

DIAGNOSTIC PRE-TEST

SECTION 3
READING COMPREHENSION

Time—55 minutes
(including the reading of the directions)
Now set your clock for 55 minutes.

This section is designed to measure your ability to read and understand short passages similar in topic and style to those that students are likely to encounter in North American universities and colleges. This section contains reading passages and questions about the passages.

Directions: In this section you will read several passages. Each one is followed by a number of questions about it. You are to choose the **one** best answer, (A), (B), (C), or (D), to each question. Then, on your answer sheet, find the number of the question and fill in the space that corresponds to the letter of the answer you have chosen.

Answer all questions about the information in a passage on the basis of what is **stated** or **implied** in that passage.

Read the following passage:

John Quincy Adams, who served as the sixth president of the United States from 1825 to 1829, is today recognized for his masterful statesmanship and diplomacy. He dedicated his life to public service, both in the presidency and in the various other political offices that he held.
Line Throughout his political career he demonstrated his unswerving belief in freedom of speech, the
(5) antislavery cause, and the right of Americans to be free from European and Asian domination.

Example I

To what did John Quincy Adams devote his life?

- (A) Improving his personal life
- (B) Serving the public
- (C) Increasing his fortune
- (D) Working on his private business

Sample Answer

- (A)
- ☒
- (C)
- (D)

According to the passage, John Quincy Adams “dedicated his life to public service.” Therefore, you should choose answer (B).

Example II

In line 4, the word “unswerving” is closest in meaning to

- (A) moveable
- (B) insignificant
- (C) unchanging
- (D) diplomatic

Sample Answer

- (A)
- (B)
- ☒
- (D)

The passage states that John Quincy Adams demonstrated his unswerving belief “throughout his career.” This implies that the belief did not change. Therefore, you should choose answer (C).

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

3 △ 3 △ 3 △ 3 △ 3 △ 3 △ 3 △ 3

Questions 1–9

The largest diamond ever found is the Cullinan Diamond. This diamond weighed 3,106 carats in its uncut state when it was discovered in South Africa on January 25, 1905.

The Cullinan Diamond was cut into 9 major stones and 96 smaller ones. The largest of the cut stones, and still the largest cut diamond in the world, is the pear-shaped Cullinan I at 530 carats.

(5) This diamond, which is also known as the Greater Star of Africa, is more than 2 inches (5.4 cm) long and 1.75 inches (4.4 cm) wide. It became part of the British crown jewels in 1907.

1. What is the best title for this passage?
 - (A) Diamond Cutting
 - (B) The World's Biggest Diamond, Uncut and Cut
 - (C) Measuring Diamonds in Carats
 - (D) The British Crown Jewels
2. The word "uncut" in line 2 is closest in meaning to which of the following?
 - (A) Finished
 - (B) Unnatural
 - (C) Pear
 - (D) Whole
3. The word "discovered" in line 2 is closest in meaning to
 - (A) created
 - (B) found
 - (C) buried
 - (D) weighed
4. It can be inferred from the passage that the Cullinan Diamond was cut into how many total stones?
 - (A) 9
 - (B) 96
 - (C) 105
 - (D) 3,106
5. The word "major" in line 3 could best be replaced by
 - (A) well-known
 - (B) military
 - (C) natural
 - (D) big

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE 

3 △ 3 △ 3 △ 3 △ 3 △ 3 △ 3 △ 3

6. Which of the following is NOT true about Cullinan I?
- (A) It was cut from the Cullinan Diamond.
 - (B) It weighs 3,106 carats.
 - (C) It is the biggest cut diamond in the world.
 - (D) It is sometimes called the Greater Star of Africa.
7. All of the following are true about the shape of the Greater Star of Africa EXCEPT that
- (A) it is in the shape of a pear
 - (B) it is 5.4 centimeters long
 - (C) it is longer than it is wide
 - (D) it is 4.4 inches wide
8. According to the passage, what happened to Cullinan I?
- (A) It remained in Africa.
 - (B) It was cut into smaller stones.
 - (C) It was cut and changed into the Greater Star of Africa.
 - (D) It became the property of the British Royal family.
9. Where in the passage does the author mention the Cullinan Diamond's weight when it was mined?
- (A) Lines 1–2
 - (B) Line 3
 - (C) Lines 4–5
 - (D) Line 6

