

TAILWIND **PLACEMENT EXAMS**

A National Partnership between the
University of Wisconsin System
and **Castle Worldwide, Inc.**

ENGLISH **WRITING MECHANICS &** **READING COMPREHENSION**

PRACTICE EXAM

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

You will have 90 minutes for this test. Work rapidly but carefully. Do not spend too much time on any one question. If you have time after you have finished the test, go back to the questions you have left unanswered.

The three parts of this test are English Usage, Sentence Correction, and Reading Comprehension. When you have finished one part, go right on to the next part without stopping until you reach the end of the test. Read the instructions carefully since your task will NOT be the same for each section. Please read the sample problem(s) at the beginning of each section thoughtfully.

In order to get the most accurate assessment using this practice test, you should try to duplicate the actual testing situation as closely as possible. When taking this test, you should not use any additional materials, such as dictionaries, or look up the answers to the questions. You should only allow yourself 90 minutes to take this test and should take the entire test in one sitting. If possible, take the test in a quiet room where you will not be interrupted.

When you have completed the test, you should score your test using the answer key and scoring instructions provided on the last page.

SECTION I - USAGE

Directions:

Some of the following sentences contain an error in grammar, usage, punctuation, or word choice. Some sentences are correct. No sentence contains more than one error. The error, if there is one, is underlined and lettered. It is permissible to change, add, or delete words or punctuation when correcting the error. Assume that all other elements of the sentence are correct and cannot be changed. In choosing answers, follow the requirements of standard written English.

If there is an error, select the one underlined part that must be changed in order to make the sentence correct. If there is no error, choose the final answer, E.

SAMPLE PROBLEMS

1. Allan is afraid of the rain, he likes the thunder. No error.
A B C D E

Because two sentences divided only by a comma create a comma fault, either a conjunction must be added or the punctuation must be changed to a period or a semicolon. Therefore, C must be changed, and you would choose C. Note: when the punctuation is in question, the underlining may extend beneath a space, as in 1C.

2. Maria, who had just eaten, thought concerning having a candy bar or ice cream. No error.
A B C D E

Because we do not generally say “thought concerning,” but “thought about,” B must be changed and you would choose B.

3. Last spring the roofers replaced the asphalt shingles that a heavy snowstorm damages
A B C
during the preceding winter. No error.
D E

Because the damage from the snowstorm occurred in the past, “damages” should be replaced with the past tense form, “damaged.” Therefore, C must be changed, and you would choose C. Note: When there is a question about whether a punctuation mark should be added, an extra space is added between words and underlined, as in 3A and 3B.

BEGIN SECTION

1. It was not until I bought a car and graduating from high school that I dared even to think about going out with somebody. No error.
A B C
D E
2. When I was in Tiananmen Square, I recall, the pressure was tremendous. Because every minute there was danger. No error.
A B C
D E
3. Franklin the brave warrior that he is, would never run from a fight or shrink from a challenge. No error.
A B C D
E
4. The great tenor's high notes, his amazingly sustained breathing, his exquisitely nuanced phrasing--all these contribute to the most awesome sound in the world. No error.
A B C
D E
5. Employees are to report to work as usual, however, they will be excused between 12:00 and 1:00 p.m. to attend events or observances of their choosing. No error.
A B
C D E
6. Every Friday, each of the girls takes her father to see the newest action movie. No error.
A B C D E
7. Having left my father's car in the parking lot, I entered the tavern and was heading for the bar when suddenly I see the world's hugest and ugliest bouncer. No error.
A B C
D E
8. The fledgling artist, darling of the critics, fell from favor when he submitted a blank canvas to the competition, claiming that the "painting" was his masterpiece. No error.
A B
C D E
9. Successful entrepreneurs are always on the lookout for ideas, that will help them increase profits and stay competitive. No error.
A B C
D E

10. When I was traveling out West last summer; my friends and I stopped at all the historical markers; we learned a lot about American history. No error.
 A B C
 D E
11. Officially, the ambassador, but not her family, have to reside in the capital city, but if the truth be known, she lives elsewhere. No error.
 A B C
 D E
12. For many years now, we volunteered at an animal shelter, ever since we received our first puppy back in 1986. No error.
 A B C
 D E
13. Professor Ernst, a noted biologist, was intrigued by the mysterious fish kill in Summit Lake and undertook to study the reasons for why it occurred. No error.
 A B
 C D E
14. Margaret, fresh from her visit to Australia, made us vegemite sandwiches; they tasted bad.
 A B C D
No error.
 E
15. In falling a tree makes a whispering sound: a human being makes a dull, unpoetic thud.
 A B C D
No error.
 E
16. Carmela had a particularly busy day: she polished her light blue convertible and took her pet spaniel Corky to the groomer's, then she went to a movie. No error.
 A B
 C D E
17. The student sitting by the windows was not prepared for the exam, and neither were his classmates. No error.
 A B C
 D E
18. Just between us two, when I found out who really had shot Grandma, you could of knocked me over with a feather. No error.
 A B C
 D E

