



Preparation for the National Grade Six Assessment

Guide #1 | English Multiple Choice

Who are you?

If you are in grade 5 or 6 and will be taking the next National Grade Six Assessment, then this packet is for you. This packet has past exam questions which have been solved with explanations to help you learn how to solve similar questions. Completing this packet will increase your chances of passing the exam with the highest possible score.

Who are we?

This packet was created by the Caribbean Education Project, a team of students and teachers from universities in the United States and the Caribbean. Our goal is to help you with your preparations for the next exam and to help you better understand each topic. We want you to achieve your best score on the exam. If you are not clear on concepts after reading the material, ask your parent or guardian for help. If they cannot help, ask another family member or a friend. If no one can help you, then ask your parents to send us a message on Facebook or WhatsApp or e-mail us.

- To reach us through Facebook, go on Facebook and search for “Shawn Shivdat.” Then send me a message using Facebook Messenger.
- To reach us by WhatsApp, save this number “Shawn Shivdat, +1 404-406-9638” and message me on WhatsApp.
- To reach us by e-mail, send a message to this e-mail address: info@caribed.org.

Keep in contact

If you are using this packet to prepare, we would like to hear from you. Please keep in touch with us so we can help you with any questions you may have. We can also provide updates when future materials are posted. Send us your name and contact information through WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, or e-mail (listed above), or send a picture of this sheet filled out through WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, or e-mail.

Name: _____

Parent’s phone number: _____

Parent’s e-mail address: _____

**PLEASE SHARE THIS GUIDE WITH OTHERS WHO MAY BENEFIT
FROM USING IT.**



How to use this guide:

1. The following pages have a total of 40 past exam questions. Try to answer these questions in the prescribed 70 minutes. If you are not able to answer a question, skip it and go on to the next question. When you are done answering all the questions, you can return to the ones you are having trouble with during your remaining time.
2. It is okay if you were not able to answer all the questions correctly on your first try. Keep practicing the questions, and you will get better. Soon, you will be able to answer all the questions in the 70 minutes. (**TIP:** Practice makes you perfect, so keep practicing.)
3. Answers to all the questions are on the pages immediately after the practice test. When you finish answering the questions, compare your answers to the answers on these pages.
4. Mark the questions which you got wrong.
5. Read our guide to solving each question. Even for questions you got correct, read the explanations we provided because you will likely learn something from them. Our explanations provide valuable information which can provide you with additional tricks to solve other problems.
6. Always read the instructions for each question carefully before attempting to answer. Also, read the question itself carefully and pay attention to what the question is asking you to do before attempting to answer it.
7. We provide the answers to all the questions in the practice exams to help you. Do not look at the answers before you attempt the questions. If you look at the answers before, you will not learn a lot from this packet. So, do we have a deal? Okay, I heard you say yes.





MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
NATIONAL GRADE SIX ASSESSMENT
PRACTICE TEST
ENGLISH LANGUAGE
PAPER 1

Hey students, for the purposes of practice, you can ignore the instructions listed below about shading circles on an answer sheet. We have included that here so you will be familiar with these instructions on exam day.

2020

Reading Time: 10 minutes

Writing Time: 60 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU ATTEMPT TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. In addition to this test booklet, you should have an **Answer Sheet**.
2. Write your candidate number on the answer sheet and underline the subject.
3. This test contains **40 questions**. You are required to answer **ALL** questions. Four responses are given for each question. The responses are **A, B, C** and **D**. Only **ONE** response is correct.
4. On your Answer Sheet find the number which corresponds to your question and shade the same letter as the one you have chosen.

Here is an example done for you.

1. Anita received a _____ Christmas gift.

- (A) beuitful (B) buteful
(C) beautiful (D) beautifful

ANSWER SHEET

1. A B C D

The letter **C** is shaded on the answer sheet because **beautiful**, the correct answer, is next to **C**.

5. If you are not sure of the answer to a question, then choose the one which you think is **BEST**. Shade the letter you have chosen.
6. If you want to change your answer, erase your old answer completely, then shade your new choice.
7. When you are told to begin, turn the page and work as quickly and as carefully as you can. If you cannot answer a question, go on to the next one. You can return to that question later.
8. This test contains **40** items. You will have 60 minutes to answer them.

DO NOT TURN THIS PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.



For **questions 1 and 2**, choose the correct **spelling** of the word to complete each sentence.

1. Cycling is a form of _____ which many children enjoy.

- (A) reloxation
- (B) relaxation
- (C) relaxacion
- (D) relaxashun

2. Our school library has many _____ books.

- (A) intresting
- (B) interestin
- (C) interesting
- (D) interresting

For **questions 3 and 4**, choose the **most** suitable word to complete each sentence.

3. A _____ of African bees was spotted in the trees.

- (A) flock
- (B) horde
- (C) crowd
- (D) swarm

4. A _____ of books was presented to the headmaster.

- (A) litter
- (B) class
- (C) library
- (D) bouquet



For **questions 5 to 7**, choose the word that is **similar** in meaning to the underlined word in each sentence.

5. Have you completed the task I assigned you?

- (A) begun
- (B) treated
- (C) finished
- (D) planned

6. Roger is so obstinate he will not change his mind.

- (A) obedient
- (B) stubborn
- (C) naughty
- (D) mischievous

7. Mother prepared a delicious meal for the guests.

- (A) tasty
- (B) large
- (C) quick
- (D) suitable

For **questions 8 and 9**, choose the set of words which is arranged in alphabetical order.

8.

- (A) bladder bottom brownie buffet
- (B) bladder buffet bottom brownie
- (C) bottom bladder buffet brownie
- (D) bottom buffet bladder brownie



9.

- (A) siesta signal signet sickle
- (B) sickle signal siesta signet
- (C) signet sickle signal siesta
- (D) sickle siesta signal signet

For **questions 10 and 11**, select the **correct order** in which the names should appear in the telephone directory.

10.