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE 

Questions 10–20

Coca-Cola was invented in 1886 by Atlanta pharmacist John S. Pemberton. The name for the product was actually proposed by Pemberton's assistant, Frank Robinson. The name was taken from the two most unusual ingredients in the drink, the South American coca leaf and the African cola nut.

Line

(5)

The recipe for today's Coca-Cola is very well guarded. Many of the ingredients are known; in addition to coca leaves and cola nut, they include lemon, orange, lime, cinnamon, nutmeg, vanilla, caramel, and sugar. The proportions of the ingredients and the identity of Coke's secret ingredients are known by only a few of the Coca-Cola Company's senior corporate officers.

10. The passage mainly discusses
 - (A) the success of the Coca-Cola Company
 - (B) the unusual ingredients in Coca-Cola
 - (C) John S. Pemberton
 - (D) Coca-Cola's recipe and who developed it
11. According to the passage, who created Coca-Cola?
 - (A) The Coca-Cola Company
 - (B) John S. Pemberton
 - (C) Pemberton's assistant
 - (D) Frank Robinson
12. The word "unusual" in line 3 is closest in meaning to
 - (A) uncommon
 - (B) important
 - (C) unused
 - (D) tasty
13. Which of the following is NOT true about the name Coca-Cola?
 - (A) The name "coca" comes from the coca leaf.
 - (B) The name "cola" comes from the cola nut.
 - (C) Frank Robinson suggested the name.
 - (D) The inventor came up with the name.
14. A "recipe" in line 5 is
 - (A) information about drugs for a pharmacy
 - (B) a description of how to prepare something
 - (C) an accounting statement
 - (D) a corporate organizational plan
15. The passage states that the recipe for Coca-Cola is
 - (A) well known
 - (B) known by only a limited number of people
 - (C) unknown
 - (D) published information
16. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as an ingredient of Coca-Cola?
 - (A) Orange leaves
 - (B) Nutmeg
 - (C) Citrus fruits
 - (D) Sugar
17. The word "secret" in line 7 could best be replaced by
 - (A) unrevealed
 - (B) delicious
 - (C) business
 - (D) speechless


 GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

3 △ 3 △ 3 △ 3 △ 3 △ 3 △ 3 △ 3

18. It can be inferred from the passage that
- (A) the public knows all the ingredients in Coca-Cola
 - (B) the public is not sure that coca leaves are used in Coca-Cola
 - (C) the public does not know how many cola nuts are used in a batch of Coca-Cola
 - (D) no one knows the exact proportions of ingredients used in Coca-Cola
19. The word “senior” in line 8 could best be replaced by
- (A) trustworthy
 - (B) high-level
 - (C) more mature
 - (D) really decisive
20. Where in the passage does the author mention who gave Coca-Cola its name?
- (A) Lines 1–2
 - (B) Lines 3–4
 - (C) Line 5
 - (D) Lines 7–8

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE 

Questions 21–30

Most people would say that the world's tallest mountain is Mount Everest. This mountain in the Himalayas is just over 29,000 feet high.

Line However, if mountains are measured a little bit differently, then the tallest mountain on Earth is
(5) Mauna Kea, in the Hawaiian Islands. Mauna Kea is only about 14,000 feet above sea level, so in comparison to Mount Everest it just does not look anywhere near as high as Mount Everest to a person standing at sea level.

Mauna Kea, however, does not begin at sea level. It rises from an ocean floor that is more than 16,000 feet below the surface of the water. This mountain therefore measures more than 30,000 feet from its base to its top, making it a higher mountain than Mount Everest.