19. Many a Packer fan, caught between memories of a glorious past and hopes for a bright new day, can hardly bear to watch the struggles of today. No error.
 A B C D E
20. Each of the horses has their own food formula, which is carefully worked out by a dietician. No error.
 A B C D E
21. Family income, ethnicity, even geography, affect one's educational opportunity; however, income is clearly more influential. No error.
 A B C D E
22. The prank that Toby and him play on David is not intended to be just a little joke; instead, they want to make him feel ashamed. No error.
 A B C D E
23. Whistling out of the frigid North comes the bone-chilling winds of January. No error.
 A B C D E
24. Although they seem hearty pigs easily catch diseases, many of them serious; therefore, many pigs die young. No error.
 A B C D E
25. We had run three miles at a rapid pace, our hearts felt as if they were going to burst from our chests. No error.
 A B C D E
26. The fleeing convicts had already went into the woods by the time a posse could be organized and the order given to begin the pursuit. No error.
 A B C D E
27. Measles, an infectious disease, are contracted often in children's early years. No error.
 A B C D E
28. Greatly angered by the slightest of oversights, Rob demonstrated revealingly his hugely oversensitive nature. No error.
 A B C D E

29. If I had accomplished everything on my list that would have been impressive, to say the least. No error.
- A B C D
- E
30. Sheila had to borrow money from her father, otherwise, she would have had to drop out of college or find a job. No error.
- A B C
- D E
31. All candidates strive for the same results: you try to make the opponent look bad. No error.
- A B C D E
32. Running breathlessly down the street, clutching at her throat, wide-eyed and frantic, the young woman was obviously in trouble. No error.
- A B C
- D E
33. As the director had anticipated, with some foreboding, the leading lady was so self-absorbent that she made rehearsals excruciating for the rest of the cast. No error.
- A B
- C D E
34. Some experts say that as many as five out of ten cases of robbery is never reported because the public thinks police won't apprehend the criminal. No error.
- A B C
- D E

SECTION II - SENTENCE CORRECTION

Directions:

This is a test of correctness and effectiveness of expression. In choosing answers, follow requirements of standard written English; that is, pay attention to acceptable usage in grammar, word choice, sentence construction, and punctuation. Choose the answer that produces the most effective sentence – clear and exact, without wordiness or ambiguity. **Do not make a choice that changes the meaning of the original sentence.**

In each of the sentences of this section, one portion is underlined. Beneath each sentence you will find five ways of writing the underlined part; the first of these always repeats the original, and the other four are all different. If you think the original sentence is better than any of the suggested changes, choose the first answer (A); otherwise, select the best revision.

SAMPLE PROBLEM

1. Heavy smoking and to overeat are activities which a heart patient must forego.
 - A. Heavy smoking and to overeat
 - B. Smoking heavily and to overeat
 - C. To smoke heavily and overeating
 - D. Heavy smoking and overeating
 - E. Smoking heavy and to overeat

Because standard English requires the same grammatical form for two units connected by and, either smoking or to overeat must be changed to gain parallelism. Among the options offered, only the form Heavy smoking and overeating is parallel, and you would choose D.

35. Just as I was despairing, a nun passes by and whispers encouragement.
- A. passes by and whispers
 - B. is passing by and whispered
 - C. is passing by and whispers
 - D. passed by and whispers
 - E. passed by and whispered
36. Not being aware of the legal implications of his action, an arrest was made by the security guard.
- A. an arrest was made by the security guard.
 - B. the security guard called the police to arrest the offender.
 - C. the offender was arrested by the security guard.
 - D. the security guard made an arrest.
 - E. an arrest was made by the police.
37. Some couples are forbidden to divorce by religion, others are forbidden by social custom.
- A. others are forbidden by social custom.
 - B. social custom forbids other couples.
 - C. other couples are forbidden by social custom.
 - D. others by social custom.
 - E. social custom forbids others.
38. Amy couldn't decide whether to stay at home in Texas during her vacation or if she should go to visit her relatives in New York.
- A. vacation or if she should go to visit
 - B. vacation; or to visit
 - C. vacation or to visit
 - D. vacation, or if she should go to visit
 - E. vacation. Or if she should go to visit
39. When one becomes a secret agent, you don't write home very often.
- A. you don't write home very often.
 - B. a person doesn't write home very often.
 - C. she doesn't write home very often.
 - D. one doesn't write home very often.
 - E. people don't write home very often.
40. Every one of the communities under discussion have adequate school facilities.
- A. Every one of the communities under discussion have
 - B. Every one of the community's under discussion have
 - C. Everyone of the communities under discussion have
 - D. Every one of the communities' under discussion has
 - E. Every one of the communities under discussion has

