

READING TEST

35 Minutes—40 Questions

DIRECTIONS: There are four passages in this test. Each passage is followed 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.

Passage I

PROSE FICTION: This passage is adapted from the short story "Eiba" by Marly Swick (©1991 by the University of Iowa). Fran is the narrator of the story.

Mother, who wanted to keep her, always thought of her as some wild little bird, but I knew she was a homing pigeon. I knew that at some point in her flight path, sooner or later, she would make a U-turn. A sort of human boomerang. So even though I had long since stopped expecting it, I was not surprised when I walked down the gravel drive to the mailbox, which I'd painted papaya yellow to attract good news, and found the flimsy envelope with the Dallas postmark. I didn't know a soul in Dallas, or Texas for that matter, but the handwriting reminded me of someone's. My own.

I walked back inside the house.

"Still raining?" Mother asked. She was sitting in her new electric wheelchair in front of the TV, painting her fingernails a neon violet.

"Just let up," I said. "Sun's poking through. You know anyone in Dallas, Mother?"

"Not so as I recall." She dabbed at her pinky with a cottonball. Mother was vain about her hands. I was used to how she looked now, but I noticed people staring in the doctor's waiting room. She had lost some weight and most of her hair to chemotherapy, and I guess people were startled to see these dragon-lady nails on a woman who looked as if she should be lying in satin with some flowers on her chest.

"Why do you ask?" she said.

I opened the envelope and a picture fluttered into my lap. It was a Polaroid of a sweet-faced blond holding a newborn baby in a blue blanket. Before I even read the letter I knew. I knew how those Nazis feel when suddenly, after twenty or thirty uneventful years, they are arrested walking down some sunny street in Buenos Aires. It's the shock of being found after waiting so long.

"What's that?" Mother said.

I wheeled her around to face me and handed her the Polaroid. She studied it for a minute and then

looked up, speechless for once, waiting for me to set the tone.

"That's her," I said. "Her name's Linda Rose Caswell."

We looked at the picture again. The blond woman was seated on a flowered couch, her wavy hair just grazing the edge of a dime-a-dozen seascape in a cheap gilt frame.

Mother pointed to the envelope. "What's she say?"

I unfolded the letter, a single page neatly written.

"She says she's had my name and address for some time but wanted to wait to contact me until after the birth. The baby's name is Blake and he weighs eight pounds, eight ounces, and was born by cesarean. She says they are waiting and hoping to hear back from me soon."

"That's it?"

I nodded and handed her the letter. It was short and businesslike, but I could see the ghosts of all the long letters she must have written and crumpled into the wastebasket.

"I guess that makes you a great-grandmother," I said.

"What about you?" she snorted, pointing a Jungle Orchid fingernail at me. "You're a grandmother."

We shook our heads in disbelief. I sat silently, listening to my brain catch up with my history. Forty years old and I felt as if I had just shaken hands with Death. I suppose it's difficult for any woman to accept that she's a grandmother, but in the normal order of things, you have ample time to adjust to the idea. You don't get a snapshot in the mail one day from a baby girl you gave up twenty-four years ago saying, "Congratulations, you're a grandma!"

"It's not fair," I said. "I don't even feel like a mother."

"Well, here's the living proof." Mother tapped her nail against the glossy picture. "She looks just like you. Only her nose is more aristocratic."

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"I'm going to work." My knees cracked when I stood up. "You be all right here?"

80 Mother nodded, scrutinizing the picture in her lap. "You going to write to her?"

"Of course I am," I bristled. "I may be some things, but I am not rude."

"You going to invite them here? Her and the baby?" She swiveled her eyes sideways at me.

85 "I haven't thought that far," I said.

"Well, don't put it off." She slid her eyes back to the television. "She's been waiting twenty-five years. You worried she's going to be trouble or ask for money? For all we know, she's married to a brain surgeon with his and her Cadillacs."

"She didn't mention any husband at all," I said, getting drawn into it despite myself.

95 "Maybe you're worried she'll be disappointed in you," she said. "You know, that she's had this big fantasy for all these years that maybe you were Grace Kelly or Margaret Mead and who could live up to that? No one. But you don't have to, Fran, that's the thing. You're her flesh-and-blood mother and that's enough. That's all it'll take."

1. Fran would most likely agree with which of the following statements about her relationship with Linda Rose?
 - A. Their lives are still connected despite long separations of time and distance.
 - B. They have built up too much resentment toward each other to have a good relationship now.
 - C. Fran's dreams of a perfect daughter will interfere with any real relationship she might have with Linda Rose.
 - D. The two of them have enough in common that it won't be difficult for them to get close.
2. Fran's mother can most accurately be characterized as:
 - F. arrogant and cruel.
 - G. strong-willed and caring.
 - H. friendly but withdrawn.
 - J. loving but embittered.
3. Which of the following statements does NOT describe one of Fran's reactions to the news that she is a grandmother?
 - A. She wishes she had had time to prepare for the news.
 - B. She looks forward to inviting Linda Rose and her son, Blake, over for a visit.
 - C. She feels suddenly older now that the label of grandmother applies to her.
 - D. She protests that this change in her life is unfair.

4. The main point of the first paragraph is that:
 - F. Fran believed Linda Rose would someday try to contact her.
 - G. Linda Rose acted like a wild bird when she was young.
 - H. Fran finds the arrival of a letter from Linda Rose surprising.
 - J. Linda Rose's handwriting reminds Fran of her own handwriting.
5. The main point of the last paragraph is that Fran's mother believes:
 - A. Linda Rose has few illusions about Fran.
 - B. Linda Rose might cause trouble or ask for money.
 - C. Fran shouldn't worry about disappointing Linda Rose.
 - D. Fran shouldn't write to Linda Rose until Fran is emotionally prepared.
6. According to the passage, when Fran looks at her mother, Fran feels:
 - F. surprised by how weak and old her mother looks.
 - G. embarrassed by the gaudy colors of nail polish her mother uses.
 - H. pity that so many people stare at her mother in public.
 - J. accustomed to her mother's frailness and unusual fingernails.
7. Which of the following statements most accurately expresses Fran's feelings when she hands her mother the letter from Linda Rose?
 - A. Fran is disappointed about getting such a short letter after so many years of no news from Linda Rose.
 - B. Fran welcomes the good news about the birth of her grandson, Blake.
 - C. Fran is offended by the letter's cold, businesslike tone.
 - D. Fran knows how hard it must have been for Linda Rose to write the letter.
8. It can logically be inferred from the passage that the reason it has been a long time since Fran and Linda Rose have seen each other is because:
 - F. Linda Rose left home to get married.
 - G. arguments between Fran and Linda Rose drove Linda Rose away.
 - H. Linda Rose chose to live with her father.
 - J. as a child Linda Rose was adopted by another family.
9. A reasonable conclusion Fran and her mother draw about Linda Rose from her letter and picture is that Linda Rose:
 - A. lives near the coast of Texas with her husband.
 - B. enjoys and collects fine paintings.
 - C. bears a strong resemblance to Fran.
 - D. cares little about how she or her house looks.

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10. According to the passage, the reason why Fran's mother warns Fran not to put off contacting Linda Rose is that Fran's mother:

- F. wants before she dies to see her new great-grandson.
- G. knows Fran tends to delay making hard decisions.
- H. knows how long Linda Rose has been waiting to see Fran.
- J. suspects Linda Rose is in some sort of trouble.

