

Sample Questions for the Computer-Based Test

The questions on the following pages are similar to those that will be presented in the actual test.

Listening

The Listening section of the test measures the ability to understand conversations and talks in English. You will use headphones to listen to the conversations and talks. While you are listening, pictures of the speakers or other information will be presented on your computer screen. There are two parts to the Listening section, with special directions for each part.

On the day of the test, the amount of time you will have to answer all the questions will appear on the computer screen. The time you spend listening to the test material will not be counted. The listening material and questions about it will be presented only one time. You will not be allowed to take notes or have any paper at your computer. You will both see and hear the questions before the answer choices appear. You can take as much time as you need to select an answer; however, it will be to your advantage to answer the questions as quickly as possible. You may change your answer as many times as you want before you confirm it. After you have confirmed an answer, you will not be able to return to the question.

Before you begin working on the Listening section, you will have an opportunity to adjust the volume of the sound. After you have started the test, you will only be able to change the volume during question directions.

QUESTION DIRECTIONS — Part A

In Part A of the Listening section, you will hear short conversations between two people. In some of the conversations, each person speaks only once. In other conversations, one or both of the people speak more than once. Each conversation is followed by one question about it.

Each question in this part has four answer choices. You should click on the best answer to each question. Answer the questions on the basis of what is stated or implied by the speakers.

Here is an example.

On the computer screen, you will see:



On the recording, you will hear:

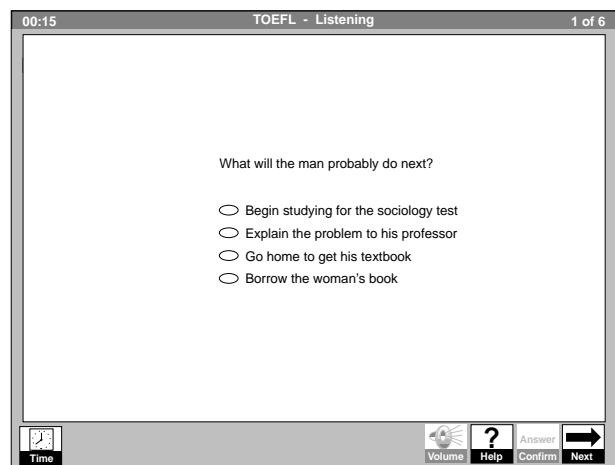
(woman) Hey, where's your sociology book?

(man) At home. Why carry it around when we're just going to be taking a test?

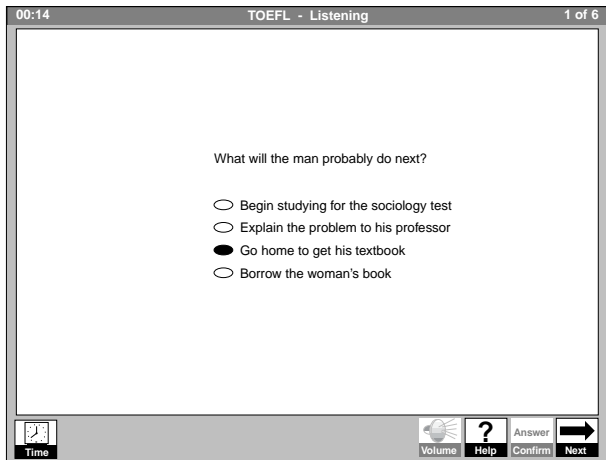
(woman) Don't you remember? Professor Smith said we could use it during the test.

(man) Oh, no! Well, I've still got an hour, right? I'm so glad I ran into you!

You will then see and hear the question before the answer choices appear:



To choose an answer, you will click on an oval. The oval next to that answer will darken. The correct answer is indicated on the next screen.



After you click on **Next** and **Confirm Answer**, the next conversation will be presented.