41. The package, rectangular in shape, lay on the counter.
- A. The package, rectangular in shape,
 - B. The rectangular package
 - C. The package, shaped like a rectangle,
 - D. The packaged rectangle
 - E. The rectangularly-shaped package
42. After driving for most of the day, they decided to stop at twilight. Even though they were very close to their final destination.
- A. . Even though they
 - B. . Even though, they
 - C. ; even though they
 - D. , even though they
 - E. . They
43. Although many people who listen to rock music do not know where it comes from it is actually a musical descendent of the blues
- A. from it is
 - B. from, it is
 - C. from it is,
 - D. from; it is
 - E. from: it is
44. Actors who look badly on stage probably perform badly in movies.
- A. badly on stage probably perform badly in movies.
 - B. badly on stage probably perform bad in movies.
 - C. bad on stage probably perform as bad in movies.
 - D. bad on stage probably perform badly in movies.
 - E. bad on stage probably perform bad in movies.
45. Gladys wanted to go to the museum to see the relics displayed there with her sister Evelyn.
- A. to see the relics displayed there with her sister Evelyn.
 - B. with her sister Evelyn to see the relics displayed there.
 - C. to see, along with her sister Evelyn, the relics displayed there.
 - D. to see her sister Evelyn, whose relics were displayed there.
 - E. with the relics display to see her sister Evelyn.
46. When he walked into the classroom, the students were sitting at their desks, staring at the chalkboard.
- A. When he walked
 - B. Walking
 - C. While walking
 - D. He walked
 - E. His having walked

47. Less than a minute after he had finished steam cleaning the carpet, Steve's dog tracked mud all through the house.
- A. he had finished steam cleaning the carpet, Steve's dog
 - B. he steam cleaned the carpet, Steve's dog had
 - C. he finished steam cleaning the carpet; Steve's dog
 - D. Steve had finished steam cleaning the carpet, his dog
 - E. Steve steam cleaned the carpet, his dog had
48. We took the day off; because, it was so nice.
- A. ; because,
 - B. , because
 - C. because
 - D. , because,
 - E. ;
49. The driver asked would we move to the back of the bus to make room for people getting on.
- A. asked would we
 - B. asked would we please,
 - C. asked if we would
 - D. asked us, if we would
 - E. asked, would we
50. As my pace quickens, so does my breathing.
- A. As my pace quickens, so does my breathing.
 - B. My breathing quickens like my pace.
 - C. My pace and my breathing quicken.
 - D. The pace quickening, my breathing quickens, too.
 - E. As my pace quickens, my breathing quickens along with it.
51. Walking in the woods, spring wild flowers were seen.
- A. , spring wild flowers were seen.
 - B. , we saw spring wild flowers.
 - C. spring wild flowers were seen.
 - D. , spring wild flowers could be seen blooming.
 - E. wild flowers were springing to life.
52. Running and biking are good exercises for your muscles as well as your heart and exercising your mental outlook as well.
- A. your muscles as well as your heart and exercising your mental outlook as well.
 - B. not only your muscles and your heart but, your mental outlook as well.
 - C. your muscles as well as your heart and mental outlook.
 - D. your muscles and heart and they exercise your mind too.
 - E. your muscles, heart, and mental outlook.

53. A tornado is a violent wind. One that takes the form of a funnel cloud.
- A. wind. One
 - B. wind, one
 - C. wind; one
 - D. wind, it is one
 - E. wind,
54. If you don't claim your prize, it will revert back to the pot for next week's subsequent drawing.
- A. revert back to the pot for next week's subsequent drawing.
 - B. revert back to the pot for next week's drawing.
 - C. revert to the pot for next week's subsequent drawing.
 - D. revert to the pot for next week's drawing.
 - E. revert to next week's drawing.
55. The reason he failed the quiz is that the assigned chapter wasn't read.
- A. that the assigned chapter wasn't read.
 - B. that the assigned chapter was not read.
 - C. because the assigned chapter was not read.
 - D. that he didn't read the assigned chapter.
 - E. because he didn't read the assigned chapter.
56. When my friends went to the employment office, they had closed early.
- A. office, they had closed early.
 - B. office, they had closed, early.
 - C. office; it had closed early.
 - D. office, he/she had closed early.
 - E. office, it had closed early.
57. Connie was about 5'4" tall, weight unknown, but she was slender.
- A. weight unknown, but she was slender.
 - B. her weight unknown, but slender.
 - C. and, weight unknown, but slender.
 - D. and, although her weight was unknown, she was slender.
 - E. and of unknown but slender weight.
58. The sun rising over the horizon and spread a warm glow over the meadow.
- A. rising over the horizon and spread
 - B. rising over the horizon, and spread
 - C. rose over the horizon and spread
 - D. rising over the horizon, spread
 - E. rising over the horizon and spreading