Passage II

SOCIAL SCIENCE: This passage is adapted from a book titled *How Courts Govern America* by Richard Neely (©1981 by Richard Neely).

Government is a technical undertaking, like the building of rocketships or the organizing of railroad yards. Except possibly on the local level, the issues which attract public notice usually involve raising money (taxes), spending money (public works), foreign wars (preventing them or arguing for fighting easy ones), education, public morals, crime in the streets, and, most important of all, the economy. When times are bad, or there is a nationwide strike or disaster, interest in the economy becomes all-consuming. However, the daily toiling of countless millions of civil servants in areas such as occupational health and safety, motor vehicle regulation, or control of navigable waterways escapes public notice almost completely.

Furthermore, even with regard to high-visibility issues, significant communication between the electorate and public officials is extremely circumscribed. Most serious political communication is limited to forty-five seconds on the network evening news. In days gone by, when the only entertainment in town on a Wednesday night was to go to the county courthouse to listen to a prominent politician give a theatrical tirade against Herbert Hoover, an eloquent speaker could pack the courthouse and have five thousand people lined up to the railroad tracks listening to the booming loudspeakers.

The political orator of yesteryear has been replaced by a flickering image on the tube unlocking the secrets of the government universe in forty-five-second licks. Gone forever are Lincoln-Douglas type debates on courthouse steps. Newspapers take up the slack a little, but very little. Most of what one says to a local newspaper (maybe not the *New York Times*) gets filtered through the mind of an inexperienced twenty-three-year-old journalism school graduate. Try sometime to explain the intricacies of a program budget, which basically involves solving a grand equation composed of numerous simultaneous differential functions, to a reporter whose journalism school curriculum did not include advanced algebra, to say nothing of calculus.

But the electorate is as interested in the whys and wherefores of most technical, nonemotional political

issues as I am in putting ships in bottles: they do not particularly care. Process and personalities, the way decisions are made and by whom, the level of perquisites, extramarital sexual relations, and, in high offices, personal gossip dominate the public mind, while interest in the substance of technical decisions is minimal. Reporters focus on what sells papers or gets a high Nielsen rating; neither newspapers nor television stations intend to lose their primary value as entertainment. Since the populace at-large is more than willing to delegate evaluation of the technical aspects of government to somebody else, it inevitably follows that voting is a negative exercise, not a positive one. Angry voters turn the rascals out and, in the triumph of hope over experience, let new rascals in. What voters are unable to do—because they themselves do not understand the technical questions—is tell the rascals how to do their jobs better.

Serious coverage of goings-on in government is deterred by the fact that government is so technical that even career civil servants cannot explain what is happening. In 1978 I attended a seminar on federal estate and gift tax, where the Internal Revenue Service lawyers responsible for this area frankly confessed that they did not understand the Tax Reform Act of 1976. Intricate technical issues such as taxation, arms control, and nuclear power are difficult to understand for professionals, to say nothing of the most diligent layman.

That anything gets done by a political body at all is to be applauded as a miracle rather than accepted as a matter of course. When we recognize that in the federal government, with its millions of employees, there are but five hundred and thirty-seven elected officials, put into office to carry out the "will" of a people who for the most part know little and care less about the technical functioning of their government, the absurdity of the notion of rapid democratic responsiveness becomes clear. The widely held tenet of democratic faith that elected officials, as opposed to bureaucrats or the judiciary, are popularly selected and democratically responsive is largely a myth which gives a useful legitimacy to a system. In fact, however, far from democratic control, the two most important forces in political life are indifference and its direct byproduct, inertia.

11. One of the main points that the author seeks to make in the passage is that American citizens:

- A. cannot understand government because they read too many newspapers and watch too much television.
- B. have little chance of improving government because they do not understand the important details of government.
- C. can control elected officials' technical decisions through elections, but have no control over the bureaucrats.
- D. used to have a responsive government before television cut back on news and began to concentrate on entertainment.

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12. The author asserts that local newspaper reporters are often:
- F. inexperienced and insufficiently educated.
 - G. inexperienced but well educated.
 - H. young but experienced.
 - J. young and well educated.
13. The author uses the description of the tax seminar in 1978 to make the point that some governmental issues are:
- A. so technical that not even career civil servants can understand them.
 - B. so technical that only career civil servants can understand them.
 - C. more technical than they used to be before the passage of the Tax Reform Act.
 - D. too technical for anyone other than an Internal Revenue Service tax lawyer to understand.
14. When the author asserts that *indifference* is a central fact of American political life (line 87), he most likely means that citizens are:
- F. not concerned about the technical, but important, details of government.
 - G. completely taken in by the myth that government is responsive to democratic control.
 - H. more responsive to elected government officials than to unelected bureaucrats.
 - J. not prepared to concede legitimacy to a government unless it is democratically elected.
15. According to the passage, when is voter interest in the economy greatest?
- A. When national elections are held
 - B. When interesting personalities are leaders
 - C. When there are bad economic times
 - D. When there are no other interesting issues
16. As it is used in line 17, the word *circumscribed* means:
- F. technical.
 - G. limited.
 - H. entertaining.
 - J. serious.
17. According to the passage, the news story under which of the following headlines would attract the greatest number of readers?
- A. Department of Interior Announces End of National Park Fees
 - B. New Accounting Procedures in Federal Budget
 - C. New Federal Safety Regulations Due Out Today
 - D. Senator Smith Claims 'I Never Made a Nickel On It'
18. The passage makes the claim that television news coverage is heavily influenced by Nielsen ratings because:
- F. those ratings place great emphasis on technical details.
 - G. their competitors, the newspapers, get very high ratings.
 - H. the Federal Communications Commission requires Nielsen ratings.
 - J. television is primarily an entertainment medium.
19. In the fourth paragraph, the phrase "the triumph of hope over experience" (lines 57-58) is an expression of the belief that:
- A. newly elected officials will govern better than the ones just defeated.
 - B. expertise in a technical field is a qualification for holding office.
 - C. if the voters get angry enough, elected officials will do a better job.
 - D. newspapers and television will eventually provide better news coverage.
20. In the passage, the argument is made that citizens are unable to tell government officials how to do their jobs better because citizens:
- F. don't vote in every election.
 - G. have a tendency to elect rascals.
 - H. don't read enough newspapers or see enough television.
 - J. don't understand the technical details of government.

Passage III

HUMANITIES: This passage is adapted from Bharati Mukherjee's essay "A Four-Hundred-Year-Old Woman," which appears in the anthology *The Writer on Her Work* (©1991 by Janet Sternburg).

I was born into a class that did not live in its native language. I was born into a city that feared its future, and trained me for emigration. I attended a school run by Irish nuns, who regarded our walled-off school compound in Calcutta as a corner of England. My "country"—called in Bengali *desh*—I have never seen. It is the ancestral home of my father and is now in Bangladesh. Nevertheless, I speak his dialect of Bengali, and think of myself as "belonging" to Faridpur, the tiny village that was his birthplace. The larger political entity to which I gave my first allegiance—India—was not even a sovereign nation when I was born.

My horoscope, cast by a neighborhood astrologer when I was a week-old infant, predicted that I would be a writer, that I would cross oceans and make my home among aliens. Brought up in a culture that places its faith in horoscopes, it never occurred to me to doubt it. The astrologer meant to offer me a melancholy future; to be destined to leave India was to be banished from the sources of true culture. The nuns at school, on the other hand, insinuated that India had long outlived its glories, and that if we wanted to be educated, modern women, we'd better hit the trail westward. All my girlhood, I straddled the seesaw of contradictions.

