

## TOEFL Practices & Strategies: Reading Comprehension

(compiled from TOEFL test Strategies by Eli Hinkel, Ph.D of Seattle University)

### I. Short Passage Practice

1. With the aid of skin between their fore and rear paws, flying squirrels can leap from tree to tree. The word “leap” as used in the sentence above is most similar in meaning to which of the following:
  - a. Signal
  - b. Gather food
  - c. Jump
  - d. Seek shelter
2. Oral culture, such as those of Polynesian peoples, have rich narrative histories and highly contrived tonal devices associated with recitals and chants. The word “oral” as used in the sentence above is most similar in meaning to which of the following:
  - a. Ancient
  - b. Spoken
  - c. Limited
  - d. Convoluted
3. Computer hardware and software have been enormously beneficial in the editing of newspapers, magazines, and journals. The word “enormously” as used in the sentence above is most similar in meaning to which of the following:
  - a. Fundamentally
  - b. Tremendously
  - c. Pedantically
  - d. Quintessentially
4. Copyright law stipulates conditions for a collaboration of authors to reduce the possibility of legal contests. The word “collaboration” as used in the sentence above is most similar in meaning to which of the following:
  - a. An ownership
  - b. A competition
  - c. Fiscal obligations
  - d. A joint effort
5. Trees have to be pruned seasonally or annually to ensure that they continue to bear fruit. The word “pruned” as used in the sentence above is most similar in meaning to which of the following:
  - a. Fertilized
  - b. Trimmed
  - c. Weeded
  - d. Harvested
6. Mosquitoes and other parasitic insects can be so bothersome to deer that entire herds have been known to throw themselves off cliffs to be rid of the incessant attacks. The word “bothersome” as used in the sentence above is most similar in meaning to which of the following:
  - a. Excessive
  - b. Irritating
  - c. Degrading
  - d. Detrimental
7. Carbon monoxide expelled by exhaust systems may profoundly change the climate on the planet. The word “climate” as used in the sentence above is most similar in meaning to which of the following:
  - a. Industrial production
  - b. Geological formations
  - c. Air composition
  - d. Weather conditions
8. Experts often forecast an upswing in an economy after a protracted slowdown. The word “upswing” as used in the sentence above is most similar in meaning to which of the following:
  - a. A decline
  - b. Inflation
  - c. An improvement
  - d. A reform
9. A complex mathematical problem can have several solution paths that are not necessarily comparably elegant. The word “paths” as used in the sentence above is most similar in meaning to which of the following:
  - a. Equations
  - b. Apparati
  - c. Interludes

- d. Algorithms
10. Before refrigeration, canning was one of the few methods of preserving vegetables with limited shelf-lives. The word “preserving” as used in the sentence above is most similar in meaning to which of the following:
- Storing
  - Ingesting
  - Increasing
  - Gleaning
11. Slang can be defined as a set of lexical, grammatical, and phonological regularities used in informal speech. The word “informal” as used in the sentence above is most similar in meaning to which of the following:
- Situational
  - Casual
  - Informative
  - Uneducated
12. The tempered glass from which almost all windshields are made shatters under considerable pressure. The word “shatters” as used in the sentence above is most similar in meaning to which of the following:
- Scratches and gouges
  - Resists impact
  - Breaks into shards
  - Rejects foreign objects
13. In rural Midwestern towns, the decisions that affect most residents are made at general assemblies in schools and churches. The word “assemblies” as used in the sentence above is most similar in meaning to which of the following:
- Concerts
  - Gatherings
  - Prayer services
  - Public libraries
14. Several chapters of Joan Steer’s book describe illegal gambling activities in California in the 1970s. The word “illegal” as used in the sentence above is most similar in meaning to which of the following:
- Properous
  - Unlawful
  - Unusual
  - Embarrassing
15. When an infectious disease becomes highly contagious, it can sweep through a community in a very short time. The word “sweep” as used in the sentence above is most similar in meaning to which of the following:
- Spread
  - Stride
  - Creep
  - Maneuver
16. Dissemination of information is frequently carried out via satellite through local or national TV networks. The word “dissemination” as used in the sentence above is most similar in meaning to which of the following:
- Compilation
  - Condensing
  - Sanctification
  - Dispersal
17. Atoms that move perpendicularly to one another and collide do not regain their their original velocities. The word “perpendicularly” as used in the sentence above is most similar in meaning to which of the following:
- In a closed space
  - At right angles
  - In a vertical line
  - At loose ends
18. Reclaiming clay-laden soil that has absorbed the tainted runoff from agricultural fields can be hampered by the soil’s capacity to retain water. The word “tainted” as used in the sentence above is most similar in meaning to which of the following:
- Cleaned
  - Contaminated
  - Confined
  - Blocked

