



SST6 Reading Comprehension (EDU)

Test 17

Teacher's Copy

Test Code: _____

Student Name: _____

Student ID: _____

PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW CAREFULLY:

You may use the back of your answer sheet for your working. This is what you are given at the real exam to use as working paper.

DO NOT WRITE ANYWHERE ELSE ON THE EXAM PAPER

This test asks you to look at ____ material and to answer all the questions on this material.

- This test paper **CANNOT BE TAKEN OUT** of the classroom
- You **MUST GIVE THE TEST PAPER BACK** before you leave the classroom
- You must **WRITE YOUR NAME AND ID** on this page and the answer sheet
- You must **PUT AWAY ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES** and any other materials that could help you on this exam
- **DO NOT TOUCH OR DRAW ON** the barcode that is on your answer sheet

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Advice for the test:

- For each question, you are given 4 or 5 possible answers marked A, B, C, D and E. Attempt to find the correct answer, and shade the corresponding bubble on the answer sheet.
- Each question is worth 1 mark, so try not to spend too long on one question – leave it for after you have finished the other questions.
- Check that the question number you are doing on the test paper is the same as the question number that you are shading on the answer sheet.
- There are no marks lost for incorrect answers, so even if you cannot solve a question, shade the box for the answer you think is most correct.

Instructions for the Answer Sheet:

- Use a B or HB pencil.
- Write your name, student ID and test code on the sheet.
- Shade the box which indicates your answer. All answers must be completed like THIS example:



- Marks will not be deducted for incorrect answers.
- No mark will be given if more than ONE answer is completed for any question.
- If you make a mistake, ERASE the incorrect answer – DO NOT cross it out.

Question 1-5

The Third Reich influenced events in American history by starting a chain of events, which culminated in war between Germany and the United States. The complete destruction of democracy, the persecution of Jews, the war on religion, the cruelty and barbarism of the Nazi, and especially, the plans of Germany and her allies, Italy and Japan, for world conquest caused great indignation in America and brought on fear of another world war. While speaking out against Hitler's atrocities, the American people generally favored isolationist policies and neutrality. The Neutrality Acts of 1935 and 1936 prohibited trade with any belligerents or loans to them. In 1937 the President was empowered to declare an arms embargo in wars between nations at his discretion.

American opinion began to change somewhat after President Roosevelt's "quarantine the aggressor" speech at Chicago (1937), in which he severely criticized Hitler's policies. Germany's seizure of Austria and the Munich Pact for the partition of Czechoslovakia (1938) also aroused the American people. The conquest of Czechoslovakia in March 1939 was another rude awakening to the menace of the Third Reich. In August 1939: came the shock of the Nazi-Soviet Pact and in September the attack on Poland and the outbreak of European war. The United States attempted to maintain neutrality in spite of sympathy for the democracies arrayed against the Third Reich. The neutrality Act of 1939 repealed the arms embargo and permitted "cash and carry" exports of arms to belligerent nations. A strong national defence program was begun. A draft act was passed (1940) to strengthen the military services. A Lend-Lease Act (1941) authorized the President to sell, exchange, or lend materials to any country deemed necessary by him for the defence of the United States. Help was given to Britain by exchanging certain over age destroyers for the right to establish American bases in British territory in the Western Hemisphere. In August 1941 President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill met and issued the Atlantic Charter, which proclaimed the kind of a world that should be established after the war. In December 1941 Japan launched an unprovoked attack on the United States at Pearl Harbor. Immediately thereafter, Germany declared war on the United States.

1. The author is primarily concerned with:

- A. evaluating various legislative efforts to strengthen national defence
- B. summarizing the events that led up to America's involvement in the war
- C. criticizing the atrocities perpetrated by the Third Reich
- D. explaining a basic distinction between American policy and German policy
- E. none of these

2. According to the passage, the United States, while maintaining neutrality, showed its sympathy for the democracies by which of the following actions? (1) It came to the defence of Poland (2) It conscripted recruits for the armed forces (3) It supplied weapons to friendly countries.

