

Objective Placement Test A

General Directions

The Objective Placement Test has three sections: Listening, Reading, and Language Use. There are 70 questions. You are allowed 50 minutes to complete the test.

In Section I, the Listening section, you will hear nine conversations and answer one or more questions about each one. Before you listen to a conversation, read the question or questions. Then listen to the conversation. Answer the questions after the conversation ends. Choose the correct answer for each question and fill in your choice on your answer sheet. You will hear the conversation only once. The first conversation is an example. You have 15 minutes to complete this section.

Section II, the Reading section, has several short passages. After you read each passage, choose the correct answer for each question and fill in your choice on your answer sheet. You have 20 minutes to complete this section.

Section III, the Language Use section, has 30 items. Choose the correct completion for each item and fill in your choice on your answer sheet. You have 15 minutes to complete this section.

Mark your answers clearly on your answer sheet. If you want to change an answer, erase your first answer completely. If you want to take notes during the test, write on the paper you were given.

Section I: Listening

In this section of the test, you will hear conversations and answer some questions about them. For each conversation, first read the situation and the question or questions. Then listen to the conversation. Answer the questions after you hear the conversation. Respond to the questions by marking the correct answer (*a, b, c, or d*) on your answer sheet.

Read the example situation and question.

Example

Situation: Bill Sanchez calls Dr. Stockton's office to make an appointment.

Bill is going to see the doctor on _____ .

- a. Tuesday at 10:00
- b. Tuesday at 4:00
- c. Wednesday at 10:00
- d. Wednesday at 4:00

Now listen to the example conversation.

[EXAMPLE CONVERSATION]

Now answer the example question.

The answer for the example is *d, Wednesday at 4:00*. The letter *d* is filled in on your answer sheet.

Now go on to page 3.

Situation 1: David is talking with Tomomi when Monica comes into the room.

1. _____ are meeting for the first time.
 - a. David and Monica
 - b. David and Tomomi
 - c. Tomomi and Monica
 - d. David, Monica, and Tomomi

Situation 2: Ken and Nancy are at a restaurant.

2. Ken _____ .
 - a. is having steak tonight
 - b. stopped eating steak
 - c. eats steak a lot
 - d. prefers chicken to steak

Situation 3: Karen calls Jason's home. Jason's father answers the telephone.

3. Karen is going to _____ .
 - a. speak with Jason at work
 - b. call back in an hour
 - c. wait for Jason to call
 - d. send a written message

Now go on to page 4.

Situation 4: A reporter is giving today's weather forecast.

4. It will be clear in _____ .
 - a. the Northeast
 - b. Seattle
 - c. Boston
 - d. Miami
5. In Seattle, the weather is _____ .
 - a. hot
 - b. snowy
 - c. cool
 - d. rainy

Situation 5: Bill invites Jennifer to go to dinner and a movie.

6. Jennifer doesn't accept right away because she can't _____ .
 - a. eat a late lunch
 - b. leave work early
 - c. go to dinner
 - d. see the movie
7. They're going to _____ .
 - a. leave work a little early
 - b. go to the movie before dinner
 - c. see the movie tomorrow
 - d. have dinner at 7:00

Now go on to page 5.

Situation 6: Linda is asking Jim about his plans for the summer.

8. In the summer, Jim usually _____ .
- a. stays in the mountains
 - b. takes trips with his family
 - c. visits his parents
 - d. goes to the beach
9. This summer he's planning to _____ .
- a. stay at home
 - b. go to the beach
 - c. fish with his dad
 - d. hike in the mountains

Situation 7: Phil is talking with Susie about money.

10. Phil is upset because _____ .
- a. Susie can't lend him any money
 - b. his parents won't give him money
 - c. Albert hasn't returned his money
 - d. his friends never lend him money
11. Albert _____ .
- a. didn't borrow \$100
 - b. isn't working now
 - c. doesn't need the money
 - d. can't return the money yet
12. Susie doesn't lend money to friends because _____ .
- a. she has just enough for herself
 - b. lending money can change a friendship
 - c. people won't lend her money
 - d. her friends don't need it

Now go on to page 6.

Situation 8: Natalie and Chuck are talking about their experiences abroad.

