESSION

-READING COMPREHENSION

What Is in the Tests?

ITP tests are composed of multiple-choice questions, each with four possible answers. There are three sections, each measuring a critical skill in the use of English.

Section 1 – Listening Comprehension

The Listening section contains recorded material that includes the vocabulary and idiomatic expressions typical of spoken English, as well as grammatical constructions used in speech. The section tests comprehension of both short and long conversations and talks.

Section 2 – Structure and Written Expression

Section 2 consists of sentences that test knowledge of structural and grammatical elements of standard written English. These sentences include a variety of topics and give no advantage to students in specific fields of study. When topics have a national context, they may refer to United States or Canadian history, culture, art or literature. However, knowledge of these contexts is not needed to answer questions concerning the structural or grammatical points.

Section 3 – Reading Comprehension

The Reading section contains reading passages and questions about the passages. The questions test comprehension of the information that is stated or implied in the passage. Knowledge of some specific words is also tested. Because many English words have more than one meaning, it is important to remember that these questions will test comprehension of the meaning of a word or phrase within the context of the passage.

Preparing for an ITP Test

Taking the Practice Tests

Taking the ITP Practice Tests in this kit will give you a good idea of what the actual test is like in terms of the types of questions you will be asked, and the time limits you will have. You will learn, for example, that the time allotted for a test section must be used for reading the directions as well as answering the questions.

The test is divided into three sections. Each section or part of a section begins with a set of special directions that includes sample questions and answers. It is important to read these directions so you will understand exactly what you are to do before you start to work on the section or part.

Some questions may be harder than others, but try to answer every one. If you are not sure of the correct answer to a question, make the best guess you can and go on to the next question. It is to your advantage to answer every question, even if you have to guess.

As you are taking the practice test, work rapidly but carefully. Do not spend too much time on any single question. Do not use note paper, and do not write or make any marks in the test section of your book.

Each section of the test has a time limit. The recorded instructions will tell you when to start Section 1 and when to stop. You will need to use a watch or clock to time Sections 2 and 3. If you finish a section early, **do not go on to the next section until the allotted time has ended**. During the time that remains, check your work on that section only. If you do not follow this rule when you take the actual ITP test, it will be considered cheating and your scores will be canceled.

Here are more guidelines for using the Practice Tests:

- Plan to spend approximately two hours **without interruption** to take each Practice Test
- Choose a quiet room in which to work
- Have a watch or clock so you can use the correct amount of time for Section 2 (25 minutes) and Section 3 (55 minutes)
- Have two sharpened #2 black lead pencils and an eraser
- Test your CD player before you start to be sure it works properly
- Remove any study materials from your work area

General Study Tips

Reading Tips

As an English-language learner, you can improve your reading skills by reading regularly, especially textbooks or other materials that cover a variety of subject areas (for example, sciences, social sciences, arts, business) and are written in an academic style. A wide variety of academic texts are available on the Internet as well as in magazines and journals.

Reading to find information –

- Scan passages to find and highlight key facts and information such as dates, numbers, or terms
- Practice frequently to increase reading rate and fluency

Reading for basic comprehension –

- Increase vocabulary; flashcards can help
- Practice skimming a passage quickly to get a general impression of the main idea, instead of carefully reading each word and each sentence
- Develop the ability to skim quickly and identify major points
- After skimming a passage, read it again more carefully and write down the main idea, major points and important facts
- Choose some unfamiliar words in the passage and guess the meaning from the context (surrounding sentences); then, look them up to determine their meaning
- Underline all pronouns (he, him, they, them, etc.) and identify the nouns to which they refer in the passage
- Practice making inferences and drawing conclusions based on what is implied in the passage as a whole

Listening Tips

Watching movies and television and listening to the radio provide excellent opportunities to build your listening skills. Audiotapes and CDs of lectures and presentations are equally valuable and helpful. The Internet is also a great resource for listening material (for example, www.npr.org or www.bbc.co.uk/radio or www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish).

