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Ordering questions and matching questions require a general understanding of the main ideas of a lecture or a conversation.

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(A) Ordering Questions

Ordering questions require you to put three or four items into a correct order.

Therefore, you may see an ordering question if the speaker presents:

- a series of events
- a biography of a person
- the steps of a process
- a ranking of items or events

Tips for Answering Ordering Questions

- As you take notes, use numbers to keep track of the order of events or steps in a sequence. You can circle these numbers to make them easier to find.
- Remember: the order in which the speaker *mentions* the events is not necessarily the order in which they occurred.

Common Sequence Words

before that	afterwards	first
earlier than	next	second
previously	after that	third
prior to	later	fourth
sooner than	subsequent	following that



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Sample Item 1

Listen to a short discussion from an art history class and read the sample notes. Then answer the ordering question.



Tyrian purple
murex molluscs



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Sample Notes

	<i>Roman colored cloth w/dye → v. colorful</i>
	<i>Tyrian purple = dye</i>
	<i>famous, expensive → only extm. wealthy</i>
	<i>Process of making dye (for 1 robe):</i>
	<i>1. collect 10,000 murex molluscs (snails)</i>
	<i>2. remove glands that contain dye</i>
	<i>3. put glands in container w/ salt for approx.</i>
	<i>3 days → dry out/concentrate dye</i>
	<i>4. Add wood ash → prevent from bec. acidic</i>
	<i>5. boil several days → evaporate water</i>



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Sample Question

The professor discusses the process of making Tyrian purple dye. Summarize this process by putting the steps in chronological order. Drag each sentence to the space where it belongs.

Wood ash is added to reduce acidity.

Water is evaporated through boiling.

Salt is added to concentrate the dye.

Glands are extracted from snail shells.

1 Glands are extracted from snail shells.

2 Salt is added to concentrate the dye.

3 Wood ash is added to reduce acidity.

4 Water is evaporated through boiling.

Answer Choice Breakdown:

- The professor says that a gland containing the dye must be removed from the snails. This is the first step in the process, so you should drag **Glands are extracted from snail shells** to the first space, next to the number 1.
- The professor then states that once the glands are removed from the shells, they must be put in a container and dried with salt to concentrate the dye. This is the second step; therefore, you should drag the sentence **Salt is added to concentrate the dye** to the space next to the number 2.
- The professor then talks about adding wood ash to the concentrated dye, so you should drag the sentence **Wood ash is added to reduce acidity** to the space next to the number 3.
- Finally, the professor states that the entire mixture must then be boiled until all the water is removed. This is last step in the process; therefore you should drag **Water is evaporated through boiling** to the last space, next to the number 4.



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(B) Matching Questions

Matching questions require you to find the items that correspond with given categories. You may see a matching question if the lecturer lists a few general concepts and then gives definitions, examples, characteristics, or uses of those concepts.

Tips for Answering Ordering Questions

- As you take your notes, write down the general concepts. Then list any details that relate to each concept under the appropriate heading. This will make it easier for you to use your notes to help you answer the question.



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Sample Item 2

Listen to a short discussion from a biology class and read the sample notes. Then answer the matching question by filling in the table.



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Sample Notes

	<i>Taiga: 3 sub-zones</i>
	<i>1. open forest - needle-leaf (=evergrn=conif.)</i>
	<i>small, far apart, sim. to tundra w/ few sm. trees</i>
	<i>2. closed forest—bigger needle-leaf, closer together</i>
	<i>feels like real forest not much var'ty</i>
	<i>3. mixed zone—even bigger trees some broadlf (=decid.)</i>
	<i>trees esp. by rivers, etc.</i>
	<i>e.g. larch, aspen</i>
	<i>more like temperate forests</i>



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Sample Question

The professor describes tree growth in three subzones of the Taiga. Match each type of tree growth with the subzone where it is found. Click on a sentence. Then drag it to the space where it belongs.

Larger needle-leaf trees grow closer together.

Some broad-leaf trees grow here, especially near water.

Widely spaced, small needle-leaf trees grow here.

Open forest	Closed forest	Mixed forest
Widely spaced, small needle-leaf trees grow here.	Larger needle-leaf trees grow closer together.	Some broad-leaf trees grow here, especially near water.

Answer Choice Breakdown:

- Open forest: The professor describes the open forest as one where the only trees are needle-leaf trees, and he mentions that these trees grow apart far from each other. Therefore, you should drag **Widely spaced, small needle-leaf trees grow here** to the box underneath **Open forest**.
- Closed forest: According to the professor, closed forests have needle-leaf trees that are larger than those in an open forest and also grow closer together. You should therefore drag **Larger needle-leaf trees grow closer together** to the box underneath **Closed forest**.
- Mixed forest: The professor says that mixed forests contain even bigger trees and some broad-leaf trees, especially along rivers and creeks. Therefore, you should drag **Some broad-leaf trees grow here, especially near water** to the box underneath **Mixed Forest**.