

Computerized
Placement
Test

**Preparation Workshop
Materials for Reading
(3rd Edition)**

VALENCIA
A BETTER PLACE TO START.

Orlando, Florida

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The CPT (Computerized Placement Test) Preparation Workshop was created to help students **to review** the major skills that are assessed on the CPT in order to achieve the most accurate placement into courses in English, reading, and mathematics. **If you have not learned the subject matter covered in this workshop at any earlier time, it is unlikely that you will be able to learn it for the first time through this workshop.**

Faculty with an expertise in each of the disciplines (English, reading, and mathematics) prepared these materials. The materials in this handbook are copyrighted (1998) with Valencia Community College.

The workshop materials are divided into sections:

1. General information about the CPT, the scores required for placement into college level coursework, and other resources for CPT preparation
2. Practice test with answer key
3. Tip Sheets that review each skill area included in the practice test
4. Additional Practice Test with answer key

Please use these resources to prepare for the CPT so that you can achieve the most accurate course placement possible. If you have any questions, please visit the Advising and Counseling Center on any Valencia Community College campus.

T E S T - T A K I N G T I P # 1



Understand the importance of the test.

The **Computerized Placement Tests (CPTs)** will measure your abilities in algebra, mathematics, reading, and sentence skills. Your scores on these tests will determine which classes you can take when you begin your studies at Valencia Community College.

Here are the scores and corresponding courses:

MATH	CPT Score	Algebra Score 41 or less Arithmetic 71 or less	Algebra Score 41 or less Arithmetic 72 or more	Algebra Score 42 to 71	Algebra Score 72 to 89	Algebra Score 90 or more
READING	CPT Score	59 or less	60-82	83 or higher		
	Corresponding Course	MAT 0012C College Prep Math	MAT 0020 C College Prep Math	MAT 0024 College Prep Math	MAT 1033 Inter. Algebra College Level Elective	Take College Level Math test to determine beginning College Level Math course

READING	CPT Score	59 or less	60-82	83 or higher	
	Corresponding Course	REA 0001, College-Preparatory Reading I	REA 0002, College – Preparatory Reading II	No mandatory Reading class	

SENTENCE SKILLS	CPT Score	53 or less	54-82	83 or higher
	Corresponding Course	ENC 0010, College-Preparatory English I	ENC 0012, College-Preparatory English II	ENC 1101, Freshman Composition I

Take the CPTs seriously, for they will determine whether you can register for college-prep or college-level courses. The CPTs require your best effort so that you are accurately placed in courses where you can succeed.

Although you might want to start college-level courses immediately, the faculty and staff here at Valencia Community College want you to take classes where you can work hard and earn a good grade. We do not want you to start a course if you do not have the appropriate skills. If you take a course above your skill level, you are likely to end up struggling all semester, getting discouraged, and withdrawing or even failing.

Although you might be disappointed about testing into a college-prep course, remember that these classes will give you skills that will ensure your success in college.

SOURCES FOR CPT REVIEW

A basic source for all students is the CLAST Review book available at the LRC or TRC at all campuses. These review books include reviews in all CLAST areas: reading, English, and math. The skills are reviewed with practice tests included. These review books are available at commercial outlets such as the Valencia Book Store or Barnes and Noble, Borders, or Books-a-Million.

READING TEST # 1



CPT Reading Review Practice Exam

Instructions: Choose the best possible answer based on the stated or implied meaning of the paired sentences.

1. The large, hairy tarantula is relatively harmless.
The small brown recluse spider is dangerously poisonous.

How are the two sentences related?

- A. The second sentence provides a contrast with the idea stated in the first.
- B. The first sentence gives an example of what is stated in the second.
- C. The second sentence provides a solution to the problem stated in the first.
- D. The first sentence states a cause and the second states its effect.\

2. Science fiction and similar kinds of fantasy can be interesting and instructive and even good escape.
There are lessons to be learned from “Star Trek”, Star Wars, and Dune, and what passes for the future on TV and in the movies.

What does the second sentence do?

- A. The second sentence states an effect of the first sentence.
- B. The second sentence presents a solution to the problem stated in the first.
- C. The second sentence clarifies the idea stated in the first sentence.
- D. The second sentence contradicts the idea stated in the first sentence.

3. But for investors who like to deal on a smaller level, there are penny stocks.
Penny stocks are those that sell on the Over the Counter market for less than five dollars.

What does the second sentence do in relation to the first.?

- A. It analyzes the statement made in the first sentence.
- B. It defines something in the first sentence.
- C. It states an effect from the first sentence.
- D. It gives an example of something in the first sentence.

4. Waterbed owners beware!
It can cost up to \$300 a year to heat your luxurious sleeping contraptions!

- A. What does the second sentence do in relation to the first?
- B. It defines something in the first sentence.
- C. It restates an idea found in the first sentence.
- D. It gives a cause for an idea found in the first sentence.
- E. It states an effect of something in the first sentence.

5. All university students experience stress, not just new students.
This stress is a result of high performance demands.

What is the relationship of the second sentence to the first?

- A. It alters the meaning of the first sentence.
- B. It restates the meaning of the first sentence.
- C. It gives an example of an idea in the first sentence.
- D. It indicates a cause for an effect stated in the first sentence.

6. The causes of the Great Depression are not entirely agreed upon by economists.
Some blame overpopulation and underconsumption that resulted primarily from a maldistribution of wealth.

How are the two sentences related?

- A. The second sentence clarifies what was stated in the first sentence.
- B. The second sentence contradicts what was stated in the first sentence.
- C. The second sentence states an effect of an idea stated in the first sentence.
- D. The second sentence restates the idea contained in the first sentence.

Instructions: Choose the best possible answer based on the stated or implied meaning of the passages.