Listening for basic comprehension –

- Increase vocabulary
- Focus on the content and flow of spoken material. Don't be distracted by the speaker's style and delivery
- Anticipate what a person is going to say as a way to stay focused
- Stay active by asking yourself questions (for example, What main idea is the professor communicating?)
- On sections of a piece of paper, write "Main Idea," "Major Points" and "Important Details." Listen carefully, and write these down while listening. Continue listening until all important points and details are written down, and then review them
- Listen to a portion of a lecture or talk, and create an outline of important points. Use the outline to write a brief summary. Gradually increase the amount of the presentation you use to write the summary

Listening for pragmatic understanding –

- Think about what each speaker hopes to accomplish: What is the purpose of the speech or conversation? Is the speaker apologizing, complaining, or making suggestions?
- Notice each speaker's style. Is the language formal or casual? Is the speaker's voice calm or emotional? What does the speaker's tone of voice tell you?
- Notice the speaker's degree of certainty. How sure is the speaker about the information? Does the speaker's tone of voice indicate something about his or her degree of certainty?
- Watch a recorded TV or movie comedy. Pay careful attention to the way stress and intonation patterns are used to convey meaning

Listening to connect information –

- Think about how the lecture is organized. Listen for signal words that indicate the introduction, major steps or ideas, examples, and the conclusion or summary
- Identify the relationships between ideas. Possible relationships include cause/effect, compare/contrast, and steps in a process
- Listen for words that show connections and relationships between ideas
- Listen to recorded material and stop the recording at various points. Predict what information or idea will be expressed next
- Create an outline of the information discussed while listening or after listening

Structure and Written Expression Tips

Use the language every day –

- Set aside some time each day to communicate only in English
- Listen, read and write in English every chance you get

Use Proven Test-Taking Strategies

- Carefully follow directions in each section of the test to avoid wasting time.
- Don't panic. Concentrate exclusively on the current question only. Don't think about how you answered other questions. This is a habit that can be learned through practice.
- Avoid spending too much time on any single question. If you have given the question some thought and you still don't know the answer, eliminate as many choices as possible and then select the best choice.
- Pace yourself so you have enough time to answer every question. Be aware of the time limit for each section and budget enough time for each question so you don't have to rush at the end.

Practice Test A

Section 1. Listening Comprehension

In this section of the test, you will have an opportunity to demonstrate your ability to understand conversations and talks in English. There are three parts to this section, with special instructions for each part. Answer all the questions on the basis of what is stated or implied by the speakers. When you take an actual ITP test, you will not be allowed to take notes or write in your testbook. Try to work on this Practice Test in the same way.

Section 1, Part A

Directions: in Part A, you will hear short conversations between two people. After each conversation, you will hear a question about the conversation. The conversations and questions will not be repeated. After you hear a question, read the four possible answers in this booklet and choose the best answer. 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.

Here is an example:

On the recording, you hear:

Sample Answer

☒ (A) ☐ (B) ☐ (C) ☐ (D)

In your booklet, you read: (A) He doesn't like the painting either.
(B) He doesn't know how to paint.
(C) He doesn't have any paintings.
(D) He doesn't know what to do.

You learn from the conversation that neither the man nor the woman likes the painting. The best answer to the question "What does the man mean?" is (A), "He doesn't like the painting either." Therefore, the correct choice is (A).