- A. 1 only B. 3 only C. 2 and 3 only D. 1, 2 and 3 E. none of these

3. According to the passage, all of the following events occurred in 1939 except...

- A. the invasion of Poland
- B. the invasion of Czechoslovakia
- C. passage of the Neutrality Act
- D. the annexation of Austria
- E. none of these



4. Which of the following best describes the organization of the passage?
- A. The author presents a thesis and then lists events that support that thesis in chronological order.
 - B. The author presents a thesis and then cites examples that support the thesis as well as evidence that tends to negate it.
 - C. The author summarizes a historical study and then discusses an aspect of the study in detail.
 - D. The author describes historical events and then gives a personal interpretation of them.
 - E. None of these
5. Which of the following is closest in meaning to the word "indignation"?
- A. ostracism B. ostentatious C. outlandish D. instigate E. outrage

Question 6-11

The Fox and the Goat

ONE day a fox fell down a well and could not scramble out again. The water was not very deep but the sides of the well were smooth and covered in slippery moss so that every time the fox struggled up a few inches he slipped down again with a splash into the water.

After some time a goat came along and peered curiously over the edge. "What are you doing down there, fox?" he asked.

The fox saw his chance to escape.

"Are you quite alone?" he asked mysteriously. "I don't want everyone to come at once. But the water in this well is so good that just cannot stop drinking it. Come on in and try it. You'll see it is better than anything you ever tasted before."

Without thinking twice the goat jumped in and began to drink eagerly. After a while he had had enough to drink and he looked round to see how he could get out.

"No problem at all, my dear fellow," said the fox. "You stand on your hind legs and I'll climb on your back.

If I balance on your horns I'll just about reach the ground. Then I'll lean over and pull you up after me."

So the goat stood on his hind legs and the fox climbed quickly out of the well. Trotting off across the fields he called out to the goat:

"If you had as much sense in your head as you have hairs in your beard, my friend, you would have made sure you could get out of that well before ever you jumped in."

Look before you leap.

6. In the first 3 sentences of the fable we are given the orientation which consists of:
- A. the characters
 - B. the situation
 - C. the setting
 - D. all of these
7. The fox ___ the goat with the quality of the water.
- A. tests
 - B. challenges
 - C. taunts
 - D. tempts



8. The fox's false promise to the goat involved the words:

- A. push up
- B. climb down
- C. pull up
- D. reach back

9. The correct form of the verb which goes with "had" is:

- A. drink
- B. drunk
- C. drank
- D. drinked

10. In the last paragraph beginning "If you had..." what the fox called out to the goat was:

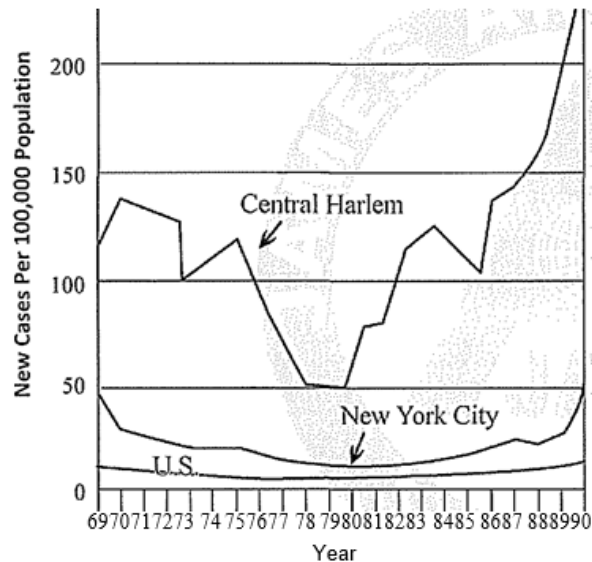
- A. helpful
- B. cruel
- C. sympathetic
- D. misleading

11. "Look before you leap" means:

- A. plan ahead
- B. slay cool
- C. don't take risks
- D. jump at any opportunity

Question 12-14

TUBERCULOSIS CASE RATES



12. When did Central Harlem experience the sharpest rise in tuberculosis cases?

- A. 1973-1974
- B. 1975-1976
- C. 1977-1978
- D. 1980-1981
- E. 1981-1982

13. When did New York City and the rest of the country have almost the same number of tuberculosis cases per 100,000 population?