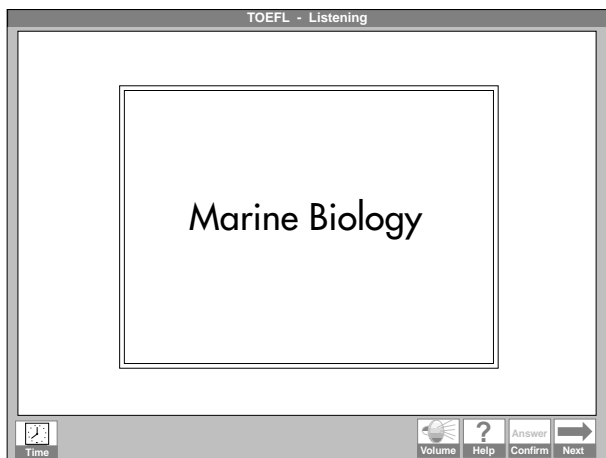
QUESTION DIRECTIONS — Part B

In Part B of the Listening section, you will hear several longer conversations and talks. Each conversation or talk is followed by several questions. The conversations, talks, and questions will not be repeated.

The conversations and talks are about a variety of topics. You do not need special knowledge of the topics to answer the questions correctly. Rather, you should answer each question on the basis of what is stated or implied by the speakers in the conversations or talks.

For most of the questions, you will need to click on the best of four possible answers. Some questions will have special directions. The special directions will appear in a box on the computer screen.

Here is an example of a conversation and some questions:



(narrator) Listen to part of a discussion in a marine biology class.



(professor) A few years ago, our local government passed a number of strict environmental laws. As a result, Sunrise Beach looks nothing like it did ten years ago. The water is cleaner, and there's been a tremendous increase in all kinds of marine life — which is why we're going there on Thursday.

(woman) I don't know if I agree that the water quality has improved. I mean, I was out there last weekend, and it looked all brown. It didn't seem too clean to me.

(professor) Actually, the color of the water doesn't always indicate whether it's polluted. The brown color you mentioned might be a result of pollution, or it can mean a kind of brown algae is growing there. It's called "devil's apron," and it actually serves as food for whales.

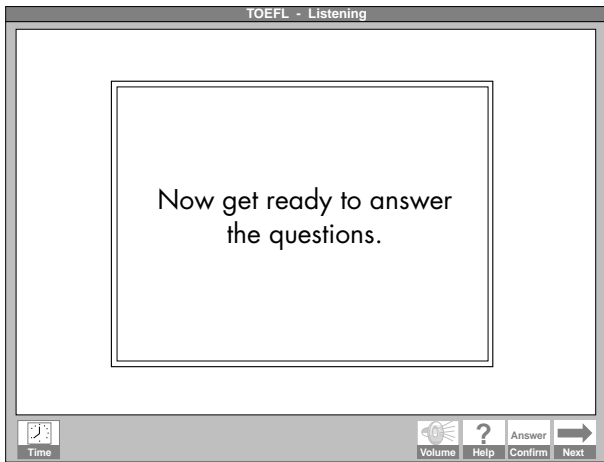
(man) So when does the water look blue?

(professor) Well, water that's completely unpolluted is actually colorless. But it often looks bluish-green because the sunlight can penetrate deep down and that's the color that's reflected.

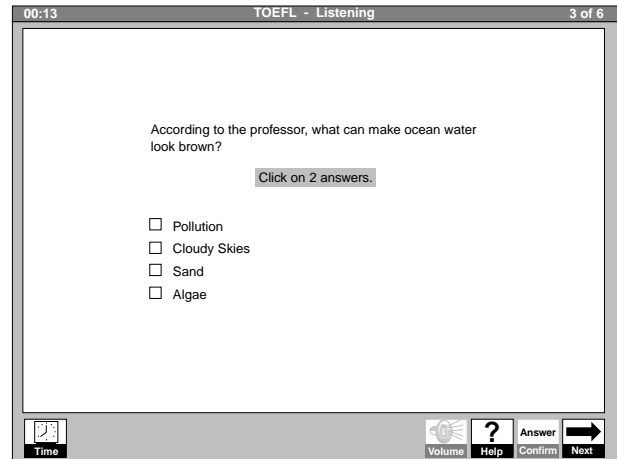
(woman) But sometimes it looks really green. What's that about?

(professor) OK, well, it's the same principle as with "devil's apron": the water might look green because of different types of green algae there — gulfweed, phytoplankton. You all should finish reading about algae and plankton before we go. In fact, those are the types of living things I'm going to ask you to be looking for when we're there.

