

READING

TIME: 50 Minutes

This is a practice test - the results are not valid for certificate requirements.

READING

Here is a passage. Read the passage. Then do Numbers 1 through 5.

Circus Returns

It's February and that means residents of Livonia are again welcoming the Circus under the Stars to the area.

Ringmaster Ferdinand Diego promises that there will be thrills and chills for the entire family. Says Diego, "This year we are presenting forty different performers. We are especially pleased to add the Flying Montinis to our circus family. They are known throughout Europe for their death-defying feats on the trapeze. In fact, Ernestine Montini was the first female to perform a triple flip, and you can see her performance nightly in our show."

Charley Smith's antics have been the favorite act of local children in past shows. Charley will be with the circus again this year. Smith promises to be "a little smarter, but just as goofy" this time around. It's a sure bet that he will leave the crowd laughing.

Right after their shows here, the performers will begin a three-month tour in South America. So make sure you buy your tickets early. The circus will be in town for only one week, from Wednesday, June 6, through Sunday, June 10. There will be evening performances Thursday through Sunday at 7 P.M. Matinees will be held at 2 P.M. on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday. Performances will again be at the Civic Center, 454 Oak Street in Bakersville. Call 555-6789 for ticket information.

1. On Wednesday, June 6, the circus will be performing in the
F. evening
G. morning
H. afternoon
J. afternoon and evening
2. Which part of the show will be new this year?
A. the name
B. the location
C. Charley Smith
D. the trapeze artists
3. Where will the circus perform June 15?
F. Europe
G. Livonia
H. Bakersville
J. South America
4. Charley Smith is most likely a
A. clown
B. tumbler
C. ticket taker
D. member of the audience
5. Who is Ferdinand Diego?
F. the ringmaster
G. the circus's owner
H. a fan of the circus
J. Ernestine Montini's manager

Choose the best answer to this question.

6. School uniforms keep children thinking about studies. Kids in uniforms don't worry about fashion. Gang members in uniforms can't wear their colors.

The second sentence in this paragraph mentions *fashion*. What does the word *fashion* mean?

- A. studies
- B. clothing styles
- C. problems at home
- D. the way something is done

This is a list of the things a person can do on a certain library's computer. It is called a computer *menu*. Look at the menu and the directions for using it.



```
1 Search books
2 Search magazines
3 Search newspapers
4 Look for a title
5 Look for an author
6 Look for a subject
7 Search a particular year
8 Print the names found
9 Leave mail for librarian
10 Read bulletin board
11 Help
```

To use the menu, enter the type of material you are searching for (1, 2, or 3). Then, enter the type of search (4, 5, or 6). The computer will then prompt you for the word or words you are searching for.

When entering names, type the last name, followed by a comma, followed by the first name (Smith, John). Add middle names or initials at the end (Smith, John C.).

When searching for a subject, start with the most specific topic that you can. For example, your search would be more successful if you searched for "flamingo" rather than for "bird" or for "1996 presidential election" rather than for "politics." If you find that your search calls up too many titles, press the escape key and enter a more specific topic for your search.

The reference librarian is available from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. and from 1:30 P.M. to 3:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. If you should have questions at some other time, leave them in the librarian's mailbox and they will be answered promptly. All answers appear on the computer bulletin board.

7. You want to search for books with information about campgrounds you could use on your summer vacation. What should you type?
- A. "camping"
 - B. 4, then "vacations"
 - C. 6, then "campgrounds"
 - D. 1, then 6, then "campgrounds"
8. You want to know if any magazine articles were written lately about the author Gabriel Garcia Marquez. What should you type?
- F. 2, then 6, then "Gabriel Garcia Marquez"
 - G. 3, then 6, then "Garcia Marquez, Gabriel"
 - H. 2, then 6, then "Garcia Marquez, Gabriel"
 - J. 6, then "magazine articles", then "Gabriel Garcia Marquez"
9. You want to print a list of magazine articles about world hunger. What should you type?
- A. 2, then 6, then "world hunger", then 8
 - B. 8, then 6, then 2, then "world hunger"
 - C. 8, then 2, then 6, then "world hunger"
 - D. "world hunger", then 2, then 6, then 8
10. You don't understand what number 7 on the menu means. What should you type to read more information about it?
- F. 6, then "Search one year"
 - G. 6, then 7
 - H. 7
 - J. 11

Read this article about advertising.