13. Chuck went backpacking .
 - a. in Brazil
 - b. by himself
 - c. after high school
 - d. with his father

14. Chuck says he “would have liked to have seen Portugal!” He means that he .
 - a. went there, and he liked it
 - b. didn’t go there, but he wanted to
 - c. went there, but he didn’t like it
 - d. didn’t go there, and he didn’t want to

15. While Natalie was in Japan, she .
 - a. traveled all over the country
 - b. lived with a Japanese family
 - c. learned Japanese quickly
 - d. got very homesick

16. Chuck doesn’t want to .
 - a. travel anymore
 - b. learn a foreign language
 - c. stay at home
 - d. live abroad

Now go on to page 7.

Situation 9: Diane and Conrad are talking about their careers.

17. Conrad got into advertising because he _____ .
- a. studied advertising in college
 - b. heard about a job opening
 - c. liked to help people
 - d. was tired of his old job
18. When he was young, Conrad wanted to _____ .
- a. work in advertising
 - b. become a doctor
 - c. stay in school
 - d. go into business
19. Diane's parents didn't want her to _____ .
- a. start her own business
 - b. finish college
 - c. be too successful
 - d. change her career
20. Conrad _____ .
- a. owns his own company
 - b. enjoys working in advertising
 - c. thinks his job is boring
 - d. wants to leave his job

This is the end of the Listening section of Objective Placement Test A.

Now go on to page 8 and begin the Reading section.

Section II: Reading

In this section of the Objective Placement Test, you will read some short passages and answer questions about them. Choose the word or words that best complete the sentence. For each item, fill in your answer on the answer sheet. You will have 20 minutes to complete this section.

Passage 1: What are you doing today?

BETTY CHAN: I usually stay home on Sundays and take it easy – read, clean the house, do stuff like that. But today I'm at the mall. I'm buying some things for my kids.

21. Betty is _____ today.

- a. shopping
- b. reading
- c. cleaning
- d. resting

Passage 2: What do you do?

TONY PEREZ: I'm a flight attendant with a major airline. Flying isn't dangerous, but it can be stressful. When I'm up in the air working, I always have something to do. I like it because I meet a lot of interesting people.

22. Tony's job is _____ .

- a. busy
- b. easy
- c. relaxing
- d. boring

Now go on to page 9.

Passage 3: A vacation postcard

Dear Sal,

Greetings from France – it's so good to be back here again! We left the kids with their grandparents in Chicago, and we're biking across the French countryside by ourselves. We brought a tent and sleeping bags, so we can camp out if we want to, but we're really enjoying the small hotels we find

along the way.

Love,

Michael and Paula

23. Michael and Paula_____ .
- a. have been to France before
 - b. took their children with them
 - c. are visiting their grandparents
 - d. prefer to sleep outside

Passage 4: The "zone"

You're deeply involved in a task and can ignore everything around you – ringing telephones, your neighbor's TV, even your own hunger – and still do things in record time. This is similar to what athletes call the "zone": the power to concentrate so hard that you can ignore everything else. This ability can bring success in any field, but in athletics it can mean all the difference between winning and losing a game or event.

24. In this reading, the "zone" refers to a person's_____ .
- a. state of mind
 - b. neighborhood
 - c. physical condition
 - d. intelligence
25. Athletes in the "zone" are more likely to_____ .
- a. fall
 - b. compete
 - c. win
 - d. relax

Now go on to page 10.

Passage 5: Henry Ford and the Model-T

Henry Ford became famous and rich because he found a better, faster way to build cars. This is shown in the history of the Model-T. When the Model-T was first introduced in 1908, it took 14 hours to build and cost \$850. After Ford introduced into his own factory the mass-production techniques that he saw in a meat-packing plant, the time for building a Model-T was reduced to less than two hours. As a result, Ford was able to drop the price of the car to \$265. By 1927, he had sold over 15 million Model-Ts.

26. The first Model-T was expensive because it _____ .
- a. was new
 - b. was very popular
 - c. took a long time to build
 - d. was built in a factory
27. The Model-T became so popular because it was _____ than other cars.
- a. newer
 - b. faster
 - c. better
 - d. cheaper

Now go on to page 11.

Passage 6: It's a big country!