I have found my way to the United States after many transit stops. The unglimped phantom Faridpur and the all too real Manhattan have merged as "*desh*." I am an American. I am an American writer, in the American mainstream, trying to extend it. This is a vitally important statement for me—I am not an Indian writer, not an expatriate. I am an immigrant; my investment is in the American reality, not the Indian.

It took me ten painful years, from the early seventies to the early eighties, to overthrow the smothering tyranny of nostalgia. The remaining struggle for me is to make the American readership, meaning the editorial and publishing industries as well, acknowledge the same fact. The foreign-born, the Third World immigrant with non-Western religions and non-European languages and appearance, can be as American as any steerage passenger from Ireland, Italy, or the Russian Pale.

My literary agenda begins by acknowledging that America has transformed *me*. It does not end until I show how I (and the hundreds of thousands like me) have transformed America.

I've had to sensitize editors as well as readers to the richness of the lives I'm writing about. The most moving form of praise I receive from readers can be summed up in three words: *I never knew*. Meaning, I see these people (call them Indians, Filipinos, Koreans,

Chinese) around me all the time and I never knew they had an inner life. I never knew they schemed and cheated, suffered, cared so passionately. When even the forms of praise are so rudimentary, the writer knows she has an inexhaustible fictional population to enumerate. Perhaps even a mission.

I have been blessed with an enormity of material: the rapid and dramatic transformation of the United States since the early 1970s. Within that perceived perimeter, however, I hope to wring surprises.

Yet my imaginative home is also in the tales told by my mother and grandmother, the world of the Hindu epics. For all the hope and energy I have placed in the process of immigration and accommodation—I'm a person who couldn't ride a public bus when she first arrived, and now I'm someone who watches tractor pulls on obscure cable channels—there are parts of me that remain Indian. The form that my stories and novels take inevitably reflects the resources of Indian mythology—shape-changing, miracles, godly perspectives. My characters can, I hope, transcend the strait-jacket of simple psychologizing. The people I write about are culturally and politically several hundred years old: consider the history they have witnessed (colonialism, technology, education, liberation, civil war). They have shed old identities, taken on new ones, and learned to hide the scars. They may sell you newspapers, or clean your offices at night.

Writers (especially American writers weaned on affluence and freedom) often disavow the notion of a "literary duty" or "political consciousness," citing the all-too-frequent examples of writers ruined by their shrill commitments. Glibness abounds on both sides of the argument, but finally I have to side with my "Third World" compatriots: I do have a duty, beyond telling a good story. My duty is to give voice to continents, but also to redefine the nature of *American*.

21. One of the main arguments the author is trying to make in the passage is that:

- A. until recently, foreign-born residents have not wanted to be involved in defining the American reality.
- B. non-Western immigrants are changing the definition of what it means to be an American.
- C. the United States immigration policy is inherently unfair.
- D. America has changed the political affiliations of most non-Western immigrants.

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22. Considering the information given in the first three paragraphs (lines 1–33), which of the following is the most accurate description of the author's girlhood and early adulthood?
- F. She grew up and was educated in Calcutta, moved to the United States, and lived in Manhattan.
 - G. She was born in Calcutta, was educated in England by Irish nuns, then moved to Manhattan.
 - H. She was raised in Bangladesh, educated by Irish nuns in Calcutta, moved first to England and some time later arrived in the United States.
 - J. She was born in Faridpur, was educated in Calcutta, then moved to Manhattan.
23. The author sees her "literary agenda" (line 44) and her "mission" (line 58) to be:
- A. raising the political consciousness of recent immigrants to the United States.
 - B. creating characters whose cultural heritage is not easily identifiable.
 - C. reinterpreting, through her stories, what it means to be an American.
 - D. finding an audience for her stories and novels.
24. Which of the following statements from the passage is an acknowledgment by the author that she was changed by America?
- F. "The astrologer meant to offer me a melancholy future" (line 19).
 - G. "All my girlhood, I straddled the seesaw of contradictions" (lines 24–25).
 - H. "I'm someone who watches tractor pulls on obscure cable channels" (lines 68–69).
 - J. "My characters can, I hope, transcend the strait-jacket of simple psychologizing" (lines 73–74).
25. The author refers to the village of Faridpur as a "phantom" (line 27) because:
- A. it is a part of the Indian mythology her mother told her about.
 - B. she considers Manhattan, not Bangladesh, to be her home.
 - C. even though it was once part of India, it is now part of Bangladesh.
 - D. even though she considers it to be her ancestral home, she has never been there.
26. When the author says that she is "trying to extend it" (line 30), she most likely means that she:
- F. wants to see people from non-European ethnicities included in what is considered mainstream American.
 - G. prefers to be part of both the Indian and the American cultures.
 - H. is trying to find a way to make her home in the United States permanent.
 - J. is working to change regulations so that many more Indian immigrants can live in the United States.
27. The author implies that she had to "sensitize editors" (line 48) because those editors:
- A. did not understand that many Asian Americans were already reading her work.
 - B. gave superficial praise to her work, but would not publish her novels.
 - C. were overtly discriminatory when it came to non-Western writers.
 - D. tended to view the people she wrote about as one-dimensional.
28. According to the passage, by reading her stories, many of the author's readers learned that:
- F. good fiction writing obscures cultural differences among characters.
 - G. they have much more in common with the author's characters than they ever realized.
 - H. stories about immigrants to the United States generally have many more characters than do other types of stories.
 - J. because of their immigrant status, people from non-Western countries have developed a stronger inner life than have most native-born Americans.
29. The first paragraph states that, at the time of the author's birth, India was:
- A. engaged in a war with England.
 - B. not an independent country.
 - C. still part of Bangladesh.
 - D. governed by the Irish.
30. When the author says that the people she writes about "are culturally and politically several hundred years old" (lines 75–76), she most likely means that her characters:
- F. have cultural and political viewpoints that are repressive and outdated.
 - G. have rejected Bengali, British, Irish, and American values.
 - H. have experienced an incredible amount of change in just one lifetime.
 - J. are really her mother's and grandmother's ancestors.

Passage IV

NATURAL SCIENCE: This passage is adapted from the essay "Were Dinosaurs Dumb?" by Stephen Jay Gould (©1980 by Stephen Jay Gould).

The discovery of dinosaurs in the nineteenth century provided, or so it appeared, a quintessential case for the negative correlation of size and smarts. With their pea brains and giant bodies, dinosaurs became a symbol of lumbering stupidity. Their extinction seemed only to confirm their flawed design.

Dinosaurs were not even granted the usual solace of a giant—great physical prowess. . . . Dinosaurs . . . have usually been reconstructed as slow and clumsy. In the standard illustration, *Brontosaurus* wades in a murky pond because he cannot hold up his own weight on land. . . .

Dinosaurs have been making a strong comeback of late, in this age of "I'm OK, You're OK." Most paleontologists are now willing to view them as energetic, active, and capable animals. The *Brontosaurus* that wallowed in its pond a generation ago is now running on land, while pairs of males have been seen twining their necks about each other in elaborate sexual combat for access to females (much like the neck wrestling of giraffes). Modern anatomical reconstructions indicate strength and agility, and many paleontologists now believe that dinosaurs were warmblooded. . . .