21. The main idea of the passage is that
- (A) Mount Everest is the world's tallest mountain
 - (B) Mount Everest and Mauna Kea are located in different parts of the world
 - (C) Mauna Kea's base is below sea level
 - (D) Mauna Kea could be considered the tallest mountain in the world
22. Which of the following is NOT stated about Mount Everest?
- (A) Many people believe it is the world's tallest mountain.
 - (B) It is part of the Himalayas.
 - (C) It is over 29,000 feet high.
 - (D) It rises from the ocean floor.
23. The word "just" in line 2 could best be replaced by
- (A) noticeably
 - (B) soon
 - (C) barely
 - (D) recently
24. The expression "a little bit" in line 3 is closest in meaning to
- (A) a small size
 - (B) quite
 - (C) somewhat
 - (D) extremely
25. According to the passage, Mauna Kea is how far above the level of the water?
- (A) 14,000 feet
 - (B) 16,000 feet
 - (C) 29,000 feet
 - (D) 30,000 feet
26. The expression "in comparison to" in lines 4 and 5 could best be replaced by
- (A) close to
 - (B) in relation to
 - (C) as a result of
 - (D) because of
27. It is implied in the passage that Mauna Kea does not seem as tall as Mount Everest because
- (A) people do not want to look at it
 - (B) part of Mauna Kea is under water
 - (C) Mount Everest has more snow
 - (D) Mauna Kea is in a different part of the world than Mount Everest
28. The word "floor" in line 7 could best be replaced by
- (A) carpet
 - (B) bottom
 - (C) roof
 - (D) water

**GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE**

3 △ 3 △ 3 △ 3 △ 3 △ 3 △ 3 △ 3

29. The passage indicates that Mauna Kea
- (A) measures 16,000 feet from top to bottom
 - (B) is completely covered with water
 - (C) is more than half covered by water
 - (D) is 1,000 feet shorter than Mount Everest
30. Where in the passage does the author mention Mount Everest's total height?
- (A) Lines 1–2
 - (B) Lines 4–6
 - (C) Line 7
 - (D) Lines 8–9

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE 

Questions 31–40

When Columbus arrived in the Americas in 1492, there were already an estimated thirty to forty million people living in North and South America. It has therefore been quite easy for some to refute the idea that Columbus “discovered” America. How and when these inhabitants came to America has been the source of much scientific research and discussion.

(5) Most archeologists agree that the first Americans, the true “discoverers” of America, came from northeastern Asia. There is also a considerable amount of proof that inhabitants have been in the Americas for at least 15,000 years.

(10) To get to the Americas, these people had to cross over the 55-mile-wide Bering Strait that separates Asia and North America. According to one theory, these people crossed over during periods when a land bridge existed between the two continents. During Ice Ages, so much of the Earth’s water was frozen that the sea levels dropped, and it was possible to walk from Asia to North America.

31. What is the author’s main purpose?
- (A) To explain how Columbus discovered America
 - (B) To show how people came to America before Columbus
 - (C) To demonstrate the importance to archeologists of northeastern Asia
 - (D) To explain how to cross the Bering Strait
32. In 1492, how many people were probably in the Americas?
- (A) Fewer than thirty million
 - (B) Exactly thirty million
 - (C) Forty million or fewer
 - (D) At least forty million
33. The word “refute” in line 3 is closest in meaning to
- (A) theorize
 - (B) support
 - (C) contradict
 - (D) defend
34. It is implied in the passage that
- (A) Columbus was really the first person in America
 - (B) scientists are sure about America’s first inhabitants
 - (C) Columbus arrived at almost the same time as America’s first inhabitants
 - (D) all is not known about America’s first inhabitants
35. There is general agreement that the first people who came to North America came from
- (A) Europe
 - (B) South America
 - (C) northeastern Asia
 - (D) Africa
36. The word “considerable” in line 6 could best be replaced by which of the following?
- (A) Large
 - (B) Weak
 - (C) Well-known
 - (D) Considerate