1. (A) There are many different airline fares available.
(B) Travel agents are all the same.
(C) It matters where tickets are issued.
(D) It makes no difference where the tickets are purchased.
2. (A) They should be picked before they're ripe.
(B) They should have been picked already.
(C) They'll get picked when they turn a certain color.
(D) They won't be picked until next year.
3. (A) A two-bedroom apartment may be too expensive.
(B) The woman should not move off campus.
(C) The woman should pay the rent by check.
(D) The university has a list of rental properties.
4. (A) The man often flatters Judy.
(B) Judy is thinking about getting her hair cut.
(C) She hasn't seen Judy's new haircut.
(D) She agrees with the man about Judy's appearance.
5. (A) Watching a movie.
(B) Talking on the phone.
(C) Picking up her friends.
(D) Eating dinner.
6. (A) Notify the post office of his new address.
(B) Check to see if the mail has arrived.
(C) Send the letter by special delivery.
(D) Answer the letters after he moves.
7. (A) He doesn't like his new glasses.
(B) His regular glasses are being repaired.
(C) He thinks his eyesight is improving.
(D) He's decided to go without glasses.
8. (A) Talk to Dr. Boyd about an assignment.
(B) Return their books to the library.
(C) Meet Dr. Boyd at the library.
(D) Make an appointment with their teacher on Friday.
9. (A) There is no orange juice in the machine.
(B) He doesn't like orange juice.
(C) He prefers milk to orange juice.
(D) The machine is broken.
10. (A) The man shouldn't take the new job.
(B) She's sorry the man isn't being promoted.
(C) It isn't easy to keep secrets at work.
(D) She won't tell anyone about the man's promotion.
11. (A) He has made other plans for lunch.
(B) He has already eaten his lunch.
(C) He'd like to ask Bill to join them.
(D) He's meeting Bill in the cafeteria tomorrow.
12. (A) Complaining about the man's behavior.
(B) Repeating an insensitive remark.
(C) Denying her involvement in an argument.
(D) Accepting the man's apology.
13. (A) The man may use the telephone soon.
(B) The man should hurry.
(C) She'll call George for the man.
(D) She's waiting for a call.
14. (A) She's difficult to understand.
(B) She gives longer assignments than Professor Brown.
(C) Her lectures are interesting.
(D) Her class meets more often than Professor Brown's.
15. (A) The exam had more sections than she expected.
(B) She was surprised that the exam was so difficult.
(C) Part of the exam was easier than she expected.
(D) She didn't have time to study for the exam.
16. (A) He's only finished half of his lunch.
(B) He's going to eat soon.
(C) He'll continue to work until he finishes.
(D) He'll start working half an hour from now.

17. (A) The bank was closed when she got there.
 (B) The bank stayed open later than usual.
 (C) She was able to do her banking.
 (D) She didn't have enough time to go to the bank.
18. (A) The man has to sign his name.
 (B) The woman will give the man an information kit.
 (C) The woman can't find the list.
 (D) The man has already paid to attend the conference.
19. (A) She doesn't know the way.
 (B) The café is near the information desk.
 (C) The man should get his own map.
 (D) The café isn't marked on the map.
20. (A) He'd like to get a ride from the woman.
 (B) He lives very near the woman.
 (C) He doesn't want to go downtown.
 (D) He thinks the woman is going the wrong way.

21. (A) He'll see the woman at the dentist's office.
 (B) He'll miss seeing the woman at work.
 (C) He'll try to make arrangements for the woman.
 (D) He'll schedule a different dental appointment.
22. (A) The woman should avoid getting cold.
 (B) It's easy to get sick in cold weather.
 (C) The woman should get more rest.
 (D) Dressing warmly can prevent illness.
23. (A) The man won't be ready for tonight's class.
 (B) The man will not be able to go to the store before class.
 (C) She'll take the man to the mall tonight.
 (D) The class schedule has been changed.
24. (A) Richard often goes home early.
 (B) The woman expected Richard to be at home.
 (C) Richard should not leave work early.
 (D) The woman called Richard 30 minutes ago.

25. (A) She doesn't have time to buy groceries now.
 (B) The store will probably go out of business soon.
 (C) She hopes the store hasn't already closed.
 (D) The store on the corner has inconvenient hours.
26. (A) The man's house has no electricity.
 (B) The TV's plug might be broken.
 (C) The man can't afford to fix the TV.
 (D) The TV might not need to be fixed.
27. (A) Get a new computer for the woman.
 (B) Ask Gary to move the woman's furniture.
 (C) Find out if a bigger office is available.
 (D) Request a new chair for the woman.

