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Test Taker's Help Series



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Sample Questions

The Sample Questions are provided to familiarize you with the contents of the section.

Reading Comprehension



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Sample Questions for:
Reading Comprehension
Difficulty Level: 1-5 of 10

Purpose of this set of sample questions is to familiarize the test taker with the question types that appear on the actual test.

Reading Comprehension

Directions:

Each reading passage in this section is followed by questions based on the content of the reading passage. Read the passage carefully and choose the best answer to each question. The questions are to be answered on the basis of what is stated or implied in the passage.

Passage 1

But man is not destined to vanish. He can be killed, but he cannot be destroyed, because his soul is deathless and his spirit is irrepressible. Therefore, though the situation seems dark in the context of the confrontation between the superpowers, the silver lining is provided by amazing phenomenon that the very nations which have spent incalculable resources and energy for the production of deadly weapons are desperately trying to find out how they might never be used. They threaten each other, intimidate each other and go to the brink, but before the total hour arrives they withdraw from the brink.

1. **The main point from the author's view is that**
 - A. Man's soul and spirit cannot be destroyed by superpowers.
 - B. Man's destiny is not fully clear or visible.
 - C. Man's soul and spirit are immortal.
 - D. Man's safety is assured by the delicate balance of power in terms of nuclear weapons.
 - E. Human society will survive despite the serious threat of total annihilation.

2. **The phrase 'Go to the brink' in the passage means**
 - A. Retreating from extreme danger.
 - B. Declare war on each other.
 - C. Advancing to the stage of war but not engaging in it.
 - D. Negotiate for peace.
 - E. Commit suicide.
3. **In the author's opinion**
 - A. Huge stockpiles of destructive weapons have so far saved mankind from a catastrophe.
 - B. Superpowers have at last realized the need for abandoning the production of lethal weapons.
 - C. Mankind is heading towards complete destruction.
 - D. Nations in possession of huge stockpiles of lethal weapons are trying hard to avoid actual conflict.
 - E. There is a Silver lining over the production of deadly weapons.
4. **'Irrepressible' in the second line means**
 - A. incompatible
 - B. strong
 - C. oppressive
 - D. un-restrain able
 - E. un-spirited
5. **A suitable title for the above passage is**
 - A. Destruction of mankind is in evitable.
 - B. Man's desire to survive inhibits use of deadly weapons.
 - C. Mounting cost of modern weapons.
 - D. Threats and intimidation between super powers.
 - E. Cowardly retreat by man

Passage 2

Disequilibrium at the interface of water and air is a factor on which the transfer of heat and water vapor from the ocean to the air depends. The air within about a millimeter of the water is almost saturated with water vapor and the temperature of the air is close to that of the surface water. Irrespective of how small these differences might be, they are crucial, and the disequilibrium is maintained by air near the surface mixing with air higher up, which is typically appreciably cooler and lower in water vapor content. The turbulence, which takes its energy from the wind, mixes the air. As the speed of wind increases, so does the turbulence, and consequently the rate of heat and moisture transfer. We can arrive at a detailed understanding of this phenomenon after further study. The transfer of momentum from wind to water, which occurs when waves are formed, is an interacting-and complicated phenomenon. When waves are made by the wind, it transfers important amounts of energy-energy, which is consequently not available for the production of turbulence.

1. **This passage principally intends to:**

- A. resolve a controversy
- B. attempt a description of a phenomenon
- C. sketch a theory
- D. reinforce certain research findings
- E. tabulate various observations

2. **The wind over the ocean usually does which of the following according to the given passage?**

- I. Leads to cool, dry air coming in proximity with the ocean surface.
- II. Maintains a steady rate of heat and moisture transfer between the ocean and the air.
- III. Results in frequent changes in the ocean surface temperature.

- A. I only
- B. II only
- C. I and II only
- D. II and III only
- E. I, II, and III

3. **According to the author the present knowledge regarding heat and moisture transfer from the ocean to air as**

- A. revolutionary
- B. inconsequential
- C. outdated
- D. derivative

E. incomplete

4. **According to the given passage, in case the wind was to decrease until there was no wind at all, which of the following would occur?**

- A. The air, which is closest to the ocean surface, would get saturated with water vapor.
- B. The water would be cooler than the air closest to the ocean surface.
- C. There would be a decrease in the amount of moisture in the air closest to the ocean surface.
- D. There would be an increase in the rate of heat and moisture transfer.
- E. The temperature of the air closest to the ocean and that of the air higher up would be the same.

Passage 3

The Food and Drug Administration has formulated certain severe restrictions regarding the use of antibiotics, which are used to promote the health and growth of meat animals. Though the different types of medicines mixed with the fodder of the animal's kills many microorganisms, it also encourages the appearance of bacterial strains, which are resistant to anti-infective drugs.