- A. 1976
- B. 1975
- C. 1978
- D. 1977
- E. 1979

14. In 1990, how many new cases of tuberculosis per 1,000 population occurred in New York City?

- A. 5.0
- B. 0.5
- C. 5.5
- D. 50.0
- E. 55.0

Question 15-20

Since very early in the history of human beings when cultures began to evolve with different ways of doing things and different understandings of the world, groups have interacted with one another across cultural boundaries. Whether through conquest, trade and travel, or meeting one another along common borders, people have always exchanged cultural information, along with other resources, in a complex web of relationships that has shaped human history. The cultural information has flowed in both directions, even when the political, military and economic might has been concentrated on one side of the relationship. The influence of the conquered on the conqueror is often denied or ignored in the subsequent telling of the story by the victor, but it is documented throughout history.

Encoded within beliefs, customs, language, art and other expressions of each culture is basic information about its history, what the world is like, how it works, what is of value in it, and how people should live in relation to each other and to the environment. This information is often specific and subtle-how close it is appropriate to stand to someone you are addressing, or when it is appropriate to play a particular tune, or what colours go together.

Each culture is the product of human intelligence-among many other qualities applied to the problems and opportunities of living in the world and passed down through the generations. Just as the hawk is not judged a better species than the mouse, so it makes no sense to view one culture as better or worse than another, regardless of inequalities in economic or military might or technological accomplishment. Each occupies a particular niche in the system of world cultures, and each survives with its mix of particular wisdom and folly.

15. According to the first paragraph, culture is a reflection of a society's

- A. age B. beliefs C. geography D. language E. none of these

16. According to the passage, what happens when one group conquers another?

- A. The loser's culture is destroyed D. A simpler culture emerges
B. The winner's culture loses respect E. none of these
C. A cultural change occurs

17. The author implies that a victor may give a version of history that is

- A. verifiable B. apologetic C. uninformed D. self-serving E. none of these

18. In the passage, the author implies that in some cultures a person could offend another person by

- A. refusing native food D. speaking English only
B. asking directions of strangers E. none of these
C. coming too near the person when speaking

19. When the author identifies culture as the "product of human intelligence"(final paragraph), he is implying that

- A. only intelligent societies survive
B. primitive societies have no recognizable culture
C. each society has reached the same conclusions about life
D. people construct their own societies
E. none of these

20. In the final paragraph, the author most probably makes reference to a hawk and a mouse because they seem to represent

- A. two non-threatening animals
- B. animals respected in many cultures
- C. apparent differences in status
- D. observable differences in intelligence
- E. none of these

Question 21-32

Are you interested in seeing the beautiful fall foliage of New England but tired of traffic jams and overbooked hotels? Then this year forget the crowds in New England and see the beautiful colours of autumn in the Catskills.

These rugged mountains in New York State, just 90 miles northwest of New York City, are famous for the legendary tales of Rip Van Winkle, and more recently for the summer hotels that sprang up in the region during the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s. Families trying to escape the heat of New York City found the Catskills to be the perfect place to stay for a month or so each summer. By the late 1950s there were over 500 resorts and hotels offering night-time entertainment as well as all kinds of outdoor activities. Famous comedians like Jackie Gleason, Joan Rivers, and Sid Caesar all got their start touring the hotel clubs here. Since the introduction of air-conditioning and cheaper air travel, however, families have stopped coming to the Catskills in such large numbers, choosing instead more distant locations at different times of the year. Many of the Catskill hotels closed in the 1970s, but some remain and have expanded and changed their facilities to meet the needs of today's visitors.

Currently, there are many activities available to the traveller besides witnessing the changing colours of the leaves. There is an all-organic sheep farm where visitors can see how a traditional sheep farm operates. There are also hundreds of miles of scenic drives in the area. Route 42, for instance, is an excellent site for spotting bald eagles. For more information on vacations in the Catskills, call the Office of Public Information.