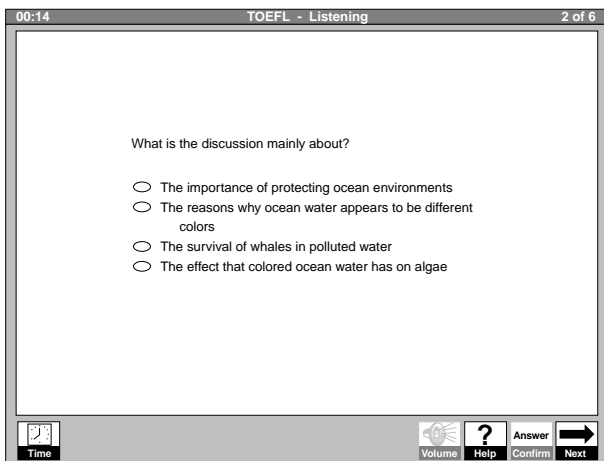
After the conversation, you will read:



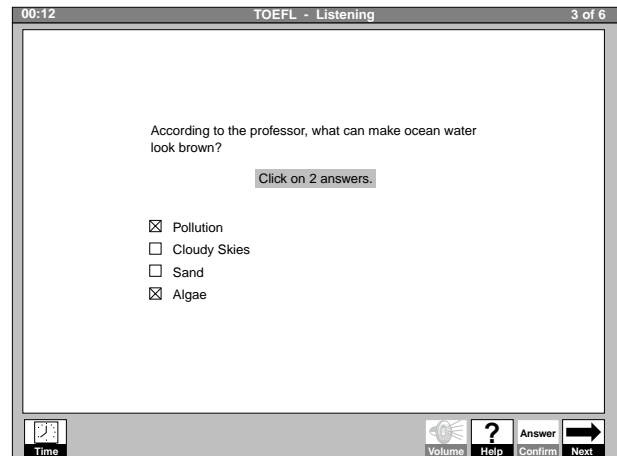
After you click on **Next** and **Confirm Answer**, the next question will be presented:



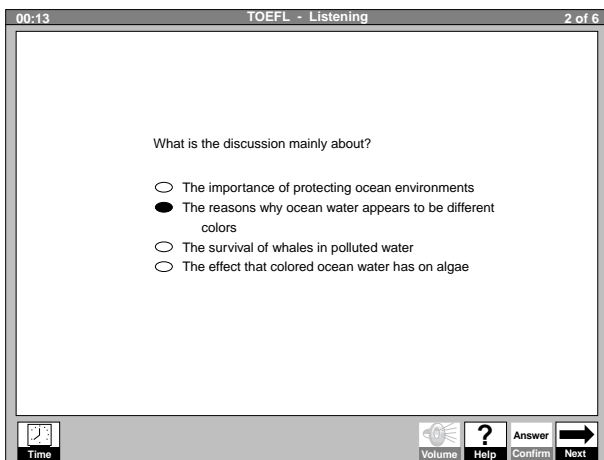
Then, the first question will be presented:



To choose your answers, you will click on the squares. An "X" will appear in each square. The correct answers are indicated on the screen below.



To choose an answer, you will click on an oval. The oval next to that answer will darken. The correct answer is indicated on the screen below.



Structure

This section measures the ability to recognize language that is appropriate for standard written English. There are two types of questions in this section.

In the first type of question, there are incomplete sentences. Beneath each sentence are four words or phrases. You will choose the one word or phrase that best completes the sentence.

Here is an example:

00:15 TOEFL - Structure 1 of 2

Directions: Click on the one word or phrase that best completes the sentence.

The columbine flower, _____ to nearly all of the United States, can be raised from seed in almost any garden.

native
 how native is
 how native is it
 is native

Time ? Answer Confirm Next

Clicking on a choice darkens the oval. The correct answer will be indicated on the screen.

The second type of question has four underlined words or phrases. You will choose the one underlined word or phrase that must be changed for the sentence to be correct.

Here is an example:

00:14 TOEFL - Structure 2 of 2

Directions: Click on the one underlined word or phrase that must be changed for the sentence to be correct.

One of the most difficult problems in understanding sleep is determining what the functions of sleep is.

