



PRE-ADMISSION TESTING CENTRE – LANGUAGE ADMISSIONS TEST

SAMPLE QUESTIONS - LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT

1. WRITING ASSESSMENT

- 300-600 WORD ESSAY
- TIMED FOR 1 HOUR

2. READING SKILLS

- 20 MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS
- UNTIMED

3. LISTENING TEST

- 22 MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS
- UNTIMED

****PLEASE NOTE: THE USE OF EXTERNAL AIDS
SUCH AS DICTIONARIES OR EXTERNAL WEBSITES
IS NOT PERMITTED****

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PRE-ADMISSION TESTING CENTRE – LANGUAGE ADMISSIONS TEST

60 minutes - Essay

WritePlacer® ESL

Writing an essay gives you an opportunity to show how effectively you can develop and express your ideas in writing. On the next screen, a brief statement will be presented, followed by an assignment that relates to the statement. You should respond to the assignment by writing an essay in which you develop your point of view. You should support your position with appropriate reasoning and examples.

The position you take will not influence your score.

Your essay will be given a holistic score that represents how clearly and effectively you expressed your position. The following four characteristics of writing will be considered.

- **Word Use** – The extent to which you are able to use a wide range of words and phrases accurately.
- **Sentence Use** - The extent to which you are able to use a variety of sentence patterns with both independent and dependent clauses.
- **Grammar** - The extent to which you are able to express ideas using grammatically correct English.
- **Organization and Development** - The extent to which you are able to focus on the assigned topic and to develop ideas clearly.

WritePlacer® ESL Sample Topic

Passage

A woman recently received an inheritance of \$25 million from an unknown, distant relative. She cannot decide what to do: spend it, save it, or give most of it away.

Assignment

Prepare a multiple-paragraph writing sample of about 300–600 words on the topic below. You should use the time available to plan, write, review and edit what you have written. Read the assignment carefully before you begin to write.

If you suddenly received a large sum of money, what would you do with it?

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Untimed – 20 Questions – Multiple Choice Reading Skills Sample Questions

ACCUPLACER ESL READING SKILLS TEST

The ESL Reading Skills test measures your ability to read English. Specifically, it assesses your comprehension of short passages. It contains brief passages of 50 words or less and moderate length passages of 50 to 90 words. Half of this test contains straightforward comprehension items (paraphrase, locating information, vocabulary on a phrase level, and pronoun reference). The other half assesses inference skills (main idea, fact versus opinion, cause/effect logic, identifying irrelevant information, author's point of view and applying the author's logic to another situation).

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. Television has been introduced to almost every country in the world, reaching a large number of viewers on every continent. About 600 million people saw the first person walk on the moon, and a billion people watched the twentieth Olympic Games. Television has in many ways promoted understanding and cooperation among people. It does this by showing educational and cultural programs. From this passage, a reader can conclude that the author believes that
 - A. people spend too much time watching television
 - B. not every country needs to have television
 - C. television can unify people from around the world
 - D. television is as important as schools
2. Janet's parents bought her a new sports car as a birthday present. It was blue. Janet sold her 7-year-old blue pickup truck to a high school student. The truck could not go very fast, but the student was happy with it.
From the passage, which of these statements can the reader assume?
Janet prefers trucks to cars.
 - A. Janet prefers trucks to cars.
 - B. Janet likes the color blue.
 - C. Janet owns more than one vehicle.
 - D. Janet drives her car every day.
3. Some of Edward Weston's black-and-white photographs of American nature scenes are considered superb examples of visual art. Indeed, some of his photographs have commanded top prices at art galleries.
Which of the following best characterizes Weston's photographs?
 - A. They belong to famous collectors.
 - B. They have been sold in art galleries for large sums of money.
 - C. They introduced many Americans to visual art.
 - D. They contrast American cities with natural settings.

4. Speaking to a group of people can be a frightening experience. Some speakers cope by looking above the heads of the audience. Others try to imagine that they are talking to a friend. A few try picturing the audience in some nonthreatening way, such as in their pajamas.

The author of the passage assumes that speakers should

- A. feel comfortable when addressing an audience.
- B. scare the audience.
- C. encourage people to talk during the speech.
- D. speak only to familiar people.

5. People have different ways of learning. Some are better at making mental pictures of new ideas. Others are more comfortable with writing lists of things to memorize. Certain people can learn best when listening to music, while others need silence to concentrate.

Which of the following is the main idea of the passage?

- A. Mental pictures help many to learn.
- B. Some people prefer lists to making mental pictures.
- C. To learn well you need to be comfortable.
- D. Different individuals have different ways of acquiring information.

6. Before giving first aid to an accident victim, you should obtain his or her consent. Asking for consent takes a simple question. Say to the victim, "I know first aid, and I can help you until an ambulance arrives. Is that okay?"

"Asking for consent" means asking for

- A. permission to help the victim.
- B. thanks from the victim.
- C. help from onlookers.
- D. information about the victim's injuries.

7. Jane and Paul are busy for 15 hours a day, 5 days a week going to college and working in a restaurant. They go to sleep at 11 p.m. every day, but on Sunday they take part in dance lessons.

According to the passage, Jane and Paul spend most of their time

- A. at home.
- B. going to college and working.
- C. taking part in dance lessons.
- D. sleeping.

8. If you hold a piece of copper wire over the flame of a match, heat will be conducted by the copper wire to your fingers, and you will be forced to drop the wire. You will, however, still be able to hold the match because the match is a poor conductor of heat. Anyone, child or adult, can try this simple experiment.

Which of the following is implied in the passage above?