19. The debate as to whether Shakespeare was the author of the plays and sonnets published under his name has continued posthumously for several centuries. The word “posthumously” as used in the sentence above is most similar in meaning to which of the following:
- With many interruptions
  - After his death
  - In light of new discoveries
  - With an element of humor
20. Economic and ecological outcomes of political turmoil in strategically important regions of the world are impossible to surmise:  
The word “surmise” as used in the sentence above is most similar in meaning to which of the following:
- Guess
  - Survive
  - Coordinate
  - Prevent
21. Limestone grinding machines found at gravel excavations have two or three large flat plates that move sideways. The word “sideways” as used in the sentence above is most similar in meaning to which of the following:
- Noisily
  - Intermittently
  - Powerfully
  - Laterally
22. In the United States, elementary education is compulsory nationwide, with state government having no say in the issue. The word “cumpolsory” as used in the sentence above is most similar in meaning to which of the following:
- Desirable
  - Mandatory
  - Perfunctory
  - Rational
23. The mountain resort industry advertises its sites as relaxing, picturesque, and secluded. The word “secluded” as used in the sentence above is most similar in meaning to which of the following:
- Affordable
  - Vogue
  - Healthy
  - Remote
24. The chemical element technetium was artificially created to serve as a powerful source of radiation. The word “powerful” as used in the sentence above is most similar in meaning to which of the following:
- Alternative
  - Obscure
  - Potent
  - Poisonous
25. A magician is an entertainer who performs a series of deceptive tricks based on the principles of physics, optics, and psychology. The word “deceptive” as used in the sentence above is most similar in meaning to which of the following:
- Skillful
  - Misleading
  - Incomprehensible
  - Unrivaled
26. The philosophical proportions of the Magna Carta made an unequivocal step toward the development of constitutional government in England. The word “unequivocal” as used in the sentence above is most similar in meaning to which of the following:
- A forbearing
  - A formidable
  - A definite
  - A devastating
27. Belva Lockwood, who was trained as teacher, gained recognition for her selfless dedication to women’s suffrage. The word “selfless” as used in the sentence above is most similar in meaning to which of the following:
- Self-motivated
  - Unselfish
  - Self-centered
  - Unsettled

28. Expressionist drama arose from playwright' interest in the revolutionary movement, which criticised social evils. The word "arose from" as used in the sentence above is most similar in meaning to which of the following:
- Deviated from
  - Extended to
  - Shed light on
  - Grew out of
29. The Extension Program first established in 1873 at Cambridge University has successfully withstood changing popular trends. The word "withstood" as used in the sentence above is most similar in meaning to which of the following:
- Endured
  - Sponsored
  - Stood with
  - Stabilised in
30. A suppressed memory of a traumatic incident may be recovered under hypnosis. The words "a traumatic" as used in the sentence above are most similar in meaning to which of following:
- An enlightening
  - An invigorating
  - A subliminal
  - A shocking
31. Superficial deposits of phosphorus produce a vague illumination that attracts animals after dark. The words "illumination" as used in the sentence above are most similar in meaning to which of following:
- Light
  - Heat
  - Odor
  - Vibration
32. Private business negotiations and their outcomes, if commenced without a witness, are extrajudicial. The words "extrajudicial" as used in the sentence above are most similar in meaning to which of following:
- Judgmental
  - Outside legal power
  - Extraprovincial
  - Outside regular measure
33. Olives are grown for their oil, which is used in cooking predominantly in ethnic and traditional cuisine. The words "predominantly" as used in the sentence above are most similar in meaning to which of following:
- Pretentiously
  - Flagrantly
  - Preponderantly
  - Frequently
34. Margaret and Rachel McMillan were the forerunners of what is known today as early childhood education. The words "forerunners" as used in the sentence above are most similar in meaning to which of following:
- Organisers
  - Benefactors
  - Precursors
  - Instructors.
35. Although federal regulations pertain to all local legislative bodies, state legislatures exercise a significant degree of autonomy. The words "autonomy" as used in the sentence above are most similar in meaning to which of following:
- Equitability
  - Jurisprudence
  - Independence
  - Reciprocity
36. Pathways in the mountains often follow the crests of ridges that are relatively treeless. The words "pathways" as used in the sentence above are most similar in meaning to which of following:
- Highways
  - Trails
  - Caves
  - Cliffs
37. Tests with laboratory animals have pinpointed the danger of brain damage that monosodium glutamate may cause to infants. The words "pinpointed" as used in the sentence above are most similar in meaning to which of following:
- Identified

- b. Extrapolated
  - c. Projected
  - d. Hypothesized
38. The emergence of supersonic travel opened new horizons for the military, tourism, and commerce. The words “emergence” as used in the sentence above are most similar in meaning to which of following:
- a. Profitability
  - b. Urgency
  - c. Appearance
  - d. Simplicity
39. In the 1920s, amateur theater performances benefited orphanages, poor, families, and other charitable causes. The word “amateur” as used in the sentence above is most similar in meaning to which of the following:
- a. Nonprofessional
  - b. Pompous
  - c. Gregarious
  - d. Melodramatic
40. The invention of the microscope accelerated the advancement of microbiology at an extraordinary pace. The words “an extraordinary” as used in the sentence above are most similar in meaning to which of following:
- a. A remarkable
  - b. An excruciating
  - c. An elusive
  - d. A rousing

## II. Reading Comprehension Practice

Direction: Answer all the questions following the passage on the basis of what is stated or implied in the passage. For each question, select the one best answer, (a), (b), (c), or (d)

No educational medium better serves as a means of spatial communication than the atlas. Atlases deal with such invaluable information as population distribution and density. One of the best, *Pennycooke’s World Atlas*, has been widely accepted as a standard owing to the quality of its maps and photographs, which not only show various settlements but also portray them in a variety of scales. In fact, the very first map atlas is a cleverly designed population cartogram that projects of the size of each country if geographical size were proportional to population. Following the proportional layout, a sequence of smaller maps shows the world’s population density, each country’s birth and death rates, population increase or decrease, industrialisation, urbanisation, gross national product in terms of per capita income, the quality of medical care, literacy, and language. To give readers a perspective on how their own country fits in with the global view, additional projections depict the world’s patterns in nutrition, calorie and protein consumption, health care, number of physicians per units of population, and life expectancy by region. Population density maps on a subcontinental scale, as well as political maps, convey the diverse demographic phenomena of the world in a broad array of scales.