Advertisements are such a big part of our lives that they seem to be everywhere. They appear on cereal boxes, on city buses, in movies, and even in classrooms. Often, we don't realize how ads affect our decisions, so it's crucial that people learn how to determine what advertisers are really offering.

By law, advertisers must tell the truth, but they still can be deceiving. Ad writers select their words carefully. Instead of using words to convey information, they often use them to hide it.

Some advertisements hide uncomfortable truths in fine print, or words printed in small letters that are hard to read. Most people just read the words that are easy to see and skip over the sections that seem small and insignificant. These people often get an unpleasant surprise when they receive their bill. For example, an airline may advertise a flight for \$79, but mention only in fine print that the \$79 price is "subject to availability." That means only the first few people who call can get the special price, and everyone else pays more. Other seats for the same flight could be more than double the advertised price. If you make a point of always reading fine print carefully, you probably won't be fooled by these advertisements.

Another ploy is to use big words to tell bad news. An advertisement may say that a hotel room in Miami Beach, for example, will cost only \$59 per night per person/double occupancy. That price sounds good, but you only get it if two or more people stay in the room, and even then, each person must pay \$59! The ad writers hope that most people won't understand what these parts of the advertisements are saying. The best defense here is to ask a salesperson to explain the advertisement to you.

A third trick is to lure people into a store by advertising something at a low price because it's too plain or too small for most people. Automobile dealers use this trick when they advertise the price of a car without extras. Once you come to the showroom looking for the inexpensive car, you find out that it doesn't include things that you think are absolutely essential, such as a radio. But once they have you at the dealership, the salespeople can often persuade you to buy something more expensive. A car advertised for \$8,999 may cost \$12,000 when you buy extras.

Before you buy things, it's wise to read the advertisements carefully. Remember, the main goal of advertising is not to tell you about a product but to sell it!

11. The first paragraph says, "Often we don't *realize* how ads affect our decisions." What does the word *realize* mean?
- A. understand
B. decide
C. trust
D. like
12. Paragraph 1 says that it is crucial that people learn to determine what advertisers are really offering. What does the word crucial mean?
- F. difficult
G. common
H. important
J. unnecessary

13. The second paragraph says that advertisers “can be *deceiving*.” What does the word *deceiving* mean?
- A. lawbreakers
 - B. tricky
 - C. caught
 - D. figured out
14. The second paragraph of this article says that sometimes ad writers don't use words to *convey* information. What does the word *convey* mean?
- F. pass on
 - G. find out
 - H. make secret
 - J. keep a record of
15. The fourth paragraph mentions a *ploy* that advertisers use. What does the word *ploy* mean?
- A. trick
 - B. word
 - C. reason
 - D. magazine
16. The fifth paragraph refers to automobile *dealers*. In this paragraph, a *dealer* is someone who
- F. buys something
 - G. sells something
 - H. makes something
 - J. passes out playing cards
17. The fifth paragraph refers to an *inexpensive* car. What does the word *inexpensive* mean?
- A. new
 - B. cheap
 - C. run-down
 - D. overpriced
18. The fifth paragraph says that an inexpensive car might not have some things that you think are absolutely *essential*. What does the word *essential* mean?
- F. silly
 - G. strange
 - H. necessary
 - J. poorly made

Study this index page from a catalogue.

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19. Which of these pages contains information about equipment for automobiles?
- A. 365
 - B. 465
 - C. 470
 - D. 480
20. If you want to buy crib sheets, on which pages should you look?
- F. 215 and 216
 - G. 252-256
 - H. 274 and 421
 - J. 493
21. Which of these is another listing for suitcases?
- A. Racks
 - B. Luggage
 - C. Storage bins, stacking
 - D. Chests, decorative/storage
22. Which of these listings would include living room drapes?
- F. Curtains
 - G. Carpets/Rugs
 - H. Swatches, fabric
 - J. Furniture, Living Room

Read each item and then choose the best answer.