Time ? Answer Confirm Next

Clicking on an underlined word or phrase will darken it. The correct answer is indicated on the screen below.

00:13 TOEFL - Structure 2 of 2

Directions: Click on the one underlined word or phrase that must be changed for the sentence to be correct.

One of the most difficult problems in understanding sleep is determining what the functions of sleep is.

Time ? Answer Confirm Next

The sentence should read: "One of the most difficult problems in understanding sleep is determining what the functions of sleep are." After you click on **Next** and **Confirm Answer**, the next question will be presented.

Reading

This section measures the 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. There are several different types of questions in this section.

In the Reading section, you will first have the opportunity to read the passage.

01:10 TOEFL - Reading Comprehension Text

Beginning

The temperature of the Sun is over 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit at the surface, but it rises to perhaps more than 27,000,000° at the center. The Sun is so much hotter than the Earth that matter can exist only as a gas, except perhaps at the core. In the core of the Sun, the pressures are so great that, despite the high temperature, there may be a small solid core. However, no one really knows, since the center of the Sun can never be directly observed.

Solar astronomers do know that the Sun is divided into five general layers or zones. Starting at the outside and going down into the Sun, the zones are the corona, chromosphere, photosphere, convection zone, and finally the core. The first three zones are regarded as the Sun's atmosphere. But since the Sun has no solid surface, it is hard to tell where the atmosphere ends and the main body of the Sun begins.

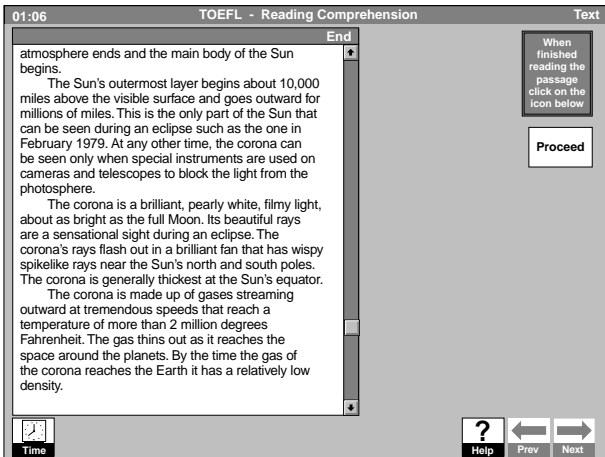
The Sun's outermost layer begins about 10,000 miles above the visible surface and goes outward for millions of miles. This is the only part of the Sun that can be seen during an eclipse such as the one in February 1979. At any other time, the corona can be seen only when special instruments are used on

When finished reading the passage click on the icon below

Proceed

Time ? Prev Next

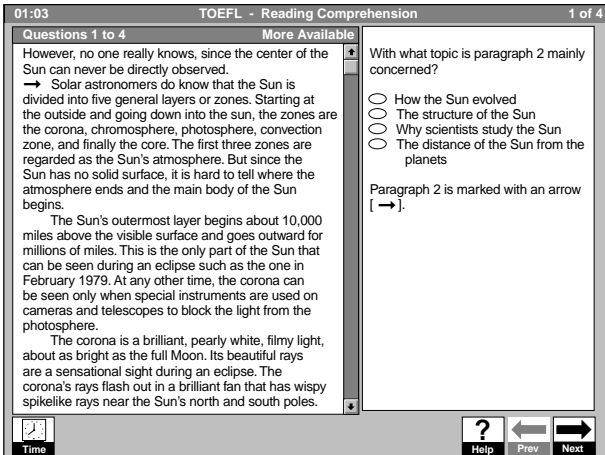
You will use the scroll bar to view the rest of the passage.



When you have finished reading the passage, you will use the mouse to click on **Proceed**. Then the questions about the passage will be presented. You are to choose the one best answer to each question. Answer all questions about the information in a passage on the basis of what is stated or implied in that passage.

Most of the questions will be multiple choice. To answer a question you will click on a choice below the question.