The idea of warmblooded dinosaurs has captured the public imagination and received a torrent of press coverage. Yet another vindication of dinosaurian capability has received very little attention, although I regard it as equally significant. I refer to the issue of stupidity and its correlation with size. The revisionist interpretation, which I support, . . . does not enshrine dinosaurs as paragons of intellect, but it does maintain that they were not small brained after all. They had the "right-sized" brains for reptiles of their body size.

I don't wish to deny that the flattened, minuscule head of large-bodied *Stegosaurus* houses little brain from our subjective, top-heavy perspective, but I do wish to assert that we should not expect more of the beast. First of all, large animals have relatively smaller brains than related, small animals. The correlation of brain size with body size among kindred animals (all reptiles, all mammals for example) is remarkably regular. As we move from small to large animals, from mice to elephants or small lizards to Komodo dragons, brain size increases, but not so fast as body size. In other words, bodies grow faster than brains, and large animals have low ratios of brain weight to body weight. In fact, brains grow only about two-thirds as fast as bodies. Since we have no reason to believe that large animals are consistently stupider than their smaller relatives, we must conclude that large animals require relatively less brain to do as well as smaller animals. If we do not recognize this relationship, we are likely to underestimate the mental power of very large animals, dinosaurs in particular. . . .

If behavioral complexity is one consequence of mental power, then we might expect to uncover among dinosaurs some signs of social behavior that demand coordination, cohesiveness and recognition. Indeed we do, and it cannot be accidental that these signs were overlooked when dinosaurs labored under the burden of a falsely imposed obtuseness. Multiple trackways have been uncovered, with evidence for more than twenty animals traveling together in parallel movement. Did some dinosaurs live in herds? At the Davenport Ranch sauropod trackway, small footprints lie in the center and larger ones at the periphery. Could it be that some dinosaurs traveled much as some advanced herbivorous mammals do today, with large adults at the borders sheltering juveniles in the center? . . .

But the best illustration of dinosaurian capability may well be the fact most often cited against them—their demise. . . .

The remarkable thing about dinosaurs is not that they became extinct, but that they dominated the earth for so long. Dinosaurs held sway for 100 million years while mammals, all the while, lived as small animals in the interstices of their world. After 70 million years on top, we mammals have an excellent track record and good prospects for the future, but we have yet to display the staying power of dinosaurs.

People, on this criterion, are scarcely worth mentioning—5 million years perhaps since *Australopithecus*, a mere 50,000 for our own species, *Homo sapiens*. Try the ultimate test within our system of values: Do you know anyone who would wager a substantial sum even at favorable odds on the proposition that *Homo sapiens* will last longer than *Brontosaurus*?

31. In the context of the passage as a whole, it is most reasonable to infer that the phrase "the *Brontosaurus* that wallowed in its pond a generation ago is now running on land" (lines 16–18) means that:

- A. the *Brontosaurus* evolved from living in the water to living on land.
- B. scientists' understanding of the *Brontosaurus*'s lifestyle has changed within the last generation.
- C. standard illustrations of dinosaurs still inaccurately depict their lifestyles.
- D. the *Brontosaurus* eventually learned to hold up its own weight on land.

32. The passage suggests that some fossil evidence about dinosaur behavior has been overlooked in the past because scientists:

- F. had preconceived ideas about the intelligence of dinosaurs.
- G. believed that mammals were not capable of social formations.
- H. did not have the current data about dinosaur brain size.
- J. did not have the necessary equipment to discover the social patterns of dinosaurs.

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33. What does the passage offer as evidence that dinosaurs may have exhibited complex behaviors?
- A. Modern anatomical reconstructions indicating strength and agility
 - B. Fossils revealing that dinosaurs labored under severe burdens
 - C. Footprints of varying sizes indicating that dinosaurs traveled with advanced herbivorous mammals
 - D. Multiple trackways in which footprint size and location indicate social order
34. In the context of the passage, what does the author mean when he states that "people . . . are scarcely worth mentioning" (lines 81–82)?
- F. Compared to the complex social behavior of dinosaurs, human behavior seems simple.
 - G. Compared to the longevity of dinosaurs, humans have been on earth a very short time.
 - H. Compared to the size of dinosaurs, humans seem incredibly small.
 - J. Compared to the amount of study done on dinosaurs, study of human behavior is severely lacking.
35. According to the passage, what is the revisionist interpretation concerning the relationship between intelligence and physical size?
- A. Dinosaurs actually had relatively large brains.
 - B. Dinosaurs were paragons of intellect.
 - C. Dinosaurs were relatively small brained.
 - D. Dinosaurs' brains were appropriately sized.
36. What does the author suggest in lines 34–38 when he states that *Stegosaurus* has a small brain from "our subjective, top-heavy perspective"?
- F. Humans are unusually smart in their judgment of other species.
 - G. The human physical construction is deformed by the largeness of the skull.
 - H. It is unfair to judge other species by human standards.
 - J. Not all species have a brain as small relative to body weight as do humans.
37. The passage states that the ratio of brain weight to body weight in larger animals, as compared to smaller animals, is:
- A. higher.
 - B. lower.
 - C. the same.
 - D. overestimated.
38. According to the passage, which of the following correctly states the relationship of brain size to body size?
- F. The brain grows at two-thirds the rate of body growth.
 - G. At maturity, the brain weighs an average of one-third of body weight.
 - H. Large animals are not consistently less intelligent than smaller animals.
 - J. Brain-size is independent of body size.
39. The author states that the best illustration of dinosaurs' capability is their dominance of the earth for:
- A. 100,000 years.
 - B. 5 million years.
 - C. 70 million years.
 - D. 100 million years.
40. As it is used in line 82, the term *Australopithecus* most nearly means:
- F. the last of the dinosaurs, which became extinct 5 million years ago.
 - G. the first *Homo sapiens*, who appeared on earth 50,000 years ago.
 - H. an early version of humankind, but a different species.
 - J. a physically larger species of human with a much smaller brain.

END OF TEST 3

STOP! DO NOT TURN THE PAGE UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO.

DO NOT RETURN TO A PREVIOUS TEST.

READING • PRACTICE TEST 1 • EXPLANATORY ANSWERS

Passage I

Question 1. The best answer is **A** because Fran describes Linda Rose as “a homing pigeon” (lines 2–3) and “a sort of human boomerang” (lines 4–5) who’d “make a U-turn” (line 4) back to Fran despite a twenty-five-year wait. Though Fran had “long since stopped expecting” word from Linda Rose, she was still “not surprised” when she got it (lines 5–6). Fran experienced “the shock of being found after waiting so long” (lines 33–34), which again suggests she’d been expecting to hear from Linda Rose.

The best answer is NOT:

B because the passage doesn’t support the idea that Fran and Linda Rose have built up resentment toward each other.

C because the passage doesn’t support the idea that Fran has dreams of a perfect daughter. It’s Fran’s mother who brings up—and dismisses—the idea that Linda Rose has unrealistic expectations about Fran being “Grace Kelly or Margaret Mead” (lines 95–96).

D because there’s no indication in the passage that Fran and Linda Rose share much of anything beyond a biological tie, similar handwriting (see lines 9–11), and physical appearance (see lines 75–76).