28. (A) The supervisor hasn't explained what he needs to do.
 (B) His work is viewed favorably.
 (C) He's impressed by his supervisor.
 (D) His back problems have affected his work recently.
29. (A) The slide projector has been repaired.
 (B) The room is ready for the meeting.
 (C) He'll take care of the slide projector after lunch.
 (D) Everyone is waiting for the meeting to begin.
30. (A) Wear a blue jacket.
 (B) Dress warmly.
 (C) Wear something cool.
 (D) Wear cotton pants.

Section 1, Part B

Directions: In this part of the test, you will hear longer conversations. After each conversation, you will hear several questions. The conversations and questions will not be repeated.

After you hear a question, read the four possible answers in your book and choose the best answer. 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.

Remember, you are **not** allowed to take notes or write in your test book.

31. (A) To get help in finding a new college.
(B) To change his major.
(C) To fill out an application for college.
(D) To find out how to change dormitories.
32. (A) A small school does not offer a wide range of courses.
(B) His tuition will not be refunded.
(C) Changing majors involves a lot of paperwork.
(D) He may not be able to transfer all his credits.
33. (A) He doesn't like his professors.
(B) His classes are too difficult.
(C) He can't transfer his credits from his previous school.
(D) He doesn't get along with his roommate.
34. (A) The registrar's office.
(B) The admissions office.
(C) The housing office.
(D) The math department.
35. (A) She has won a literary award.
(B) She has been profiled in a literary journal.
(C) Her novel has sold very well.
(D) Her contract with a publisher has been extended.
36. (A) A criminal.
(B) A poet.
(C) A radio announcer.
(D) A police officer.
37. (A) To learn more about her research findings.
(B) To learn how she writes so many books.
(C) To find out how she learned to write poetry.
(D) To find ways to improve his own writing.
38. (A) To take notes for newspaper articles.
(B) To keep track of the number of hours she spends writing.
(C) To record ideas she has when she is not at her desk.
(D) To document evidence for a police investigation.

Section 1, Part C

Directions: In this part of the test, you will hear several short talks. After each talk, you will hear some questions. The talks and questions will not be repeated.

After you hear a question, read the four possible answers in your book and choose the best answer. 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.

Here is an example:

On the recording, you hear:

Sample Answer

(A) (B) (C) (D)

Now listen to a sample question:

In your book, you read:

- (A) To demonstrate the latest use of computer graphics.
- (B) To discuss the possibility of an economic depression.
- (C) To explain the workings of the brain.
- (D) To dramatize a famous mystery story.

The best answer to the question, "What is the main purpose of the program?" is (C), "To explain the workings of the brain." Therefore, the correct answer is (C).

Now listen to another sample question:

Sample Answer

(A) (B) (C) (D)

In your book, you read:

- (A) It is required of all science majors.
- (B) It will never be shown again.
- (C) It can help viewers improve their memory skills.
- (D) It will help with course work.

The best answer to the question "Why does the speaker recommend watching the program?" is (D), "It will help with course work." Therefore, the correct choice is (D).

Remember, you are **not** allowed to take notes or write in the test book.

- 39. (A) Preparing for a hurricane.
- (B) Damage caused by a hurricane.
- (C) Coastal weather patterns.
- (D) Evacuation procedures.

- 40. (A) The navy.
- (B) A government weather agency.
- (C) State police headquarters.
- (D) A local shelter.

- 41. (A) Cover windows.
- (B) Buy a supply of food and water.
- (C) Locate the nearest shelter.
- (D) Leave coastal areas.

- 42. (A) Gas stations might not be open.
- (B) Fuel might increase in price.
- (C) They may need to drive neighbors to shelters.
- (D) There may be long lines at the gas stations.

- 43. (A) The economic impact of mail delivery on rural areas.
- (B) A comparison of urban and rural mail delivery.
- (C) Government mail delivery in cities.
- (D) The introduction of mail delivery in rural areas.