7. There were definite rules governing the courtship period, from the “bundling” permitted in early New England days, when young couples slept side by side with all their clothes on, to strict etiquette that prescribed what sort of gifts a man might give his fiancée in circles where expensive gifts might be customary. Gifts had to be immediately consumable, like candy or flowers, or indestructible, like diamonds—which could be given back, their value unimpaired, if there was a rift in the relationship. Objects that could be damaged by use, like gloves and furs, were forbidden. A gentleman might call for a lady in a cab or in his own equipage, but it was regarded as inappropriate for him to pay for her train fare if they went on a journey.

According to the passage all of the following would be considered acceptable gifts that a man could give his fiancée during courtship except

- A. A dozen long stemmed roses.
- B. A brooch.
- C. A train ticket.
- D. A diamond necklace

8. Perception is strongly influenced by attention. Unfortunately, if you daydream during a lecture, little or nothing will reach your brain. Attending is not always easy, so you should take notes and make conscious efforts to remain alert. Did you notice an error in the previous sentence? You probably were concentrating on the content and although your eyes saw the word *so* repeated, you ignored it. Similarly, you were probably not focusing any attention on your thumb until you read this sentence. You simply cannot attend to every stimulus around you, so only certain things are selected. Have you ever driven down a highway with your gas needle nearing “empty”? Chances are you became preoccupied with the location of gas stations. Another day when your tank was full but your stomach was empty, the gas stations might have been overlooked, but every diner and restaurant would have caught your eye. Your attention is usually focused on needed things. If you are hungry or thirsty right now, you might have a problem focusing on your reading rather than on your refrigerator.

According to the author, we can usually concentrate on

- A. What we are expected to pay attention to.
- B. The many random ideas that occur while listening to a lecture.
- C. Daydreams that occupy our thoughts when we become bored or uninterested.
- D. The task that needs to be done at the moment.

9. Great cities are essentially democratic, and I must confess that I feel an invincible platonic mistrust of democracies. In great cities, culture is diffused but vulgarized. People abandon the quiet reading of books to go to the theatre, that school of vulgarity; they feel the need of being together; the gregarious instinct enslaves them; they must be seeing one another.

This passage suggests that

- A. The author believes that great cities are essentially democratic.
- B. Given a choice, the author would probably prefer to live in a small city.
- C. The author has never lived in a small town or out in the country.
- D. The author believes that democracy is the best form of government.

10. The problem of how to live with children isn't as new as you might think. Centuries before the advent of Dr. Spock or the PTA, philosophers debated the juvenile question, not always with compassion. There's a quotation from one of the antique sages floating around in what passes for my mind which, for pure cynicism, could set a Montaigne or a Mort Sahl back on his heels. "Why," asks a disciple, "are we so devoted to our grandchildren?" And the graybeard answers, "Because it is easy to love the enemies of one's enemies."

The passage suggests that parents and children

- A. will always be enemies.
- B. will never be friends.
- C. will be united through grandchildren.
- D. will always have some conflict.

11. This American government—what is it but a tradition, though a recent one, endeavoring to transmit itself unimpaired to posterity, but each instance losing some of its integrity? It has not the vitality and force of a single living man, for a single man can bend it to his will. It is sort of a wooden gun to the people themselves. But it is not the less necessary for this, for the people must have some complicated machinery or other, and hear its din, to satisfy that idea of government which they have.

The purpose of this passage is to show

- A. the shortcomings of the American government and the strength of the people.
- B. that the American government is a means, not an end, for the people.
- C. that the American government is only a tradition.
- D. that the American government is losing integrity over time.

Dead counselors are safest. The grave puts an end to flattery and artifice, and the information we receive from books is pure from interest, fear, or ambition. Dead counselors are likewise most instructive because they are heard with patience and reverence. We are willing to believe that man wiser than ourselves, from whose abilities we may receive advantage, without any danger of rivalry or opposition, and who affords us the light of his experience, without hurting our eyes by flashes of insolence.

12. The main subject of this passage is the benefits of

- A. death.
- B. books.
- C. advice.
- D. experience.

Instructions: Choose the best answers based on the implied or stated meaning of the passage.

“The will of the nation” is one of those phrases which have been most largely abused by the wily and despotic of every age. Some have seen the expression of it in the purchased suffrages of a few of the satellites of power; others, in the votes of a timid or an interested minority; and some have even discovered it in the silence of a people, on the supposition that the fact of submission established the right to command.

In America, the principle of sovereignty of the people is not either barren or concealed, as it is with some other nations; it is recognized by the customs and proclaimed by its laws; it spreads freely, and arrives without impediment of its remote consequences. If there be a country in the world where the doctrine of the sovereignty of the people can be fairly appreciated, where it can be studied in its application to the affairs of society, and where its dangers and its advantages may be judged, that country is assuredly America.

13. The main idea of the passage is

- A. America is truly governed by the will of the people.
- B. “The will of the nation” is one of those phrases which have been most largely abused by the wily and despotic of every age.
- C. Some countries give voting rights only to a privileged few.
- D. America is the only country in the world to abuse the phrase “the will of the nation.”

14. The passage suggests

- A. The principle of sovereignty of the people is dangerous.
- B. America should be a model of democracy for other nations.
- C. Democracy is the best form of government.
- D. The principle of sovereignty of the people is a paradox.

In deciding whether to visit ground zero at Trinity site, the following information may prove helpful to you. Radiation levels in the fenced, ground zero area are low. On average, the levels are only 10 times greater than the region's natural background radiation. A one-hour visit to the inner fenced region will result in a whole body exposure of one-half to one milliroentgen. To put this in perspective, a U.S. adult receives an average exposure of 90 milliroentgens every year from natural and medical resources. For example, we receive between 35 and 50 milliroentgens every year from the sun and 20 to 35 milliroentgens every year from our food. Living in a brick house adds 50 milliroentgens of exposure every year compared to living in a frame house. Finally, flying coast to coast in a jet liner gives an exposure of three to five milliroentgens each trip.