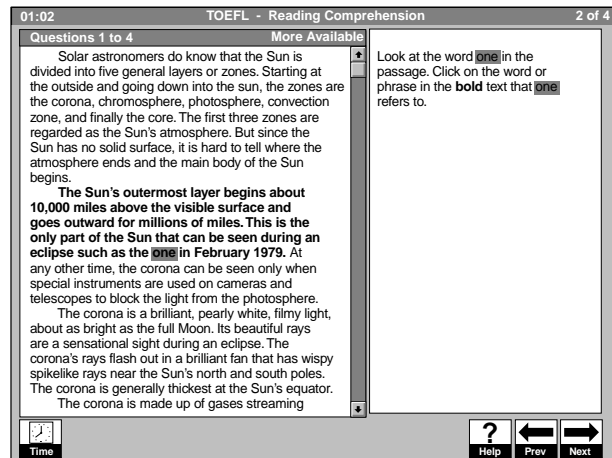
Here is an example:



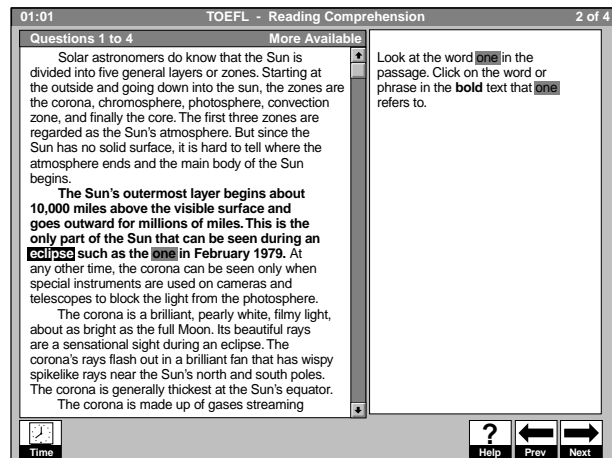
When you click on a choice, the oval will darken to show which answer you have chosen. To choose a different answer, click on a different oval. You will see the next question after you click on **Next**.

To answer some questions you will click on a word or phrase.

Here is an example:



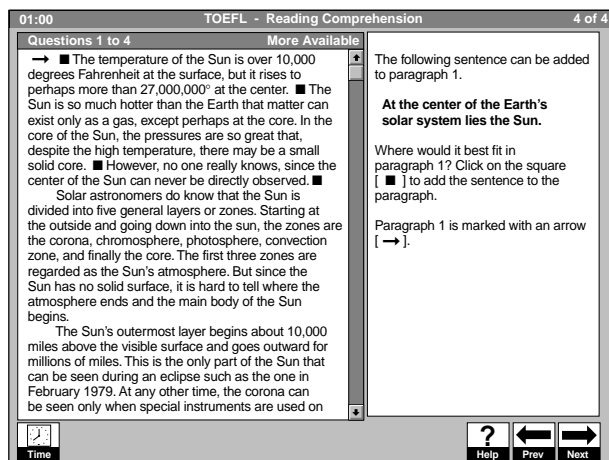
To answer, you can click on any part of the word or phrase in the passage. Your choice will darken to show which word you have chosen. The correct answer is indicated on the screen below.



You will see the next question after you click on **Next**.

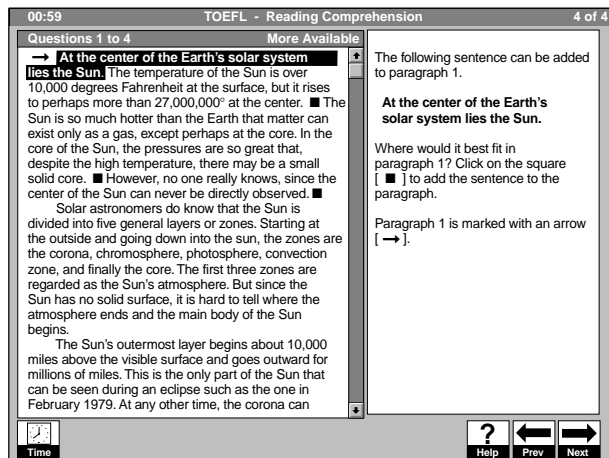
To answer some questions you will click on a square to add a sentence to the passage.

Here is an example:



When you click on a square, the sentence will appear in the passage at the place you have chosen. You can read the sentence added to the paragraph to see if this is the best place to add it. You can click on another square to change your answer.