1. What is the main topic of this passage?
  - a. The educational benefits of atlases
  - b. Physical maps in an atlas
  - c. The ideal in the making of atlases
  - d. Partial maps and their uses
2. According to the passage, the first map in *Pennycooke’s World Atlas* shows
  - a. National boundaries relative to population
  - b. Geographic proportions of each country.
  - c. The hypothetical sizes of countries
  - d. The population policy in each country.
3. In line 2, the word “invaluable” is closest in meaning to:
  - a. Incremental
  - b. Invalid
  - c. Priceless
  - d. Shapeless
4. In line 3, the phrase “owing to” is closest in meaning to:
  - a. Due to
  - b. In order to
  - c. Instead of
  - d. In spite of
5. In line 4, the word “cleverly” is closest in meaning to

- a. Cleanly
  - b. Collaboratively
  - c. Intelligently
  - d. Immaculately
6. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the passage?
    - a. Calorie consumption
    - b. Currency exchange rates
    - c. A level of education
    - d. Population decline
  7. It can be inferred from the passage that maps can be used to
    - a. Pinpoint ethnic strife in each country
    - b. Identify a shortage of qualified labor
    - c. Give readers a new perspective on their own country
    - d. Show readers photographs in a new form
  8. In line 6, the word “layout” refers to
    - a. The geographic size
    - b. The cartogram
    - c. Population
    - d. Each country
  9. In line 9, the word “perspective” is closest in meaning to
    - a. Outlay
    - b. Outlook
    - c. Permission
    - d. Permutation
  10. In line 9, the word “depict” is closest meaning to
    - a. Amplify
    - b. Implement
    - c. Show
    - d. Shrink
  11. The author of the passage implies that
    - a. Atlases provide a bird’s-eye view of countries
    - b. Maps use a variety of scales in each projection
    - c. Maps of countries differ in sizes
    - d. Atlases can be versatile instruments
  12. In line 12, the word “convey” is closest in meaning to
    - a. Convict
    - b. Conjure up
    - c. Demonstrate
    - d. Devise

The returning boomerang is constructed in such a way that it sails on a circular trajectory and returns to the thrower. A trained hunter can throw a boomerang so that it will sweep up to a height of 50 feet, complete a circle 50 feet in diameter, and then spin along several smaller, iterative circles before it lands near the thrower. Experts can make boomerangs ricochet off the ground, circle, and come back. Hunters use them to drive birds into nets by making the boomerang spin above the flock sufficiently high to fool the birds into reacting to it as if it were a predator. Ordinarily, a returning boomerang is 12 to 30 inches long, 1 to 3 inches wide, and less than half an inch thick. Its notorious pointed ends are not honed enough to allow the boomerang to serve as a weapon or to be even remotely threatening.

By contrast, the nonreturning boomerang is substantially heavier and can be used as a weapon. This type of boomerang is made to be 3 to 5 inches in diameter and 2 to 3 feet long, and may weigh up to 2 pounds. The power with which the boomerang hits its target is sufficient to kill or maim either an animal or a foe. All boomerangs are hurled in the same manner. The thrower grasps one end, pointing both ends outward. Having positioned the boomerang above and behind the shoulder, the thrower propels it forward with a snapping wrist motion to give it a twirl. The quality of the initial twirl conveys the propulsion to the weapon and provides its distinctive momentum.

1. In line 1, the word “sails” is closest in meaning to
  - a. Flies
  - b. Falls
  - c. Surges
  - d. Shrinks
2. The author of the passage implies that throwing boomerang

- a. Creates a circular air channel near the ground
  - b. Can be useful in devising sailing trajectories
  - c. Entails skill and requires practiced coordination
  - d. Makes them pause in midair before they rise to a certain height
3. In line 3, the word “iterative” is closest in meaning to
    - a. Robust
    - b. Repeated
    - c. Restrained
    - d. Resolute
  4. According to the passage, the boomerang can be used to
    - a. Train birds
    - b. Position a flock
    - c. Flank birds
    - d. Stupefy a flock
  5. In line 6, the word “ordinarily” is closest meaning to
    - a. Orderly
    - b. Usually
    - c. Awkwardly
    - d. Obviously
  6. In line 7, the word “honed” is closest in meaning to
    - a. Heated
    - b. Hooked
    - c. Sharpened
    - d. Shaded
  7. In line 8, the word “remotely” is closest in meaning to
    - a. Reluctantly
    - b. Reportedly
    - c. Vacantly
    - d. Vaguely
  8. It can be inferred that from the passage that whether or not a boomerang can serve as a weapon depends primarily on
    - a. Its perimeter
    - b. Its weight
    - c. The propulsion of its ends
    - d. The power of the thrower
  9. In line 9, the phrase “by contrast” is closest in meaning to
    - a. Therefore
    - b. On the other hand
    - c. Thus
    - d. Consequently
  10. The author of the passage implies that boomerangs
    - a. Can disarm an enemy
    - b. Can locate a target
    - c. Are alike in shape
    - d. Are monumental in flight.
  11. In line 12, the word “hurled” is closest in meaning to
    - a. Threaded
    - b. Thrown
    - c. Thrashed
    - d. Thrust
  12. In line 14, the word “twirl” is closest in meaning to
    - a. Reaction
    - b. Reflection
    - c. Rotation
    - d. Repulsion