When it comes to body weight, Americans stand out. Most visitors to the United States, no matter where they go across this vast country, comment on the size of many Americans. In fact, these impressions are backed by numerous statistics. For example, the average 5' 4" American weighs 162 pounds, or 15 pounds more than the average person of the same height from Western or Central Europe. Another comparison: At 150 pounds, the average 5' 4" American woman is 24 pounds heavier than her Japanese counterpart.

Why are Americans so heavy? Some blame the American diet. Certainly it's true that Americans eat more high-fat foods – meat, dairy products, and processed food – and fewer grains and vegetables than people in other countries. But fat isn't the whole story. Lifestyle factors – including the tendency for Americans to drive rather than walk or ride a bicycle to work, to snack throughout the day, and to have so many labor-saving devices in the home – appear to contribute to the problem.

28. According to the article, visitors to the United States often comment on the size of the _____ .
- population
 - cities
 - country
 - people
29. According to the article, the average Western European weighs _____ .
- more than an American
 - more than a Central European
 - less than an American
 - less than a Japanese person
30. In comparison with Americans, people in other countries eat more _____ .
- meat
 - dairy products
 - processed food
 - grains
31. The article implies that Americans would lose weight if they _____ .
- snacked more often
 - rode bicycles to work
 - stayed at home more
 - ate fewer vegetables

Now go on to page 12.

Passage 7: Small talk isn't so "small"

Small talk may not be about serious issues; nevertheless, researchers into the subject have concluded that it's important. That's because small talk keeps us connected to one another and can lead to bigger things, such as a job or a new friendship. Yet people who find themselves alone with another person often don't know what to say. Here are a few tips to help you start a conversation, and to keep the conversational ball rolling:

- Start with the obvious. If you have something in common with another person (your job, hobbies, a person you both know, etc.), begin with that. If you don't know the person, it's always acceptable to bring up a neutral topic such as the weather or a recent news event. It isn't necessary to be clever – all that's required is to show interest in the other person and to be willing to talk.
- Compliment where appropriate. If the other person has done something you like or is wearing something attractive, it's always appropriate to compliment. But avoid talking about the specifics of a person's physical appearance (people can't usually change how they look) and keep your compliments short and to the point ("What a great tie!" or "You look great tonight!") and continue with another topic.
- Talk about yourself – then return to your partner. It's perfectly OK to talk about your own interests for a while, but keep your conversation from becoming a monolog. It's only polite, for example, that after talking about your own children, you turn the conversation back to your partner by asking about his or her children.

32. According to the article, the main function of small talk is to .
- a. show our own importance
 - b. get valuable information
 - c. relate to other people
 - d. talk about major issues
33. "Start with the obvious" means that you should talk about things that you .
- a. have in common
 - b. enjoy doing
 - c. want to understand
 - d. know everything about
34. You need to be careful when complimenting someone because most people .
- a. don't like compliments
 - b. can't change how they look
 - c. don't dress very well
 - d. haven't done anything interesting
35. You should avoid monologs because other people .
- a. have no interest in what you say
 - b. already know a lot about you
 - c. like to talk about themselves, too
 - d. prefer to discuss neutral subjects

Now go on to page 13.

Passage 8: Headaches

Everyone has experienced headaches, but only recently have medical researchers begun to learn more specifically about the causes and possible treatments for different types of headache pain.

The most common type of headache is the simple tension headache. Tension headaches are usually mild and short-lasting and can result from various factors, such as stress caused by worry or noise. Tension headaches are caused by a tightening of the neck or back muscles, which slows the flow of blood and, therefore, oxygen to the brain. It is the lack of oxygen that causes the pain. Most headaches can be relieved by taking a mild analgesic such as aspirin. Analgesics expand the blood vessels and restore the normal flow of blood and oxygen to the brain.

A more serious type of headache is the migraine. Migraine headaches are often extremely painful and can last for hours or days. Like tension headaches, they can be the result of different factors, including stress, hormonal changes, and allergies. Unlike tension headaches, however, they are caused by an abnormal expansion or swelling (rather than a contraction) of the blood vessels within the head. Medicines that shrink swollen blood vessels can be used to treat migraine headaches.

A tiny minority of headaches can be linked to severe physical problems such as head injury or brain tumors. For these types of headaches, there are medicines to treat the symptoms, but there is no cure unless the underlying problem is removed.