- 44. (A) It was paid for by the United States Congress.
- (B) It was run by private companies.
- (C) It was regulated by the government.
- (D) It was mainly for farmers.

- 45. (A) Many post office locations were inconvenient.
- (B) Bad roads delayed mail delivery.
- (C) The postal rates were too high.
- (D) There were not enough mail carriers to deliver mail.

- 46. (A) They were indifferent to it.
- (B) They thought it should have been done long before.
- (C) They thought it was unnecessary.
- (D) They thought it had to be accepted despite its cost.

- 47. (A) The properties of quartz crystals.
- (B) A method of identifying minerals.
- (C) The life of Friedrich Mohs.
- (D) A famous collection of minerals.

48. (A) Its estimated value.
(B) Its crystalline structure.
(C) Its chemical composition.
(D) Its relative hardness.

49. (A) Collect some minerals as homework.
(B) Identify the tools he is using.
(C) Apply the information given in the talk.
(D) Pass their papers to the front of the room.

50. (A) When it is scratched in different directions.
(B) When greater pressure is applied.
(C) When its surface is scratched too frequently.
(D) When the tester uses the wrong tools.

This is the end of Section 1.

Stop work on Section 1 now.

Turn off your CD player.

Read the directions for Section 2 and begin work.

DO NOT read or work on any other section of the test during the next 25 minutes.

Section 2: Structure and Written Expression

Time: 25 minutes, including the reading of directions

Now set your clock for 25 minutes.

This section is designed to measure your ability to recognize language that is appropriate for standard written English. There are two types of questions in this section, with special directions for each type.

Structure

Directions: Questions 1-15 are incomplete sentences. Beneath each sentence you will see four words or phrases, marked (A), (B), (C) and (D). Choose the **one** word or phrase that best completes the sentence. 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.

Example I

Sample Answer

(A) ☒ (B) ☐ (C) ☐ (D) ☐

Geysers have often been compared to volcanoes _____ they both emit hot liquids from below the Earth's surface.

- (A) due to
(B) because
(C) in spite of
(D) regardless of

The sentence should read, "Geysers have often been compared to volcanoes because they both emit hot liquids from beneath the Earth's surface." Therefore, the correct choice is (B).

Example II

Sample Answer

(A) ☐ (B) ☐ (C) ☐ (D) ☒

During the early period of ocean navigation, _____ any need for sophisticated instruments and techniques.

- (A) so that hardly
(B) when there hardly was
(C) hardly was
(D) there was hardly

The sentence should read, "During the earlier period of ocean navigation, there was hardly any need for sophisticated instruments and techniques." Therefore, the correct answer is (D).

Now begin work on the questions.

1. Since the early 1950's, _____ throughout the world has more than doubled.
(A) the demand for food
(B) there is demand for food
(C) if food is in demand
(D) food, a demand that
2. Even though he did not attend school until he was twelve, Dr. Samuel C.C. Ting was _____ the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1976.
(A) won
(B) the winning
(C) the winner of
(D) to be won
3. Gas particles move _____ when the gas is hot than when it is cold.
(A) fast
(B) faster
(C) as fast
(D) fastest
4. The different colors of _____ the different temperatures of the stars' surfaces.
(A) the stars indicate
(B) indicating stars
(C) the indication that the stars
(D) stars indicating that
5. As a country develops from an agricultural to an industrial economy, the attitudes, values, structures, and functions of the family _____.
(A) the change
(B) which change
(C) change
(D) changing
6. Only a few sounds produced by insects are heard by humans _____ most of the sounds are pitched either too low or too high.
(A) in spite of
(B) because
(C) as a result of
(D) instead of
7. The ordinary chair _____ in countless shapes, sizes, styles, and materials.
(A) has been made
(B) to be made
(C) is making
(D) been making
8. For 125 years after _____ initial use at Harvard in 1642, the Bachelor of Arts degree was the only degree awarded by colleges in the United States.
(A) its
(B) it was
(C) being
(D) when

9. Since the Sun illuminates half the surface of the Moon, only half the surface _____ can be seen from the Earth.

- (A) most
- (B) much
- (C) with more
- (D) at most

10. The novels of Constance Fenimore Woolson, _____, have special interest for their regional settings.

- (A) in a nineteenth-century writer
- (B) a nineteenth-century writer
- (C) the nineteenth-century writing
- (D) wrote about the nineteenth century

11. _____ Oklahoma is important as a farming state, it is even more important for its rich oil deposits.