59. Stretched out in single file, the explorers climbed along a narrow path that seems very little used.
- A. along a narrow path that seems
 - B. along a narrow path that seemed
 - C. along a narrow path. That seemed
 - D. their way along a narrow path,
 - E. along, seemingly, on a narrow path
60. When a person moves every year, one cannot expect them to develop civic pride.
- A. When a person moves every year, one cannot expect them
 - B. When a person moves every year, he or she cannot expect them
 - C. When people move every year, they cannot expect him or her
 - D. When people move every year, one cannot expect them
 - E. When you move every year, one cannot be expected

SECTION III - READING COMPREHENSION

Directions:

The passages below are followed by questions on the vocabulary, style, and meaning of the passages. After reading each passage, choose the best answer to each question. Answer all questions in terms of the context within the passage.

5 He had reached that low point in the life of an assistant district attorney in the Bronx when he is assailed by Doubts. Every year forty thousand people, forty thousand incompetents, dimwits, alcoholics, psychopaths, knockabouts, good souls driven to some terrible terminal anger, and people who could only be described as stone evil, were arrested in the Bronx. Seven
10 thousand of them were indicted and arraigned, and then they entered the maw of the criminal justice system-right here-through the gateway into Gibraltar, where the vans were lined up. That was about 150 new cases, 150 more pumping hearts and morose glares, every week that the courts and the Bronx County District Attorney's Office were open. And to what end? The same stupid, dismal, pathetic, horrifying crimes were committed day in and day out, all the same.
15 What was accomplished by assistant D.A.'s, by any of them, through all this relentless stirring of the muck? The Bronx crumbled and decayed a little more, and a little more blood dried in the cracks. The Doubts! One thing was accomplished for sure. The system was fed, and those vans brought in the chow, Fifty judges, thirty-five law clerks, 245 assistant district attorneys, one D.A. and who knows how many criminal lawyers, Legal Aid lawyers, court reporters, court clerks, court officers, correction officers, probation officers, social workers, bail bondsmen, special investigators, case clerks, court psychiatrists-what a vast swarm had to be fed! And every morning the chow came in, the chow and the Doubts.

Tom Wolfe, The Bonfire of the Vanities

61. In line 6, “Gibraltar” probably refers to
- A. an insurance company.
 - B. a police station.
 - C. a British colony.
 - D. a courthouse.
 - E. a rocky area.
62. In line 9, “all the same,” in the context of the passage, conveys the sense that
- A. all crimes are alike.
 - B. all criminals are alike.
 - C. crimes were repeated because of the criminal justice system.
 - D. crime continued despite the efforts of the criminal justice system.
 - E. crime continued in keeping with the standards set by the criminal justice system.
63. In line 12, “Doubts” implies that
- A. the wrong people are being arrested.
 - B. the police arrest too many people.
 - C. the District Attorney’s Office employs too many people.
 - D. the District Attorney’s Office should work harder.
 - E. the criminal justice system doesn’t improve the quality of life in the Bronx.
64. In lines 13 and 17, “chow” metaphorically indicates that
- A. the criminal justice system views defendants as dogs.
 - B. defendants are necessary to the criminal justice system.
 - C. the assistant district attorneys sympathize with the people they prosecute.
 - D. defendants give people in the criminal justice system food for thought.
 - E. defendants are ridiculed by the assistant district attorneys.

But it is time that we pass to some of the advantages of size. One of the most obvious is that it enables one to keep warm. All warm-blooded animals at rest lose the same amount of heat from a unit area of skin, for which purpose they need a food-supply proportional to their surface and not to their weight. Five thousand mice weigh as much as a man. Their combined surface and food or oxygen consumption are about seventeen times a man's. In fact a mouse eats about one quarter its own weight of food every day, which is mainly used in keeping it warm. For these reasons, small animals cannot live in cold countries. In the arctic regions there are no reptiles or amphibians, and no small mammals. The smallest mammal in Spitzbergen is the fox. The small birds fly away in winter, while the insects die, though their eggs can survive six months or more of frost. The most successful mammals are bears, seals, and walruses.