- (A) Bibi Deen Alex Clarke Rick Samaroo Tessa Hooper
- (B) Tessa Hooper Rick Samaroo Bibi Deen Alex Clarke
- (C) Alex Clarke Bibi Deen Tessa Hooper Rick Samaroo
- (D) Rick Samaroo Tessa Hooper Alex Clarke Bibi Deen

11.

- (A) Susan Farley Eldon Fernandes Kim Foo Orin Fung
- (B) Kim Foo Susan Farley Eldon Fernandes Orin Fung
- (C) Eldon Fernandes Kim Foo Orin Fung Susan Farley
- (D) Eldon Fernandes Orin Fung Kim Foo Susan Farley

For **questions 12 to 14**, choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

12. Mr. Layne said he could not read Paul’s handwriting; it was

- (A) legible
- (B) illegal
- (C) eligible
- (D) illegible



13. Did your parents _____ you permission to go to the mall?

- (A) offer
- (B) grant
- (C) award
- (D) obtain

14. As the coffee was hot, I _____ it.

- (A) sipped
- (B) gulped
- (C) nibbled
- (D) gobbled

For **questions 15 and 16**, fill in each blank with the correct answer.

15. The cows were brought to the _____ to be slaughtered.

- (A) cabin
- (B) orchard
- (C) abbatoir
- (D) hatchery

16. Please collect your medicine from the _____.

- (A) nursery.
- (B) university.
- (C) laboratory.
- (D) dispensary.



For **questions 17 and 18**, choose the meaning of the **phrase** that is underlined.

17. Miss Taylor advised Brian and Diane to bury the hatchet.

- (A) make peace
- (B) be outspoken
- (C) have a fight
- (D) create a row

18. My father was late for work because it rained cats and dogs.

- (A) was raining
- (B) was very wet
- (C) became very cold
- (D) rained very heavily

For **questions 19 and 20**, select the **opposite** of the underlined word in each sentence.

19. The men painted the interior of the building.

- (A) exit
- (B) inferior
- (C) exterior
- (D) entrance

20. Local programmes are commonly shown on television.

- (A) rarely
- (B) usually
- (C) familiarly
- (D) excitingly



For **questions 21 to 23**, select the sentence in each group which is correctly punctuated.

21.

- (A) "Here's the box of oranges I bought, said Farah.
- (B) "Here's the box of oranges I bought?" said Farah.
- (C) "Here's the box of oranges, I bought," said Farah.
- (D) "Here's the box of oranges I bought," said Farah

22.

- (A) "Are you awake"? whispered Julie from the door.
- (B) "Are you awake?" whispered Julie from the door.
- (C) "Are you awake," whispered Julie from the door?
- (D) "Are you awake?" whispered Julie from the door?

23.

- (A) The vendor sells, boulangers, ochroes, bora and tomatoes everyday.
- (B) The vendor sells; boulangers, ochroes, bora and tomatoes everyday.
- (C) The vendor sells boulangers, ochroes, bora and tomatoes everyday.
- (D) The vendor sells boulangers, ochroes, bora; and tomatoes everyday

For **questions 24 and 25**, choose the correct form of the verb to complete each sentence.

24. Last September, my parents _____ to enrol my brother in the Technical Institute.

- (A) decide
- (B) decides
- (C) decided
- (D) deciding



25. The journey to Lethem _____ about seven hours.

- (A) take
- (B) takes
- (C) taken
- (D) taking

For **questions 26 and 27**, identify the **function** of the word underlined in each sentence.

26. Tandy ran around the field slowly.

- (A) Verb
- (B) Adverb
- (C) Adjective
- (D) Preposition

27. The teacher marked the books and gave them to the pupils.

- (A) Noun
- (B) Adverb
- (C) Pronoun
- (D) Conjunction

For **questions 28 and 29**, choose the **correct** word for each sentence.

28. A person who shows people to their seats.

- (A) Usher
- (B) Tourist
- (C) Manager
- (D) Chauffeur



29. A person who writes books.

- (A) Leader
- (B) Author
- (C) Hostess
- (D) Labourer

30. Choose the sentence which is written **correctly** in the negative form.

- (A) We could not find no books anywhere.
- (B) I don't want no money from Mark.
- (C) The boys are not doing any of their chores.
- (D) All the witnesses claimed that they didn't see nothing.

Read the passage and answer the questions which follow.

When a raw peanut sprouts, it usually grows into a plant about eighteen inches high. The plant produces bright yellow blossoms that look like the garden flowers known as sweet peas. After the flowers pollinate themselves, they wither. A shoot from the stem grows longer and longer, bends downward, and pushes into the earth. Underground, the shell develops and encloses the seed. That's why the peanut is called the groundnut in a good many countries.

The peanut is more than a snack food. A pound of peanuts contains more protein than a pound of beef. They also supply a nutritious oil that is used for cooking and salad dressings.

The peanut is special in more ways than one. It can be eaten raw, boiled, roasted or fried. It grows flowers above ground, but its "fruit" grows underground. It grows in more countries than most other "nuts". Its roots enrich the soil by putting nitrogen back into it, instead of leaving it poorer. Hundreds of different products have been made from it.

31. Raw nuts grow into a plant

- (A) like sweet peas.
- (B) close to eighteen inches high.
- (C) less than eighteen inches high.
- (D) more than eighteen inches high.



32. Which word in the passage means “begin to grow”?

- (A) Sprout
- (B) Enrich
- (C) Wither
- (D) Pollinate

33. The peanut blossoms look like garden flowers because

- (A) they wither quickly.
- (B) they grow into the earth.
- (C) they shine in the sunlight.
- (D) they are bright yellow in colour.

34. Why is the peanut called ground nut in many countries?

- (A) It is not a fruit.
- (B) It enriches the soil.
- (C) It produces many products.
- (D) Its shoot pushes underground and the shell then encloses the seed.

35. The peanut is not merely a snack because

- (A) it can be eaten raw.
- (B) it can produce bright blossoms.
- (C) it is special in more than one way.
- (D) its nutritious oil can be used like beef.



Read the extract and answer the questions which follow.

Almost everyone reads daily newspapers. Some of the most popular ones sell several million copies each day! The coming of radio and television has not wiped out the press, as it was feared they might. This is probably because newspapers are cheap and can be picked up and read when the reader wishes.