- (A) By
- (B) Although
- (C) In order for
- (D) Concerning

12. No animal seems _____ on a diet of peat moss.

- (A) survived
- (B) can survive
- (C) of surviving
- (D) able to survive

13. The upper part in a harmonic arrangement _____ by mixed voices is usually written for a soprano voice.

- (A) to be sung
- (B) as singing
- (C) to be singing
- (D) was sung

14. The first school _____ the state of Washington was opened at old Fort Vancouver in 1832.

- (A) is now
- (B) is that in
- (C) what is that
- (D) in what is now

15. Radio, _____, developed from the theories and experiments of many people.

- (A) like other many inventions
- (B) like many other inventions
- (C) inventions like many other
- (D) many other like inventions

Written Expression

Directions: In questions 16-40, each sentence has four underlined words or phrases. The four underlined parts of the sentence are marked (A), (B), (C) and (D). Identify the **one** underlined word or phrase that must be changed in order for the sentence to be correct. 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.

Example I

Sample Answer

☐ (A) ☒ (B) ☐ (C) ☐ (D)

Guppies are sometimes call rainbow fish because of the males' bright colors.

A B C D

The sentence should read, "Guppies are sometimes called rainbow fish because of the males' bright colors." Therefore, you should choose (A).

Example II

Sample Answer

☐ (A) ☒ (B) ☐ (C) ☐ (D)

Serving several term in Congress, Shirley Chisholm became an important United States

A B C

politician.

D

The sentence should read, "Serving several terms in Congress, Shirley Chisholm became an important United States politician." Therefore, you should choose (B).

Now begin work on the questions.

16. While attempting to fly hers plane around the world in 1937, Amelia Earhart mysteriously disappeared.
A B C D
17. Richard Wright's *Uncle Tom's Children*, a collection of short stories, were a critical success when it appeared in 1938.
C A B D
18. The principle on which the boat called a hydrofoil is designed is identically to that demonstrated by an airplane wing moving through air.
B C D A
19. Migrating butterflies can travel long distant over water.
A B C D
20. During a early period in the settlement of the western United States, pioneers claimed parts of the wilderness by marking trees to establish a boundary.
A B C D
21. All digital computers use binary, or two-valued, digits instead than decimal, or ten-valued, digits to represent and store data.
A B C D
22. An ambassador serves as a nation's highest-ranking diplomacy in another country.
A B C D
23. Early adolescence is a developmental phase consisting of rapid changes in behavior, psychological, and hormones.
A B C D
24. Knowledge from the frontiers of research genetic will increasingly pose difficult problems for policy makers and for society in general.
A B C D

25. Pictures called glass mosaics are made by setting small pieces of colors glass into fresh plaster.
A B C D
26. Approximately every nineteen month Venus and the Sun reach their greatest angular separation in the solar system.
A B C D
27. Anthropologists recently have found evidence that, centuries ago, Inuits used to entering their subterranean homes through tunnels, which helped keep the cold out and the heat in.
A B C D
28. The tree porcupine is found in wooded areas throughout most from North America.
A B C D
29. To date, only a small percentage of all glass manufactured in the United States is recycled, but markets for recycled glass that are growing steadily.
A B C D
30. The oceans are the major source of the atmospheric moisture that is obtained through evaporator.
A B C D
31. Only those insects with high developed, multilensed eyes have good color vision.
A B C D
32. The Earth's atmosphere functions much like a giant greenhouse, admitting sunlight between outer space but preventing heat from escaping.
A B C D
33. The almond tree which produces the oldest species of nut and is the most widely grown of all nut trees.
A B C D

34. Fran Tannenbaum, a paleontology student doing summer fieldwork, found a completely seventy-five-million-year-old fossil egg near Chateau, Montana.

