

OLYMPIADS SCHOOL – SAT PREP – HOMEWORK 6

NAME (FIRST AND LAST): _____ GRADE: _____

DAY, TIME, TEACHER: _____

Reading Test Questions (from the College Board study guide)

Now let's shift to the kinds of questions you'll come across on the Reading Test. All of them will be multiple-choice, meaning that you'll be selecting the option that best answers the question. To do this, you'll want to consider what's stated and implied in the passage (or passage pair), along with any additional material (such as a table or graph), and decide which of the four choices makes the most sense. The questions follow something of a natural order. You'll find questions about the passage as a whole — questions about the main idea or point of view, for example — early on in each set, while questions about specific parts of the passage come later. Questions about graphics and questions linking paired passages typically come near the end of the sequence.

The questions are meant to be like those that you'd ask or answer in a lively, serious discussion about a text. Think of the kinds of questions you'd be asked to consider in your favorite, most engaging class, and you'll have the general idea of what's in store on the Reading Test. The questions aren't intended to be tricky or trivial, although some will be quite challenging and will require careful reading and thinking. You may find it useful to skim the questions before reading each passage (or passage pair), but this is no substitute for actually reading the passages and grappling with their content. As we said, the questions aren't meant to be tricky, but they are designed to determine whether you're reading closely and making reasonable interpretations, so expect to see some answer choices that may seem right or to fit your preconceptions but that don't match up with what an author is saying.

The questions also often reflect the specific sort of passage you're reading. A literature question may ask you to think about plot or character, but a science question won't; instead, it will ask about things such as hypotheses and experimental data. Although these passages are taken from texts on various subjects, the questions don't directly test your background knowledge of the specific topics covered. All of the information you'll need to answer the questions can be found in the passages themselves (or in any supplementary material, such as a graphic or footnotes).

Reading Test questions fall into three general categories: (1) Information and Ideas, (2) Rhetoric, and (3) Synthesis. The questions won't be labeled this way on the test, and it's not crucial that you understand all of the differences. A brief explanation of each category, though, should help you get a sense of what you'll encounter, what knowledge and skills are covered, and how better to prepare for the test.

Practice

Read the following article and answer the questions in the right column. The questions will fall into three general categories: (1) Information and ideas, (2) rhetoric, and (3) synthesis.

<http://www.newyorker.com/tech/elements/a-feminist-edit-a-thon-seeks-to-reshape-wikipedia>

MARCH 11, 2016

A Feminist Edit-a-Thon Seeks to Reshape Wikipedia

BY TALIA LAVIN

Rhetorically, how is the introduction

<p>The Interference Archive, a volunteer-run institution dedicated to gathering “the cultural ephemera of social movements,” sits across the street from a trendy pie shop and around the corner from the Morbid Anatomy Museum, in the spartan, brick-heavy confines of Gowanus, Brooklyn. Last weekend, while the museum hosted a flea market, its venders hawking “artful bones,” a group of twenty or so descended on the archive for a Wikipedia edit-a-thon, themed around art and feminism—one of a series of such events unfolding throughout the city. They gathered in a space adjacent to the main archive, a small room whose walls were covered with a colorful exhibit on alternative comics. Throughout the event, members of the co-working space next door darted through awkwardly.</p>	<p><i>effective? (What does it make us curious about?)</i></p>
<p>The edit-a-thon began with a restatement of the day’s main objective: to combat Wikipedia’s well-documented gender gap by improving, however incrementally, its coverage of women in the arts. In spite of the site’s ostensibly egalitarian, accessible format, more than ninety per cent of its editors are male, according to a study conducted in 2011 by the Wikimedia Foundation. Less than five per cent of its super-users—people with more than five hundred edits to their names—are women. Many causes have been suggested for this, from Wikipedia’s code-heavy editing interface to its contentious and sometimes hostile user culture. What results, however, is an indisputable failure to consider certain topics that are of particular interest to women. (Note that the entry for the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, a fictional team of martial-artist reptiles, is twice the length of the entry for Toni Morrison, a real-life Nobel Prize-winning author.)</p>	<p><i>What does “egalitarian” mean?</i></p> <p>← <i>What purpose does the parenthetical note serve?</i></p>
<p>At the archive, Jim Henderson, a white-bearded man in enormous glasses and a beige “WIKIPEDIA EDITOR” baseball cap, flagged down the participants as they entered and asked whether they had a Wikipedia account. For the many who did not, he proffered his wheezing Dell laptop and a primer on user names. (“I’m an old man, so I use my full name, but most people don’t,” he said.) Henderson’s specialties as an editor are categorization—making sure that entries are sorted properly—and providing the longitude and latitude of geographic locations. He edits Wikipedia, he said, for “at least two hours a day.” Once everyone was settled, Ryan McGrady, an employee of the Wiki Education Foundation, asked who in the audience was new to editing. Half the hands in the room went up. He then launched into a brief PowerPoint presentation on Wikipedian jargon, including the idea of “notability,” which demands that a topic have “received significant coverage in reliable sources that are independent of the subject.”</p>	<p>← <i>What purpose does this</i></p>

