

MEETING 14

TOEFL SIMULATION: READING

Section 3

Reading Comprehension

50 QUESTIONS 55 MINUTES

Directions : In this section you will read several passage. Each one is followed by a number of question about it.

For question 1-50, 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 question about the information in a passage on the basis of what is stated or implied in that passage.

Question 1 – 10

Although speech is the most advanced form of communication, there are many ways of communicating without using speech. Signals, signs, symbols, and gestures may be found in every known culture. The basic function of a signal is to impinge upon the environment in such a way that it attracts attention, as, for example, the dots and dashes of a telegraph circuit. Coded to refer to speech, the potential for communication is very great. Less adaptable to the codification of words, sign also contain meaning in and of themselves. A stop sign or a barber pole conveys meaning quickly and conveniently. Symbols are more difficult to describe than either signals or signs because of their intricate relationship with the receiver's cultural perceptions. In some cultures, applauding in a theater provides performers with an auditory symbol of approval. Gestures, such as waving and handshaking also communicate certain cultural messages.

Although signals, signs, symbols, and gestures are very useful, they do have a major disadvantage. They usually do not allow ideas to be shared without the sender being directly adjacent to the receiver. As a result, means of communication intended to be used for long distances and extended periods are based upon speech. Radio, television, and the telephone are only a few.

1. Which of the following would be the best title for the passage?

- a. Signs and Signals
- b. Gestures
- c. Communication
- d. Speech

2. What does the author say about speech?

- a. It is the only true form of communication.
- b. It is dependent upon the advances made by inventors
- c. It is necessary for communication to occur
- d. It is the most advanced form of communication.

3. According to the passage, what is a signal?

- a. The most difficult form of communication to describe.
- b. A form of communication which may be used across long distances
- c. A form of communication that interrupts the environment
- d. The form of communication most related to cultural perceptions

4. The phrase “impinge” in line 3 is closest in meaning to...

- a. intrude
- b. improve
- c. vary
- d. prohibit

5. The word “it” in line 4 refers to...

- a. function
- b. signal
- c. environment
- d. way

6. The word “potential” in line 5 could best be replaced by...

- a. range
- b. advantage
- c. organization
- d. possibility

7. The word “intricate” in line 9 could best be replaced by which of the following?
- a. inefficient
 - b. complicated
 - c. historical
 - d. uncertain
8. Applauding was cited as an example of
- a. a signal
 - b. a sign
 - c. a symbol
 - d. a gesture
9. Why were the telephone, radio, and TV invented?
- a. People were unable to understand signs, symbols, and signals.
 - b. People wanted to communication across long distances
 - c. People believed that signs, signals, and symbols were obsolete.
 - d. People wanted new forms of entertainment.

10. It may be concluded from this passage that ...

- a. signals, signs, symbols, and gestures are forms of communication
- b. symbols are very easy to define and interpret
- c. only some cultures have signals, signs, and symbols
- d. waving and handshaking are not related to culture

Question 11 – 20

Application for admission to the Graduate School at this university must be made on forms provided by the Director of Admissions. An applicant whose undergraduate work was done at another institution should request that two copies of undergraduate transcript and degrees be sent directly to the Dean of the Graduate School. Both the application and the transcripts must be on file at least one month prior to the registration date, and must be accompanied by a nonrefundable ten-dollar check or money order to cover the cost of processing the application.

Students who have already been admitted to the Graduate School but were not enrolled during the previous semester should reapply for admission using a special short form available in the office of the Graduate School. It is not necessary for student who have previously been denied admission to resubmit transcripts; however, new application forms must accompany all requests for reconsideration. Applications should be submitted at least eight weeks in advance of the session in which the student wishes to enroll. Students whose applications are received after the deadline may be considered for admission as no-degree students, and may enroll for six credit hours. Non-degree status must be changed prior to the completion of the first semester of study however.

An undergraduate student of this university who has senior status and is within ten credit hours of completing all requirements for graduation may register for graduate work with the recommendation of the chairperson of the department and the approval of the Dean of the Graduate School.

11. What is the author's main point?

- a. How to apply to The Graduate School
- b. How to obtain senior status
- c. How to register for graduate coursework
- d. How to make application for graduation

12. Where would this passage most probably be found?

- a. In a university catalog
- b. In a travel folder
- c. In a newspaper
- d. In a textbook

13. According to this passage, where would a student secure application forms for admission to the university?

- a. From the chairperson of the department
- b. From the Dean of the Graduate School
- c. From the institution where the undergraduate work was done
- d. From the Director of Admissions

14. Which of the following documents must be on file thirty days before the registration date?

- a. Two copies of recommendations from former professors
- b. A written approval of the Dean of the Graduate School
- c. One set of transcripts and an English proficiency score
- d. Two copies of undergraduate courses and grades, an application form, and an application fee

15. The author uses the word “nonrefundable” in line 6 to refer to ...

- a. a process
- b. an application
- c. a check
- d. a date

16. The phrase “in advance of” in line 13 is closest in meaning to ...

- a. into
- b. on either side of
- c. after the end of
- d. prior to

17. The author makes all of the following observations about non-degree students

EXCEPT....