The content of most newspapers is roughly the same. There will usually be a sports page, a special page for women, some advertisements, some items of political news (both home and abroad) and news of general interest.

So why is there not just one newspaper, which everyone would buy, instead of several? It would be very dangerous if that were the case. People could easily be given false news, and have no way of knowing it was untrue. Some items of news could be omitted altogether and no one would know. It is very easy to control what people think, if you control the information that is given to them. In most “free” countries, therefore, there are many newspapers and other ways of getting news too.

36. With the advent of television and radio people felt that

- (A) there will be fierce competition.
- (B) newspapers would lose their readership.
- (C) the newspapers would suffer some financial loss.
- (D) television and radio would be better than newspaper reports.

37. What has caused newspapers to continue to do well?

- (A) Newspapers aim to tell the truth.
- (B) People like to read many types of news.
- (C) Different newspapers tell different stories.
- (D) Newspapers are cheap and easily available.



38. In what ways are newspapers roughly the same?

- (A) They are cheap and appear daily.
- (B) They all compete with radio and television.
- (C) News and entertainment are provided for everyone's interest.
- (D) They all carry sports, political, advertisements, general and special news items.

39. What do you think "free countries" means?

- (A) Places with unlimited freedom
- (B) Countries where news are not controlled by anyone
- (C) These are democratic countries where there is freedom under the law
- (D) Countries where news and entertainment are seen through radio, tv and newspaper

40. Which one of the following statements is **true**?

- (A) Newspapers do what they want.
- (B) Nearly everyone reads newspapers.
- (C) All newspapers sell millions of copies.
- (D) Radio and television try to wipe the newspapers out of the market.

END OF TEST



ANSWER EXPLANATIONS

For **questions 1 and 2**, choose the correct **spelling** of the word to complete each sentence.

QUESTION 1 ANSWER EXPLANATION

1. Cycling is a form of _____ which many children enjoy.

- (A) reloxation
- (B) relaxation
- (C) relajacion
- (D) relaxashun

This problem is testing your ability to spell words correctly by providing 4 different spellings of the same word – “relaxation.” You can find the correct spelling by splitting the word into two parts, “relax” and its suffix “-ation.” Sounding it out could help you identify the correct spelling of these two parts of the word. **Answer choice B is correct.**

QUESTION 2 ANSWER EXPLANATION

2. Our school library has many _____ books.

- (A) intresting
- (B) interestin
- (C) interesting
- (D) interresting

This problem is testing your ability to spell words correctly by providing 4 different spellings of the same word – “interesting.” In this case, sounding it out carefully is the best tactic. Answer choice **A** is incorrect because it sounds like “int-rest-ing.” Answer choice **B** is incorrect because it sounds like “inter-rest-in.” Answer choice **D** is incorrect because it contains a double “r” despite sounding the same as the correct spelling. **Answer choice C is the correct.**

For **questions 3 and 4**, choose the **most** suitable word to complete each sentence.

QUESTION 3 ANSWER EXPLANATION

3. A _____ of African bees was spotted in the trees.

- (A) flock
- (B) horde
- (C) crowd
- (D) swarm

This problem is testing your knowledge of how different types of animals are identified when in groups. Specifically, it is testing if you know what a group of bees is called. You can tell it is testing this because of context clues such as the plural “bees” and the description “spotted in the trees.” A group of bees is called a swarm. **Answer choice D is correct.** Answer choice **A**, a flock, can be used to describe a group of birds. Answer choice **B**, a horde, can be used to describe a group of mosquitos. Answer choice **C**, a crowd, can be used to describe a group of people.

QUESTION 4 ANSWER EXPLANATION

4. A _____ of books was presented to the headmaster.

- (A) litter
- (B) class
- (C) library
- (D) bouquet



This problem is testing your knowledge of how different types of objects are identified when in groups. Specifically, it is testing if you know what a bunch of books is called. You can tell it is testing this because of context clues such as the plural “books” and the description “presented to the headmaster.” Answer choice **A**, a litter, can be used to describe a group of baby animals. Answer choice **B**, a class, can be used to describe a group of students. Answer choice **D**, a bouquet, can be used to describe a bunch of flowers. **Answer choice C is correct** because a bunch of books is called a library (just like the place that houses many books).

For **questions 5 to 7**, choose the word that is **similar** in meaning to the underlined word in each sentence.

QUESTION 5 ANSWER EXPLANATION

5. Have you completed the task I assigned you?

- (A) begun
- (B) treated
- (C) finished
- (D) planned

This problem is testing your ability to identify words with similar meanings. The best strategy for these questions is to substitute the choices until you find one that makes the sentence complete and maintains the overall meaning of the sentence. The original sentence asks if you have completed the task assigned. Only answer choice **C** completes this sentence and keeps the same meaning when substituted for completed – “Have you finished the task I assigned you?” The other words might fit in the sentence but do not keep the same meaning. **Answer choice C is correct.**

QUESTION 6 ANSWER EXPLANATION

6. Roger is so obstinate he will not change his mind.

- (A) obedient
- (B) stubborn
- (C) naughty
- (D) mischievous

This question, like question 5, is testing your ability to identify words with similar meanings. Roger is being described by the word “obstinate” meaning that he “will not change his mind.” Again, substituting the different choices into the sentence for “obstinate” shows us that answer choice **B** is the only one that works in this sentence and keeps the same meaning in the sentence. Answer choices **A**, **C**, and **D** do not mean that he will not change his mind. **Answer choice B is correct.**

QUESTION 7 ANSWER EXPLANATION

7. Mother prepared a delicious meal for the guests.

- (A) tasty
- (B) large
- (C) quick
- (D) suitable

Like the previous questions, this question is testing your ability to identify words with similar meanings. Substituting each word, we see that only answer choice **A** makes sense in this sentence while keeping a similar meaning. Answer choice **B** is incorrect because a large meal does not mean the same as a delicious meal. Answer choices **C** and **D** are also incorrect because a quick or suitable meal also do not carry the same meaning. **Answer choice A is correct.**

For **questions 8 and 9**, choose the set of words which is arranged in alphabetical order.