21. What is the author's main purpose in this passage?

- A. to promote the Catskills as a vacation destination
- B. to introduce visitors to famous Catskills entertainers
- C. to describe the history of the Catskills region
- D. to compare the Catskills to New England

22. The word "rugged" could best be replaced by which of the following?

- A. barren
- B. rough
- C. tall
- D. lush

23. According to the passage, which of the following caused the decline in the number of resorts in the 1970s?

- A. television
- B. shorter vacations
- C. affordable air travel
- D. more traffic

24. Which of the following is closest in meaning to the word "legendary"?

- A. perplexing
- B. ancient
- C. mythical
- D. historical

25. The phrase "sprang up" most probably refers to something that has

- A. burst forth
- B. spread out
- C. operated vigorously
- D. all of these



26. In what season would a tourist most likely have visited the Catskills in the 1950s?
A . fall B. winter C. spring D. summer
27. Which of the following most reflects the author's tone in the passage?
A. light and encouraging C. humorous and skeptical
B. informative and scientific D. regretful and reminiscent
28. What does the passage imply that a visitor might be lucky enough to do?
A. see fall leaves in colour C. work on a sheep farm
B. see a kind of bird D. drive on scenic roads
29. The word "witnessing" could best be replaced by
A. attending B. certifying C. viewing D. validating
30. The word "drives" refers to
A. excursions B. tracks C. paths D. roads
31. Which of the following could best replace the word "spotting"?
A. photographing B. seeing C. watching D. contemplating
32. The author implies that in the Catskills there are a few
A. leaves B. eagles C. people D. sheep

Question 33-41

What's special about bats?

Bats live their lives in a dimension so different from ours that we cannot escape a sense of wonder at the precision of even the simplest aspect of their biology.

Their ability to fly controls every feature of their bodies: the smallness, the lightness, the exquisite redesign of their hands to become wings, the muscularity of the upper body and the reduction of the pelvis and legs. They are an amazing balance of a multitude of specialisations that have enabled them to colonise the night sky.

Bats have existed for at least 55 million years, just as perfectly constructed as they are today. They are probably the most successful and abundant order of mammals in the world. And yet we are scarcely aware of their presence and their ways are still mysterious to us.

What are bats?

The scientific name for bats is Chiroptera (pronounced 'Kirop-tera'), which means hand-wing. There are two main groups (suborders) of bats: the Microchiroptera (microbats) and the Megachiroptera (megabats).

The microbats include the bats that most people are familiar with; they are usually small (with wing- spans of about 25cm), eat insects and use echolocation. These are the small bats that you are most likely to see in summer, flying around at dusk. They are capable of finding their way in complete darkness, and many species live deep within caves during the day. Most of the Australian bats belong to this group.

The mega bats, or fruit bats are usually large and live on a diet of fruit, blossom and nectar. They have large, well-developed eyes for seeing in the dark and a strong sense of smell for finding food. They do not use echolocation and so cannot fly in complete darkness or use caves. In Australia, the best known of the megabats are the flying-foxes. These are very large bats (with wingspans of about 1 metre) with pleasant fox-like faces (but they are not related to foxes at all). Flying-foxes are very social animals and live hanging in trees in large colonies called 'camps'. Not all megabats are large - the blossom bats are like miniature flying-foxes and are the same size as many microbats.

33. The question at the head of the extract is:

- A. rhetorical and challenging
- B. a challenge to read the article and provocative
- C. an implication that the subject is unimportant
- D. rhetorical and a way into the topic

34. In the first three sentences, we are told:

- A. that bats are indeed special because of their biology
- B. that their special quality is "a multitude of specialisations"
- C. that the ability to fly has led to their biological uniqueness
- D. that every feature of their bodies is determined by their ability to fly

35. The sentence "colonise the night sky" is:

- A. metaphorical and therefore figurative
- B. an effective simile and therefore figurative
- C. a personification giving human attributes to bats
- D. a powerful metaphor to describe the bat phenomenon

36. The expression "hand-wing" is

- A. a translation of Chiroptera, the scientific name for bats
- B. a translation of Chiroptera and interestingly contradictory
- C. contradictory and unlikely
- D. a useful mime for the creatures

37. Echolocation is a scientific term meaning:

- A. a scientific way of locating bats
- B. a special device used to locate bats
- C. that bats gain direction and location by responding to echoes as they move
- D. that all bats can be characterised as employing this

38. Flying foxes are:

- A. megabats and not echolocators
- B. echolocating bats and carnivorous
- C. carnivorous and predatory
- D. cave dwellers and echolocators

39. Megabats are generally:

- A. large and fruit eating
- B. fox-like and large
- C. not always large and may be no bigger than microbats
- D. fruit-eating and small

40. This passage is:

- A. factual and scientific
- B. scientific and informative
- C. fictional or mainly opinion
- D. detailed and orderly in presentation

Question 41-48

People moved slowly then. They ambled across the square, shuffled in and out of the stores around it, took their time about everything. A day was twenty-four hours long but seemed longer. There was no hurry, for there was nowhere to go, nothing to buy and no money to buy it with, nothing to see outside the boundaries of Maycomb County. But it was a time of vague optimism for some of the people: Maycomb County had recently been told that it had nothing to fear but fear itself.