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

3 △ 3 △ 3 △ 3 △ 3 △ 3 △ 3 △ 3

37. The word "separates" in line 9 is closest in meaning to
- (A) differentiates
 - (B) divides
 - (C) joins
 - (D) crosses
38. Which of the following is NOT stated about the Bering Strait?
- (A) It is 55 miles wide.
 - (B) It separates North America and Asia.
 - (C) It was probably a land bridge during the Ice Ages.
 - (D) It is a land bridge today.
39. The word "frozen" in line 11 could best be replaced by
- (A) cool
 - (B) dirty
 - (C) solid
 - (D) wet
40. Where in the passage does the author mention how long people have probably been in the Americas?
- (A) Lines 1–2
 - (B) Lines 3–4
 - (C) Lines 6–7
 - (D) Lines 8–9

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE 

Questions 41–50

Alpha Centauri is a triple-star system. One of the three stars in Alpha Centauri is Proxima Centauri, which is the nearest star to the Earth, except of course for the Sun. The name “Proxima” comes from a Latin word which means “close.”

Line Even though Proxima Centauri is the closest star to the Earth outside of our solar system, it is
(5) not really close. Interstellar distances are so large that they are almost impossible to imagine. A person traveling in a modern spacecraft would not arrive at Proxima Centauri within this lifetime, or the next, or even ten lifetimes because the distance is so great. Light travels at a speed of 186,000 miles per second, and it still takes light more than four years to travel from Proxima Centauri to the Earth.

(10) Alpha Centauri can be easily seen in the night sky without a telescope from certain parts of the Earth. It is the third brightest star in the sky, out of approximately 6,000 visible stars. It cannot be seen from most parts of the United States because most of the United States is too far north; however, it can be seen from the southern parts of the southernmost states.

41. The main subject of this passage is

- (A) the closest stars to the Earth
- (B) modern space travel
- (C) the speed of light
- (D) interstellar distances

42. The passage indicates that which of the following is NOT true?

- (A) Alpha Centauri is composed of three stars.
- (B) Proxima Centauri is the closest star to the Earth.
- (C) Proxima Centauri is one of the stars in Alpha Centauri.
- (D) It is possible to see Alpha Centauri from the Earth.

43. The word “comes” in line 3 could best be replaced by

- (A) travels
- (B) is derived
- (C) is directed
- (D) visits

44. “Interstellar distances” in line 5 are

- (A) distances between stars
- (B) distances between the Earth and various stars
- (C) distances measured by the speed of light
- (D) distances from the Sun to each of the planets, including the Earth

45. It can be inferred from the passage that if a person left in one of today’s spacecrafts, he or she would arrive at Alpha Centauri

- (A) within this lifetime
- (B) within the next lifetime
- (C) within ten lifetimes
- (D) after more than ten lifetimes

46. The word “great” in line 7 could best be replaced by which of the following?

- (A) Famous
- (B) Well-known
- (C) Accomplished
- (D) Big

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

3 △ 3 △ 3 △ 3 △ 3 △ 3 △ 3 △ 3

47. Which of the following is true according to the passage?
- (A) Light travels at 186,000 miles per hour.
 - (B) A person could travel from Earth to Proxima Centauri in four years.
 - (C) Light from Proxima Centauri reaches the Earth in more than four years.
 - (D) It is 186,000 miles from the Earth to Proxima Centauri.
48. The word "brightest" in line 11 could best be replaced by
- (A) smartest
 - (B) palest
 - (C) shiniest
 - (D) largest
49. It can be inferred from the passage that from Alaska Alpha Centauri is
- (A) always visible
 - (B) frequently visible
 - (C) occasionally visible
 - (D) never visible
50. Where in the passage does the author explain how fast light can travel?
- (A) Lines 1–2
 - (B) Line 5
 - (C) Lines 7–9
 - (D) Lines 10–11

This is the end of the Reading Comprehension Pre-Test.



When you finish the test, you may do the following:

- Turn to the **Diagnostic Chart** on pages 357–363, and circle the numbers of the questions that you missed.
- Turn to the **Progress Chart** on page 353, and add your score to the chart.