QUESTION 8 ANSWER EXPLANATION

8.

- | | | | |
|-------------|---------|---------|---------|
| (A) bladder | bottom | brownie | buffet |
| (B) bladder | buffet | bottom | brownie |
| (C) bottom | bladder | buffet | brownie |
| (D) bottom | buffet | bladder | brownie |



This question is testing your knowledge of the alphabet. Since all of the 4 words: bladder, bottom, brownie, and buffet start with “b” we must go to the second letter to sort them in alphabetical order. In this case, “l” from bladder comes first, followed by “o” in bottom, “r” from brownie, and “u” from buffet. A good method to use here is to sing the alphabet to yourself while numbering the words when you reach a letter. If you sing the alphabet you would first hit “l” then “o”, “r” and finally “u” in that order, allowing you to put the words in the correct order. **Answer choice A is correct.**

QUESTION 9 ANSWER EXPLANATION

9.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| (A) | siesta | signal | signet | sickle |
| (B) | sickle | signal | siesta | signet |
| (C) | signet | sickle | signal | siesta |
| (D) | sickle | siesta | signal | signet |

This question is testing your knowledge of the alphabet. Since all of the 4 words: sickle, siesta, signal, and signet start with the same first two letters, “si,” we must go to the third letter of all of the words to determine their order. Once again, sing the alphabet to yourself and order the words as you reach the letters within them. So, you would hit “c” from sickle first, followed by “e” from siesta, “g” from signal and “g” from signet. At this point, since signal and signet start with the same first 4 letters, to order them correctly we have to look at the 5th letter. Signal will come before signet because “a” will come first in singing the alphabet, followed by “e”. **Answer choice D is correct.**

For **questions 10 and 11**, select the **correct order** in which the names should appear in the telephone directory.

QUESTION 10 ANSWER EXPLANATION

10.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| (A) | Bibi Deen | Alex Clarke | Rick Samaroo | Tessa Hooper |
| (B) | Tessa Hooper | Rick Samaroo | Bibi Deen | Alex Clarke |
| (C) | Alex Clarke | Bibi Deen | Tessa Hooper | Rick Samaroo |
| (D) | Rick Samaroo | Tessa Hooper | Alex Clarke | Bibi Deen |

This question is testing your knowledge of the alphabet as well because telephone directories are in alphabetical order by last name. Looking only at these last names, we can see that “c” comes before “d”, “h”, or “s”, so Alex Clarke goes first, followed by “d” in Bibi Deen, “h” from Tessa Hooper, and finally “s” from Rick Samaroo. **Answer choice C is correct.**

QUESTION 11 ANSWER EXPLANATION

11.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| (A) | Susan Farley | Eldon Fernandes | Kim Foo | Orin Fung |
| (B) | Kim Foo | Susan Farley | Eldon Fernandes | Orin Fung |
| (C) | Eldon Fernandes | Kim Foo | Orin Fung | Susan Farley |
| (D) | Eldon Fernandes | Orin Fung | Kim Foo | Susan Farley |

Like the last question, this question is testing your knowledge of the alphabet as well, because telephone directories are in alphabetical order by last name. Looking only at these last names, we can see that “f” is the first letter of all of the last names, so we have to look at the second letters. In this case, once again singing the alphabet silently, we reach “a” first followed by “e,” “o,” and “u” in that order. This gives us answer choice **A**, ordering Farley, Fernandez, Foo, and Fung in that order. **Answer choice A is correct.**

For **questions 12 to 14**, choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

QUESTION 12 ANSWER EXPLANATION

12. Mr. Layne said he could not read Paul’s handwriting; it was

- (A) legible
- (B) illegal
- (C) eligible
- (D) illegible



This question is testing your ability to identify the meaning of the words provided while also understanding the context of the sentence. Although these words appear to be similar, within the context of the sentence only answer choice **D** makes sense as illegible means not clear enough to be read which is what Mr. Layne is saying about Paul's handwriting. The prefix "il-" means no or not. Illegible means not legible. Answer choice **A** is incorrect because legible means clear enough to read which is the opposite of what Mr. Layne is saying. Answer choice **B** is incorrect because illegal means forbidden by law which does not apply to unreadable handwriting. Lastly, answer choice **C** is incorrect because eligible means suitable or meeting the conditions for something which also does not apply in this case. **Answer choice D is correct.**

QUESTION 13 ANSWER EXPLANATION

13. Did your parents _____ you permission to go to the mall?
- (A) offer
 - (B) grant
 - (C) award
 - (D) obtain

This question is testing your ability to identify words with similar meanings within the context of the question. **Answer choice B is the correct answer** because permission is given or "granted." This could be easily confused with choice **A**, "offer." However, the word "offer" gives you the option to accept or reject. If you ask for permission, your parents are responding to your request to go to the mall. Your parents are not offering you the option to go to the mall when you already asked to go. Answer choice **C** is incorrect because an award is something that you win from doing well in an activity. Answer choice **D** is incorrect because obtain means to take something or get something and your parents are not getting you permission they are giving or granting you permission.

QUESTION 14 ANSWER EXPLANATION

14. As the coffee was hot, I _____ it.
- (A) sipped
 - (B) gulped
 - (C) nibbled
 - (D) gobbled

This question is testing your understanding of context clues and the meanings of different descriptive verbs. All these words similarly mean eating or drinking. Answer choice **B** is incorrect because "gulped" means drinking or eating quickly and in large amounts, which you would not do with hot coffee. Answer choice **C** is incorrect because "nibbled" means taking small bites, which does not make sense here because we do not bite liquids. Answer choice **D** is incorrect because "gobbled" means eating large amounts of food quickly, which would not apply to drinking a hot liquid. **Answer choice A is correct** because "sipped" means drinking a liquid little by little, which makes sense given that the coffee is hot and you would want to avoid burning yourself by drinking too quickly.

For **questions 15 and 16**, fill in each blank with the correct answer.