J. B. S. Haldane, "On Being the Right Size," 1928.

65. According to the author, all warm-blooded animals
- A. need a food supply proportional to their weight.
 - B. eat only to stay warm.
 - C. can keep warm in all geographical locations.
 - D. expend the same amount of energy in a given unit of time.
 - E. give off heat at an equal rate from a unit area of skin.
66. The author implies that for his purpose the main similarity shared by bears, seals, and walruses is that
- A. they are warm-blooded.
 - B. they live in cold climates.
 - C. they are meat eaters.
 - D. they are large.
 - E. their surface is proportionate to their weight.
67. This paragraph suggests that the previous paragraphs in this essay, "On Being the Right Size," were about
- A. the advantages of living in cold climates.
 - B. the advantages of living in warm climates.
 - C. the difficulties associated with being large.
 - D. cold-blooded creatures.
 - E. mammals that have become extinct.
68. This paragraph is developed by
- A. comparing warm and cold-blooded animals.
 - B. stating facts and some consequences that follow from them.
 - C. giving reasons to support an argumentative proposition.
 - D. listing the causes of animal eating patterns.
 - E. dividing a concept (animals) into some of its parts.
69. From this passage one may infer that "Spitzbergen" in line 8 is
- A. a European city.
 - B. a wildlife refuge.
 - C. an arctic research station.
 - D. a small country.
 - E. a very cold place.

In the 1930's Hollywood moguls turned Brazilian singer Carmen Miranda into an American movie star. They were trying to aid President Franklin Roosevelt's efforts to promote friendlier relations between the United States and Latin America. When the fruit executives then drew on Carmen Miranda's popular Latinized female image, Chiquita Banana, to create a logo for their imported bananas, they were trying to construct a new, intimate relationship between American housewives and a multinational plantation company. With her famous fruited hats and vivacious screen presence, Carmen Miranda was used by American men to reshape international relations. Carmen Miranda alerts us to the fact that it would be a mistake to confine an investigation of regional politics or international agribusiness to male foreign-policy officials, male company executives and male plantation owners. Omitting sexualized images, women as consumers, and women as agribusiness workers leaves us with a political analysis that is incomplete, even naive.

Cynthia Enloe, Bananas, Beaches, and Bases, 1990.

70. According to the passage, Carmen Miranda began her career as a
- A. movie star.
 - B. Brazilian singer.
 - C. symbol for a large plantation.
 - D. ambassador from Latin America.
 - E. sexualized image.
71. According to the author, Carmen Miranda was introduced to American movies in order to
- A. promote sexuality.
 - B. sell bananas.
 - C. help improve relations between the American government and the movie tycoons.
 - D. help improve relations between the United States and Latin America.
 - E. help President Roosevelt win reelection.
72. In line 1, “moguls” most nearly means
- A. movie stars.
 - B. politicians.
 - C. executives.
 - D. immigrants.
 - E. male foreign policy officials.
73. In line 4, the word “Latinized” means
- A. ancient.
 - B. South American.
 - C. sexy.
 - D. exploited.
 - E. Roman.
74. In the passage, the story of Carmen Miranda contributes to the overall meaning as
- A. a comparison.
 - B. a contrast.
 - C. a metaphor.
 - D. an analogy.
 - E. an example.

“In Search of Our Mothers’ Gardens”

5 And I remember people coming to my mother’s yard to be given cuttings from her flowers; I hear again the praise showered on her because whatever rocky soil she landed on, she turned into a garden. A garden so brilliant with colors, so original in its design, so magnificent with life and creativity, that to this day people drive by our house in Georgia—perfect strangers and imperfect strangers—and ask to stand or walk among my mother’s art.

I notice that it is only when my mother is working in her flowers that she is radiant, almost to the point of being invisible—except as Creator: hand and eye. She is involved in work her soul must have. Ordering the universe in the image of her personal conception of Beauty.

10 Her face, as she prepares the Art that is her gift, is a legacy of respect she leaves to me, for all that illuminates and cherishes life. She has handed down respect for the possibilities—and the will to grasp them.

For her, so hindered and intruded upon in so many ways, being an artist has still been a daily part of her life. This ability to hold on, even in very simple ways, is work black women have done for a very long time.

Alice Walker, from In Search of Our Mothers’ Gardens, 1983.