Question 2. The best answer is **G** because “strong-willed” and “caring” best describe Fran’s mother. She has “dragon-lady nails” (lines 23–24) in defiance of her chemotherapy. She “snorted” (line 61) a response to Fran’s comment about her being a great-grandmother. She also firmly tells Fran not to put off contacting Linda Rose, who’s “been waiting for twenty-five years” (line 87) for a meeting. But Fran’s mother also cares deeply about Fran and tries to reassure her by saying, “You’re [Linda Rose’s] flesh-and-blood mother and that’s enough. That’s all it’ll take” (lines 98–99).

The best answer is NOT:

F because while Fran’s mother might (with some difficulty) be described as arrogant, she isn’t cruel. While Fran’s mother “snorted” a response to Fran and though she firmly tells Fran not to put off contacting Linda Rose, her love for Fran and her concern for Linda Rose’s feelings also come through.

H because while Fran’s mother might be described as friendly, she isn’t withdrawn, as revealed by her nails, her snort, and her firm warning to Fran.

J because while Fran’s mother is loving, there’s no evidence in the passage that she’s embittered.

Question 3.

This is a NOT question, which asks you to find the answer choice that is *not* supported by the passage.

The best answer is B because Fran's reactions to learning she's a grandmother don't include looking forward to inviting Linda Rose and Blake over for a visit. When Fran's mother asks if Fran is going to invite Linda Rose and the baby, Fran replies, "I haven't thought that far" (line 85). The remainder of the passage suggests that Fran is nervous about such a visit. The other three answer choices are supported by the passage.

The best answer is NOT:

A because Fran notes that "in the normal order of things, you have ample time to adjust to the idea" of being a grandmother (lines 67–68). In Fran's case, however, she simply gets "a snapshot in the mail one day" (line 69) letting her know she's a grandmother.

C because Fran notes that upon getting the news about being a grandmother, she feels "as if I had just shaken hands with Death" (lines 65–66).

D because in lines 72–73, Fran says being a grandmother is "not fair" because she doesn't "even feel like a mother."

Question 4. The best answer is F because the first paragraph is built around Fran's lack of surprise that Linda Rose contacted her. Fran calls Linda Rose "a homing pigeon" (lines 2–3) and "a sort of human boomerang" (lines 4–5) who she knew "sooner or later . . . would make a U-turn" back to her (line 4). The paragraph closes with Fran's suspicion, based on the familiarity of the handwriting, that the letter in the mailbox is from Linda Rose. Fran claims that while she had "long stopped expecting" such a letter, she "was not surprised" when she got it (lines 5–6).

The best answer is NOT:

G because the first paragraph doesn't claim that Linda Rose acted like a wild bird, just that Fran's mother "always thought of her as some wild little bird" (lines 1–2). In any case, the first paragraph doesn't focus on Linda Rose's behavior as a child.

H because the passage states that Fran "was not surprised" when she got the letter from Linda Rose.

J because while Linda Rose's handwriting reminds Fran of her own, this isn't the main point of the last paragraph. It's just a detail supporting the paragraph's main idea.

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Question 5. The best answer is C because the last paragraph focuses on Fran's mother's efforts to reassure Fran. Fran's mother brings up the idea of Linda Rose having a "big fantasy" (lines 94–95) that Fran is Grace Kelly or Margaret Mead and says "no one" (line 97) could live up to that. She goes on to say, though, that as Linda Rose's "flesh-and-blood mother," Fran has "all it'll take" to have a good relationship with Linda Rose (lines 98–99).

The best answer is NOT:

A because neither Fran nor her mother has seen Linda Rose for a quarter century, so they can only guess about what Linda Rose thinks.

B because the only reference to the idea that Linda Rose might cause trouble or ask for money occurs in the twenty-seventh paragraph (lines 86–90), not in the last paragraph.

D because in the last paragraph, Fran's mother tries to reassure Fran in an effort to encourage her to invite Linda Rose and Blake for a visit in the near future.

Question 6. The best answer is J because Fran says that while her mother "had lost some weight and most of her hair to chemotherapy" (lines 21–22), Fran "was used to how she looked now" (lines 19–20).

The best answer is NOT:

F because rather than being surprised, Fran says she "was used to" her mother's appearance (lines 19–20).

G because there's no support in the passage for the idea that Fran is embarrassed by the nail polish colors her mother uses. Fran merely notes that her mother "was vain about her hands" (line 19) and had painted her nails "Jungle Orchid" (lines 61–62).

H because while Fran says she's "noticed people staring" at her mother (lines 20–21), there's no evidence in the passage that Fran feels pity for her mother as a result.

Question 7. The best answer is D because in thinking about the letter she receives from Linda Rose, Fran notes, "I could see the ghosts of all the long letters she must have written and crumpled into the wastebasket" (lines 56–58), suggesting Fran sympathizes with Linda Rose.

The best answer is NOT:

A because while Fran acknowledges that the letter was "short" (line 55), she feels sympathy, not disappointment.

B because soon after handing her mother the letter from Linda Rose, Fran comments, "Forty years old and I felt as if I had just shaken hands with Death" (lines 64–66)—hardly a happy reaction.

C because while the letter was "businesslike" (line 56), Fran sympathizes with Linda Rose and doesn't feel offended.

Question 8. The best answer is J because details in the passage suggest Fran had put Linda Rose up for adoption a quarter century ago. Fran says her mother had “wanted to keep” Linda Rose (line 1), which implies that Fran didn’t. More directly, Fran notes upon receiving the letter and photograph from Linda Rose that a person doesn’t usually “get a snapshot in the mail one day from a baby girl you gave up twenty-four years ago saying, ‘Congratulations, you’re a grandma!’” (lines 69–71).

The best answer is NOT:

F, G, or H because there’s no evidence in the passage that the reason it’s been such a long time since Fran and Linda Rose have seen each other is that Linda Rose left home to get married (F), that arguments between the two drove Linda Rose away (G), or that Linda Rose chose to live with her father (H).

Question 9. The best answer is C because after looking at the picture Linda Rose sends, Fran’s mother says to Fran, “She looks just like you. Only her nose is more aristocratic” (lines 75–76).

The best answer is NOT:

A because when Fran’s mother suggests that Linda Rose may be “married to a brain surgeon with his and her Cadillacs” (lines 89–90), Fran replies, “She didn’t mention any husband at all” (line 91) in the letter.

B because the passage’s only reference to a piece of art is to the “dime-a-dozen seascape in a cheap gilt frame” (lines 44–45) behind Linda Rose in the picture.

D because there’s no evidence in the passage that either the letter or the picture reveals that Linda Rose cares little about how she or her house looks.

Question 10. The best answer is H because after telling Fran not to put off contacting Linda Rose and inviting her and the baby for a visit, Fran’s mother says Linda Rose has “been waiting twenty-five years” (line 87).

The best answer is NOT:

F because Fran’s mother never directly expresses the desire to see her new great-grandson before she dies.

G because there’s no evidence in the passage that Fran generally tends to delay making hard decisions.

J because while Fran’s mother wonders aloud whether Linda Rose is “going to be trouble or ask for money” (lines 88–89), she only does this because she thinks Fran might use this as an excuse to put off contacting Linda Rose and inviting her and the baby for a visit. Fran’s mother goes on to say, “For all we know, [Linda Rose is] married to a brain surgeon with his and her Cadillacs” (lines 89–90).