QUESTION 15 ANSWER EXPLANATION

15. The cows were brought to the _____ to be slaughtered.
- (A) cabin
 - (B) orchard
 - (C) abbatoir
 - (D) hatchery

This question is testing your understanding of vocabulary of different places. Answer choice **A** is incorrect because a cabin is a small room or compartment in a ship, airplane, automobile, or spaceship. A cabin can also be a small house or dwelling. A cow would not be taken to any of these places to be slaughtered, therefore **A** is incorrect. Answer choice **B** is incorrect because an orchard is a farm where fruit trees or nut trees grow, and cows would not be slaughtered there either. Answer choice **D** is incorrect because a hatchery is a place where eggs of hens or fish are hatched, cared for, and then sold and distributed. **Answer choice C**, by process of elimination, **is correct**. By definition, an abbatoir is a slaughterhouse, or place where cows are killed.



QUESTION 16 ANSWER EXPLANATION

16. Please collect your medicine from the _____.
- (A) nursery.
 - (B) university.
 - (C) laboratory.
 - (D) dispensary.

This question is testing your understanding of vocabulary and the functions of types of organizations. A dispensary is an office that dispenses medication and medical supplies. This is where you would collect your medicine from. If you did not know the definition of the word “dispensary,” you could always use process of elimination. Answer choice **A**, nursery, is where young children are kept or where plants are grown. You would not collect medicine from a nursery. Answer choice **B**, university, is an institution that provides higher education, not medication. Answer choice **C**, laboratory, is a place where science experiments and research take place so it would not make sense in the context of this sentence. **Answer choice D is correct.**

For **questions 17 and 18**, choose the meaning of the **phrase** that is underlined.

QUESTION 17 ANSWER EXPLANATION

17. Miss Taylor advised Brian and Diane to bury the hatchet.
- (A) make peace
 - (B) be outspoken
 - (C) have a fight
 - (D) create a row

This question is testing your knowledge of the meaning of common English idioms. The saying “bury the hatchet” means to end a conflict and become friendly with one another. **Answer choice A is correct** because to “make peace” means to end a conflict. If you are unfamiliar with this idiom you could still figure out the answer using context clues. To advise means to recommend or to suggest. Miss Taylor would most likely suggest for the two children to make peace. Answer choices **B**, **C** and **D** are incorrect because Miss Taylor would not advise them to be outspoken, have a fight, or create a row. Creating a row means arguing loudly or making a scene.

QUESTION 18 ANSWER EXPLANATION

18. My father was late for work because it rained cats and dogs.
- (A) was raining
 - (B) was very wet
 - (C) became very cold
 - (D) rained very heavily

This question is testing your knowledge of common English idioms. **Answer choice D is correct** because the phrase “rained cats and dogs” describes extremely heavy rain. Answer choice **A**, although correct in that it was raining, does not describe the intensity of the rain that the phrase indicates. Answer choice **B**, was very wet, is not descriptive enough to fully capture the phrase as it mentions neither the rain nor that it was heavy. Similarly, answer choice **C** is also not descriptive enough as it only describes the extreme temperature without mentioning the rain that the idiom describes at all.

For **questions 19 and 20**, select the **opposite** of the underlined word in each sentence.

QUESTION 19 ANSWER EXPLANATION

19. The men painted the interior of the building.
- (A) exit
 - (B) inferior
 - (C) exterior
 - (D) entrance



This question is asking you to identify the opposite of the word underlined while testing your understanding of vocabulary and prefixes. The word “interior” means the inside of a building. The prefix “in-” means *in*, *on* or *not*. The opposite of this word would be answer choice **C**, exterior, which is the outside of a building or structure. The prefix “ext-” means out.

The definition of the word “exit” is to leave or to go out of. Therefore, answer choice **A** is incorrect. Answer choice **B** is incorrect because “inferior” is not a location. Inferior means to be lower in rank, status, or quality. Answer choice **D** is incorrect because entrance is an opening, such as a door, passage, or gate, that allows access to a place. This word is the opposite of exit, not of interior. **Answer choice C is correct.**

QUESTION 20 ANSWER EXPLANATION

20. Local programmes are commonly shown on television.

- (A) rarely
- (B) usually
- (C) familiarly
- (D) excitingly

This question is testing your understanding of what the question asks and the meaning of the word underlined. Since they are asking for the opposite of “commonly” which means frequently or very often, the opposite would be answer choice **A**, rarely, which means not often or almost never. Answer choice **B** is incorrect because usually means the event happens normally or most of the time. “Usually” is similar to the word “commonly;” it is not the opposite of the word. Answer choice **C** is incorrect because “familiarly” is when something is done or said in a casual or very personal way. It does not describe the frequency of the event. Lastly, Answer choice **D** is incorrect because “excitingly” describes something that creates enthusiasm and eagerness which also does not describe the frequency of an event. **Answer choice A is correct.**

For questions 21 to 23, select the sentence in each group which is correctly punctuated.

QUESTION 21 ANSWER EXPLANATION

21.

- (A) “Here’s the box of oranges I bought, said Farah.
- (B) “Here’s the box of oranges I bought?” said Farah.
- (C) “Here’s the box of oranges, I bought,” said Farah.
- (D) “Here’s the box of oranges I bought,” said Farah

This question is testing your understanding of punctuation marks in written speech. When somebody says something aloud, such as in dialogue or speech, quotation marks need to be placed before and after the statement or question. Answer choice **A** is incorrect because there are no quotation marks at the end of the statement. Answer choice **B** is incorrect because Farah is not asking a question. Answer choice **C** is incorrect because a comma is supposed to be used to divide or separate parts of a sentence to make the sentence clearer; in this case, the comma interrupts the sentence instead of making it clearer. **Answer choice D is correct** because quotation marks are correctly placed before and after the statement and the comma correctly separates the statement from the speaker.

QUESTION 22 ANSWER EXPLANATION

22.

- (A) “Are you awake”? whispered Julie from the door.
- (B) “Are you awake?” whispered Julie from the door.
- (C) “Are you awake,” whispered Julie from the door?
- (D) “Are you awake?” whispered Julie from the door?