Psychology recognises two types of research, experimental and differential. The former is concerned mainly with the overall processes governing human activities, and the latter sets out to establish individual differences in performance. More recent studies have demonstrated the need for a third type of psychological study, namely that has to do with human development. Rather than considering this aspect of human performance as a part of the first two types, scientists have noted that development research indeed belongs in a separate

category in and of itself. Piaget's studies, it is necessary to keep in mind that, while his theories have been highly influential, his methodology has been strongly criticized. The primary shortfall of his work had to do with a lack of definition and standardization in his data and experiment design.

1. According to the passage, what is the central goal of experimental research?
  - a. To arrive at a general classification of individuals
  - b. To analyse individual difference in human activity
  - c. To establish the psychological processes governing humans
  - d. To administer experiment on humans and processes.
2. In line 4, the word "namely" is closest in meaning to
  - a. Specially
  - b. Specifically
  - c. Hence
  - d. Nearly.
3. It can be inferred from the passage that the author is a proponent of
  - a. Reversing current trends in research
  - b. Furthering a third branch of investigation
  - c. Abolishing experimental and differential studies
  - d. Assessing a need for human development
4. In line 6, the word "category" is closest in meaning to
  - a. Case
  - b. Cause
  - c. Calling
  - d. Class
5. According to the passage, development psychology belongs in
  - a. The domain of Piaget's work
  - b. A category of dispute studies
  - c. Its own unique area of study
  - d. Other domains of research
6. It can be inferred from the passage that studies of human performance and of individual variations
  - a. Should not be perceived as fundamental
  - b. Should be taken with a grain of salt
  - c. Cannot enumerate all facets of human brain
  - d. Cannot account for all aspects of human psychology
7. In line 6, the phrase "to keep in mind" is closest in meaning to
  - a. Remember
  - b. Restate
  - c. Remark
  - d. Resolve
8. What is considered to be the greatest drawback of Piaget's research?
  - a. His methodology was not based on an influential theory.
  - b. His methodology was unsystematic, and his data were haphazard
  - c. His developmental theories and findings were not recognized
  - d. His studies did not undergo thorough examination.
9. According to the passage the author's implications, which branch of psychology appears to be particularly controversial?
  - a. Experimental
  - b. Theoretical
  - c. Differential
  - d. Developmental
10. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the passage as a type of psychology research?
  - a. Differential
  - b. Experimental
  - c. Developmental
  - d. Influential

Sir Anthony Van Dyck, one of the world's greatest masters of portraiture, was born in Antwerp and was the seventh of twelve children. His affluent father apprenticed him to a painter when he was just a little over ten. Having become a member of the Antwerp Guild of painters before he was nineteen, he worked in the studio of Peter Paul Rubens for several years. In Italy, Van Dyck studied the great Venetian masters and painted flattering portraits of gorgeous ladies and haughty nobles in gilded velvet robes with lace and pearls. While he was sought



after by the aristocracy for his acclaimed loose brushwork, his engravings and etchings also evinced his outstanding talent. Upon his return to Antwerp in 1628, he was influenced by Ruben's interpretation of the artistic form and produced numerous religious paintings while holding an appointment as the court painter. During his tenure, he proved that his use of color, his sensitive elegance, and his remarkable insight were unexcelled.

10

His fame preceded him to England, where he was invited by King Charles I. After years of faithful service, he was knighted in recognition of his achievements in painting countless portraits of the king, the queen, the royal children, and the titled nobility of England. However, Van Dyck's greatest piece is one of religious work, a true masterpiece displayed in the Antwerp gallery. This group scene exhibits his artful polish in painting the folds of fabric, the delicacy of human skin, landscape, and other externals, and puts him above other accomplished contemporary masters. Although Charles paid Van Dyck a salary and granted him a pension, the painter's extravagant life-style and penchant for luxuries led him into debt, and he died without means.