It has already been observed that penicillin and the tetracyclines are not as effective therapeutically as they once used to be. This resistance to drugs is chiefly caused due to tiny circlets of genes, called plasmids, which are transferable between different species of bacteria. These plasmids are also one of the two kinds of vehicles on which molecular biologists depend on while performing gene transplant experiments. Existing guidelines also forbid the use of plasmids, which bear genes for resistance to antibiotics, in the laboratories. Though congressional debate goes on as to whether these restrictions need to be toughened with reference to scientists in their laboratories, almost no congressional attention is being paid to an ill advised agricultural practice, which produces deleterious effects.

1. **In the present passage, the author's primary concern is with:**

- A. The discovery of methods, which eliminate harmful microorganisms without generating drug-resistant bacteria.

- B. Attempting an explanation of the reasons for congressional inaction about the regulation of gene transplant experiments.
- C. Portraying a problematic agricultural practice and its serious genetic consequences
- D. The verification of the therapeutic ineffectiveness of anti-infective drugs
- E. Evaluation of the recently proposed restrictions, which are intended to promote the growth of meat animals.

2. **As inferred from the above passage, the mutual transfer of plasmids between different bacteria can result in which of the following?**

- A. Microorganisms, which have an in-built resistance to drugs
- B. Therapeutically useful circlets of genes
- C. Penicillin like anti-infective drugs
- D. Viruses used by molecular biologists
- E. Carriers for performing gene transplant experiments.

3. **According to the above passage the author believes that those who favor the stiffening of restrictions on gene transplant research should logically also.**

- A. Approve and aid experiments with any plasmids except those, which bear genes for antibiotic resistance.
- B. Inquire regarding the addition of anti-infective drugs to livestock feeds
- C. Oppose the using of penicillin and tetracyclines in order to kill microorganisms
- D. Agree to the development of meatier livestock through the use of antibiotics
- E. Approve of congressional debate and discussion regarding science and health issues.

4. **The attitude the author has with reference to the development of bacterial strains that render antibiotic drugs in effective can best be described as**

- A. indifferent
- B. perplexed
- C. pretentious
- D. insincere
- E. apprehensive

Passage 4

Roger Rosenblatt's book *Black Fiction*, manages to alter the approach taken in many previous studies by making an attempt to apply literary rather than sociopolitical criteria to its subject. Rosenblatt points out that criticism of Black writing has very often served as a pretext for an expounding on Black history. The recent work of Addison Gayle's passes a judgment on the value of Black fiction by clearly political standards, rating each work according to the ideas of Black identity, which it propounds.

Though fiction results from political circumstances, its author react not in ideological ways to those circumstances, and talking about novels and stories primarily as instruments of ideology circumvents much of the fictional enterprise. Affinities and connections are revealed in the works of Black fiction in Rosenblatt's literary analysis; these affinities and connections have been overlooked and ignored by solely political studies.

The writing of acceptable criticism of Black fiction, however, presumes giving satisfactory answers to a quite a few questions. The most important of all, is there a sufficient reason, apart from the racial identity of the authors, for the grouping together of Black authors? Secondly, what is the distinction of Black fiction from other modern fiction with which it is largely contemporaneous? In the work Rosenblatt demonstrates that Black fiction is a distinct body of writing, which has an identifiable, coherent literary tradition. He highlights recurring concerns and designs, which are independent of chronology in Black fiction written over the past eighty years. These concerns and designs are thematic, and they come from the central fact of the predominant white culture, where the Black characters in the novel are situated irrespective of whether they attempt to conform to that culture or they rebel against it.

Rosenblatt's work does leave certain aesthetic questions open. His thematic analysis allows considerable objectivity; he even clearly states that he does not intend to judge the merit of the various works yet his reluctance seems misplaced, especially since an attempt to appraise might have led to interesting results. For example, certain novels have an appearance of structural diffusion. Is this a defeat, or are the authors working out of, or attempting to forge, a different kind of aesthetic? Apart from this, the style of certain Black novels, like Jean Toomer's *Cane*, verges on expressionism or surrealism; does this technique provide a counterpoint to the

prevalent theme that portrays the fate against which Black heroes are pitted, a theme usually conveyed by more naturalistic modes of expressions?

Irrespective of such omissions, what Rosenblatt talks about in his work makes for an astute and worthwhile study. His book very effectively surveys a variety of novels, highlighting certain fascinating and little-known works like James Weldon Johnson's *Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*. *Black Fiction* is tightly constructed, and levelheaded and penetrating criticism is exemplified in its forthright and lucid style.

1. **The author of the passage raises an objection to criticism of Black fiction like that by Addison Gayle as it:**

- A. Highlights only the purely literary aspects of such works
- B. Misconceive the ideological content of such fiction
- C. Miscalculate the notions of Black identity presented in such fiction
- D. Replaces political for literary criteria in evaluating such fiction
- E. Disregards the reciprocation between Black history and Black identity exhibited in such fiction.

2. **The primary concern of the author in the above passage is:**

- A. Reviewing the validity of a work of criticism
- B. Comparing various critical approaches to a subject
- C. Talking of the limitations of a particular kind of criticism
- D. Recapitulation of the major points in a work of criticism
- E. Illustrating the theoretical background of a certain kind of criticism.