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Passage II

Question 11. The best answer is B because the author argues throughout the passage, and particularly in the fourth paragraph (lines 42–61), that people’s lack of understanding of important details about government keeps them from improving government. He contends that people “do not particularly care” (lines 44–45) about “the whys and wherefores of most technical, nonemotional political issues” (lines 42–44) and are “more than willing to delegate evaluation of the technical aspects of government to somebody else” (lines 53–55). For the author, this means that “angry voters turn the rascals out and, in the triumph of hope over experience, let new rascals in” (lines 56–58) but that the voters are unable to “tell the rascals how to do their jobs better” (lines 60–61) because the voters “themselves do not understand the technical questions” (lines 59–60).

The best answer is NOT:

A because the author doesn’t argue that American citizens read too many newspapers or watch too much television.

C because while the author does contend that people have a certain control over elected officials through voting, he also claims that voters are unable to affect how officials do their jobs while in office because the voters “themselves do not understand the technical questions.” The author also doesn’t directly address whether people can control bureaucrats.

D because there’s no evidence in the passage that television has cut back on news to focus on entertainment. Furthermore, the author undermines the idea that Americans ever had a truly responsive government when he repeats but dismisses “the widely held tenet of democratic faith that elected officials, as opposed to bureaucrats or the judiciary, are popularly selected and democratically responsive” (lines 81–84).

Question 12. The best answer is F because the author contends that a typical local newspaper reporter is “an inexperienced twenty-three-year-old journalism school graduate” (lines 34–35) whose “journalism school curriculum did not include advanced algebra, to say nothing of calculus” (lines 39–41)—leaving the reporter ill prepared to understand “the intricacies of a program budget, which basically involves solving a grand equation composed of numerous simultaneous differential functions” (lines 36–39).

The best answer is NOT:

G because while the author contends that the reporters are often inexperienced, he doesn’t think they’re well educated.

H or J because while the author contends that the reporters are often young, he also calls them “inexperienced” (ruling out H) and not well educated (ruling out J).

Question 13. The best answer is A because according to the author, even the “Internal Revenue Service lawyers” at the tax seminar who were experts on federal estate and gift tax laws “frankly confessed that they did not understand the Tax Reform Act of 1976” (lines 66–68). The author uses this example to make the point that “government is so technical that even career civil servants cannot explain what is happening” (lines 63–65).

The best answer is NOT:

B or D because even the civil servants couldn’t understand the law.

C because the author doesn’t use the example to make the broad claim that some governmental issues are more technical than they used to be before passage of the act, nor is the timing of the act relevant here.

Question 14. The best answer is F because the author contends that Americans “for the most part know little and care less about the technical functioning of their government” (lines 77–79). Such indifference helps reduce the idea of elected officials being “democratically responsive” (lines 83–84) to (more or less) the status of “a myth” (line 84).

The best answer is NOT:

G or J because the author doesn’t specifically claim that people are completely taken in by the myth that government is responsive to democratic control (G) or that people are prepared to concede legitimacy only to a democratically elected government (J). In any case, he uses the word *indifference* to refer directly to the idea that Americans are largely ignorant of and unconcerned about technical governmental issues.

H because the idea that citizens are responsive to either elected officials or bureaucrats isn’t discussed in the passage.

Question 15. The best answer is C because the author states that “interest in the economy becomes all-consuming” when “times are bad, or there is a nationwide strike or disaster” (lines 8–10).

The best answer is NOT:

A, B, or D because the author doesn’t claim that voter interest in the economy is greatest when national elections are held (A), when interesting personalities are leaders (B), or when there are no other interesting issues (D).

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Question 16. The best answer is **G** because *limited* is the best synonym for *circumscribed* in context. The author states that “most serious political communication” between public officials and voters “is limited to forty-five seconds on the network evening news” (lines 18–19) even when the issues are known to voters. Furthermore, in the third paragraph (lines 27–41), the author stresses the limited knowledge communicated by television and local newspapers on serious and complicated political issues.

The best answer is NOT:

F because *technical* makes no sense in context. Since people “for the most part know little and care less about the technical functioning of their government” (lines 77–79), it’s not likely that communication between public officials and voters would be extremely technical.

H because *entertaining* makes no sense in context given the fact that people are largely ignorant of and unconcerned about technical governmental issues.

J because *serious* is not the best synonym in context. Lines 15–17 set up a contrast between the seriousness of the political issues and the “extremely circumscribed,” or limited, communication between public officials and voters on those issues.

Question 17. The best answer is **D** because the author states, “Process and personalities, the way decisions are made and by whom, the level of perquisites, extramarital sexual relations, and, in high offices, personal gossip dominate the public mind” (lines 45–48). It can reasonably be inferred, then, that a news story with a headline about Senator Smith denying he improperly made money would attract the greatest number of readers.

The best answer is NOT:

A, B, or C because news stories with headlines about park fees (**A**), accounting procedures (**B**), and safety regulations (**C**)—“the substance of technical decisions” (line 49)—would, based on the passage, draw comparatively few readers.

Question 18. The best answer is **J** because the author claims that “reporters focus on what sells papers or gets a high Nielsen rating” (lines 50–51). Since “neither newspapers nor television stations intend to lose their primary value as entertainment” (lines 51–53), it’s clear that Nielsen ratings in some way measure how “entertaining” television news coverage is to the public, which is why television news coverage is heavily influenced by them.

The best answer is NOT:

F or H because there’s no evidence in the passage that Nielsen ratings place great emphasis on technical details (**F**) or that the Federal Communications Commission requires Nielsen ratings (**H**).

G because lines 50–51, which distinguish between selling newspapers and getting high Nielsen ratings, suggest that Nielsen ratings are relevant only to television.

Question 19. The best answer is A because the author states, “Angry voters turn the rascals out and, in the triumph of hope over experience, let new rascals in” (lines 56–58). The “new rascals” are newly elected officials who the angry voters hope will do a better job than the “rascals” they just voted out of office.

The best answer is NOT:

B or D because in context, the phrase “the triumph of hope over experience” has nothing to do with the belief that expertise in a technical field is a qualification for holding office (B) or that newspapers and television will eventually provide better news coverage (D).

C because in context, the phrase “the triumph of hope over experience” relates to the hope that new officials will outperform old officials, not to the hope that a sufficient amount of anger will make a given group of officials do a better job.

Question 20. The best answer is J because the author states, “What voters are unable to do—because they themselves do not understand the technical questions—is tell the rascals how to do their jobs better” (lines 58–61).

The best answer is NOT:

F or H because the passage never argues that citizens are unable to tell government officials how to do their jobs better because citizens don’t vote in every election (F) or read enough newspapers or see enough television (H).

G because while the author does suggest that citizens have a tendency to elect rascals, he doesn’t say that this tendency is why citizens can’t tell government officials how to do their jobs better. The real reason is that citizens don’t understand the technical questions.

Passage III

Question 21. The best answer is B because throughout the passage, the author makes the argument that non-Western immigrants are changing the definition of what it means to be an American. About herself, she says, “I am an American writer, in the American mainstream, trying to extend it” (lines 29–30). She says she’s tried to make Americans aware that “the foreign-born, the Third World immigrant with non-Western religions and non-European languages and appearance, can be as American as any steerage passenger from Ireland, Italy, or the Russian Pale” (lines 39–43). The author feels it’s part of her “literary agenda” (line 44) to “show how I (and the hundreds of thousands like me) have transformed America” (lines 46–47). She concludes, “I do have a duty, beyond telling a good story. My duty is to give voice to continents, but also to redefine the nature of *American*” (lines 87–89).