1. It can be inferred from the passage that Van Dyck was raised
  - a. In a large and wealthy family
  - b. In a stable and loving household
  - c. By his father alone
  - d. Without good work habits
2. What did Van dyck do in his early youth?
  - a. He was a brush cleaner
  - b. He was hired as a painter
  - c. He studied painting
  - d. He sold paintings
3. The author of the passage implies that Van Dyck
  - a. Had produced great paintings before he turned nineteen
  - b. Had a great artistic talent even when he was young
  - c. Joined other painters when he had little to occupy him
  - d. Worked very hard in his youth to make a living.
4. It can be inferred from the passage that after Van Dyck left Ruben
  - a. He accrued considerable wealth
  - b. He became a militant aristocrat
  - c. He refined his aristic tastes and skills
  - d. He incorporated southern styles in his art.
5. The author of the passage implies that Van Dyck's fame had largely to do with his
  - a. Artful portraits
  - b. Wealthy family
  - c. Elegance in clothing
  - d. Religious belief
6. In line 6, the word "acclaimed" is closest in meaning to
  - a. Reclaimed
  - b. Recognised
  - c. Recommended
  - d. Rectified
7. According to the passage, when Van Dyck returned to Antwerp, he
  - a. Had to schedule appointment at the court
  - b. Found employment with a religious institution
  - c. Proved that he was the best painter of his time
  - d. Modeled elegant clothing for his religioua pintings.
8. How did Charles I honor Van Dyck?
  - a. Van Dyck painted members of the royal court
  - b. Van Dyck received a noble title
  - c. Van Dyck was allowed to travel widely
  - d. Van Dyck displayed his work in the royal palace.
9. What does Van Dyck's masterpiece attest to?
  - a. His remarkable religious fervor
  - b. His refined sense for texture
  - c. His keen eye for polished surfaces
  - d. His exorbitant taste and habits.
10. In line 13, the phraase "this group scene" refers to
  - a. The Antwerp gallery
  - b. The masterpiece
  - c. Van Dyck's religious works

- d. The titled nobility of England
- 11. What are the reasons given for Van Dyck's financial decline?
  - a. His employer's lack of generosity
  - b. His ill health and lack of revenue
  - c. His lavish spending
  - d. His miserly attitudes.
- 12. The authors tone in the passage can be described as
  - a. Critical
  - b. Wistful
  - c. Admiring
  - d. Indifferent.

Linen is yarn, thread, or fabric made from the stem fibers of flax, one of the oldest cultivated plants. Because the plant is grown in temperate climates, its production is limited. Archeological evidence shows that flax was used for making ropes and fishing nets in Switzerland over 10,000 years ago. Ancient Egyptians used flax more than any other fiber for making linen, which was employed in the manufacture of a diverse array of other materials. When the use of linen spread from the Mediterranean to Europe, linen became second only to wool as the most prevalent material for fabric, primarily because the spindle was no longer the sole device used for winding thread. It was during that time that the spinning wheel replaced the spindle and distaff for twisting and winding the flax fibers. By the end of the seventeenth century, a spinning wheel for linen was a fixture in almost every European and North American household.

Linen is relatively scarce now because the process of weaving flax fabric is comparatively work- and time-consuming. Upon harvesting, flax must be hackled to separate the linen fibers from the tow. Then the fibers are soaked and dried. Bundling the gleaned fiber precedes raking and thinning. The latter are essential steps since unravelling the fibrous mass of stems can facilitate winding. After the threads have been spun, they are laid on a loom and woven into the finished product, known as linen. As is the case with some other natural fibers, such as silk and wool, the price of linen fabric is rather high, and it is not as easy to care for as fabrics made of synthetic rayon, acetate, and viscose.

1. According to the passage, what precludes worldwide cultivation of linen?
  - a. Archeologists do not put much stock in flax longevity.
  - b. Linen production has been restricted to increase prices.
  - c. Flax can be farmed only in certain geographical areas.
  - d. Flax plants are no longer grown where they used to be.
2. What promoted the proliferation of linen?
  - a. A shortage of material in Europe
  - b. The replacement of wool by linen in textiles
  - c. Technological advancements in fiber processing.
  - d. The dissipation of need for various materials
3. In line 6, the word "sole" is closest in meaning to
  - a. Solar
  - b. Soluble
  - c. Only
  - d. Likely
4. In line 8, the phrase "a fixture" is closest in meaning to
  - a. An attachment
  - b. A piece of furniture
  - c. Common
  - d. Compete
5. According to the passage, which of the following is the crucial phrase in fiber preparation?
  - a. Harvesting and trying it
  - b. Towing and pulling it
  - c. Combing it to make it fine
  - d. Spinning it rapidly
6. In line 13, the word "facilitate" is closest in meaning to
  - a. Fabricate
  - b. Furnish
  - c. Ease
  - d. Elude
7. It can be inferred from the passage that the high cost of linen can be attributed to
  - a. Its relative popularity
  - b. Its laborious fabrication

- c. The labor-intensive care
  - d. Looming and weaving
8. The author of the passage implies that currently, linen is NOT as prevalent as
- a. Wool
  - b. Silk
  - c. Synthetic fibers
  - d. Woven textiles.

Piracy began before the days of the Roman Empire when captured sailors and passengers were sold as slaves. Around the sixteenth centuries, piracy became legitimized when famous English buccaneers were licensed by the government to attack Spanish fleets and merchant ships while Spain and England were not at war. The hiring of pirates caught on because the governments had difficulty protecting their ships and citizens from foreign pirates. In 1668, Sir Henry Morgan, one of the best known captains of a conglomeration of pirate ships, practically

declared a war on Jamaica. His lootings of porto Bello, the Cuban coast, Maracaibo, and Panama earned him his title and the post of lieutenant governor of Jamaica. Numerous legends associated with his marine and coastal conquests have remained as part of the folklore both in England and in the Caribbean.

One of the most brutal pirates was Edward Teach, nicknamed “Blackbeard” for his long, thick beard, which he tied back over his ears with a ribbon. After the war between England and Spain ended and his services were no longer needed, he turned to piracy and terrorized the Virginia and Carolina coasts. In 1713, Teach lost a marine

battle between his ships and the Virginian fleet and was never heard from again.