The sentence will be added and shown in a dark box. The correct answer is indicated on the screen below.



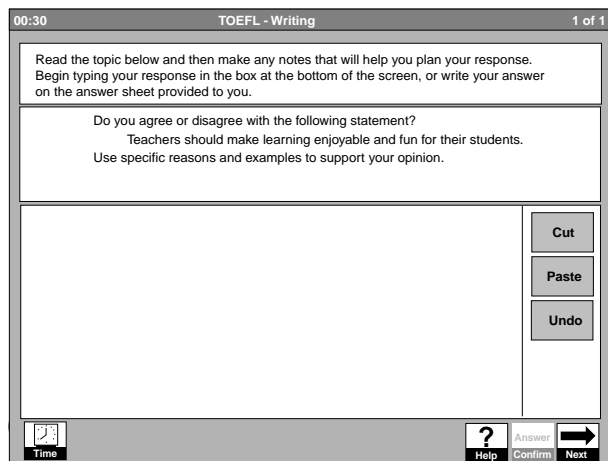
Writing

In this section, you will have an opportunity to demonstrate your ability to write in English. This includes the ability to generate and organize ideas, to support those ideas with examples or evidence, and to compose in standard written English a response to an assigned topic.

On the day of the test, an essay topic will be given to you. You will have 30 minutes to write your essay on that topic. You must write on the topic you are assigned. An essay on any other topic will receive a score of "0." Before the topic is presented, you must choose whether to type your essay on the computer or to handwrite your essay on the paper essay answer sheet provided.

You will be given scratch paper for making notes. However, only your response handwritten on the single page, two-sided essay answer sheet or typed in the essay box on the computer will be scored.

The essay topic will be presented to you on the computer screen. You will be given **one** essay topic. You do not have a choice of essay topics. The essay screen will be similar to this:



You can click on **Next** and **Confirm Answer** to end the Writing section at any time. At the end of 30 minutes, the computer will automatically end the section.

DO NOT click on **Next** and **Confirm Answer** until you have finished typing or writing your essay.

NOTE: Some of the possible writing topics are printed on pages 12-14. You may find it helpful to use these topics to practice.

Sample Questions for the Paper-Based Test

Section 1 — Listening Comprehension

In this section of the test, you will have an opportunity to demonstrate your ability to understand conversations and talks in English. There are three parts to this section, with special directions for each part. Answer all the questions on the basis of what is stated or implied by the speakers you hear. Do **not** take notes or write in your test book at any time. Do **not** turn the pages until you are told to do so.

Directions: In Parts A and B, you will hear conversations between two people. After each conversation, you will hear a question about the conversation. The conversations and questions will not be repeated. After you hear a question, you will read the four possible answers in your test book and choose the best answer. 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.

Here is an example.

On the recording, you will hear:

(woman) *I don't like this painting very much.*

(man) *Neither do I.*

(narrator) *What does the man mean?*

In your test book, you will read:

- (A) He doesn't like the painting either.
- (B) He doesn't know how to paint.
- (C) He doesn't have any paintings.
- (D) He doesn't know what to do.

You learn from the conversation that neither the man nor the woman likes the painting. The best answer to the question, "What does the man mean?" is (A), "He doesn't like the painting either." Therefore, the correct choice is (A).

Directions: In Part C of this section you will hear several talks. After each talk, you will hear some questions. The talks and questions will not be repeated.

After you hear a question, you will read the four possible answers in your test book and choose the best answer. 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.

Here is an example.

On the recording, you will hear:

(narrator) *Listen to an instructor talk to his class about a television program.*

(man) *I'd like to tell you about an interesting TV program that'll be shown this coming Thursday. It'll be on from 9 to 10 pm on Channel 4. It's part of a series called "Mysteries of Human Biology." The subject of the program is the human brain — how it functions and how it can malfunction. Topics that will be covered are dreams, memory, and depression. These topics are illustrated with outstanding computer animation that makes the explanations easy to follow. Make an effort to see this show. Since we've been studying the nervous system in class, I know you'll find it very helpful.*

Sample Question

You will hear:

(narrator) *What is the main purpose of the program?*

Sample Answer

- A B C D

Sample Answer

- A B C D

In your test book, you will read:

- (A) To demonstrate the latest use of computer graphics.
- (B) To discuss the possibility of an economic depression.
- (C) To explain the workings of the brain.
- (D) To dramatize a famous mystery story.