<p>(A note on McGrady's slide asked, "What if notability guidelines reproduce structural sexism and racism?")</p> <p>As the lecture ended, the room filled with the ambient noise of laptop fans and the crunch of banana chips. Manmeet Sanhi, a twenty-eight-year-old freelance journalist, was editing the entry for Phoolan Devi, an Indian folk hero nicknamed the Bandit Queen, who was famous for her life of crime and subsequent election to India's Parliament. "The page is full of things that are irrelevant to her history," Sanhi said. "Who she was married to, when she married—it's not relevant. Articles about minorities need precision, attention." (At the top of the page, a cautionary note read, "This documentation needs attention from an expert in Women's History.") Brooke Shuman, who was sitting nearby, noted that this was only her second time editing Wikipedia. Previously, she had tinkered with the entry on John Candy. Beside her, Taylor Hynes, a project manager at an ad agency, was creating a page for Pilot TV, a queer feminist pop-up TV studio that formed in Chicago in 2004.</p> <p>Down a slate-gray hallway, the founders of Art+Feminism, the organization behind the edit-a-thon, had taken over the main archive room. Surrounded by the paraphernalia of social movements past and present—posters and T-shirts, stickers and banners—they were tabulating the results of dozens of events during the month of March. The group has been organizing edit-a-thons since 2014, and in 2016 alone there have been about a hundred and forty events across the globe, inspiring so many edits and expansions that the team told me it would take days to precisely calculate the numbers. "We have events on every inhabited continent," Jacqueline Mabey, one of Art+Feminism's three founders, said. "Get with it, Antarctica." Other organizations have promoted other demographics—medieval women, Jewish women, women in science, women in jazz. When I pressed Mabey and her colleagues on how effective edit-a-thons are in correcting Wikipedia's omissions, Michael Mandiberg, another founder, pushed his wire-rimmed spectacles high on the bridge of his nose. "We really resent the outcomes-focussed, neoliberal drive in all things," he said. "How do you quantify community? How do you quantify the empowerment of intersectional feminists?"</p> <p>Next door, the archive's librarians had provided materials on artists and art projects that they hoped to create Wikipedia pages for. There were manila folders full of yellowed newspaper clippings and photos of protests and art installations. Beside them, a table was strewn with books like "The Female Gaze" and</p>	<p><i>parenthetical comment serve?</i></p> <p>← How does this paragraph relate to the preceding one?</p> <p>What does "paraphernalia" mean?</p> <p>What is Michael Mandiberg averse to? Use your own words.</p>
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<p>“Feminism and Theatre.” Maura Smale, the chief librarian at the New York City College of Technology, held a sheaf of postcards adorned with supine nudes. She was assembling, reference by painstaking reference, an article about Arlene TextaQueen, “Australia’s felt-tip super-heroine.” Beside Smale, one of her students at the CUNY Graduate Center was expanding an article on the Greenham Women’s Peace Camp, a live-in women’s protest against nuclear proliferation in Britain.</p> <p>One table over, Corinne Vizzacchero and Andrew Sloat, friends in their late thirties, were collaborating on an article about the Madame Binh Graphics Collective, the all-women propaganda arm of a Communist organization that was founded by members of the Weather Underground. “It’s amazing that we—two feminist graphic designers—are just learning about this for the first time,” Sloat said. Vizzacchero, whose black curls brushed her Beyoncé-inspired “FLAWLESS” sweatshirt, told me that she couldn’t imagine herself sitting alone at home editing Wikipedia. “But here, it’s addictive,” she said.</p>	<p><i>How is the conclusion effective? How does it tie back to article’s main idea?</i></p>
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Drill and Kill: Strong Verbs for Essay Writing

The following verbs are all useful not just for your SAT essay, but also for all kinds of persuasive academic writing. Do not take it for granted that you have fully internalized all nuances. (A) Copy down dictionary definitions (print or online) for all the following verbs. (B) In addition, look for a published sentence (e.g., captured by the World Wide Web). In addition, copy down that published sentence. (C) Briefly describe how useful the verb is for you for the SAT essay section.

You can verbally inflect the verbs according to categorical presents, pasts, and futures, so as to express temporal relations between what is reported in sentences and the time of their utterances. However, you must respect the lexical *and* grammatical properties of all these verbs.

1. Allude

Definition: _____

Published sentence: _____

Practical value: _____

2. Clarify

Definition: _____

Published sentence: _____

Practical value: _____

3. Confirm

Definition: _____

Published sentence: _____

Practical value: _____

4. Connote

Definition: _____

Published sentence: _____

Practical value: _____

5. Depict

Definition: _____

Published sentence: _____

Practical value: _____

6. Determine

Definition: _____

Published sentence: _____

Practical value: _____

7. Emphasize

Definition: _____

Published sentence: _____

8. Involve

Definition: _____

Published sentence: _____

Practical value: _____

9. Establish

Definition: _____

Published sentence: _____

Practical value: _____

10. Exemplify

Definition: _____

Published sentence: _____

Practical value: _____

PRACTICE

Write three solid, INTERPRETIVE sentences about the article, “A Feminist Edit-a-Thon Seeks to Reshape Wikipedia.” Write three sentences, each containing a different action verb (this doesn’t have to be from the “drill-and-kill” list).

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

THE END