15. From this passage, we can conclude

- A. frame houses are safer than brick houses.
- B. any additional exposure to radiation over 90 milliroentgens annually is dangerous.
- C. a visitor should not stay more than one hour at the Trinity missile site
- D. most people can visit ground zero at Trinity without risking their health.

16. The tone of this passage can be described as

- A. reverent
- B. matter of fact
- C. alarming
- D. lighthearted

So it was with him, then—an inherited fighting instinct, a driving intensity to kill. He was the last of the fighting Duane, that old fighting stock of Texas. But not the memory of his dead father, nor the pleading of his soft-voiced mother, nor the warning of this uncle who stood before him now, had brought to Buck Duane so much realization of the dark passionate strain in his blood. It was the recurrence, a hundred-fold increased in power, of a strange emotion that for the last three years had arisen in him.

17. It can be inferred from this passage that

- A. Buck Duane will fight no matter what anyone says.
- B. There are many fighting groups in Texas.
- C. Killing is an inborn trait.
- D. Buck Duane's father was not a fighting Duane.

18. The main point of the selection is

- A. Duane's mother warned him about fighting.
- B. It is in Duane's blood to fight.
- C. Strange emotions can occur in those prone to fighting.
- D. Duane became a fighting Duane only in the last three years.

Not all the skills that are necessary for learning mathematics are learned in school. Measuring, computing, and manipulating objects that have dimensions and dynamic properties of their own are part of the everyday life of children. Children who miss out on these experiences may not be well primed for math in school.

Feminists have complained for a long time that playing with dolls is one way of convincing impressionable little girls that they may only be mothers or housewives—or, as in the case of the Barbie doll, “pin-up girls,” when they grow up. But doll playing may have even more serious consequences for little girls than that. Do girls find out about gravity and distance and shapes and sizes playing with dolls? Probably not.

19. According to the passage, feminists don't believe

- A. that little girls can find out about gravity, distance, shapes and sizes from playing with dolls.
- B. that playing with dolls causes little girls to narrow their career choices.
- C. that playing with dolls makes little girls want to be “pin-up” girls.
- D. that skills necessary for learning mathematics can be learned through play.

20. The main idea of this passage is

- A. gender conditioning contributes to math underachievement.
- B. playing with dolls is a worthless form of play.
- C. little girls are not as good in mathematics as little boys
- D. children learn more mathematical skills outside of the classroom.



CPT Reading Review Exam #1 Answer Key

1. A (Relationship)
2. C (Relationship)
3. B (Relationship)
4. C (Relationship)
5. D (Relationship)
6. A (Relationship)
7. C (Supporting Detail)
8. D (Supporting Detail)
9. B (Inference)
10. D (Main Idea – Implied)
11. B (Purpose)
12. B (Topic)
13. A (Main Idea)
14. B (Inference)
15. D (Inference)
16. B (Tone)
17. A (Inference)
18. B (Main Idea – Implied)
19. B (Inference)
20. A (Main Idea)

READING TIP #1

Finding the subject or topic of the passage

The main subject of the passage is often determined by the most commonly used subject of most of the sentences or the topic referred to most often either directly or through synonyms or pronouns. Most of the supporting details reflect information about this topic. We can identify the topic by asking ourselves “What is this all about?” or “Who is this all about?”

You are being asked to determine the topic when asked

1. An appropriate title for this passage would be
2. The main topic of this passage is
3. The author is primarily talking about
4. The subject of the passage is

Example of topic (12):

Dead counselors are safest. The grave puts an end to flattery and artifice, and the information we receive from books is pure from interest, fear, or ambition. Dead counselors are likewise most instructive because they are heard with patience and reverence. We are willing to believe that man wiser than ourselves, from whose abilities we may receive advantage, without any danger of rivalry or opposition, and who affords us the light of his experience, without hurting our eyes by flashes of insolence.

The main subject of this passage is the benefits of

- A. death.
- B. books.
- C. advice.
- D. experience.

Answer: B

- A. Death is the state of the counselors from whom we receive advice, but nowhere does the passage point to the benefits of death.
- B. Books are beneficial for all the reasons stated in the passage.
- C. The benefit is not the content of the books alone, but the nature of books, that they do not argue, or try to overwhelm.
- D. Experience is a supporting detail of the benefits from books.

READING TIP # 2



Finding the stated main idea of the passage

To determine the main idea, first ask yourself what is the topic or subject matter of this passage. After you determine the topic, ask yourself what point is being made about this topic or subject. A stated main idea mentions the topic (often as subject) and then makes a strong statement or claim about the topic. The topic sentence is generally easily identified because it stands out, summing up all of the information in the passage. The topic sentence may not be the first sentence of the passage; rather, it could appear anywhere, such as in the middle or at the end. Do not assume that the answer choices will duplicate the topic sentence; however, one choice will be very similar to the topic sentence.

You are asked to determine the main idea when asked

1. The central idea of this passage is
2. The author's main point is
3. The main idea of the passage is
4. The most accurate expression of the central or controlling idea is
5. Identify the sentence below that gives the most accurate statement of the central idea of this passage.

Example of stated main idea (13):

“The will of the nation” is one of those phrases which have been most largely abused by the wily and despotic of every age. Some have seen the expression of it in the purchased suffrages of a few of the satellites of power; others, in the votes of a timid or an interested minority; and some have even discovered it in the silence of a people, on the supposition that the fact of submission established the right to command.

In America, the principle of sovereignty of the people is not either barren or concealed, as it is with some other nations; it is recognized by the customs and proclaimed by its laws; it spreads freely, and arrives without impediment of its remote consequences. If there be a country in the world where the doctrine of the sovereignty of the people can be fairly appreciated, where it can be studied in its application to the affairs of society, and where its dangers and its advantages may be judged, that country is assuredly America.

The main idea of the passage is

- A. America is truly governed by the will of the people.
- B. “The will of the nation” is one of those phrases which have been most largely abused by the wily and despotic of every age.
- C. Some countries give voting rights only to a privileged few.
- D. America is the only country in the world to abuse the phrase “the will of the nation.”