- a. they may be admitted after the deadline
- b. They may enroll for six credit hours
- c. They must change their status during the first semester
- d. They need not submit transcripts

18. The word “status” in line15 could be replaced by which of the following?

- a. information
- b. classification
- c. payment
- d. agreement

19. Students who have already been admitted to the Graduate School

- a. never need to apply for readmission
- b. must reapply if they have not been registered at the university during the previous semester
- c. must reapply every semester
- d. must reapply when they are within ten credit hours of graduation

20. What special rule applies to undergraduate students?

- a. They may not register for graduate work
- b. They must pass an examination in order to register for graduate work
- c. They may receive special permission to register for graduate work
- d. They may register for graduate work at any time

Question 21-30

Fertilizer is any substance that can be added to the soil to provide chemical elements essential for plant nutrition. Natural substances such as animal droppings and straw have been used as fertilizers for thousands of years, and lime has been used since the Romans introduced it during the Empire. It was not until the nineteenth century, in fact, that chemical fertilizers became popular. Today, both natural and synthetic fertilizers are available in a variety of forms.

A complete fertilizer is usually marked with a formula consisting of three numbers, such as 4-8-2 or 3-6-4, which designate the percentage content of nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash in the order stated.

Synthetic fertilizers are available in either solid or liquid form. Solids, in the shape of chemical granules are popular because they are easy to store and apply. Recently, liquids have shown an increase in popularity, accounting for about 20 percent of the nitrogen fertilizer used throughout the world. Formerly, powders were also used, but these were found to be less convenient than either solids or liquids.

Fertilizers have no harmful effects on the soil, the crop, or the consumer as long as they are used according to recommendations based on the results of local research. Occasionally, however, farmers may use more fertilizer than necessary, damaging not only the crop but also the animals or humans that eat it. Accumulations of fertilizer in the water supply accelerate the growth of algae and, consequently, may disturb the natural cycle of life, contributing to the death of fish. Too much fertilizer on grass can cause digestive disorders in cattle and in infants who drink cow's milk.

21. With which of the following topics is the passage primarily concerned?

- a. Local research and harmful effects of fertilizer
- b. Advantages and disadvantages of liquid fertilizer
- c. A formula for the production of fertilizer
- d. Content, form, and effects of fertilizer

22. The word “essential” in line 2 could best be replaced by which of the following?

- a. limited
- b. preferred
- c. anticipated
- d. required

23. In the formula 3-6-4...

- a. the content of nitrogen is greater than that of potash
- b. the content of potash is greater than that of phosphoric acid
- c. the content of phosphoric acid is less than that of nitrogen
- d. the content of nitrogen is less than that of phosphoric acid

24. Which of the following has the smallest percentage content in the formula 4-8-2?

- a. Nitrogen
- b. Phosphorus
- c. Acid
- d. Potash

25. What the percentage of nitrogen in a 5-8-7 formula fertilizer?

- a. 3 percent
- b. 5 percent
- c. 7 percent
- d. 8 percent

26. The word “designate” in line 8 could be replaced by

- a. modify
- b. specify
- c. limit
- d. increase

27. Which of the following statements about fertilizer is true?

- a. Powders are more popular than ever
- b. Solids are difficult to store
- c. Liquids are increasing in popularity
- d. Chemical granules are difficult to apply

28. The word “these” in line 14 refers to

- a. powders
- b. solids
- c. Liquids
- d. Fertilizer

29. The word “convenient” in line 14 is closest in meaning to ...

- a. effective
- b. plentiful
- c. easy to use
- d. cheap to produce

30. What happens when too much fertilizer is used?

- a. Local research teams provide recommendations
- b. Algae in the water supplies begin to die
- c. Animals and humans may become ill
- d. Crops have no harmful effects

Questions 31-40

The development of the horse has been recorded from the beginning through all of its evolutionary stages to modern form. It is, in fact, one of the most complete and well – documented chapter in paleontological history. Fossil finds provide us not only with detailed information about the horse itself, but also with valuable insights into the migration of herds and even evidence for speculation about the climatic that could have instigated such migratory behavior.

It has been documented that, almost twelve million years ago at the beginning of the Pliocene Age, a horse, about midway through its evolutionary development, crossed a land bridge where the Bering Straits are now located, from Alaska into the grasslands of Europe. The horse was the hipparion, about the size of a modern-day pony with three toes and specialized cheek teeth for grazing. In Europe the hipparion encountered another less advanced horse called the anchitheres, which had previously invaded Europe by the same route, probably during the Miocene Period. Less developed and smaller than hipparion, the anchitheres was completely replaced by it. By the end of the Pleistocene Age both the anchitheres and the hipparion had become extinct in North America, where they had originated. In Europe they had evolved into an animal very similar to the horse as we know today. It was the descendant of this horse that was brought by the European colonist to the Americas.