- A. Copper is a good conductor of heat.
- B. A match and copper conduct heat equally.
- C. A match is an excellent conductor of heat.
- D. Matches should be kept out of the reach of small children.

9. Many people own different pets. Dogs, cats, birds, and fish are common household pets. Others pets are considered to be exotic animals. These include snakes, lizards, and hedgehogs.
Snakes are
- uncommon pets.
 - likely to be found in a household with dogs.
 - found only in zoos.
 - not allowed in people's homes.
10. Cesar Chavez was an influential leader for farmworkers. He fought for their rights and better working conditions. Chavez led many strikes that angered farm owners. Eventually he succeeded in getting increased wages and improved living situations for farmworkers.
Chavez changed lives because he
- helped the farmers get more workers.
 - worked for the farmers.
 - helped work on the farms every day.
 - changed the conditions for the farmworkers.
11. When cartoonist Charles M. Schulz was a boy in elementary school, other boys teased him for being small and not very good at sports, and his art teacher told him he had no talent for drawing. He had few friends, and was too shy to talk to a red-haired girl he admired. Later in life, Schulz used his childhood experiences in his comic strip "Peanuts," using the strip's main character, the sad and lonely Charlie Brown, to represent himself as a little boy. "Peanuts" was unique at the time because it contained no adult characters. Readers fell in love with Charlie Brown, and "Peanuts" eventually became one of the most popular comic strips of all time. What is the main idea of the passage?
- "Peanuts" was the world's most widely read comic strip.
 - Charles M. Schulz was a very famous cartoonist.
 - Schulz turned the pain of his youth into fame as an adult.
 - The "Peanuts" comic strip featured children as its only characters.
12. Money has existed for thousands of years in nearly every culture as a means of exchange. However, today, the use of cash is becoming less and less common in modern societies all over the world. Every year, a higher percentage of purchases is made online, and even in stores customers are now using credit cards more often than cash. Many people today do all of their banking on the Internet rather than going to the bank in person.
The author of the passage probably assumes that
- cash will become virtually obsolete in the near future
 - using cash will become popular again
 - paying with credit cards all the time is dangerous
 - societies that do business online will prosper
13. Insomnia - the inability to fall asleep or to stay asleep - is a condition that plagues many people at one time or another in their lives. It can be uncomfortable, but is usually not harmful, and most people who believe they have been awake all night have actually slept more than they think. While some people rely on prescription medication to help them sleep, insomnia can be controlled by changing behavior. Insomnia is often caused by stress or anxiety, but it can also be made worse by eating too heavily too late; consuming a lot of caffeine; or watching television, using computers or exercising right before bedtime. If you can't sleep, the best thing to do is to get out of bed and do something calming for a while, such as read, until you feel sleepy. Some people find that herbal tea such as chamomile helps them feel drowsy.
The author believes that people can best combat insomnia by
- trying to sleep
 - taking medication
 - accepting their condition
 - changing their habits

14. Before giving first aid to an accident victim, you should obtain his or her consent. Asking for consent takes a simple question. Say to the victim, "I know first aid, and I can help until an ambulance arrives. Is that okay?"

According to the passage, it is wrong to use first aid on an accident victim without medical

- A. training
 - B. attempt to help an accident victim without permission
 - C. help a victim before an ambulance arrives
 - D. call for an ambulance instead of helping the victim
15. Dr. Ellen Ochoa is an inventor and is also the first female Hispanic astronaut. Her inventions include technology to help robots to inspect equipment in space to maintain safety and quality control on spacecraft. Before retiring, she logged more than 1,000 hours in space across several space missions.

Dr. Ochoa is

- A. the first Hispanic person to travel into space
 - B. the first inventor to travel into space
 - C. the first woman to travel into space
 - D. the first Hispanic woman to travel into space
16. Dogs and cats make very different types of pets. Before deciding whether to buy or adopt a dog or a cat, prospective owners need to carefully consider their own lifestyles and personalities. Dogs may make more affectionate companions, but they require more care and attention. They must be taken out several times a day and should not be left alone for more than a few hours. Larger dogs require significant exercise to remain fit and healthy. Cats are usually more independent in nature and interact less with their owners. Also, a cat can be left on its own all day, or even for several days, as long as it has food and clean water to drink.
- From this passage a reader can conclude that
- A. owning a cat requires less work than owning a dog
 - B. people who travel a lot should not own a cat
 - C. people who like to play with their pets should own a cat
 - D. owning a cat is more responsibility than owning a dog

17. People's moods are largely a matter of focus. It is a natural tendency of many people to focus on what is wrong in their lives, or on the day-to-day events that make them angry or irritated. However, anyone can change this by directing the mind. When feeling down or upset, a person can change his or her state of mind by recalling happy memories, by paying attention to the things for which he or she is grateful, or by directing the attention to something uplifting or beautiful, such as artwork, nature or music. By directing the mind in this way, a person can transform his or her mood in an instant, even if none of the outward circumstances have changed.

Which of the following is implied by the passage above?

- A. People's moods are determined by the conditions around them.
- B. People can take responsibility for controlling their own moods.
- C. A person's mood depends on what happens to him or her that day.
- D. People are usually in a good mood unless something happens to change it.

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Untimed – 22 Questions – Multiple Choice ESL Listening Test Sample Questions

The English-As-A-Second Language (ESL) Listening test, comprised of 22 questions, measures the ability to listen to and understand one or more people speaking in English. Conversations take place in a wide range of locations including lecture halls, grocery stores and libraries.

While looking at pictures of the speakers, this test will require listening to a conversation or lecture. The question is then read followed by the four answer choices. You may then click on the appropriate *Play* button to replay the conversation, the question, or any of the answer choices. Each of these can be heard only two more times after the initial reading.