75. The author's mother creates gardens because
- A. many people admire her flowers.
 - B. she likes to give her flowers away.
 - C. her soul needs to create beauty.
 - D. she needs a hobby.
 - E. the author likes to walk in her garden.
76. The tone of the passage is
- A. respectful.
 - B. objective.
 - C. bitter.
 - D. ironic.
 - E. sarcastic.
77. The reference to "Creator" in line 7
- A. suggests that the mother credits God for her talent.
 - B. suggests that the mother is God-like in her ordering of the universe.
 - C. suggests that the mother is invisible when she is gardening.
 - D. explains the religious legacy which the mother has passed to the author.
 - E. explains the supernatural source for the radiance which surrounds the mother.
78. In the last two lines, "work black women have done for a very long time" refers to
- A. persevering in the face of difficulty.
 - B. doing artistic yard work.
 - C. setting a good example for children.
 - D. sharing creations with others.
 - E. being expected to work very hard.
79. The legacy given to the author by her mother is respect for
- A. the admiration of perfect strangers.
 - B. the will to grasp life's possibilities.
 - C. all gardeners.
 - D. her mother's religion.
 - E. art as ornamentation.

These days I am often asked what I did in Tehran as bombs fell during the Iran-Iraq war. My interlocutors are invariably surprised, if not shocked, when I tell them that I read James, Eliot, Plath and great Persian poets like Rumi and Hafez. Yet it is precisely during such times, when our lives are transformed by violence, that we need works of imagination to confirm our
5 faith in humanity, to find hope amid the rubble of a hopeless world. Memoirs from concentration camps and the gulag attest to this. I keep returning to the words of Leon Staff, a Polish poet who lived in the Warsaw ghetto: “Even more than bread we now need poetry, in a time when it seems that it is not needed at all.”

10 My Tehran classroom at times overflowed with students who ignored the warnings about Iraq’s chemical bombs so they could reckon with Tolstoy’s ability to defamiliarize (a term coined by the Russian Formalist critics) everyday reality and offer it to us through new eyes. The excitement that came from discovering a hidden truth about *Anna Karenina* told me that Iraqi missiles had not succeeded in their mission. Indeed, the more Saddam Hussein wanted us to be defined by terror, the more we craved beauty. If I felt compelled to keep reading the
15 classics, it was in order to see the light in the eyes of my students. I remember two young women, clad from head to toe in black chadors, looking as if nothing in the world mattered more than the idea that *Pride and Prejudice* was subversive because it taught us about our right to make our own choices.

Azar Nafisi, Words of War

80. The main idea of this passage is that
- A. literature becomes superfluous in the face of war and violence.
 - B. the Iran-Iraq war was eerily similar to life in the Warsaw ghetto.
 - C. literature provides empty but nonetheless welcome escapist entertainment during times
 - D. war and repression highlight and promote people's need for the arts.
 - E. the author's students in Tehran were remarkably eager to learn.
81. The quote from Leon Staff (lines 7-8) most directly expresses a central
- A. apparent contradiction.
 - B. metaphor.
 - C. simile.
 - D. coincidence.
 - E. exaggeration.
82. The author's primary motive for continuing his wartime teaching of classic texts was apparently
- A. to earn a living during difficult times.
 - B. to distract his students from important issues.
 - C. to inspire his students.
 - D. to further Iranian goals in the war.
 - E. to enhance his own understanding of the origins of violence.
83. The sentiment expressed in lines 15-18 is that
- A. Iranian women hate wearing chadors, symbols of their oppression.
 - B. Iran has produced no literature of its own and is dependent on Western models.
 - C. prejudice against other cultures is unwarranted.
 - D. the writer's students were unconcerned with current events.
 - E. great literature has the capacity to liberate the human spirit.

Since time immemorial, people have speculated what the world was made of. The Greeks thought that the universe was made of four elements: water, air, earth, and fire. The philosopher Democritus believed that even these could be broken down into smaller units, which he called “atoms.” But attempts to explain how atoms could create the vast, wondrous diversity of matter we see in Nature always faltered. Even Newton, who discovered the cosmic laws which guided the motion of planets and moons, was at a loss to explain the bewildering nature of matter.

All this changed in 1925 with the birth of the quantum theory, which has unleashed a thundering tidal wave of scientific discovery that continues to surge unabated to this day. The quantum revolution has now given us an almost complete description of matter, allowing us to describe the seemingly infinite multiplicity of matter we see arrayed around us in terms of a handful of particles, in the same way that a richly decorated tapestry is woven from a few colored strands.