Answer: A

- A. The principle of sovereignty is “not barren” states all people can take part in government.
- B. This is a supporting detail to the main idea.
- C. This is a supporting detail to the definition of sovereignty in the first paragraph.
- D. This is not supported in the passage.



READING TIP # 3

Finding the implied main idea

Passages with an implied main idea do not contain an explicit topic sentence, so you must figure out the main idea by considering the supporting details of the passage. As in determining the stated main idea, first determine the subject or topic of the passage. After identifying the topic, ask yourself what point is being made about the subject or topic. Try to create your own topic sentence for the paragraph. Look for clues in the supporting details. What conclusion can be drawn from all the supporting details?

You are asked the implied main idea when asked

1. The author implies
2. This passage suggests (or indicates)
3. The most accurate expression of the central or controlling idea of this passage is
4. The main point of the selection is

Example of implied main idea (10):

The problem of how to live with children isn't as new as you might think. Centuries before the advent of Dr. Spock or the PTA, philosophers debated the juvenile question, not always with compassion. There's a quotation from one of the antique sages floating around in what passes for my mind which, for pure cynicism, could set a Montaigne or a Mort Sahl back on his heels.
"Why," asks a disciple, "are we so devoted to our grandchildren?" And the greybeard answers, "Because it is easy to love the enemies of one's enemies."

The passage states that parents and children

- A. will always be enemies.
- B. will never be friends.
- C. will be united through grandchildren.
- D. will always have some conflict.

Answer: D

- A. Passage does not state that parents and children are enemies.
- B. Passage does not state this.
- C. Passage does not state or imply parents and children will unite though grandchildren.
- D. The word “always” here is tempered with “some” which limits the conflict to some point in life. The use of the word “enemies” implies conflict, not unity.



READING TIP # 4



Finding the supporting details

Supporting details are specific information added to a passage in support of a more general idea. Supporting details

1. are specific, particular, explicit, and singular pieces of information that combine to support, prove, clarify, or develop unstated or stated main ideas, inferences or conclusions.
2. suggest, imply, indicate or hint at an unstated main idea, inference or conclusion.
3. appear in the form of explanations, examples, descriptions, illustrations, comparisons, contrasts, listed items, chronological terms, definitions, causes, effects, or statistics or graphs, or names of things.

You may be asked about supporting details when asked

1. All of the following are included except
2. According to the passage, all of the following would be acceptable except
3. What does the passage say about
4. The author quotes _____ to show
5. The passage (author) compares (contrasts)

Example of Supporting Details (7):

There were definite rules governing the courtship period, from the “bundling” permitted in early New England days, when young couples slept side by side with all their clothes on, to strict etiquette that prescribed what sort of gifts a man might give his fiancée in circles where expensive gifts might be customary. Gifts had to be immediately consumable, like candy, flowers, or indestructible, like diamonds—which could be given back, their value unimpaired, if there was a rift in the relationship. Objects that could be damaged by use, like gloves and furs, were forbidden. A gentleman might call for a lady in a cab or in his own equipage, but it was regarded as inappropriate for him to pay for her train fare if they went on a journey.

According to the passage, all of the following would be considered acceptable gifts that a man could give his fiancée during courtship except

- A. a dozen long stemmed roses
- B. a brooch
- C. a train ticket
- D. a diamond necklace

Answer: C

- A. Flowers are listed as acceptable, not an exception.
- B. A brooch is jewelry, which could be returned.
- C. Paying the fare for a trip was considered inappropriate.
- D. Diamonds are indestructible and could be returned.



READING TIP # 5



Finding relationships within and between sentences

This skill involves sentence comprehension. You must recognize relationships between the parts or within one sentence. Just as with the main idea, the subject of a sentence is the topic, and the action of the sentence reveals the point made about the subject.

Relationships within and between sentences fall into some basic types:

1. addition – indicates that the author is adding onto ideas already mentioned.
2. comparison – indicates that two or more things are being compared, looks at how they are the same or what they have in common.
3. contrast – indicates that two or more things are being contrasted, looks at how they are different.
4. example – gives an example of an unknown word or concept.
5. time – indicates when one thing happened in relation to something else happening, a sequence of events, anecdotes, directions, narratives.
6. cause and effect – suggests that because the first thing happened, the second followed, focuses on why, gives reasons and results.

You will be presented with two sentences. You may be asked

1. How are the two sentences related?
2. What is the relationship of the second sentence to the first?
3. What is the relationship of the first sentence to the second?
4. What does the second sentence do?
5. The second sentence gives (or indicates or relates) ?

Waterbed owners beware!

It can cost up to \$300 a year to heat your luxurious contraptions.

What does the second sentence do in relation to the first?

- A. It defines something in the first sentence.
- B. It restates an idea found in the first sentence.
- C. It gives a cause for an idea found in the first sentence.
- D. It states an effect of something in the first sentence.

Answer: C

- A. There are no terms defined in the second sentence.
- B. There is no repetition of concepts in the second sentence.
- C. Money is a cause for concern to consumers warned in the first sentence.
- D. The warning in the first sentence does not generate the cost of the waterbed.

But for investors who like to deal on a smaller level, there are penny stocks.

Penny stocks are those that sell on the Over-the-Counter market for less than five dollars.

What does the second sentence do in relation to the first?

- A. It analyzes the statement made in the first sentence.
- B. It defines something in the first sentence.
- C. It states an effect from the first sentence.
- D. It gives an example of something in the first sentence.

Answer: B

- A. The second sentence does not really analyze the buying and selling of stocks.
- B. Penny stocks is defined in the second sentence to add information to the first.
- C. A definition is not an effect. Buying and selling does not cause the conditions for Penny stocks.
- D. There are no specific examples named in the second sentence.

Example:

All university students experience stress, not just new students.