36. This article discusses the _____ .
- tiny minority of people who have headaches
 - history of medical research into headaches
 - causes and remedies for headaches
 - physical problems caused by headaches
37. A tension headache can result when _____ .
- the neck and back muscles relax
 - people get injured in an accident
 - the flow of blood is restricted
 - too much oxygen goes to the brain
38. Migraine headaches _____ .
- are the most common kind of headache
 - usually last only a few minutes
 - can cause extreme pain
 - have one main cause
39. Medicines for migraines _____ .
- relax the head and neck
 - generally relieve tension
 - increase the flow of blood
 - cause blood vessels to contract
40. Headaches caused by serious physical problems _____ .
- can't be treated
 - don't cause much pain
 - have no symptoms
 - are not very common

Now go on to page 14 and begin the Language Use section.

Section III: Language Use

In this section, you will answer questions about the use of English. Choose the word or words that best complete the sentence. For each item, fill in your answer on the answer sheet. You will have 15 minutes to complete this section.

41. _____ several good restaurants in our neighborhood.
- There
 - They're
 - There are
 - Their
42. The gas station is _____ Main Street.
- on
 - at
 - next
 - close
43. "I can't swim very well."
"I can't _____."
- too
 - either
 - so
 - neither
44. I enjoy _____ out two or three times a week.
- to eat
 - eating
 - eat
 - I eat
45. These days, _____ women keep working after they get married.
- most
 - most of
 - almost
 - the most
46. My new job is very _____.
- excitement
 - excited
 - exciting
 - excite
47. After finishing college, I hope _____ married.
- get
 - that get
 - getting
 - to get

Now go on to page 15.

48. Mt. Everest is _____ mountain in the world.
- the high
 - high as
 - higher than
 - the highest
49. Bob's never been bungee jumping, _____ he?
- is
 - has
 - does
 - was
50. I've run out of money. I wish I _____ more.
- am saving
 - have saved
 - had saved
 - will save
51. Could you tell me where _____ ?
- is the post office
 - the post office is
 - is it the post office
 - it is the post office
52. If I had known about the accident, I _____ it to the police.
- reported
 - would have reported
 - was reporting
 - have been reporting
53. Yolanda _____ part time for several years now.
- has been working
 - is working
 - works
 - was working
54. The Taj Mahal is really worth _____ .
- to see it
 - seeing
 - you see it
 - see
55. If I went to live in a foreign country, _____ my friends.
- I'd miss
 - I'm missing
 - I missed
 - I miss

Now go on to page 16.

56. Would you mind _____ the window?
- open
 - opening
 - to open
 - I open
57. I was interested _____ the violin.
- to study
 - study
 - in studying
 - studied
58. Before a film is finished, it needs _____ .
- they edit it
 - to edit
 - to be edited
 - being edited
59. By 2020, scientists _____ a cure for cancer.
- had found
 - will have found
 - are finding
 - have been finding
60. "What happened to Kate?"
"She must _____ about our appointment."
- forget
 - be forgetting
 - forgot
 - have forgotten
61. We're not used _____ our own meals.
- cook
 - to cook
 - cooking
 - to cooking
62. Chicago, _____ is nicknamed the Windy City, is the largest city in Illinois.
- it
 - which
 - what
 - that
63. _____ John, I like to cook.
- Unless
 - Except
 - Instead
 - Unlike

Now go on to page 17.

64. Before _____ breakfast, I usually take a shower.
 a. eat
 b. to eat
 c. eating
 d. that eat
65. I'm taking a class _____ learn more about my computer.
 a. so that
 b. in order
 c. in order to
 d. that
66. For me, mathematics is _____ difficult than biology.
 a. more
 b. the more
 c. most
 d. the most
67. I would rather _____ evening classes.
 a. don't take
 b. not take
 c. no taking
 d. not taking
68. I feel sick. I shouldn't _____ so much.
 a. to eat
 b. eaten
 c. have eaten
 d. eating
69. Jim's boss demanded that he _____ to work earlier.
 a. has come
 b. coming
 c. is come
 d. come
70. The earlier children learn to read, _____ for their education.
 a. good
 b. the good
 c. the better
 d. the best

END OF TEST