The best answer to the question, "What is the main purpose of the program?" is (C), "To explain the workings of the brain." Therefore, the correct choice is (C).

Sample Question

You will hear:

(narrator) *Why does the speaker recommend watching the program?*

Sample Answer

- A B C D

In your test book, you will read:

- (A) It is required of all science majors.
- (B) It will never be shown again.
- (C) It can help viewers improve their memory skills.
- (D) It will help with course work.

The best answer to the question, "Why does the speaker recommend watching the program?" is (D), "It will help with course work." Therefore, the correct choice is (D).

Remember, you are **not** allowed to take notes or write in your test book.

Section 2 — Structure and Written Expression

This section is designed to measure your ability to recognize language that is appropriate for standard written English. There are two types of questions in this section, with special directions for each type.

Structure

Directions: These questions are incomplete sentences. Beneath each sentence you will see four words or phrases, marked (A), (B), (C), and (D). Choose the **one** word or phrase that best completes the sentence. 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.

Look at the following examples:

Example 1

Geysers have often been compared to volcanoes _____ they both emit hot liquids from below the Earth's surface.

- (A) due to
- (B) because
- (C) in spite of
- (D) regardless of

The sentence should read, "Geysers have often been compared to volcanoes because they both emit hot liquids from below the Earth's surface." Therefore, you should choose answer (B).

Sample Answer

- A B C D

Example II

During the early period of ocean navigation, _____ any need for sophisticated instruments and techniques.

- (A) so that hardly
- (B) where there hardly was
- (C) hardly was
- (D) there was hardly

The sentence should read, “During the early period of ocean navigation, there was hardly any need for sophisticated instruments and techniques.” Therefore, you should choose answer (D).

Sample Answer

(A) (B) (C) ●

Written Expression

Directions: In these questions, each sentence has four underlined words or phrases. The four underlined parts of the sentence are marked (A), (B), (C), and (D). Identify the **one** underlined word or phrase that must be changed in order for the sentence to be correct. 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.

Look at the following examples:

Example I

Guppies are sometimes call rainbow fish because of the males' bright colors.

A B C D

The sentence should read, “Guppies are sometimes called rainbow fish because of the males’ bright colors.” Therefore, you should choose answer (A).

Sample Answer

● (B) (C) (D)

Example II

Serving several term in Congress, Shirley Chisholm became an important United States politician.

A B C D

The sentence should read, “Serving several terms in Congress, Shirley Chisholm became an important United States politician.” Therefore, you should choose answer (B).

Sample Answer

(A) ● (C) (D)

Section 3 — Reading Comprehension

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:

The railroad was not the first institution to impose regularity on society, or to draw attention to the importance of precise timekeeping. For as long as merchants have set out their wares at daybreak and communal festivities have been celebrated, people (5) have been in rough agreement with their neighbors as to the time of day. The value of this tradition is today more apparent than ever. Were it not for public acceptance of a single yardstick of time, social life would be unbearably chaotic: the massive daily transfers of goods, services, and information would proceed in fits and (10) starts; the very fabric of modern society would begin to unravel.

Example I

What is the main idea of the passage?

- (A) In modern society we must make more time for our neighbors.
- (B) The traditions of society are timeless.
- (C) An accepted way of measuring time is essential for the smooth functioning of society.
- (D) Society judges people by the times at which they conduct certain activities.

The main idea of the passage is that societies need to agree about how time is to be measured in order to function smoothly. Therefore, you should choose answer (C).

Sample Answer

(A) (B) ● (D)

Example II

In line 6, the phrase “this tradition” refers to

- (A) the practice of starting the business day at dawn
- (B) friendly relations between neighbors
- (C) the railroad’s reliance on time schedules
- (D) people’s agreement on the measurement of time

The phrase “this tradition” refers to the preceding clause, “people have been in rough agreement with their neighbors as to the time of day.” Therefore, you should choose answer (D).

Sample Answer

(A) (B) (C) ●