Piracy vanished gradually with the onset of steam-powered seaboats that were fast and too well equipped for a pirate frigate to overtake. The last strongholds of piracy were Pacific islands and coastal havens where boats with long galleys rowed by slaves engaged in plundering villages and capturing prisoners. British and Dutch navy patrols finally did away with these enclaves in 1863. However, till this day, piracy can be a profitable endeavor in remote parts of the world.

1. This passage is probably taken from a longer text on
  - a. Plots and episodes in historical tragedies
  - b. Marine treasures and excavations
  - c. The maritime history of England
  - d. Illustrious characters in the coastal battles
2. It can be inferred from the passage that the English government
  - a. Penalized pirates for crimes
  - b. Employed pirates to its advantage
  - c. Protected pirates as citizens
  - d. Set out to control roving pirates
3. According to the passage, who was Captain Morgan?
  - a. A mythological figure
  - b. A famous statesman
  - c. The governor of Jamaica
  - d. A notorious buccaneer
4. In line 5 , the word “conglomeration” is closest in meaning to
  - a. Flight
  - b. Fleet
  - c. Combination
  - d. Connection
5. It can be inferred from the passage that Morgan’s feats became a part of
  - a. The English language
  - b. The English heritage
  - c. Maritime attractions
  - d. Marine treasures.
6. According to the passage, Edward Teach
  - a. Competed with Morgan for fame and fortune
  - b. Claimed portions of Virginia and Carolina
  - c. Sought solace in the New World
  - d. Had been employed in the war.
7. The author of the passage implies that piracy
  - a. Provided plots for novels
  - b. Is universally condemned
  - c. Has not been fully eradicated
  - d. Has been completely absolved

giant anteater  
(*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*)

30 cm  
12 inches



Anteaters are so named because they eat white termites. Few people realise that anteaters have no teeth. Their jawbones protrude and are almost entirely covered with skin, making their oral cavities very small. An anteater's tongue, covered with adhesive saliva to hold termites on touch, can be extended a long way beyond its mouth. Then the animal draws it back

and swallows. Although some termites build sizable mud nests, the anteater's powerful front paws have lengthy claws that can tear open the termites' nests, either on the ground or in trees.

The claws on anteaters' front legs are so long that animals walk on the outer edges of their feet rather than on the soles. The longest claw folds back into a skin pouch in the sole of the foot. The *solitary* Tamandua anteater utilizes its prehensile tail as an arm to grasp a tree branch and lift itself as high as the tree *crown*. This physical characteristic enables the Tamandua anteater to live and hunt in trees. The silky anteater can also live in trees and sleeps curled up on a branch, to which it anchors itself by its tail and hind feet. Although the animals rarely attack, when disturbed they rear up on their hind legs and draw their forefeet alongside their head to strike an enemy with their claws or to squeeze it in their forearms. With only one offsprings at a time, these mammals are extremely protective of their young, which ride on their mothers' backs. Little is known about anteaters' habitats and social organisation.

1. According to the passage, anteaters
  - a. Cannot chew
  - b. Cannot lick
  - c. Cannot open their mouth
  - d. Have no nasal passages
2. What do anteaters do to grasp termites?
  - a. They inhale and create pressure on their tongues
  - b. They use the sticky substance on their tongues
  - c. They expand their mouth openings
  - d. They apply force in their lateral grip.
3. What explains the anteaters' distinguishing walk?
  - a. The length of their legs
  - b. The size of their bones
  - c. The length of their nails
  - d. The sides of their nails
4. In the italic and bold the word "solitary" in the paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to
  - a. Withdrawn
  - b. Soulful
  - c. Withheld
  - d. Somber
5. In line second italic and bold, the word "crown" in paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to
  - a. Hallow
  - b. Limb
  - c. Trunck
  - d. Top
6. Why is an anteater's tail compared to an arm?
  - a. To symbolize the humanity of anteaters
  - b. To elaborate on anteaters' sensibility
  - c. To illustrate how it accords anteaters mobility
  - d. To indicate that anteaters are advanced animals
7. It ca be inferred from the passage that anteaters:
  - a. Are rarely dormant
  - b. Are usually harmless
  - c. Can ne exceptionally intelligent
  - d. Can be extraordinarily persistent

Almon Strowger, an American engineer, constructed the first automatic telephone switching systme, which had a horizontal, bladelike contact arm, in 1891. The first commercial switchboard based on his invention opened in La Porte, Indiana, a year later and was an instant success with business users. To access the system, the caller pressed buttons to reach the desired number and turned the handle to activate the telephone ringer. During the same

5 year, Strowger's step-by-step call advancement technology was implemented in the long-distance service between New York and Chicago when it proved to have the capacity of carrying signals through cable-joint extensions.

The first actual dial telephones, patented by Lee De Forest in 1907, were installed in Milwaukee in 1896. In 1922, their sound transmittal horizontal and apparatus adapted an electronic tube to function as an amplifier. Transatlantic radio-telephone service linked New York and London in 1927. However, the long distance coaxial  
10 cable, which was hailed as unprecedented, came on the scene in 1936 connecting New York and Philadelphia. The Bell Laboratories research facility came up with the transistor to replace the cumbersome vacuum tube, thus diminishing the size of the electronic switch system to about 10 percent of that of the original. Crossbar switching, installed in terminals in 1938, operated on the principle of an electromagnetic force, which rotated horizontal and vertical bars within a rectangular frame and brought contacts together in a split second. A technological breakthrough in the form of underseas cables between the United States and Hawaii was implemented almost twenty years later. An extension was connected to Japan in 1964.