31. What is this passage mainly about?

- a. The evolution of the horse
- b. The migration of horses
- c. The modern-day pony
- d. The replacement of the anchiteres by the hipparion

32. According to the author, fossils are considered valuable for all of the following reasons *EXCEPT* ...

- a. they suggest how the climate may have been
- b. they provide information about migration
- c. they document the evolution of the horse
- d. they maintain a record of life prior to the Miocene Age

33. The word “instigated” in line 6 could best be replaced by

- a. explained
- b. caused
- c. improved
- d. influenced

34. The author suggests that the hipparion and the anchitheres migrated to Europe
- a. by means of a land route that is now nonexistent
 - b. on the ships of European colonist
 - c. because of a very cold climate in North America
 - d. during the Miocene Period
35. Which of the following conclusions may be made on the basis of information in the passage?
- a. The hipparions migrated to Europe to feed in developing grasslands
 - b. There are no fossil remains of either the anchitheres or the hipparion
 - c. There were horses in North America when the first European colonist arrived
 - d. Very little is known about the evolution of the horse
36. According to this passage, the hipparions were
- a. five-toed animals
 - b. not as highly developed as the anchitheres
 - c. larger than the anchitheres
 - d. about the size of a small dog

37. The word “it” in line 14 refers to

- a. anchitheres
- b. hipparion
- c. Miocene Period
- d. route

38. The word “extinct” in line 15 is closest in meaning to

- a. familiar
- b. widespread
- c. nonexistent
- d. tame

39. Both the hipparion and the anchitheres

- a. were the size of a modern pony
- b. were native to North America
- c. migrated to Europe in the Pliocene Period
- d. had unspecialized teeth

40. It can be concluded from this passage that the
- a. Miocene Period was prior to the Pliocene
 - b. Pleistocene Period was prior to the Miocene
 - c. Pleistocene Period was prior to the Pliocene
 - d. Pliocene Period was prior to the Miocene

Questions 41-50

It was the first photograph that I had ever seen, and it fascinated me. I can remember holding it at every angle in order to catch the flickering light from the oil lamp on the oil lamp on the dresser. The man in the photograph was unsmiling, but his eyes were kind. I had never met him, but I felt that I knew him. One evening when I was looking at the photograph, as I always did before I went to sleep, I noticed a shadow across the man's thin face. I moved the photograph so that the shadow lay perfectly around his hollow cheeks. How different he looked!

That night I could not sleep, thinking about the letter that I would write. First, I would tell him that I was eleven years old , and that if he had a little girl my age, she could write to me instead of him. I knew that he was a very busy man. Then I would explain to him the real purpose of my letter. I would tell him how wonderful he looked with the shadow that I had seen across his photograph, and I would most carefully suggest that he grow whiskers.

Four months later when I met him at the rain station near my home in Westfield, New York, he was wearing a full beard. He was so much taller than I had imagined from my tiny photograph.

“Ladies and gentlemen,” he said “I have no speech to make and no time to make it in. I appear before you that I may see you and that you may see me.” Then he picked me right up and kissed me on both cheeks. The whiskers scratched. “ Do you think I look better, my little friend?” he asked me.

My name is Grace Bedell, and the man in the photograph was Abraham Lincoln.

41. What is the author's main purpose in the passage?
- a. To explain how Grace Bedell took a photograph of Abraham Lincoln
 - b. To explain why Abraham Lincoln wore a beard
 - c. To explain why the first photographs were significant in American life
 - d. To explain why Westfield is an important city
42. The word “fascinated” in line 1 could best be replaced by ...
- a. interested
 - b. frightened
 - c. confused
 - d. disgusted
43. The word “flickering” in line 2 is closest in meaning to ...
- a. burning constantly
 - b. burning unsteadily
 - c. burning very dimly
 - d. burning brightly

44. The man in the photograph...

- a. was smiling
- b. had a beard
- c. had a round, fat face
- d. looked kind

45. What did Grace Bedell do every night before she went to sleep?

- a. She wrote letters
- b. She looked at the photograph
- c. She made shadow figures on the wall
- d. She read stories

46. The little girl could not sleep because she was ...

- a. sick
- b. excited
- c. lonely
- d. sad

47. Why did the little girl write the man a letter?

- a. She was lonely
- b. She wanted his daughter to write to her
- c. She wanted him to grow a beard
- d. She wanted him to visit her

48. The word “it” in line 18 refers to ...

- a. time
- b. speech
- c. photograph
- d. station

49. From this passage, it may be inferred that

- a. Grace Bedell was the only one at the train station when Lincoln stopped at Westfield
- b. There were many people waiting for Lincoln to arrive on the train
- c. Lincoln made a long speech at the station in Westfield
- d. Lincoln was offended by the letter

50. Why did the author wait until the last line to reveal the identity of the man in the photograph?

- a. The author did not know it
- b. The author wanted to make the reader feel foolish
- c. The author wanted to build the interest and curiosity of the reader
- d. The author was just a little girl