We lived on the main residential street in town- Atticus, Jem and I, plus Calpurnia our cook. Jem and I found our father satisfactory: he played with us, read to us, and treated us with courteous detachment.

Calpurnia was something else again. She was all angles and bones; she was nearsighted; she squinted; her hand was wide as a bed slat and twice as hard. She was always ordering me out of the kitchen, asking me why I couldn't behave as well as Jem when she knew he was older, and calling me home when I wasn't ready to come. Our battles were epic and one-sided, Calpurnia always won, mainly because Atticus always took her side. She had been with us ever since Jem was born, and I had felt her tyrannical presence as long as I could remember.

41. For the writer the days were:

- A. too long, too empty
- B. too brief, too hurried
- C. relaxed but not long enough
- D. long and unhurried

42. Maycomb County was:

- A. isolated and a world in itself
- B. large and self-sufficient
- C. impoverished because its citizens had no money
- D. inward-looking and rather isolated

43. Their father treated them with "courteous detachment". This means that Atticus was:

- A. indifferent to them and over-courteous
- B. inconsiderate and yet a little remote from them
- C. silent, distant
- D. polite, considerate, yet not interfering

44. Calpurnia's "hand was wide as a bed slat" suggests that she seemed to the children:

- A. a big woman and violent
- B. a big, over-weight woman
- C. vigorous and a little frightening
- D. big and capable of disciplining them

45. For the children Calpurnia was:

- A. tyrannical, yet supportive of them
- B. supported by Atticus and unfair
- C. a one-sided disciplinarian
- D. uncompromising and tyrannical

46. What made Maycomb County vaguely optimistic was:

- A. the suggestion that only fear could harm it
- B. the spirit and hard work of the people
- C. its ability to be self-sufficient in most things
- D. its unhurried, relaxed life style



47. The passage is:

- A. written in the first person and part of a narrative
- B. autobiographical and detached in style
- C. mainly factual and informational
- D. factual and rather uninteresting

48. The register and style of the passage are:

- A. relatively informal, personal
- B. objective, formal
- C. informal, detached
- D. subjective, controlled

Question 49-50

To obtain a government post in the Republic of Malabar, you must either be a member of the ruling Independence Party or a personal associate of President Zamir.

Party members seeking a government post must either give a substantial donation in gold bullion to the party's campaign fund or make a televised speech denouncing President Zamir's political enemies.

Gold bullion may be purchased only at the National Bank, which does business only with those who have been certified as politically sound by the Minister of Justice. Only those who either have been certified as politically sound by the Minister of Justice or have donated 300 hours of service to the Independent Party are allowed to make political speeches on television.

To become a personal associate of President Zamir, you must either give a substantial donation in gold bullion to the president's personal expense account or perform personal services for a member of his immediate family.

Before appointing a personal associate to a government post, President Zamir always checks to make sure that he or she has been certified as politically sound by the Minister of Justice.

49. Mr Mizar is a member of the Independence party. To obtain a government post, his next step must be to either

- A. be certified as politically sound by the Minister of Justice, or give a substantial donation in gold bullion to the party's campaign fund
- B. donate 300 hours or service to the Independence Party, or give a substantial donation in gold bullion to the president's personal expense account
- C. be certified as politically sound by the Minister of Justice, or donate 300 hours of service to the party
- D. perform personal services for a member of President Zamir's immediate family, or make a televised speech denouncing the president's political enemies

50. All of those who wish to obtain government posts must (1) become personal associates of President Zamir. (2) be certified as politically sound by the Minister of Justice. (3) purchase gold bullion at the National Bank

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 3 only
- D. either 1, 2 or 3

