

AIM EXCELLENCE

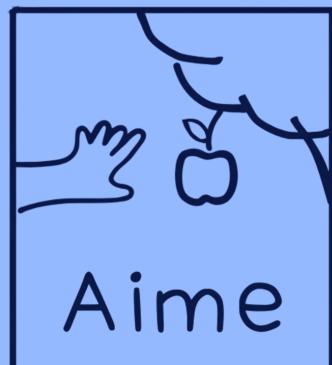
Certification Series

A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO

toefl

READING SECTION

Includes Answer Key



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Comprehensive Guide to TOEFL Writing

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The Reading Section

The Reading section assesses your ability to comprehend and analyze **formal texts**, closely mirroring the types of reading materials encountered in **university and professional** settings.

To succeed in this section, you need to be able to:

- Understand formal-academic texts.
- Identify explicit details.
- Make inferences.
- Synthesize complex information.
- Comprehend complex sentences and paragraphs.
- Follow abstract ideas.

Test Structure and Timing

- The Reading section includes 2 academic passages.
- Each passage is followed by 10 questions. You answer a total of 20 questions in this section.
- You will have 35 minutes to read and answer both passages (approximately 700 words long each)

You are **not required** to have specialized prior knowledge of the subject matter. All information needed to answer the questions is explicitly contained within the passage itself. The assessment focuses on your ability to process and understand complex information presented through sophisticated academic English.

Reading Strategies

3. Approach Challenging Question first

- Inference Questions require "reading between the lines". Look for clues, implications, and indirect suggestions in the text. The correct answer will be logically supported by the passage but not explicitly stated.
- Summary Questions identify the main ideas and major supporting points. The correct summary will paraphrase the core arguments of the passage.
- Insert Text Questions: Focus on logical connections, transition words (e.g., "however," "therefore"), and pronoun references (e.g., "this," "they," "it"). The inserted sentence must fit cohesively with both the preceding and following sentences.

4. Time Management is Crucial

- Allocate Approximately 1.4 Minutes Per Question: With 35 minutes for 20 questions, efficient time allocation is vital.
- Don't Get Stuck: If you're struggling with a question, make an educated guess and move on. You can flag it for review if you have time at the end.

2. Summary Questions

Skill: Identifying main ideas and major supporting points to create a concise paraphrase of the core arguments.

Strategy: Distinguish main ideas from minor details. Choose the most important information that captures the passage's essence.

Sample Excerpt: "Comet tails are formed by the interaction of solar radiation and solar wind with the comet's nucleus. As a comet approaches the Sun, ice sublimes, releasing gas and dust. Solar wind pushes dust away, forming a curved dust tail. Ultraviolet radiation ionizes gas, creating a straight plasma tail that points directly away from the Sun. Thus, a comet typically has two distinct tails."

Sample Question: Directions: Complete the summary by selecting the THREE answer choices that express the most important ideas in the passage.

Comet tails are produced when solar activity interacts with the comet's nucleus, creating distinct formations.

- [A] The dust tail is often curved because of the comet's orbital path.
- [B] Comets typically have two separate tails: a dust tail and a plasma (ion) tail.
- [C] Solar wind and solar radiation are the primary forces involved in tail formation.
- [D] Ice on the comet's surface changes directly into gas when near the Sun.
- [E] The ion tail always points directly away from the Sun.

Explanation (B, C, E): These options capture the key facts about the existence of two tails, the forces that create them, and a defining characteristic of one tail, which are the main points discussed. Options A and D are supporting details.

9. Which of the following best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence from the passage? Incorrect choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.

"This burgeoning discipline, known as bio-inspired robotics, seeks to emulate the structures, locomotion, and sensory capabilities of living organisms to create more adaptable, resilient, and versatile robots."

- a) Bio-inspired robotics is a new field that aims to copy parts of living things to make better, more adaptable robots.
- b) Bio-inspired robots are designed to be strong and flexible, just like living organisms, but they are not yet versatile.
- c) Living organisms have inspired robots that can move and sense, but the field of bio-inspired robotics is still very small.
- d) To create resilient and versatile robots, bio-inspired robotics must combine structures, locomotion, and sensory capabilities from different living organisms.

PRACTICE MATERIAL 2

Instructions: You have three minutes to read the passage and take notes.

Belligerent Conflicts as Primary Drivers of Forced Migration

Forced migration or involuntary movement of people away from their home is a pervasive global phenomenon. Among its manifold causes, belligerent conflicts—armed warfare and prolonged violent disputes—stand out as the most immediate and impactful drivers. The direct and destructive nature of these conflicts compels millions to flee their homes annually, making them a central focus for humanitarian response and international policy.

Belligerent conflicts cause forced migration through direct violence and the immediate threat to life. When active warfare erupts, civilians become targets or are caught in the crossfire of battles, bombings, and sieges. The indiscriminate nature of modern conflict, combined with specific acts of persecution, genocide, or ethnic cleansing, leaves populations with no option but to seek immediate safety across borders or in internal displacement camps. The sheer terror and physical danger are overwhelming motivators for flight.

Instructions: Your professor is teaching a class on Policy Decisions. Write a post responding to the professor's question. In your response, you should:

- Express and support your personal opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response is between 100 and 120 words. You have 10 minutes to write.



Professor: For our discussion this week, I'd like us to consider a pressing global issue: When governments make policy decisions, which factor should be given greater priority: promoting economic growth or protecting the environment? Both are vital for societal well-being, but sometimes policies aimed at one can negatively impact the other. What are your thoughts on this complex trade-off? I look forward to reading your perspectives



Melanie: I think economic growth must be the top priority. Without a strong economy, a country can't afford to invest in education, healthcare, or even environmental protection itself. Plus, economic development often leads to technological advancements that can eventually solve environmental problems. We need to create wealth first, then we can deal with environmental issues more effectively.



Elon: I disagree with Melanie. Environmental protection should always take precedence. If we don't protect our planet, there won't be a healthy economy to sustain in the long run. Resource depletion, pollution, and climate change will eventually devastate our societies and economies. Prioritizing short-term economic gains at the expense of the environment is unsustainable and ultimately self-destructive.