23. Which of these would probably contain the most complete description of how cement is made?
- A. a cookbook
 - B. a dictionary
 - C. a road atlas
 - D. an encyclopedia
24. Which of these books would be most likely to discuss the value of a 1994 Pontiac Sunbird?
- F. *The 1996 Used Car Guide*
 - G. *1994, the Year in Review*
 - H. *The History of Pontiac*
 - J. *The Automobile: An American Obsession*
25. The fastest way to find information about Margaret Truman in a biography of her father would be to look at the
- A. index
 - B. glossary
 - C. introduction
 - D. top of each page

This passage is from *A Little Princess* by Frances Hodgson Burnett. In this passage, the young heroine, Sara Crewe, is malnourished and cold, but she finds a coin on the street and has just used it to buy six hot buns. Read the passage.

The beggar girl was still huddled up in the corner of the step. She looked frightful in her wet and dirty rags. She was staring straight before her with a look of suffering, and Sara saw her suddenly draw the back of her roughened hand across her eyes to rub away the tears which seemed to have surprised her by forcing their way from under the lids. She was muttering to herself.

Sara opened the paper bag and took out one of the hot buns, which had already warmed her own cold hands a little.

“See.” she said, putting the bun in the ragged lap. “This is nice and hot. Eat it and you will not feel so hungry.”

The child started and stared up at her, as if such sudden, amazing good luck almost frightened her. Then she snatched up the bun and began to cram it into her mouth with great, wolfish bites.

“Oh, my! Oh, my!” Sara heard her say hoarsely in wild delight. “*Oh, my!*”

Sara took out three more buns and put them down.

The sound in the hoarse, ravenous voice was awful.

“She is hungrier than I am” she said to herself. “She’s starving.” But her hand trembled when she put down the fourth bun. “I’m not starving.” she said—and she put down the fifth. . . .

“Good-by.” said Sara.

When she reached the other side of the street she looked back. The child had a bun in each hand and had stopped in the middle of a bite to watch her. She gave her a little nod and the child, after another stare—a curious, lingering stare—jerked her shaggy head in response. And until Sara was out of sight she did not take another bite or even finish the one she had begun.

26. The second sentence describes the beggar girl as “*frightful* in her wet and dirty rags.” What does the word *frightful* mean in this sentence?

- A. sick
- B. scared
- C. dangerous
- D. in bad shape

27. In the third sentence, the girl *draws* her hand across her eyes. What does the word *draw* mean as it is used here?

- F. put
- G. drag
- H. use to shade
- J. make a picture of

28. Sara notices that the girl has *roughened* hands. What does the word *roughened* mean in this passage?
- A. aged
 - B. mean
 - C. chapped
 - D. not gentle
29. The passage says that when Sara gave the girl the first bun, the girl *started*. What does the word *started* mean here?
- F. began to sob
 - G. started to speak
 - H. tried to run away
 - J. jumped in surprise
30. In the passage, the girl eats the buns with “great, *wolfish* bites.” What does the word *wolfish* mean here?
- A. hairy
 - B. greedy
 - C. vicious
 - D. wounding
31. The child's voice is described as hoarse and *ravenous*. What does the word *ravenous* mean?
- F. faint
 - G. angry
 - H. annoying
 - J. very hungry
32. In the last paragraph of this passage, the child gives Sara “a curious, *lingering* stare.” What does the word *lingering* mean?
- A. fascinated
 - B. pleading
 - C. long-lasting
 - D. uninterested
33. When Sara waves good-by, the girl “jerks her head in *response*.” Which of these has most nearly the same meaning as *response*?
- F. answer
 - G. thanks
 - H. no time
 - J. understanding

Study the application form and read the paragraph.

Faith Sakurada was born March 16, 1980, in Joplin, Missouri. She had lived there with her parents all her life. Last month she graduated from high school and got her first job. She worked as a waitress at the Colonial Cafe. Soon she moved into her own apartment and now wants a credit card. This is the application form for the credit card.