Michio Kaku, Visions: How Science Will Revolutionize the 21st Century

84. The main purpose of this passage is to explain
- A. how the Greeks were wrong about the elements.
 - B. the history of scientific thought.
 - C. the limits of Newton's accomplishments.
 - D. the importance of the quantum theory.
 - E. the basic elements of the quantum theory.
85. The intended audience for this passage is most likely
- A. professional scientists.
 - B. general readers interested in science.
 - C. science teachers.
 - D. historians of science.
 - E. people already familiar with the quantum theory.
86. The phrase "thundering tidal wave" (line 9) is used to
- A. emphasize the impact of the quantum theory.
 - B. make fun of the exaggerated claims made for the quantum theory.
 - C. provide a comparison between the quantum theory and earlier theories.
 - D. show that scientists are overwhelmed by the complexity of the quantum theory.
 - E. show how the quantum theory works.
87. The end of the last sentence is meant to
- A. demonstrate the complexity of the quantum theory.
 - B. explain the controversy surrounding the quantum theory.
 - C. show the incompleteness of the quantum theory.
 - D. provide a visual comparison for an abstract concept.
 - E. argue that the quantum theory is hardly a "revolution."
88. The passage asserts that the quantum theory
- A. has largely been discredited.
 - B. has as many flaws as earlier theories.
 - C. has succeeded where earlier efforts failed.
 - D. explains the aspects of planetary motion that baffled Newton.
 - E. is still in its infancy.

In a recent *New York Times* Sunday magazine article on school textbooks, writer Robert Reinhold described California's new history series as "... filled with colorful charts, graphs, time lines, maps, photographs in a format suggestive of the newspaper *USA Today*." There it is again. Since when did *USA Today* become the national design ideal? Everywhere you look you
5 find *USA Today* used as an analogy to describe a noteworthy design format. Making ideas "accessible" is the operative term for the information age. But too often information is drained of its significance in the name of accessibility.

Some things are designed for reading: scholarly journals, literary reviews, financial pages, and their ilk are fairly impenetrable to the casual page flipper. Other objects like *USA*
10 *Today*, annual reports, fashion magazines, and so on are for looking. (Haven't you heard in the course of a design project someone say, only half in jest, "No one actually reads the copy, just make it look good.") Then there are the gray areas. These include newsmagazines and textbooks, which imply reading but are increasingly about looking. If you compare *Time* or *Newsweek* or a
15 fifth grade schoolbook of twenty years ago to their present incarnations, the change is remarkable. The headlines are bigger, the captions are bigger, the photographs, charts, and call-outs are all bigger. Something had to go, someone must have decided, and what went was the text.

Michael Rock, "Since When Did *USA Today* Become the National Design Ideal?"

89. Who is the most likely audience for this passage?
- A. Readers of *USA Today*.
 - B. Public officials who regulate communication.
 - C. Reporters for *USA Today*.
 - D. People who design texts for publication.
 - E. School administrators.
90. What is the best way to describe the effect *USA Today* has had on other publications, according to the author?
- A. It has made them more readable and interesting.
 - B. It has caused newspapers and magazines to lose readers.
 - C. It has lowered their standards to emphasize visual style over substance.
 - D. It has suggested ways in which they can emphasize “reading” over “looking.”
 - E. It has forced them to become more competitive in order to stay in business.
91. What term best represents the meaning of “copy” (line 11)?
- A. writing
 - B. captions
 - C. design
 - D. imitation
 - E. pictures
92. Of the following types of publications, on which one has *USA Today* had the most visible impact, according to this passage?
- A. newspapers
 - B. fashion magazines
 - C. scholarly journals
 - D. textbooks
 - E. annual reports
93. The author is trying to draw attention to
- A. changes in the publishing industry due to technological innovation.
 - B. the problem of publications that sacrifice depth of ideas for readability.
 - C. the importance of communicating ideas clearly to all readers.
 - D. the irresistible push for everything to be bigger and better.
 - E. the impact of reading in our society in general.

No single invention changed the landscape and the character of the American West as much as barbed wire. After the Civil War, the western territories began to fill up with homesteaders—small ranchers and farmers whose livelihood depended on keeping free-roaming herds of cattle off their property. Split-rail fences of the type that were used back east were impractical on the treeless plains, and experience demonstrated that simple wire fences could not discourage a determined cow.

In 1874 a clever Illinois farmer named Joseph F. Glidden devised an efficient method of attaching pointed barbs to interwoven strands of ordinary wire. Soon other inventors were developing variations on his idea. Their combined efforts had a momentous effect: The wide open plains could now be fenced economically and subdivided into small parcels.

Cattle barons, who had long regarded the vast stretches of western rangeland as their private domain, did not take kindly to this development. Using hired guns to carry out their dirty work, they began a widespread campaign of vandalism, intimidation, and even murder against fence-building homesteaders. But they could not stem the tide of change: With the strength of numbers and the weight of the law on their side, the homesteaders prevailed.

Time-Life Books Editors, The American Story: Settling the West, 155.