1. Which of the following would be the best title for the passage?
  - a. The Patent History of the Telephone
  - b. A Link between Research and Technology
  - c. The Telephone: A Technological Fantasy
  - d. The Developing Sophistication of the Telephone
2. In line 3, the word "instant" is closest in meaning to
  - a. Impervious
  - b. Impelling
  - c. Immeasurable
  - d. Immediate
3. In line 5, the word "implemented" is closest in meaning to
  - a. Usurped
  - b. Used
  - c. Broken
  - d. Breached
4. It can be inferred from the passage that initially telephones
  - a. Utilized human operators
  - b. Did not have a bell
  - c. Were limited to businesses
  - d. Revitalized business in la Porte Indiana,
5. Why did Strowger's switchboard find application in long-distance lines?
  - a. It could carry connections through cable extension
  - b. It could handle a large volume of simultaneous calls
  - c. It required the caller to activate switches.
  - d. It was prevalent in commercial enterprises.
6. How did Lee De Forest improve the existing telephone?
  - a. He integrated the mouthpiece and the receiver
  - b. He modified a pipe to transmit sound.
  - c. He created a device to boost the reception quality.
  - d. He made implementation of the dial system possible.
7. In line 10, the word "hailed" is closest in meaning to
  - a. Praised
  - b. Proposed
  - c. Prepared
  - d. Preserved
8. In line 11, the word "cumbersome" is closest in meaning to
  - a. Culpable
  - b. Curious
  - c. Unwieldy
  - d. Unyielding
9. The author of the passage implies that telephone networks expanded because of
  - a. a series of breakthroughs
  - b. the work of few inventors
  - c. multiple technical blunders
  - d. staunch public and private support.

As we head into hurricane season, we'd like to take this opportunity to go over some precautionary measures you can take in this dangerous season. This is especially important for those of you living in coastal areas where hurricanes can be destructive because of their heavy winds.

The following guidelines have been established by the National Weather service. Before hurricane season even begins, stock up on batteries, candles, bottled water, nonperishable food such as canned goods, and other emergency equipment. In case of a hurricane warning, following these safety guidelines may help save your life and property. First of all, protect windows with boards or tape, since they are not strong enough to withstand hurricane-force winds—these winds can reach up to 200 miles per hour! Also the national Weather Service recommends that you fill up your car with fuel in case you need to evacuate. Gas stations may be closed by the time you need to leave your home.

Remember also, it is suggested that you stay indoors if your home is sturdy and on high ground. However, homes in low-lying areas will likely be evacuated, and evacuation information. If called to evacuate, leave the area immediately. You will be advised of the location of local shelters.

1. What is the above passage mainly about?
  - a. Preparing for a hurricane
  - b. Damage caused by a hurricane
  - c. Coastal weather patterns
  - d. Evacuation procedures
2. What organization provided the information for the announcement?
  - a. The navy
  - b. A government weather agency
  - c. State police headquarters
  - d. A local shelter
3. What should people do before hurricane season begins?
  - a. Cover windows
  - b. Buy a supply of food and water
  - c. Locate the nearest shelter
  - d. Leave coastal areas.
4. According to the passage or announcement, why should people fill their cars with fuel before a hurricane?
  - a. Fuel might increase in price
  - b. Gas stations might not be open.
  - c. They may need to drive neighbors to shelters
  - d. There may be long lines at the gas stations.

In the days before telephones, radio, and televisions, the only network of public communication that could reach farmers was the mail. But this was not the mail as we know it today. At that time, in the early nineteenth century, mail delivery was uneven and widely scattered. In fact, many people living in rural areas got no mail at all. In the early decades of the century, mail carriers were privately employed—they did not work for the government.

Many years later, when the government finally took charge of delivering mail, it was mostly in cities that mail got delivered to people's homes. So farmers still had a problem—they had to go to a post office to collect their mail, which, by the way, was not always nearby.

Farmers' requests to have mail brought to their homes were at first met with outrage. What could be more ridiculous, many urban residents asked, than paying government employees to travel miles across the countryside with an occasional letter? Nevertheless, farmers' organizations succeeded in convincing the United States Congress that farmers needed mail delivery. Finally in 1891 rural free delivery, known as RFD, came into being.

In a sense, rural free delivery was the most important communications revolution in United States history. Rural Americans were not lifted out of the relatively isolated communities they lived in. Because of rural free delivery, there now ran a highway to the world from every farmer's doorstep.

1. What does the author mainly discuss?
  - a. The economic impact of mail delivery on rural areas.
  - b. A comparison of urban and rural mail delivery.
  - c. Government mail delivery in cities.
  - d. The introduction of mail delivery in rural areas.
2. What is true of mail delivery in the early nineteenth century?
  - a. It was paid for by the United States Congress
  - b. It was run by private companies
  - c. It was regulated by the government
  - d. It was mainly for farmers.
3. According to the author, what problem did farmers face with early mail service?
  - a. Many post office locations were inconvenient.

- b. Bad roads delayed mail delivery.
- c. The postal rates were too high.
- d. There were not enough mail carriers to deliver mail.