The best answer is NOT:

A or C because the author never argues in the passage that until recently, foreign-born residents haven’t wanted to be involved in defining the American reality (A) or that the United States immigration policy is inherently unfair (C).

D because while the author does suggest that America can change immigrants—“America has transformed me” (line 45)—she doesn’t make the stronger, more specific argument that America has changed the political affiliations of most non-Western immigrants.

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Question 22. The best answer is F because lines 3–5 reveal that the author attended school in Calcutta, while lines 26–28 indicate she moved to the United States and lived in “the all too real Manhattan.”

The best answer is NOT:

G because lines 3–5 indicate that the school run by Irish nuns was in Calcutta (even though the nuns considered it “a corner of England”).

H because the passage doesn’t say that the author was raised in Bangladesh or that she moved to England before moving to the United States.

J because the author says she’s never been to Faridpur, her father’s birthplace: “My ‘country’—called in Bengali *desh*—I have never seen. It is the ancestral home of my father and is now in Bangladesh” (lines 5–8).

Question 23. The best answer is C because the author repeatedly claims that her agenda or mission is to reinterpret, through her stories, what it means to be an American. About herself, she says, “I am an American writer, in the American mainstream, trying to extend it” (lines 29–30). She says she’s tried to make Americans aware that “the foreign-born, the Third World immigrant with non-Western religions and non-European languages and appearance, can be as American as any steerage passenger from Ireland, Italy, or the Russian Pale” (lines 39–43). The author feels it’s part of her “literary agenda” (line 44) to “show how I (and the hundreds of thousands like me) have transformed America” (lines 46–47). She concludes, “I do have a duty, beyond telling a good story. My duty is to give voice to continents, but also to redefine the nature of *American*” (lines 87–89).

The best answer is NOT:

A or B because the author never says in the passages that her agenda and mission are to raise the political consciousness of recent immigrants to the United States (A) or to create characters whose cultural heritage isn’t easily identifiable (B).

D because while the author undoubtedly wants to find an audience for her stories and novels, she says her agenda or mission is to reinterpret what it means to be an American.

Question 24. The best answer is H because the author notes that as part of her “process of immigration and accommodation” to the United States, she’s gone from being “a person who couldn’t ride a public bus when she first arrived” to being “someone who watches tractor pulls on obscure cable channels” (lines 66–69).

The best answer is NOT:

F because line 19 refers to a horoscope “cast by a neighborhood astrologer when [the author] was a week-old infant” living in Calcutta (lines 14–15).

G because lines 24–25 refer to the author’s girlhood in Calcutta, where she had to deal with such “contradictions” as hearing native people praise India and the Irish nuns at her school condemn it (see lines 19–24).

J because lines 73–74 deal with how the author creates her fictional characters and thus have no direct relationship to the idea that she’s been changed by America.



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Question 25. The best answer is D because the author says, “My ‘country’—called in Bengali *desh*—I have never seen. It is the ancestral home of my father and is now in Bangladesh. Nevertheless, I . . . think of myself as ‘belonging’ to Faridpur, the tiny village that was his birth-place” (lines 5–10).

The best answer is NOT:

- A because Faridpur is a real place that, based on the passage at least, has no role in Indian mythology.
- B because in lines 27–28, the author says, “The unglimped phantom Faridpur and the all too real Manhattan have merged as ‘desh,’” meaning both Faridpur and Manhattan are in some sense her home now.
- C because while it’s true that Faridpur is now part of Bangladesh, this isn’t why she refers to Faridpur as a “phantom”—it’s a “phantom” because she’s never seen it.

Question 26. The best answer is F because of the context in which the phrase “trying to extend it” appears. The author writes, “I am an American writer, in the American mainstream, trying to extend it” (lines 29–30), with *it* being the American mainstream. Soon after, she says her “remaining struggle” (line 36) as a writer is to convince American readers, editors, and publishers that “the foreign-born, the Third World immigrant with non-Western religions and non-European languages and appearance, can be as American as any steerage passenger from Ireland, Italy, or the Russian Pale” (lines 39–43). Thus, through her stories, she’s trying to extend the boundaries of the American mainstream to include people of non-European ethnicities.

The best answer is NOT:

- G because the author says she’s not part of both Indian and American cultures: “I am an immigrant; my investment is in the American reality, not the Indian” (lines 32–33).
- H or J because there’s no evidence in the passage that the author is trying to find a way to make her home in the United States permanent (H)—she implies, in fact, that it already is—or is working to change immigration regulations (J).

Question 27. The best answer is D because when the author says she’s “had to sensitize editors as well as readers to”—that is, make them aware of—“the richness of the lives I’m writing about” (lines 48–49), she’s implying that these editors had previously tended to view the people she writes about in one-dimensional, stereotypical terms.

The best answer is NOT:

- A, B, or C because there’s no evidence in the passage that the author is implying that the editors didn’t understand that many Asian Americans were already reading her work (A), that the editors gave her work superficial praise but refused to publish her novels (B), or that the editors were overtly (openly) discriminatory when it came to non-Western writers (C).

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Question 28. The best answer is **G** because the author implies that many readers come unexpectedly to see themselves in her stories' characters. Adopting the voice of some of her readers, the author says, "... I see these people (call them Indians, Filipinos, Koreans, Chinese) around me all the time and I never knew they had an inner life. I never knew they schemed and cheated, suffered, cared so passionately" (lines 51–55). In other words, these readers gain from "the richness of the lives [she's] writing about" (line 49) a sense that "these people" have the same kinds of dreams, feelings, and experiences as the readers themselves do.

The best answer is NOT:

F because lines 51–55 show how readers come to see characters in the author's stories as distinct individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds.

H because there's no evidence in the passage that stories about immigrants to the United States generally have many more characters than other types of stories do.

J because the author never claims that immigrants from non-Western countries have developed a stronger inner life than have native-born Americans, only that non-Western immigrants have an inner life, just like everyone else.

Question 29. The best answer is **B** because the author states in the first paragraph that "the larger political entity to which I gave my first allegiance—India—was not even a sovereign [independent] nation when I was born" (lines 10–13).

The best answer is NOT:

A, C, or D because the first paragraph doesn't state that at the time of the author's birth, India was engaged in a war with England (A), still part of Bangladesh (C), or governed by the Irish (D).

Question 30. The best answer is **H** because immediately after the quoted phrase, the author writes, "Consider the history [the characters] have witnessed (colonialism, technology, education, liberation, civil war). They have shed old identities, taken on new ones, and learned to hide the scars" (lines 76–79).

The best answer is NOT:

F because the author isn't being critical of her characters' cultural and political viewpoints; rather, she's saying that the people she writes about have seen and experienced a great deal in a short amount of time, making them seem "older" than they actually are.

G or J because the author doesn't make the specific claim that her characters have rejected Bengali, British, Irish, and American values (G) or that her characters are really her mother's and grandmother's ancestors (J).



Passage IV

Question 31. The best answer is B because lines 16–18 are introduced by the author's claim that "most paleontologists are now willing to view [dinosaurs] as energetic, active, and capable animals" (lines 14–16) despite earlier theories that dinosaurs were stupid, slow, and clumsy. It's reasonable, then, that what follows in lines 16–18 is a description of scientists' changing understanding of *Brontosaurus* lifestyle.