This stress is a result of high performance demands.

What is the relationship of the second sentence to the first?

- A. It alters the meaning of the first sentence.
- B. It restates the meaning of the first sentence.
- C. It gives an example of an idea in the first sentence.
- D. It indicates a cause for an effect stated in the first sentence.

Answer: D

- A. The fact that all students experience stress is not changed by the naming of the cause.
- B. The second sentence adds information rather than restating the same information.
- C. There is no example of stress named in the second sentence.
- D. High performance demands are the cause for the effect of stress stated in the first sentence.



READING TIP # 6

Finding inferences and conclusions

An inference is a conclusion that is *suggested* by the author. It is not directly stated. This is sometimes referred to as “reading between the lines.” The reader must use three things to make an inference:

1. All of the clues provided by the author.
2. The reader’s own background knowledge and personal experience *as they apply to the clues*.
3. Common sense and logic.

In literature, the author may show with words and details rather than just telling the information.

You may be asked about inference

1. The passage suggests that
2. You can infer from this passage that
3. The writer is implying that
4. From this passage you can conclude that
5. The writer of the passage is (feels, will, has, has never)

Example of inference (9):

Great cities are essentially democratic, and I must confess that I feel an invincible platonic mistrust of democracies. In great cities, culture is diffused but vulgarized. People abandon the quiet reading of books to go to the theatre, that school of vulgarity; they feel the need of being together; the gregarious instinct enslaves them; they must be seeing one another.

This passage suggests that

- A. The author believes that great cities are essentially democratic.
- B. Given a choice, the author would probably prefer to live in a small city.
- C. The author has never lived in a small town or out in the country.
- D. The author believes that democracy is the best form of government.

Answer: B

- A. This is explicitly stated, not implied.
- B. Since the author dislikes “great” cities and does not mention the country or small towns, this is a likely preference.
- C. These are not mentioned or implied in this passage.
- D. This is not true based on the author’s “platonic mistrust” of democracies.



READING TIP # 7



Finding the author's purpose

Purpose is the writer's objective when writing. There are three main categories of purpose to discover when reading.

1. **To inform** is a primary objective of writers. The author wants the reader to have certain information. Information is usually related in a straightforward and matter-of-fact manner. Textbooks are usually written to inform the reader of information in a certain field.
2. **To persuade** is another objective of writing. The author tries to convince or change the mind of the reader to the author's point of view. Often, but not always, persuasive writing uses imperatives such as *ought*, *should*, *must* and is written in second person "you" to catch the reader's attention. A wealth of information for a position or against may indicate the writer wants the reader to believe the validity of his/her position. Irony, satire, editorials and argument are some persuasive types of writing.
3. **To entertain** is another objective of writers. Fiction's first goal is to entertain. It might also inform and persuade, but its first job is to be pleasing to the reader. Entertainment can involve the emotions such as humor, tragedy or romance, or the intellect with whodunits and adventure stories.

You are asked to determine purpose when asked

1. Why did the author write this?
2. What did the author intend for the reader to believe?
3. What is the author trying to prove?
4. The author wrote this because
5. The author is trying to
6. The author intends to
7. The purpose of this passage is to

Example of purpose (11):

Parents who do not read to their children often excuse themselves by claiming a lack of time. But with few exceptions, their failure to read is a matter of priorities. Most parents find time to put in a full workday, take a full complement of coffee breaks, eat lunch and dinner, read the newspaper, watch the nightly newscast or ball game, do the dishes, talk on the phone for thirty minutes (mostly about nothing), run to the store for a pack of cigarettes or a lottery ticket, drive to the mall, and never miss that favorite prime-time show. Somehow they find time for those things—important or unimportant as they are—but can't find time to read to a child, which is much more important than all the other items on a leisure priority list.

The author's purpose in this passage is to

- A. Give an optimistic view of the parents' role in their child's education.
- B. Be critical of those parents whose priority is to spend more time on themselves rather than their children.
- C. Explain the busy lives of families in today's society.
- D. Give an objective reason why many children have difficulty learning to read.

Answer: B

- A. The author does not provide any positive message regarding possible changes in the parents' behavior.
- B. The author definitely feels that "thirty minutes" spent on any other unimportant activity should or could have been spent reading with the child.
- C. While the passage does refer to the busy lives of parents, the topic of the passage is the role of parents in spending time reading with their child.
- D. The author does not refer to the school's important role in the child's learning to read.



READING TIP #8



Finding the author's tone

Tone is the attitude, the disposition or indicator of what is felt, thought, or believed by the author. When determining tone, ask yourself, is the passage positive, negative or neutral? If you can determine the general category of tone, then try to determine what kind of positive feeling does the author have, or what kind of negative feeling does the author have. The reader must keep in mind he/she is looking for the author's attitude, not the reader's. You must examine words or phrases that suggest a positive, neutral or negative mind set.

Negative: John presented the most contrived plan of action to date.

Positive: John presented the most scrupulous proposal to date.

Neutral: John presented his proposal on time.

Example of tone (16):

In deciding whether to visit ground zero at Trinity site, the following information may prove helpful to you. Radiation levels in the fenced, ground zero area are low. On an average, the levels are only 10 times greater than the region's natural background radiation. A one-hour visit to the inner fenced region will result in a whole body exposure of one-half to one milliroentgen. To put this in perspective, a U.S. adult receives an average exposure of 90 milliroentgens every year from the sun and 20 to 35 milliroentgens every year from our food. Living in a brick house adds 50 milliroentgens of exposure every year compared to living in a frame house. Finally, flying coast to coast in a jet liner gives an exposure of three to five milliroentgens each trip.

The tone of this passage can be described as

- A. reverent
- B. matter-of-fact
- C. alarming
- D. lighthearted

Answer: B

- A. Reverent implies worship or awe of the subject while this passage seems to be more straightforward.
- B. The overall tone is matter-of-fact. It is informing any visitor of the risks involved in going to ground zero at Trinity site.
- C. The risks don't imply alarm or serious concern.
- D. There is no implied humor or lack of concern regarding the topic discussed in the passage.