3. **The author is of the opinion that *Black Fiction* would have been improved had Rosenblatt:**

- A. Undertaken a more careful evaluation of the ideological and historical aspects of *Black Fiction*
- B. Been more objective in his approach to novels and stories by Black authors
- C. Attempted a more detailed exploration of the recurring themes in *Black fiction* throughout its history
- D. Established a basis for placing *Black fiction* within its own unique literary tradition

E. Calculated the relative literary merit of the novels he analyzed thematically.

4. **Rosenblatt's discussion of *Black Fiction* is :**

- A. Pedantic and contentious
- B. Critical but admiring
- C. Ironic and deprecating
- D. Argumentative but unfocused
- E. Stilted and insincere.

5. **According to the given passage the author would be LEAST likely to approve of which among the following?**

- A. Analyzing the influence of political events on the personal ideology of Black writers
- B. Attempting a critical study, which applies sociopolitical criteria to the autobiographies of Black authors
- C. A literary study of Black poetry that appraises the merits of poems according to the political acceptability of their themes
- D. Studying the growth of a distinct Black literary tradition within the context of Black history
- E. Undertaking a literary study, which attempts to isolate aesthetic qualities unique to *Black fiction*.

6. **From the following options, which does the author not make use of while discussing *Black Fiction*?**

- A. Rhetorical questions
- B. Specific examples
- C. Comparison and contrast
- D. Definition of terms
- E. Personal opinion.

7. **The author makes a reference to *James Weldon Johnson's Autobiography of an Ex-colored Man* most probably to:**

- A. Highlight the affinities between Rosenblatt's method of thematic analysis and earlier criticism
- B. Elucidate regarding the point made regarding expressionistic style earlier in the passage
- C. Qualify the assessment of Rosenblatt's book made in the first paragraph of the passage
- D. Demonstrate the affinities among the various *Black novels* talked of by Rosenblatt's literary analysis

- E. Present a specific example of one of the accomplishments of Rosenblatt's work.

Passage 5

Some modern anthropologists hold that biological evolution has shaped not only human morphology but also human behavior. The role those anthropologists ascribe to evolution is not of dictating the details of human behavior but one of imposing constraints - ways of feeling, thinking, and acting that "come naturally" in archetypal situations in any culture. Our "frailties" - emotions and motives such as rage, fear, greed, gluttony, joy, lust, love - may be a very mixed assortment quality: we are, as we say, "in the grip" of them. And thus they give us our sense of constraints.

Unhappily, some of those frailties our need for ever-increasing security among them is presently maladaptive. Yet beneath the overlay of cultural detail, they, too, are said to be biological in direction, and therefore as natural to us as are our appendixes. We would need to comprehend thoroughly their adaptive origins in order to understand how badly they guide us now. And we might then begin to resist their pressure.

1. **The author implies that control to any extent over the "frailties" that constrain our behavior is tough to presuppose**
 - A. That those frailties and adaptive are recognized as currently beneficial and adaptive
 - B. That there is little or no overlay of cultural detail that masks their true nature.
 - C. That there are cultures in which those frailties do not "come naturally" and from which such control can be learned
 - D. A full understanding of why those frailties evolved and of how they function now
 - E. A thorough grasp of the principle that cultural detail in human behavior can differ arbitrarily from society to society.
2. **It can be inferred that in his discussion of maladaptive frailties the author assumes that**
 - A. Evolution does not favor the emergence of adaptive characteristics over the emergence of maladaptive ones
 - B. Any structure or behavior not positively adaptive is regarded as transitory in evolutionary theory
 - C. Maladaptive characteristics, once fixed, make the emergence of other maladaptive characteristics more likely
 - D. The designation of a characteristic as being maladaptive must always remain highly tentative
 - E. Changes in the total human environment can outpace evolutionary change.
3. **The primary purpose of the passage is to present**
 - A. A position on the foundations of human behavior and on what those foundations imply
 - B. A theory outlining the parallel development of human morphology and of human behavior
 - C. A diagnostic test for separating biologically determined behavior patterns from culture - specific detail
 - D. An overview of those human emotions and motive's that impose constraints on human behavior
 - E. A practical method for resting the pressures of biologically determined drives.
4. **Which of the following most probably provides an appropriate analogy from human morphology for the "details" versus "constraints" distinction made in the passage in relation to human behavior?**
 - A. The ability of most people to see all the colors of the visible spectrum as against most people's inability to name any but the primary colors
 - B. The ability of even the least fortunate people to show compassion as against people's inability to mask their feelings completely
 - C. The ability of some people to dive to great depths as against most people's inability to swim long distance
 - D. The psychological profile of those people who are able to delay gratification as against people's inability to control their lives completely
 - E. The greater lung capacity of mountain peoples that helps them live in oxygen-poor air as against people's inability to fly without special apparatus.

For answers and solution explanation of the questions, visit official website of College of Admission tests.

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