Today I'd like to explain the Mohs' scale, used in what is called the "scratch test." This scale is based on the simple fact that harder minerals scratch softer ones. For example, a diamond; quartz crystal can scratch a feldspar crystal, but not the other around.

The scale is named for Friedrich Mohs, the mineralogist who devised it in 1812. His scale spans the range of minerals known at that time, from the softest to the hardest. By performing a scratch test using known minerals and a few common tools, an unidentified mineral sample can be placed between two points on the scale. By referring to the scale, the mineral can then be identified.

I have here a collection of the minerals included on the Mohs' scale, as well as the tools necessary to complete this exercise. I'd like you each to take a mineral sample from the basket at the front of the room and classify it according to its place on the Mohs' scale. First, however, I should give you a little warning. The hardness of any mineral depends on the strength of the bonds between ions or between atoms—the stronger the bond, the harder the mineral. Because bond strength may differ in various angles of a crystal, the hardness may vary slightly depending on the direction in which the mineral sample is scratched, so be sure to scratch each sample in several different directions.

1. What does the passage of this instruction mainly tell about?
  - a. The properties of quartz crystals.
  - b. A method of identifying minerals
  - c. The life of Friedrich Mohs
  - d. A famous collection of minerals.
2. What aspect of a mineral is the Mohs' scale used to identify?
  - a. Its estimated value
  - b. Its crystalline structure
  - c. Its chemical composition
  - d. Its relative hardness
3. What does this instruction ask the class to do?
  - a. Collect some minerals as homework
  - b. Identify the tools it is used
  - c. Apply the information given in the instruction
  - d. Pass their papers to the front of the room.
4. According to the instruction above, when might the hardness of the same mineral seem to vary?
  - a. When it is scratched in different directions.
  - b. When greater pressure is applied.
  - c. When its surface is scratched too frequently.
  - d. When the tester uses the wrong tools.

The New Scotland Yard, the most famous police unit in the world, is the headquarters of the Metropolitan Police in London. The police force in London was established in 1829 under an act of the British government. The police station and the office, whose task was to deal with the public, was located at the bank of the Westminster area, where mostly government buildings were located. The police station face a vacant plot of land, called Great  
 5 scotland Yard. According to one legend, the land was set aside to build a residence for the kings of Scotland, who frequently visited the city. However, such a house was never constructed. Another story says that the plot was owned by an Englishman, named Adam Scot, but little proof of this version exists.

After the police force of London was founded, the building housed the police headquarters from September 29, 1829. The entire police division consisted of two commissioners, eight superintendents, 20 inspectors, 88  
 10 sergeants, and 895 constables. Together represented a formidable force, and the 50-room building functioned as an administrative center that dealt with public inquiries, correspondence, and recruitment. By 1887, the staffing of the police force had grown to about 13,000, and it became evident that the accommodations had to be expanded. A new building on the Thames Embankment was erected in 1907 and another in 1940.

With the advent of new technology, paramount in police detective work, chemical, electronic, and forensic laboratories experienced a severe shortage of space. The diversification of police duties led to inevitable growth in the number of the enlisted men and women. As an outcome, Scotland Yard leased a 20-story office complex on Victoria Street at Broadway. The ever-expanding headquarters were named New Scotland Yard. It is curious to note that the vast amount of office space for the Metropolitan Police Force does not have a police station, but includes a citizen' information room.

1. What does the passage mainly discuss?
  - a. The work of the London police and the Scotland Yard.

- b. The internal organization of the Scotland Yard
  - c. The area of London where Scotland Yard is located
  - d. The name and location of the London police headquarters.
2. According to the passage, the building where the first police office was located.
    - a. Got its name from the land lot on which it was built.
    - b. Was named after the owner to whom the land belonged
    - c. Got its name from a facing parcel of land
    - d. Got its name for several historical reasons.
  3. In line 5, the phrase “set aside” is closest in meaning to
    - a. Reserved
    - b. Seized
    - c. Restored
    - d. Sequestered
  4. In line 10, the word “formidable” is closest in meaning to
    - a. Formed
    - b. Formulated
    - c. Impressive
    - d. Impudent
  5. It can be inferred from the passage that the Scotland Yard building in the late 1800s
    - a. Did not have room to accommodate the force
    - b. Did not include an office for the public
    - c. Housed the entire police administration
    - d. Included police investigation
  6. The author of the passage implies that in the past several decades
    - a. The police have begun to employ female personnel as police officers
    - b. The type of tasks the police perform has grown dramatically
    - c. Police tasks have been relegated to office personnel
    - d. Performing police duties has requires training in science
  7. The word “inevitable” in line 15 is closest in meaning to
    - a. Unmistakable.
    - b. Undesirable
    - c. Unavoidable
    - d. Undisputed
  8. How many buildings does Scotland Yard currently occupy?
    - a. One
    - b. Two
    - c. Three
    - d. Four.
  9. The word “diversification” in line 15 is closest in meaning to
    - a. Varieties
    - b. Differ
    - c. Difference
    - d. Differentiate
  10. The words “superintendents” and “constable” in line 9 is closest in meaning to
    - a. Head officer and deputies
    - b. Manager office and vice deputy
    - c. Detective officer and deputy
    - d. Directors and police officers
  11. The word “advent” in line 14 is closest in meaning to
    - a. Arrive
    - b. Arrivals
    - c. Depart
    - d. Newest