READING TEST # 2



CPT Reading Review Practice Exam

Instructions: Choose the best possible answer based on the stated or implied meaning of the paired sentences.

1. So-called “rap music” is a cultural phenomenon booming into a multimillion-dollar-a-year business.

The occurrences of one-hit recording artists, low production budgets and international appeal keep the music in demand.

What does the second sentence do in relation to the first?

- A. It analyzes the first.
- B. It contradicts the first.
- C. It gives an example of the first.
- D. It restates the meaning of the first.

2. Aside from its high intelligence quotient, the dolphin has displayed a moral sensibility.

Marine researchers are baffled by the dolphin’s response to humans in eminent danger of drowning.

How are the two sentences related?

- A. The second sentence indicates an example of the first.
- B. The second sentence creates a comparison to the first.
- C. The first sentence is the cause, and the second sentence states the effect.
- D. The first sentence gives an example of what is stated in the second sentence.

3. Any writer, I suppose, feels that the world into which he was born is nothing less than a conspiracy against the cultivation of his talent.

It is only because the world looks on his talent with such a frightening indifference that the artist is compelled to make his talent important.

How are the two sentences related?

- A. The second sentence precedes the first one from the standpoint of importance.
- B. The second sentence gives an example of what is stated in the first.
- C. They are roughly the same length.
- D. The second sentence explains the first sentence.

4. In one way, the short-story writer aims to present action and evaluate the meaning of an experience by style.

The focus, and to an almost obsessional degree, the poet's task is to evoke lasting imagery.

What does the second sentence do?

- A. It restates the meaning of the first sentence.
- B. It gives an example of the first sentence.
- C. It gives a comparison to the first sentence.
- D. It creates ambiguity.

5. Converse with almost any man, grown old in a profession, and you will find him regretting that he did not enter into some different course, to which he too late finds his genius better adapted, or in which he discovers that wealth and honor are more easily attained.

“The merchant,” says Horace, “envies the soldier, and the soldier recounts the felicity of the merchant.”

How does the second sentence relate to the first?

- A. The second sentence illustrates the first sentence.
- B. The second contradicts the first sentence.
- C. The second gives an exception to the first.
- D. The second is a quote from the first sentence.

6. Larry Bird is an NBA Hall of Fame basketball player.

He valued the role of persistent and consistent preparation.

What is the relationship of the second sentence to the first?

- A. The second sentence creates ambiguity.
- B. The second sentence is a contradiction of the first.
- C. The second sentence concludes the idea of the first sentence.
- D. The second sentence explains the first sentence.

Instructions: Choose the best possible answer based on the stated or implied in passage.

7. Historically, the job of women in society is to care for the husband, the home, and the children. As a homemaker, it has been up to the woman to support the husband and care for the house; as a mother, the role is to care for the children and pass along cultural traditions and values to the children. These roles are no different in the African-American community, except for the fact that they are magnified to even larger proportions. In fact, just as the role of motherhood in the African-American family is magnified and elevated, so is the role of the wife. Her role in African-American culture is one of love, wisdom, guidance, and patience.

The central point of the passage is that

- A. the roles of the African-American in society are magnified and elevated.
- B. the role that society has for women in the family is one of caring.
- C. the roles of the African-American woman.
- D. the roles of the African-American woman in the family are magnified and elevated.

8. Researchers have found that tobacco, cotton and corn under attack by the tobacco budworm can summon a special budworm S.W.A.T. team. Scientists from the University of Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station in Tifton and U.S. Department of Agriculture stations in Tifton and Gainesville said that when the worms start chewing on those plants, they start spewing a complex blend of airborne chemicals. That's where the S.W.A.T. team comes in. A special species of parasitic wasp senses the chemical, flies to the worms, and uses them as nests for their young. The wasp larvae feed off the worms, and the worms die.

The topic of the passage is

- A. scientific research of budworms.
- B. scientific research of parasitic wasps.
- C. scientific discovery involving tobacco, cotton and corn.
- D. scientific development of a S.W.A.T. team for tobacco, cotton and corn.

9. It is not difficult to conceive, however, that for many reasons a man writes much better than he lives. For, without entering into refined speculations, it may be shown much easier to design than to perform. A man proposes his schemes of life in a state of abstraction and disengagement, exempt from the enticements of hope, the solicitations of affection, the importunities of appetite, or the depressions of fear, and is in the same state with him who teaches upon land the art of navigation, to whom the sea is always smooth, and the wind always prosperous.

The central point of this passage is

- A. that men who write well, live well.
- B. that writing does not replace living.
- C. that writing is easier than living.
- D. that men who write have no experience living.

10. Words are vehicles that express most of our thoughts, ideas and feelings to others. We can learn from our own individual experiences or from the experiences of other people. Still, transfer of knowledge by the spoken word is limited, because we cannot talk with all the experts in the world nor with people from past ages. That is where the written word comes in. If thoughts and ideas are recorded in books, they are available in spite of the inaccessibility of the author. By reading, we gather the accumulated knowledge of all generations from all the world. But we don't use words only to convey our thoughts. We use them to manipulate ideas, to plan our future, and to make decisions. Thinking, in fact, generally utilizes words.

The passage implies that words

- A. are not man's only means of expression.
- B. are not necessary to know the past.
- C. are vital to communication and thinking.
- D. can be used to manipulate ideas.

11. Of course, there are different kinds of kisses. For instance, there is the kiss that the devout person implants on the ring of the Pope. There is the maternal kiss of a mother on her child. There is the friendly kiss of two people who are meeting or separating. There is the kiss that a king exacts from his conquered subjects.

The central point of this passage is that

- A. kings have their subjects kiss them.
- B. many types of kisses exist.
- C. the Pope gets kissed frequently.
- D. all kisses are freely given.