D

35. Fencing, originally developed as a sport in fourteenth century, was included in the first modern Olympic Games of 1896.

C

36. Depth within ancient tombs, 3,000-year-old peanuts have been found alongside mummies.

D

37. Art Nouveau developed in the 1890's when artists did a conscious effort to break with what they regarded as worn-out formulas of the past.

D

38. The most widely cultivated all of fruit trees, the apple is second only to the grape in its importance as a temperate-zone fruit.

C D

39. Pawnbroking, or making loans to customers who pledge personal or household goods as security, is one of the oldest trade known.

D

40. Of 1901 to 1914, acclaimed actor Douglas Fairbanks appeared on stage in a series of light comedies.

C

D

This is the end of Section 2.

If you finish in less than 25 minutes, check your work on Section 2 only.
DO NOT read or work on any other section of the test.

At the end of 25 minutes, go on to Section 3.

Use exactly 55 minutes to work on Section 3.

Section 3: Reading Comprehension

Time: 55 minutes, including the reading of the directions

Now set your clock for 55 minutes.

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.

Line
5

Example 1

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).

Example II

Sample Answer

☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☒ D

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.

No test material on this page.

Questions 1-10

The ballpoint pen is the universal writing instrument of the twentieth century. When the tiny metal ball at the writing tip is drawn across a sheet of paper, it rotates within a housing at the end of an ink reservoir and is coated with ink, which it transfers to the paper.

Line

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The first ballpoint pen was invented by John Loud in 1888. Loud has been working on a design for a nonleaking pen to mark leather and fabrics and, although his cumbersome design was similar in essence to the modern item, it was never manufactured in large quantities and the patent was allowed to expire. The first workable design was patented in 1938 and became widely accepted in 1942 when the United States Army required a pen that would not leak in high-flying aircraft.

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The ball of the pen is fitted into a socket so that it rotates freely. Several internal ducts in the socket feed ink to the ball; the other end of the socket is fitted onto a metal or plastic tube that contains the ink. When the ball is pressed on paper and moved, the capillary action draws the ink from the reservoir. In effect, the ball functions as a valve to prevent overflow, and on rotation it acts as a suction pump drawing out the ink.

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One problem was that as some of the ink ran out, a partial vacuum was formed between the back of the ball and ink reservoir, which cut off the supply. This was solved by making a small hole at the far end of the reservoir. As the ink at the tip is sucked out, more ink from the tube is drawn into the socket to fill its place, the vacuum being prevented by air that is drawn through the vent.

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Disposable ballpoints have improved considerably in efficiency and reliability since 1938. Further improvements made recently include the production of a pen that writes at any angle, even upside down, and the development of a new ink that is erasable.

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1. The word "it" in line 2 refers to
(A) paper
(B) ink reservoir
(C) writing instrument
(D) ball
2. The word "housing" in line 3 is closest in meaning to
(A) point
(B) residence
(C) case
(D) orbit
3. It can be inferred from the passage that there was interest in designing a new type of pen because the old ones
(A) were too big
(B) were expensive
(C) leaked
(D) cracked
4. The word "expire" in line 8 is closest in meaning to
(A) end
(B) change
(C) copy
(D) expand
5. It can be inferred that the ballpoint pen first gained popularity among
(A) military personnel
(B) businesspeople
(C) scientists
(D) artists
6. Which of the following statements is true of the ball in a ballpoint pen?
(A) It is fitted directly into the tube.
(B) It controls the flow of ink.
(C) It has a small hole.
(D) It contains a reservoir of ink.
7. The author mentions a "suction pump" in line 17 to indicate a function of the
(A) reservoir
(B) plastic tube
(C) socket
(D) ball
8. The word "which" in line 19 refers to
(A) supply
(B) back of the ball
(C) partial vacuum
(D) ink reservoir
9. What was the purpose of the small hole mentioned in line 20?
(A) To drain off excess ink
(B) To improve ink flow to the tip of the pen
(C) To reduce the amount of air in the pen
(D) To allow the reservoir to be refilled