This question is testing your understanding of punctuation in written speech. When somebody is speaking, quotation marks are always placed before and after what they said. Since this is a question, the question mark is always placed inside the quotation marks. **Answer choice B is correct** because the question mark is placed inside of the quotation marks and a period is placed at the end of the statement. Answer choice **A** incorrectly places the question mark outside of the quotation mark. Answer choice **C** incorrectly makes the entire statement a question by putting the question mark at the end of the statement. Answer choice **D** correctly punctuates Julie’s whisper but incorrectly adds an extra question mark at the end of the entire sentence which raises the same problem as in answer choice **C**.

QUESTION 23 ANSWER EXPLANATION

23.

- (A) The vendor sells, boulangers, ochroes, bora and tomatoes everyday.
- (B) The vendor sells; boulangers, ochroes, bora and tomatoes everyday.
- (C) The vendor sells boulangers, ochroes, bora and tomatoes everyday.
- (D) The vendor sells boulangers, ochroes, bora; and tomatoes everyday

This question is testing your understanding of punctuation marks in a list. When making a list, commas are the most common way to separate one list item from the next. The semicolon can be used in a more complex list when one or more of the items in the list contain commas. Think of the semicolon as being higher in rank than the comma. Semicolons can also be used to separate things into two main clauses that are closely related to each other but could stand on their own as sentences if you wanted them to.

Answer choice **B** places a semicolon after the word sells which is incorrect because semicolons are used to divide two complete thoughts. “The vendor sells” and “boulangers, ochroes, bora and tomatoes everyday” do not make sense without each other, therefore the semicolon is not appropriate. Answer choice **D** is incorrect because it uses the semicolon incorrectly. The list items do not contain their own commas, and part of the sentence after the semicolon could not stand on its own as a sentence. Answer choice **A** incorrectly places a comma after the word sells which interrupts the sentence flow since *sells* is a verb that is not part of the list. **Answer choice C is correct** because it uses commas to separate items in list or series.

For **questions 24 and 25**, choose the correct form of the verb to complete each sentence.

QUESTION 24 ANSWER EXPLANATION

24. Last September, my parents _____ to enrol my brother in the Technical Institute.

- (A) decide
- (B) decides
- (C) decided
- (D) deciding

This question is testing your understanding of correct verb tenses. Since the sentence states the enrolment occurred “last September,” the verb should reflect this with a past tense as shown by answer choice **C** which has the correct –ed ending. You can also try each word within the sentence to test which sounds correct. Answer choices **A**, **B**, and **D** are all incorrect because they are all present tense verbs which do not fit within the context of the sentence. **Answer choice C is correct.**

QUESTION 25 ANSWER EXPLANATION

25. The journey to Lethem _____ about seven hours.

- (A) take
- (B) takes
- (C) taken
- (D) taking

Like question 24, this question is testing your understanding of correct verb tenses. This sentence is written in the third person point of view where “The journey” is the singular subject of the sentence. **Answer choice B is correct** because whenever a sentence is written in the present tense and the subject is singular (meaning one), the verb usually has an “s” at the end. Answer choice **A** is incorrect because the sentence is not plural and does not have a helping verb. Answer choice **C** is incorrect because the sentence is in present tense and verb “taken” is in the past tense. Answer choice **D** is incorrect because it needs a helping verb.



For **questions 26 and 27**, identify the **function** of the word underlined in each sentence.

QUESTION 26 ANSWER EXPLANATION

26. Tandy ran around the field slowly.

- (A) Verb
- (B) Adverb
- (C) Adjective
- (D) Preposition

This question tests your knowledge of parts of speech. The correct answer is choice **B** because the word “slowly” is an adverb. Adverbs are words that are used to describe a verb. Adverbs say how, when, or where the action occurred. In this case, “slowly” is used to describe the verb “ran.” Answer choice **A** is incorrect because a verb is a word that conveys an action, which in this case would be “ran.” Answer choice **C** is incorrect because an adjective is a word used to describe a noun and is not found in this sentence. Answer choice **D** is incorrect because a preposition is used to show the relationship between a noun or a pronoun with another word in the sentence and would describe the word “around” in this sentence. **Answer choice B is correct.**

QUESTION 27 ANSWER EXPLANATION

27. The teacher marked the books and gave them to the pupils.

- (A) Noun
- (B) Adverb
- (C) Pronoun
- (D) Conjunction

This question tests your knowledge on the parts of speech. A noun is used to describe a person, place, thing or idea. The nouns in this sentence are “the teacher,” “the books,” and “the pupils.” An adverb modifies a verb, adjective or other adverb and usually ends with the suffix “-ly.” A conjunction is used to link words or parts of sentences. In this sentence, the conjunction is “and.” A pronoun is used to replace a noun. Some examples of pronouns include “she,” “it,” or “this.” The correct answer is answer choice **C** because the word “them” replaces the noun “books,” making “them” a pronoun by definition. **Answer choice C is correct.**

For **questions 28 and 29**, choose the **correct** word for each sentence.

QUESTION 28 ANSWER EXPLANATION

28. A person who shows people to their seats.

- (A) Usher
- (B) Tourist
- (C) Manager
- (D) Chauffeur

This question tests your understanding of common job titles. Answer choice **B** is incorrect because a tourist is someone who travels to a place for fun. Answer choice **C** is incorrect because a manager is a person who is hired to oversee the activities and other aspects of a business. Answer choice **D** is incorrect because a chauffeur is someone hired specifically to drive a vehicle (usually a car) for the another person. Tourists, managers, and chauffeurs do not fit the description in the sentence. **Answer choice A is correct** because an usher is someone who takes people to their seats. If you did not know what an usher is, you could always try to use process of elimination.

QUESTION 29 ANSWER EXPLANATION

29. A person who writes books.

- (A) Leader
- (B) Author
- (C) Hostess
- (D) Labourer



Like question 28, this question is testing your knowledge of job titles. Answer choice **A** is incorrect because a leader is someone who is in control of group, country, or situation. Answer choice **C** is incorrect because a hostess is a woman who receives or entertains guests at a home, restaurant, or other related place. Answer choice **D** is incorrect because a labourer is a person who is usually engaged in physical work. **Answer choice B is correct** because an author by definition is someone who writes books, poems, articles, plays and stories.