12. Over a concrete bridge fled a limousine of long sleek hood and noiseless engine. These people in evening clothes were returning from an all-night rehearsal of a Little Theater play, an artistic adventure considerably illuminated by champagne. Below the bridge curved a railroad, a maze of green and crimson lights. The New York flyer boomed past, and twenty lines of polished steel leaped into the glare.

From the passage, it is suggested that

- A. these people usually do not drink.
- B. the rehearsal was an informal affair.
- C. there was a party for the cast.
- D. this took place at Christmastime.

Instructions: Choose the best answer based on the stated or implied meaning of the passage.

WILLOWGROVE, Pa. –the Pentagon and Pennsylvania finally agreed on a plan to clean up all the state's contaminated military sites by 2010 in an unprecedented pact that could be followed by other states. Under the deal signed Friday, military officials pledged to work with the state to tackle environmental hazards that may exist on as many as 1,000 sites. “They have agreed with the state to clean up their sites to meet certain standards,” said Pete Trosini, a spokesman for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. “We hope it will be looked to as a national model.” Of the Pennsylvania sites, 53 are top-priority cases. A site assessment will be completed in the next two years.

13. The passage implies that

- A. the Pentagon and Pennsylvania share equal responsibility for the hazardous sites.
- B. the Pentagon has been reluctant in taking responsibility for hazardous military sites.
- C. Pennsylvania is the national model for cleaning up hazardous military sites.
- D. a site assessment will be completed in the next two years.

14. According to the passage

- A. there are at least 1000 sites.
- B. there are no fewer than 100 sites.
- C. the Pentagon admits to as many as 1000 sites.
- D. the number of sites ranges between 53 and 1000.

Because I am a Latin woman trying to survive in a society dominated by a language and a culture that are not my own, I felt a need to investigate the fate of those women who, like myself, venture into a realm that seems to go completely against their nature. I have for a long time been aware of the controversy that surrounds the definition of what Latin or Hispanic truly is. Is it enough to speak both English and Spanish to be considered Latina(o) or is the determining factor not language but the place of one's birth? The answer to this question has yet to be found. In fact, the differentiation between South American Latinos and the Hispanics in the U.S. and Canada has in the past decades been added to this confusion.

15. The author's attitude toward her subject is

- A. sarcastic.
- B. serious.
- C. solemn
- D. cynical

16. It may be inferred that the author believes that

- A. Spanish speaking Americans are angry.
- B. Spanish speaking Americans are apathetic.
- C. Spanish speaking Americans are different than Spanish speaking Canadians.
- D. Spanish speaking people feel alienated from American and Canadian cultures.

Many readers are inefficient because they lack purpose in reading. A man wandering about in a snow storm or otherwise without direction will travel in circles. The same holds true for a man who reads aimlessly. He goes through a lot of motions without getting anywhere. However, the solution is obvious. First, find a relationship between your reading and your own experience. If there is no real connection, set up a contest between yourself and the author. Play by his rules. Examine his reasoning. See if you can add more and stronger points or ferret out the weaknesses, contradictions and errors.

17. The main idea of the passage is

- A. efficient readers have a strategy and purpose when they read.
- B. many readers cannot relate what they read.
- C. the purpose in reading is to discover the main thought.
- D. efficient reading is enjoyable.

18. This passage would most likely be found in

- A. a scientific journal.
- B. a basic reading textbook.
- C. a newspaper.
- D. a book dealing with learning theory.

The practice of corporal punishment, which is hitting a child, is a hotly debated issue. The comments and position of Mrs. Gretchen Small rationalize one side of the issue. She says, "I get so furious when I see my son doing something dangerous that I feel like murdering him. Instead of killing him, though, I smack him. People tell me I should not hit him under any circumstances, but sometimes I just get carried away. Hitting is not necessarily damaging. For example, when a child dashes into a heavily traveled street, or leans out of a sixth floor window, one has to act immediately. Words are not enough. At such times when instant action is needed, grabbing, slapping and pulling are not hostile acts."

19. Mrs. Small's comments suggest that, in dealing with her son, she is likely to be

- A. apathetic.
- B. emotional
- C. too lenient.
- D. overly protective.

20. The passage suggests that

- A. Mrs. Small's beliefs are commonplace.
- B. Mrs. Small's beliefs are contrary to accepted belief.
- C. Mrs. Small's beliefs are just one side of an ongoing dispute.
- D. Mrs. Small's beliefs are unbelievable.



CPT Reading Review Practice Exam #2 Answer Key

1. Answer A (Relationship)
Choice A: The second sentence supplies an explanation of the cultural phenomenon and how the phenomenon affects the music business.
Choice B: The second sentence is not contradictory. Rather it explains the cultural phenomenon and how money is made.
Choice C: The second sentence is not an example of “rap music.”
Choice D: The second sentence does not reword the same idea of the first sentence.
It goes into further detail.

2. Answer A (Relationship)
Choice A: The dolphin’s response to humans in danger is an example of a display of moral sensibility.
Choice B: The first sentence is a generality while the second gives an example of the first. For two items to be compared, they must both be either general or specific.
Choice C: The first sentence describes an observation. Observations cannot cause what is being observed.
Choice D: Since the first sentence is more general than the second is, it is not possible for the first to be the example of the second. Examples are specific supports of general ideas.

3. Answer D (Relationship)
Choice A: There are no signal words or implied priority in either sentence to suggest one is more important than the other.
Choice B: The second sentence gives no specific example of conspiracy.
Choice C: Appearance on the page is not a criterion by which to measure relationships of meaning.
Choice D: Frightening indifference may explain the feeling of conspiracy felt by the writer in his/her struggle to cultivate his/her talent.