The best answer is NOT:

A or D because the words "a generation ago" and "now" in lines 16–18 indicate that the author is describing the present and recent past, not the time when *Brontosaurus* lived.

C because there's no evidence in the passage that the author believes standard illustrations of dinosaurs still inaccurately depict their lifestyles. "The standard illustration" of *Brontosaurus* mentioned in line 10 refers to an outdated image based on earlier scientific beliefs. Lines 16–22 (especially the reference to "modern anatomical reconstructions") suggest that illustrations have changed along with scientists' beliefs about dinosaurs.

Question 32. The best answer is F because the author indicates that "signs of social behavior that demand coordination, cohesiveness and recognition" (lines 57–58) in dinosaurs "were overlooked when dinosaurs labored under the burden of a falsely imposed obtuseness" (lines 59–61). In other words, when scientists thought dinosaurs were unintelligent, they failed to see evidence of complex social behaviors, such as "multiple trackways" (line 61) and hints that adult dinosaurs flanked young, immature dinosaurs during travel in order to protect them.

The best answer is NOT:

G because there's no evidence in the passage that scientists ever believed mammals were incapable of social formations.

H because there's no indication in the passage that the information in the fifth paragraph (lines 34–54) about brain and body sizes is new to scientists.

J because the passage doesn't say that any particular equipment was needed to identify the "multiple trackways" and the evidence that adult dinosaurs protected young, immature ones while traveling. It was mainly a matter of looking at fossilized footprints without the preconceived notion that dinosaurs were unintelligent.

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Question 33. The best answer is **D** because the author describes “signs of social behavior that demand coordination, cohesiveness and recognition” (lines 57–58) in dinosaurs. These include “multiple trackways . . . with evidence for more than twenty animals traveling together in parallel movement” (lines 61–63), suggesting some dinosaurs may have lived in herds, and “small footprints” in a sauropod trackway that “lie in the center” with “larger ones at the periphery” (lines 65–66), suggesting adult dinosaurs may have flanked young, immature dinosaurs during travel in order to protect them.

The best answer is NOT:

A because while the author mentions “modern anatomical reconstructions” that “indicate strength and agility” in dinosaurs (lines 21–22), he doesn’t use these as evidence of complex behaviors in dinosaurs.

B because in lines 60–61, the author is referring to old scientific misinterpretations, not to fossil evidence, when he mentions that at one time “dinosaurs labored under the burden of a falsely imposed obtuseness.”

C because the author doesn’t say that dinosaurs traveled with advanced herbivorous mammals, only that some evidence suggests that some dinosaurs may have traveled “much as some advanced herbivorous mammals do today, with large adults at the borders sheltering juveniles in the center” (lines 67–69).

Question 34. The best answer is **G** because the author states that while “dinosaurs held sway for 100 million years” (line 75), people have a much shorter history: “5 million years perhaps since *Australopithecus*, a mere 50,000 for our own species, *Homo sapiens*” (lines 82–83).

The best answer is NOT:

F because while the author does see “signs of social behavior that demand coordination, cohesiveness and recognition” in dinosaurs (lines 57–58), he nowhere suggests that human behavior seems simple in comparison to the complexity of dinosaur social behavior.

H because while the author does call dinosaurs “very large animals” (line 53), he doesn’t claim that humans seem incredibly small in comparison.

J because nowhere in the passage does the author contend that study on human behavior is severely lacking in comparison to the amount of study done on dinosaurs.

Question 35. The best answer is **D** because the author claims that the revisionist interpretation of the relationship between dinosaur intelligence and physical size is that dinosaurs “had the ‘right-sized’ brains for reptiles of their body size” (lines 32–33).

The best answer is NOT:

A because, according to the author, the revisionist position isn’t that dinosaurs had relatively large brains, but rather that they had appropriately sized brains.

B because the author states, “The revisionist interpretation, which I support, . . . does not enshrine dinosaurs as paragons of intellect” (lines 29–31).

C because the author states that revisionists claim dinosaurs “were not small brained after all” (line 32).

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Question 36. The best answer is **H** because the author says the revisionist position he endorses is that dinosaurs “had the ‘right-sized’ brains for reptiles of their body size” (lines 32–33), a point people are likely to miss if they judge dinosaurs by human standards of brain size, body size, and intelligence. In fact, people wrongly used to see dinosaurs as “a symbol of lumbering stupidity” (lines 4–5).

The best answer is NOT:

F because the author suggests just the opposite—that humans, with their “subjective, top-heavy perspective,” are likely to misjudge dinosaurs and, by implication, other nonhuman species.

G because while the author does say that humans are “top-heavy,” he never claims that the human physical construction is deformed by the largeness of the skull. Instead, he uses the idea of people being “top-heavy” to question humans’ ability to judge dinosaurs and other nonhuman species.

J because the idea that humans are “top-heavy” undercuts the idea that humans have a small brain relative to their body weight.

Question 37. The best answer is **B** because the passage states that relative to smaller animals, “large animals have low ratios of brain weight to body weight” (lines 45–46).

The best answer is NOT:

A or C because lines 45–46 rule out the possibility that the ratio is higher in larger animals (A) or the same in both larger and smaller animals (C).

D because there’s no evidence in the passage that the ratio is overestimated.

Question 38. The best answer is **F** because the passage states, “In fact, brains grow only about two-thirds as fast as bodies” (lines 47–48).

The best answer is NOT:

G because even though brains grow about two-thirds as fast as bodies, this doesn’t mean that at maturity, the brain weighs an average of one-third of body weight.

H because while the passage does say that “we have no reason to believe that large animals are consistently stupider than their smaller relatives” (lines 48–50), this speaks to the relationship of intelligence to body size, not brain size to body size.

J because the passage does not say that brain size is independent of body size, but instead asserts that there is a relationship.

READING • PRACTICE TEST 1 • EXPLANATORY ANSWERS

Question 39. The best answer is **D** because the author states, “Dinosaurs held sway for 100 million years” (line 75), which the author finds “remarkable” (line 73).

The best answer is NOT:

A, B, or C because dinosaurs dominated Earth for 100 million years, not just 100,000 years (A), 5 million years (B), or 70 million years (C).

Question 40. The best answer is **H** because the author begins the last paragraph by stating that compared to the longevity of dinosaurs, “people . . . are scarcely worth mentioning” (lines 81–82) and immediately after notes that it’s been only 5 million years since the emergence of *Australopithecus* and only 50,000 years since “our own species, *Homo sapiens*,” emerged (line 83). It’s clear from this that *Australopithecus* was human (a “person”), but not a modern human (*H. sapiens*).

The best answer is NOT:

F because *Australopithecus* wasn’t a dinosaur.

G because *Australopithecus* was different from *H. sapiens* and appeared on Earth 5 million years ago.

J because there’s no evidence in the passage that *Australopithecus* was a physically larger species of human or that it had a much smaller brain.

Practice Writing Test Prompt 1

In some states, legislators have debated whether teenagers should be required to maintain a “C” grade average in school before receiving a driver’s license. Some people think this would be a good policy because having passing grades shows that students are responsible enough to be good drivers. Other people think such a policy would not be appropriate because they see no relationship between grades in school and driving skills. In your opinion, should teenagers be required to maintain a “C” average in school before receiving a driver’s license?

In your essay, take a position on this question. You may write about either one of the two points of view given, or you may present a different point of view on this question. Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

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