QUESTION 30 ANSWER EXPLANATION

30. Choose the sentence which is written **correctly** in the negative form.

- (A) We could not find no books anywhere.
- (B) I don't want no money from Mark.
- (C) The boys are not doing any of their chores.
- (D) All the witnesses claimed that they didn't see nothing.

This question tests your understanding of grammar and sentence structure. Answer choice **C** correctly structures the negative form of the sentence in a clear way using only one negative word "not." You never want to use more than one negative word in a sentence. Answer choice **A** includes a double negative using "not" and "no" which makes the sentence grammatically incorrect and confusing. Answer choice **B** is also incorrect because it uses a double negative with the "don't" and "no." Answer choice **D** also has the same problem by including the words "didn't" and "nothing" in the same sentence. **Answer choice C is correct.**

Read the passage and answer the questions which follow.

When a raw peanut sprouts, it usually grows into a plant about eighteen inches high. The plant produces bright yellow blossoms that look like the garden flowers known as sweet peas. After the flowers pollinate themselves, they wither. A shoot from the stem grows longer and longer, bends downward, and pushes into the earth. Underground, the shell develops and encloses the seed. That's why the peanut is called the groundnut in a good many countries.

The peanut is more than a snack food. A pound of peanuts contains more protein than a pound of beef. They also supply a nutritious oil that is used for cooking and salad dressings.

The peanut is special in more ways than one. It can be eaten raw, boiled, roasted or fried. It grows flowers above ground, but its "fruit" grows underground. It grows in more countries than most other "nuts". Its roots enrich the soil by putting nitrogen back into it, instead of leaving it poorer. Hundreds of different products have been made from it.

QUESTION 31 ANSWER EXPLANATION

31. Raw nuts grow into a plant

- (A) like sweet peas.
- (B) close to eighteen inches high.
- (C) less than eighteen inches high.
- (D) more than eighteen inches high.

This question tests your reading comprehension and ability to locate the subject being asked within the text. For this question it is important to use text evidence. A good strategy is to always go back and underline where you found the answer. In the first sentence it states that raw peanuts grow into plants "about eighteen inches high." **Answer choice B is correct** because it states that almost exactly. Answer choice **A** is incorrect because raw peanut plants do not grow to be similar to sweet peas, they only have flowers similar to pea plants as stated in the passage. Answer choices **C** and **D** are incorrect because they incorrectly describe the plant height that is stated in the first sentence of the passage. The plant is not said to be more than or less than eighteen inches but simply "about eighteen inches high."

Another helpful strategy for these types of reading comprehension questions is to read the questions *before* reading the passage so you know what to look for and can underline the answers if you remember them.



QUESTION 32 ANSWER EXPLANATION

32. Which word in the passage means “begin to grow”?

- (A) Sprout
- (B) Enrich
- (C) Wither
- (D) Pollinate

This question tests your understanding of vocabulary. **Answer choice A is correct** because the term sprout means to “begin to grow.” If you go back and look at the text evidence, you can see that in the first sentence it tells you that after the word “sprout,” it states that “it usually grows.” This tells you that the word sprout has to do with growth. Answer choice B is incorrect because “enrich” means to improve the quality of something. The word enrich is used in the third paragraph to describe how the roots help the soil. Answer choice C is incorrect because “wither” means to decay or become dry. This is the opposite of growing. Answer choice D is incorrect because to “pollinate” means to move pollen from one plant to another.

QUESTION 33 ANSWER EXPLANATION

33. The peanut blossoms look like garden flowers because

- (A) they wither quickly.
- (B) they grow into the earth.
- (C) they shine in the sunlight.
- (D) they are bright yellow in colour.

This question tests your reading comprehension. By going back to the passage and using text evidence, you will see that in the second sentence of the excerpt it is said that when peanut plants grow, they produce “bright yellow blossoms that look like the garden flowers known as sweet peas.” **Answer choice D is correct** because it states that the colour of the blossoms is similar to the yellow colour garden flowers. Answer choices A, B, and C are incorrect because these explanations are not given anywhere in the excerpt. Remember to try and go back and underline where you found the answer.

QUESTION 34 ANSWER EXPLANATION

34. Why is the peanut called ground nut in many countries?

- (A) It is not a fruit.
- (B) It enriches the soil.
- (C) It produces many products.
- (D) Its shoot pushes underground and the shell then encloses the seed.

This question also tests your reading comprehension. Using text evidence, the answer can be found in the last three sentences of the first paragraph where it is stated that the peanut is called a ground nut because a shoot from the plant stem “pushes into the earth” where a “shell develops and encloses the seed.” This is correctly described by answer choice D. You can go back and underline where this answer was found. Answer choice A is incorrect because it does not say this in the passage. Answer choice B is incorrect because while it does say that peanuts enrich the soil, it does not say this is why the peanut is called the groundnut in many countries. Answer choice C is incorrect because while the peanut does produce a lot of products, this is not why it is called the ground nut in many countries. **Answer choice D is correct.**

QUESTION 35 ANSWER EXPLANATION

35. The peanut is not merely a snack because

- (A) it can be eaten raw.
- (B) it can produce bright blossoms.
- (C) it is special in more than one way.
- (D) its nutritious oil can be used like beef.



This question also tests reading comprehension. Using text evidence, the answer can be found in the 2nd and 3rd paragraphs where it is said that “the peanut is more than a snack food.” The passage then says this is because of the multiple nutrients and uses that a peanut can provide. It even states that it is “special in more ways than one” which makes **answer choice C correct**. Answer choice **A** is incorrect because even though the peanut can be eaten raw, it does not show how it is more than just a snack. Remember that the question is asking you why the peanut is more than just a simple snack. Answer choice **B** is incorrect because the production of bright blossoms is not related to how the peanut is more than a snack. Lastly, answer choice **D** is factually incorrect in saying that peanut’s nutritious oil can be used like beef. In the last paragraph, the excerpt says that peanuts contain more protein than beef and can “also supply a nutritious oil.” However, it does not say that this oil can be used like beef.