IMPORTANT: PLEASE PRINT USING CAPITAL LETTERS AND COMPLETE ALL INFORMATION.				RRFC
FIRST MIDDLE LAST NAME (LEAVE SPACE BETWEEN EACH)			DATE OF BIRTH (MO - DD - YY)	
HOME TELEPHONE	BUSINESS TELEPHONE	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS (EXCLUDE YOURSELF)	
HOME ADDRESS (INCLUDE APT NO)	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	HOW LONG AT PRESENT ADDRESS
PREVIOUS ADDRESS (INCLUDE APT NO)			CITY	STATE
		ZIP CODE	HOW LONG AT PREVIOUS ADDRESS	
DO YOU?		MONTHLY RENT OR MORTGAGE	ARE YOU A US CITIZEN?	
<input type="checkbox"/> OWN <input type="checkbox"/> LIVE WITH PARENTS <input type="checkbox"/> RENT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER, EXPLAIN		\$	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO IF NO EXPLAIN IMMIGRATION STATUS:	
NEAREST RELATIVE NOT LIVING WITH YOU		RELATIONSHIP	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
		CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME				
ABOUT YOUR JOB & FINANCES . . .				
EMPLOYER, UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE		ADDRESS	CITY	STATE
				ZIP CODE
HOW LONG?	OCCUPATION (YEAR IF STUDENT)	YEARLY GROSS SALARY	OTHER INCOME *	SOURCE OF OTHER INCOME
YEARS MONTHS		\$	<input type="checkbox"/> PER MONTH <input type="checkbox"/> PER YEAR	
FORMER EMPLOYER, UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE		ADDRESS	CITY	STATE
			ZIP CODE	HOW LONG?
				YEARS MONTHS
DO YOU HAVE A?		ARE YOU?		
<input type="checkbox"/> CHECKING ACCOUNT <input type="checkbox"/> SAVINGS ACCOUNT		<input type="checkbox"/> SELF-EMPLOYED <input type="checkbox"/> RETIRED <input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT		
* Child support need not be claimed as other income				

34. What should Faith write in the space for date of birth?

- A. 1 6 1 9 8 0
- B. 1 6 0 3 8 0
- C. 0 3 1 6 8 0
- D. 0 4 1 6 8 0

35. Which of these boxes should Faith check after "DO YOU"?

- F. OWN
- G. RENT
- H. LIVE WITH PARENTS
- J. OTHER (EXPLAIN)

34. What should Faith write in the space for date of birth?

- A. 1 6 1 9 8 0
- B. 1 6 0 3 8 0
- C. 0 3 1 6 8 0
- D. 0 4 1 6 8 0

37. Which of these should Faith write under "SOURCE OF OTHER INCOME"?

- F. \$5.75 per hour
- G. tips
- H. gifts
- J. child support

38. What, if anything, should Faith write under "FORMER EMPLOYER, UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE"?

- A. parents
- B. Stagg Senior High
- C. the Colonial Cafe
- D. none

39. Which of these boxes, if any, should Faith check?

- A. SELF-EMPLOYED
- B. RETIRED
- C. STUDENT
- D. None of the above

This letter was written to a member of the Texas State Legislature. Read the letter and the newspaper article.

453 Eighth Avenue
Houston, Texas 77014
September 21, 1996

Representative Jose Moreno
Capitol Complex, Room 1403
Austin, Texas 77145

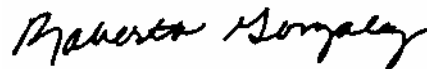
Dear Mr. Moreno:

I have supported you for years, and I believe you've done great things for our district. But last week I read the enclosed article about a landfill outside my hometown, and I'm worried about garbage. Are we really doing anything to improve things for the next generation? What will our grandchildren do when there is no room left in our landfills?

I would like to recycle my daily newspaper and soda bottles, but I can't find any place to take them. We should have some place that would recycle these items.

I don't think we can trust garbage companies to recycle on their own. That means we may need laws that require recycling. I am not aware that Texas has passed such laws. It's time for something to be done! I am asking you as my representative in the state capitol to take action soon.

Sincerely yours,



Roberto Gonzalez

LOCAL LANDFILL FULL!

