

Sample Test Questions

ENGLISH
MATH
READING
SCIENCE
WRITING

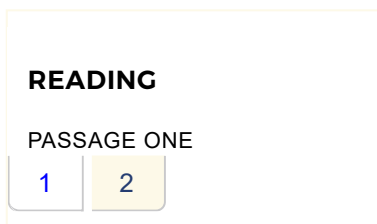
Reading

Test Tips

An actual ACT Reading Test contains 40 questions to be answered in 35 minutes.

- Read the passage(s) carefully.
- Read and consider all of the answer choices before you choose the one that best responds to the question.
- Refer to the passage(s) when answering the questions.

Click on letter choices below to view the correct answer and explanations.



DIRECTIONS: There are several passages in this test. Each passage is accompanied by several questions. After reading a passage, choose the best answer to each question and fill in the corresponding oval on your answer document. You may refer to the passages as often as necessary.

1.

Click on the letter choices to determine if you have the correct answer and for question explanations. An actual ACT Reading Test contains 40 questions to be answered in 35 minutes.

LITERARY NARRATIVE: This passage is adapted from the novel *The Men of Brewster Place* by Gloria Naylor (©1998 by Gloria Naylor).

The Men of Brewster Place

Clifford Jackson, or Abshu, as he preferred to be known in the streets, had committed himself several years ago to use his talents as a playwright to broaden the horizons for the young, gifted, and black—which
5 was how he saw every child milling around that dark street. As head of the community center he went after every existing grant on the city and state level to bring them puppet shows with the message to avoid drugs and stay in school; and plays in the park such as actors
10 rapping their way through Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Abshu believed there was something in Shakespeare for everyone, even the young of Brewster Place, and if he broadened their horizons just a little bit, there might be enough room for some of them to
15 slip through and see what the world had waiting. No, it would not be a perfect world, but definitely one with

more room than they had now.

The kids who hung around the community center liked Abshu, because he never preached and it was **20**clear that when they spoke he listened; so he could zero in on the kid who had a real problem. It might be an offhand remark while shooting a game of pool or a one-on-one out on the basketball court, but he had a way of making them feel special with just a word or two.

25 Abshu wished that his own family could have stayed together. There were four of them who ended up in foster care: him, two younger sisters, and a baby brother. He understood why his mother did what she did, but he couldn't help wondering if there might have **30**been a better way.

Abshu was put into a home that already had two other boys from foster care. The Masons lived in a small wooden bungalow right on the edge of Linden Hills. And Mother Mason insisted that they tell any- **35**body who asked that they actually lived in Linden Hills, a more prestigious address than Summit Place. It was a home that was kept immaculate.

But what he remembered most about the Masons was that it seemed there was never quite enough to eat. **40**She sent them to school with a lunch of exactly one and a half sandwiches—white bread spread with margarine and sprinkled with sugar—and half an apple.

When Abshu dreamed of leaving—which was every day—he had his own apartment with a refrigera-

45tor overflowing with food that he gorged himself with day and night. The Masons weren't mean people; he knew he could have ended up with a lot worse.

Abshu lived with these people for nine years, won a scholarship to the local college, and moved out to **50**support himself through school by working in a dough-nut shop. By this time his mother was ready to take her children back home, but he decided that since he was already out on his own he would stay there. One less mouth for her to worry about feeding. And after he **55**graduated with his degree in social work, he might even be able to give her a little money to help her along.

One thing he did thank the Masons for was keeping him out of gangs. There was a strict curfew in their home that was rigidly observed. And church was **60**mandatory. "When you're out on your own," Father Mason always said, "you can do whatever you want, but in my home you do as I say." No, they weren't mean people, but they were stingy—stingy with their food and with their affection. Existing that way all the **65**time, on the edge of hunger, on the edge of kindness, gave Abshu an appreciation for a life fully lived. Do whatever job makes you happy, regardless of the cost; and fill your home with love. Well, his home became the community center right around the corner from **70**Brewster Place and the job that made him most fulfilled was working with young kids.

The kids who hung out at the community center

weren't all lost yet. They wanted to make use of the tutors for their homework; and they wanted a safe place

75to hang. His motto was: Lose no child to the streets.

And on occasion when that happened, he went home to cry. But he never let his emotions show at work. To the kids he was just a big, quiet kind of dude who didn't go looking for trouble, but he wouldn't run from it either.

80He was always challenged by a new set of boys who showed up at the center. He made it real clear to them that this was his territory—his rules—and if they needed to flex their muscles, they were welcome to try. And he showed many that just because he was kind, it **85**didn't mean he was weak. There had to be rules some- in their world, some kind of discipline. And if they understood that, then he worked with them, long and hard, to let them see that they could make a difference in their own lives.

6.

Which of the following statements about the children entering the community center is supported by the passage?

- E. ☐ They had unrealistic expectations that Abshu toned down in the course of informal conversations.
- F. ☒ In Abshu's eyes, they were all gifted.
- G. ☐ In Abshu's eyes, the children who were likely to succeed were the ones who gave him the most trouble at the outset.

- H. ☒ They were prepared to believe in each other more than in themselves.

CORRECT RESPONSE ^

The best answer is F. Evidence for this choice is directly stated in lines 4-6: "young, gifted, and black, which was how Abshu saw every child milling around that dark street."

7.

It can reasonably be inferred from the first paragraph that in obtaining outside funding for the community center, Abshu could be characterized as:

- A. ☒ thorough in seeking out potential sources for financial backing.
- B. ☐ reluctant to spoil the children with charity.
- C. ☐ excited about having the children write grant applications.
- D. ☐ determined to let the children decide how the money would be spent.

CORRECT RESPONSE ^

The best answer is A because lines 6-7 explicitly state that Abshu "went after every existing grant on the city and state level." This statement clearly indicates that he was thorough in seeking out financial backing.

8.

Which of the following statements about Abshu's attitude toward his mother's choices early in his life is supported by the passage?

- E. ☐ Abshu wishes he could get over the bitterness he feels toward her for allowing him and his siblings to be placed in foster care.
- F. ☐ Abshu is worried that his mother is troubled by her decision to place her children in foster care and wants to comfort and support her now that he is a grown man.
- G. ☒ Abshu wonders if she might have made a better decision about letting him and his siblings go into foster care, even though he understands why she did it.
- H. ☐ Abshu wants to apologize for having been ungrateful as a child to his mother, who was only doing what she felt was best for her family.

CORRECT RESPONSE ^

The best answer is G. The third paragraph clearly states that "Abshu wished that his own family could have stayed together" but that "he understood why his mother did what she did."

9.

According to the passage, which of the following most closely identifies Abshu's definition of a life fully lived?

- A. ☒ Happiness in your work and love in your house
- B. ☐ The pursuit of your goals and the realization of your dreams
- C. ☐ Togetherness with your family and the sharing of laughter
- D. ☐ Working in the community and striving for equality

CORRECT RESPONSE ^

The best answer is A because the passage states directly in lines 66–68 that according to Abshu, to have a life fully lived, one should “do whatever job makes you happy, regardless of the cost; and fill your home with love.”

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