10. Until recently one limitation of ballpoint pens was
- (A) their inability to function upside down
 - (B) the cost of replacing empty reservoirs
 - (C) the fragility of the point
 - (D) corrosion due to the ink

Section 3 continues. Turn the page and read the next passage.

Questions 11-20

By the 1920's in the United States, great change had been made in daily life by an accumulation of inventions that had been produced in increasing numbers since the Civil War. These technological innovations created what, in effect, was a social revolution.

Line

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Improvements in communications served to knit more closely citizens of diverse ethnic and political backgrounds. Rapid printing presses, typesetting devices, and page-plate processes made printed matter more widely accessible. The telephone simplified person-to-person communication. The phonograph, the silent motion picture, the radio, and the sound picture for the first time made auditory and visual impact simultaneously possible over the whole country and had the inevitable, and perhaps undesirable, effect of establishing a trend to national conformity in thought and feeling. One could call this revolution the nationalization of thought and taste.

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Improvements in transportation made all parts of the country less remote from each other when measured by the time required to go from one place to another. Bicycles and trolleys put the nation on wheels. Then the automobile provided the means for speed and mobility, now so dear to Americans, and brought a demand for better highways. By the 1920's cargo trucks were beginning to cut into railroad revenues, and the latest wonder, the airplane, was a fairly common sight.

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The transport revolution was made possible by the development and perfection of new engines and motors. The internal-combustion engine, using gasoline or oil, could be built in compact power units admirably suited to automobiles, aircraft, and boats. The use of electricity, generated by water power or coal-burning plants, simplified the problems of mechanical power for industrial use and made electrical illumination commonplace in cities, indoors and out. Electricity also powered an increasing variety of domestic appliances.

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11. The passage focuses on the United States in the 1920's primarily in terms of the
- (A) creativity of American inventors
 - (B) decline in social relationships
 - (C) influence of technology on society
 - (D) negative side of technological progress
12. The word "knit" in line 5 is closest in meaning to
- (A) unite
 - (B) attract
 - (C) inform
 - (D) study
13. The word "accessible" in line 7 is closest in meaning to
- (A) understandable
 - (B) read
 - (C) printed
 - (D) available
14. According to the author, expanded communications led to a decrease in
- (A) individuality
 - (B) travel
 - (C) patriotism
 - (D) entertainment

15. The words "each other" in line 15 refer to
- (A) improvements in transportation
 - (B) parts of the country
 - (C) bicycles and trolleys
 - (D) better highways
16. The word "mobility" in line 17 is closest in meaning to
- (A) excitement
 - (B) movement
 - (C) modernity
 - (D) control
17. According to the passage, which of the following modes of transportation was negatively affected by motor vehicles?
- (A) Trolleys
 - (B) Bicycles
 - (C) Trains
 - (D) Airplanes
18. The passage suggests that a major advantage of the internal-combustion engine was its
- (A) safety
 - (B) size
 - (C) durability
 - (D) price

19. The author identifies all of the following as contributors to the "social revolution" of the 1920's EXCEPT

- (A) improved communication
- (B) improved transportation
- (C) improvements resulting from electricity
- (D) improvements in the arts

20. Where in the passage does the author give an example of a technological advance that led to a demand for improvement in another area?

- (A) Lines 6-7
- (B) Lines 16-17
- (C) Lines 21-23
- (D) Line 26

Practice Test A
Answer Sheet

Section 1	Section 2	Section 3
1 (A) (B) (C) (D)	1 (A) (B) (C) (D)	1 (A) (B) (C) (D)
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