94. The main point of this passage is that barbed wire fences
- A. hurt the American economy.
 - B. ruined the land in the American West.
 - C. made a huge impact on the make-up of the American West.
 - D. made inventors rich.
 - E. caused problems between settlers.
95. According to the passage, barbed wire fences
- A. were economical.
 - B. replaced split-rail fences.
 - C. were built by cattle barons.
 - D. were against the law.
 - E. were slightly better than simple wire fences.
96. According to the passage, cattle barons
- A. preferred split-rail fences to barbed wire fences.
 - B. were in favor of change.
 - C. outnumbered homesteaders.
 - D. believed rangeland belonged to them.
 - E. were intimidated by homesteaders who used barbed wire fences.
97. In the context of the passage, the word “momentous” (line 9) most likely means
- A. a moment in time.
 - B. comforting.
 - C. significant.
 - D. small.
 - E. inspirational.
98. This passage is primarily made up of
- A. facts.
 - B. comparisons.
 - C. generalizations.
 - D. arguments.
 - E. speculations.
99. The tone of this passage can best be described as
- A. sarcastic.
 - B. objective.
 - C. critical.
 - D. argumentative.
 - E. philosophical.

Neurobiology, the study of the brain and its behavior, is one of the fastest growing of the biological sciences today. Electrical recording devices can be inserted even into single cells within the brain; the electron microscope can be used for fine study of the brain structures; and biochemical techniques are available for detecting changes in the brains of experimental animals as they learn. All of these have contributed to an increasing understanding of the relationship between brain structure and function, and of the control processes which govern the relationships between the brain and the rest of the body, and between both of these and behavior. People often ask to what extent the operation of an animal or a human brain is predictable and manipulable--to what extent the brain is like a computer.

We can describe the operation of the brain in terms of information theory, which has also been used in the design of computers, and- quite a few research workers today believe that it would be possible to understand more of the mechanism of the brain if we could make mathematical models of the interactions of individual nerve cells.

. . . The comparison with computers is a valuable analogy of the sort that is useful in stimulating scientific research and understanding, but the most powerful computers yet built are not really capable of showing the "intelligence" of a worm, still less of a human being. Nonetheless, if we understand computers, we may learn more about the brain, and by studying the brain we may well discover how to build better computers.

Cells and Organisms
Science Foundation Course Team
The Open University, Walton Hall
Bletchley, Buckinghamshire
Great Britain

100. The word “analogy” in line 14 most nearly means
- A. experiment.
 - B. function.
 - C. structure.
 - D. comparison.
 - E. cause.
101. The first paragraph states that there are
- A. detectable changes in the brains of animals as they learn.
 - B. changes in the size of the brains of animals as they learn.
 - C. microscopic electronic changes in animal brain cells during learning.
 - D. changes in the relationship between brain and behavior as animals learn.
 - E. no changes in the brains of animals as they learn.
102. The third paragraph implies that the most powerful computers
- A. are “smarter” than the most intelligent human being.
 - B. promise to solve the riddle of brain structure and function.
 - C. are incapable of human intelligence.
 - D. utilize electronic and biochemical techniques.
 - E. will worm their way into more scientific research.
103. The passage implies that if we could make mathematical models of the interactions of brain cells, we would
- A. reach a greater understanding of the brain.
 - B. no longer need electron microscopes and biochemical techniques.
 - C. dictate human behavior absolutely.
 - D. move beyond the use of the worm as an experimental animal.
 - E. be able to insert electrical recording devices even into single brain cells.
104. The passage describes the relationship between neurobiology and computer science as
- A. competitive.
 - B. mutually helpful.
 - C. a relation of an art to a science.
 - D. a relation of a young science to a mature one.
 - E. a relation of a fast growing science to a static one.

END OF TEST

ANSWER KEY

The answers to this practice test are given below. Give yourself one point for each question you answered correctly and zero points for each question you answered incorrectly. Add up your points to obtain your score. An average score on the practice test is between 46 and 80 points.

Section 1

1. A
2. C
3. A
4. E
5. A
6. E
7. D
8. E
9. C
10. B
11. A
12. B
13. D
14. E
15. A
16. D
17. E
18. C
19. E
20. B
21. D
22. A
23. C
24. A
25. B
26. B
27. B
28. E
29. B
30. B
31. B
32. E
33. C
34. C

Section 2

35. E
36. D
37. D
38. C
39. D
40. E
41. B
42. D
43. B
44. D
45. B
46. A
47. D
48. C
49. C
50. A
51. B
52. E
53. B
54. D
55. D
56. E
57. D
58. C
59. B
60. D

Section 3

61. D
62. D
63. E
64. B
65. E
66. D
67. C
68. B
69. E
70. B
71. D
72. C
73. B
74. E
75. C
76. A
77. B
78. A
79. B
80. D
81. A
82. C
83. E
84. D
85. B
86. A
87. D
88. C
89. D
90. C
91. A
92. D
93. B
94. C
95. A
96. D
97. C
98. A
99. B
100. D
101. A
102. C
103. A
104. B