Read the extract and answer the questions which follow.

Almost everyone reads daily newspapers. Some of the most popular ones sell several million copies each day! The coming of radio and television has not wiped out the press, as it was feared they might. This is probably because newspapers are cheap and can be picked up and read when the reader wishes.

The content of most newspapers is roughly the same. There will usually be a sports page, a special page for women, some advertisements, some items of political news (both home and abroad) and news of general interest.

So why is there not just one newspaper, which everyone would buy, instead of several? It would be very dangerous if that were the case. People could easily be given false news, and have no way of knowing it was untrue. Some items of news could be omitted altogether and no one would know. It is very easy to control what people think, if you control the information that is given to them. In most “free” countries, therefore, there are many newspapers and other ways of getting news too.

QUESTION 36 ANSWER EXPLANATION

36. With the advent of television and radio people felt that

- (A) there will be fierce competition.
- (B) newspapers would lose their readership.
- (C) the newspapers would suffer some financial loss.
- (D) television and radio would be better than newspaper reports.

This question tests your reading comprehension skills. **Answer choice B is correct** because in the passage it states that “The coming of radio and television has not wiped out the press, as it feared they might.” The text evidence suggests that people thought that with radio and television, others would not read the newspapers as much. This is further supported by the statement that newspapers “can be picked up and read when the reader wishes,” as a reason for why radio and television has not wiped out the press. Answer choice **C** can be easily confused as the right answer; however, it does not state anywhere in the passage that newspapers would lose money as a result. Answer choice **A** is incorrect because it also does not say that people felt that there would be competition between newspapers and television and radio. Answer choice **D** is incorrect because it does not say that television and radios would be better than newspapers in the passage. The passage contradicts answer choice **D** in the third paragraph where it states that there are many different newspapers in order to ensure they are all truthful and accurate. So, while **A**, **C**, and **D** may be assumed by the readers, they are not stated in the passage. Therefore, **answer choice B is correct**.

QUESTION 37 ANSWER EXPLANATION

37. What has caused newspapers to continue to do well?

- (A) Newspapers aim to tell the truth.
- (B) People like to read many types of news.
- (C) Different newspapers tell different stories.
- (D) Newspapers are cheap and easily available.

This question is also testing your reading comprehension skills. **Answer choice D is correct** because the passage clearly states that newspapers continued to do well “because newspapers are cheap and can be picked up and read when the reader wishes.” This is almost exactly word for word what answer choice **D** says. Answer choices **A** and **B** are incorrect because while these things were stated in the passage, they were not given as an explanation as to why newspapers continue to do so well. Answer choice **C** is incorrect because this is not stated anywhere in the passage. While it is known that newspapers tell different stories, this again does not explain why newspapers continue to do well, but rather it simply describes newspapers.



QUESTION 38 ANSWER EXPLANATION

38. In what ways are newspapers roughly the same?

- (A) They are cheap and appear daily.
- (B) They all compete with radio and television.
- (C) News and entertainment are provided for everyone's interest.
- (D) They all carry sports, political, advertisements, general and special news items.

This question also tests reading comprehension skills. **Answer choice D is correct** because immediately after the sentence in the second paragraph that states that “the content of most newspapers is roughly the same,” the passage states that they are all roughly or about the same because they all usually include “a sports page, a special page for women, some advertisements, some items of political news (both home and abroad) and news of general interest.” You know this is the answer as to why they are all roughly the same because this sentence is directly after the sentence that says newspapers are roughly the same.

It is important to always go back to the text and look at the text evidence that supports the question and underline where you found the answer. Answer choices **A** and **B** are incorrect because while they are true statements as cited in the passage, the passage does not state these as the reasons that newspapers are roughly the same. Answer choice **C** is incorrect because that is not stated anywhere in the passage. This question is testing reading comprehension so make sure to read the passage carefully and answer the question according to the passage.

QUESTION 39 ANSWER EXPLANATION

39. What do you think “free countries” means?

- (A) Places with unlimited freedom
- (B) Countries where news are not controlled by anyone
- (C) These are democratic countries where there is freedom under the law
- (D) Countries where news and entertainment are seen through radio, tv and newspaper

This question is testing your reading comprehension skills by asking you to use to context clues to find the meaning of a set of words. **Answer choice B is correct** because in the passage it states that in most “free” countries, “there are many newspapers and other ways of getting news too.” Since this question is testing your reading comprehension skills, the only answer that you can know for sure by using text evidence is answer choice **B**. In the passage, it states that in free countries news are not controlled by anyone, so that needs to be the correct answer. Answer choice **C**, while true, cannot be assumed. It does not state in the passage that free countries are democratic or free under law. *For these types of questions, you cannot imply information that is not given to you, even if it seems true.* Answer choice **A** is incorrect because it is not stated in the passage that free countries have unlimited freedom. Answer choice **D** is incorrect because it is not specific enough as to why these countries are considered free countries.

QUESTION 40 ANSWER EXPLANATION

40. Which one of the following statements is **true**?

- (A) Newspapers do what they want.
- (B) Nearly everyone reads newspapers.
- (C) All newspapers sell millions of copies.
- (D) Radio and television try to wipe the newspapers out of the market.

This question also tests reading comprehension skills. **Answer choice B is correct** because using text evidence, you will see that the first sentence of the passage states this almost exactly. The first sentence states that “Almost everyone reads daily newspapers,” which means that answer choice **B** is true. Answer choice **A** is only correct when we are talking about “free countries,” as mentioned in question 39. Newspapers can only do what they want in free countries, therefore it cannot always be true. Answer choice **C** is incorrect because not all newspapers sell millions of copies, only “some of the most popular ones.” Answer choice **D** is incorrect because radio and television are not trying to wipe the newspapers out of the market, this was just something that some people feared it might. Remember that it is very helpful to go back and underline where you found the answer.