For years, trucks have been rolling past Libertyville hauling garbage to the Harrington Landfill, and although we haven't always enjoyed the smell, we have appreciated the money those trucks brought into our area. Communities throughout Southern Texas have depended on the Harrington Landfill as a safe place to dump their trash and forget about it, but all of that ended last week. After three years of warnings, the Environmental Protection Agency finally cracked down on Harrington. The landfill exceeded its planned capacity long ago, and it cannot legally accept any new loads. Not every community was prepared for the shutdown. Glenda Scott, mayor of Trinity, says her town has nowhere to haul next week's garbage. "I've been on the phone with landfills all week, but none of them is in a position to take on new contracts. I don't know what we are going to do."

40. Based on this letter. Mr. Gonzalez appears to be what sort of person?
- A. selfish
 - B. powerful
 - C. concerned
 - D. irresponsible
41. How does Mr. Gonzalez feel about garbage companies?
- F. fearful
 - G. thankful
 - H. respectful
 - J. distrustful
42. Mr. Gonzalez is probably writing to Representative Moreno because Moreno is a
- A. lawyer
 - B. nice person
 - C. garbage expert
 - D. powerful politician
43. What does Mr. Gonzalez probably want Representative Moreno to do?
- F. talk to him about recycling
 - G. recycle more of his own garbage
 - H. introduce a bill that would force Texans to recycle
 - J. ask garbage companies to set up recycling programs
44. What is Mr. Gonzalez afraid will happen in the future?
- A. People won't have enough glass and paper.
 - B. Garbage will sit in unsafe places with nowhere to put it.
 - C. No one will know how to recycle.
 - D. Garbage companies will control the Texas state government.
45. What is the main idea in this letter?
- F. Texas is a backward state.
 - G. Mr. Gonzalez cares deeply about his grandchildren.
 - H. Moreno has not done a good job.
 - J. The amount of garbage in Texas should be reduced somehow.
46. What does Mr. Gonzalez do with his used newspapers and bottles?
- A. He bums them.
 - B. He reuses them.
 - C. He recycles them.
 - D. He throws them in the garbage.
47. Which of these best summarizes the newspaper article?
- F. The town of Trinity is in trouble.
 - G. Harrington Landfill has closed because it was full.
 - H. Harrington Landfill has brought money into Libertyville.
 - J. Communities should deal with their trash, not haul it elsewhere.
48. Mr. Gonzalez and Mayor Scott would probably agree that
- A. landfill closings are a big problem
 - B. Trinity doesn't handle its garbage properly
 - C. landfills are a health hazard to people living nearby
 - D. Harrington Landfill should have warned clients sooner before closing.
49. Why did the Harrington Landfill close?
- F. The landfill's owners retired.
 - G. Local residents sued the owners.
 - H. Garbage blocked the landfill's gate.
 - J. The U.S. government forced the landfill to shut down.

When reading a speech, you come across the sentence, “I am *foursquare* against the Senator’s plan for a new tax hike.” Here is the dictionary entry for the word *foursquare*.

four-square (fôr' skwâr') *adj.* **1.** Having four equal sides and four right angles: square. **2.** Very sure or firmly convinced. **3.** Open or candid. **4.** Trustworthy.

50. Which definition of the word *foursquare* is used in the sentence?

- F. Definition 1
- G. Definition 2
- H. Definition 3
- J. Definition 4



ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| 1. H | 26. D |
| 2. D | 27. G |
| 3. J | 28. C |
| 4. A | 29. J |
| 5. F | 30. B |
| 6. B | 31. J |
| 7. D | 32. C |
| 8. H | 33. F |
| 9. A | 34. C |
| 10. J | 35. G |
| 11. A | 36. D |
| 12. H | 37. G |
| 13. B | 38. D |
| 14. F | 39. J |
| 15. A | 40. C |
| 16. G | 41. J |
| 17. B | 42. D |
| 18. H | 43. H |
| 19. C | 44. B |
| 20. H | 45. J |
| 21. B | 46. D |
| 22. F | 47. G |
| 23. D | 48. A |
| 24. F | 49. J |
| 25. A | 50. G |