4. Answer: C (Relationship)
Choice A: The second sentence is about poets while the first is about fiction writers.
It cannot be a restatement of the same idea.
Choice B: Poets are not examples of fiction writers.
Choice C: The two sentences describe a like manner of expressing their ideas, through style/imagery.
Choice D: There is continuity of idea in that both sentences discuss the job of the writer, whether poet or short story writer.

5. Answer: A (Relationship)
Choice A: The quote by Horace illustrates the point through the soldier and the merchant's attitudes.
Choice B: There is no contradiction as the attitude toward profession is the same in both sentences.
Choice C: The merchant and soldier are not exceptions to the attitude expressed in the first sentence.
Choice D: The second sentence is not stated in the first sentence; therefore, it cannot be a quote from it.

6. Answer D (Relationship)
Choice A: Ambiguity implies confusion, lack of clarity. Both sentences describe Larry Bird. His values directly affect his ability as a basketball player.
Choice B: Values and success do not imply contradiction.
Choice C: The second sentence is an additional fact about the same subject as the first, but there is no signal for conclusion present or implied.
Choice D: Since both sentences are describing Larry Bird, the reader can imply that the values of the second sentence helped to explain the success he attained in the first sentence.

7. Answer D (Main Idea – stated)
Choice A: The passage relates African-American women's roles in the family, not society.
Choice B: Part of a detail addressing women in general. Details cannot be main ideas.
Choice C: Main ideas are always complete sentences. This is not a statement, and it is too general and goes beyond the scope of the paragraph.
Choice D: Stated in the middle of the paragraph.

8. Answer C (Topic)
Choice A: It is through the research of tobacco, cotton and corn that the defense mechanism was found (sentence 1).
Choice B: It is through the scientific research of the three plants that the function of the parasitic wasp is uncovered (sentences 1, 2, 3).
Choice C: Correct
Choice D: The three plants, not the scientists, create the S.W.A.T. team defense (sentences 2, 3).

9. Answer C Main Idea – stated)
Choice A: There is no evidence that a writer lives better than any other person.
Choice B: This is not part of the writer's argument. He is concerned with the ease of writing, not whether it is more or less important.
Choice C: Stated in first sentence.
Choice D: There is no evidence that one activity cancels out the possibility of the other.

10. Answer C (Inference)
Choice A: Not stated or implied.
Choice B: Applies only to written language/words, not oral language.
Choice C: Correct; The printed word preserves the communication between generations after the author is gone and is essential to the thinking process.
Choice D: A stated detail cannot be an inference.

11. Answer B (Main Idea – Stated)
Choice A: This is a detail and cannot be the main idea.
Choice B: Correct; This is stated in the first sentence of the passage.
Choice C: There is no implication regarding the number of times the Pope gets kissed.
Choice D: Not true in the case of a king exacting a kiss from conquered subjects. Conquered subjects do not submit willingly. Main idea applies to whole paragraph.

12. Answer C (Inference)
Choice A: There is no indication that this is a common occurrence or not.
Choice B: Dressing in evening clothes usually implies formality in the occasion.
Choice C: The all night rehearsal mentioned, including champagne, was not a separate party, so one could assume the cast were involved.
Choice D: While drinking and red and green lights may imply Christmastime, the lights are part of the permanent sight from the bridge overlooking the railroad, not a seasonal occurrence.

13. Answer B (Inference)
Choice A: The fact that these are military sites and that the military did the pledging to clean up “their” sites implies military responsibility, not joint responsibility.
Choice B: Correct. The fact it was “finally” agreed upon and that the pact was “unprecedented” implies reluctance on the part of the military.
Choice C: This was a hoped for result of the pact, not actual result.
Choice D: This is stated in the passage, not implied.

14. Answer C (Supporting Detail)
Choice A: 1000 sites are the most the Pentagon admits to.
Choice B: There may be “as many as 1000 sites” implies closer to 1000 than 100, certainly no more than 1000.
Choice C: Stated.
Choice D: Fifty-three sites are only mentioned as priorities, not as a low estimate of sites overall.

15. Answer B (Tone)
Choice A: There are no ironic, sharp or wounding remarks in the passage.
Choice B: The narrator is Latin, so the quandry is personal which is serious to the writer.
Choice C: There is nothing gloomy, mournful or remorseful in the passage.
Choice D: There are no caustic, resentful or bitter remarks.

16. Answer D (Inference)
Choice A: There are no insulting, cruel or distasteful remarks to imply anger.
Choice B: The fact that the author raises the issue shows an awareness and concern.
Choice C: No contrast is made between Spanish speaking Americans and Spanish speaking Canadians.
Choice D: Correct; Author is investigating "...a realm that seems to go completely against their [Latin women] nature."

17. Answer A (Main Idea – Implied)
Choice A: Correct; Passage reveals what is missing for inefficient readers implying what efficient readers know.
Choice B: Part of a supporting detail so it cannot be main idea.
Choice C: Main idea is not mentioned or suggested in the passage.
Choice D: Pleasure in reading is not mentioned or suggested in the passage.

18. Answer B (Inference)
Choice A: There is no scientific information or reference in the passage.
Choice B: Correct; A textbook might identify problems with reading in order to solve them.
Choice C: While it is possible, it is more probably found in a school reading text.
Choice D: The information is instructional and for practical application, not theoretical.

19. Answer B (Inference)
Choice A: The opposite, her concern is clearly implied.
Choice B: Correct; Furious and murderous are intense emotions she feels.
Choice C: Her position on corporeal punishment contradicts this.
Choice D: Not mentioned or implied.

20. Answer C (Inference)
Choice A: Common place suggests that most people believe as Mrs. Small does; however, the passage states hers is the rationale for only one opinion.
Choice B: This implies that some other belief is the dominant belief which is not stated or implied.
Choice C: It states "The comments and opinions...rationalize one side of the issue." which implies her beliefs do not dominate.
Choice D: There is no sense of disbelief on the part of the author reporting Mrs. Small's opinions. It reports her position as a rationale which involves thinking and responding to serious, possibly dangerous circumstances.

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