

READING

The Reading section of the Computerized Placement Test (CPT) consists of twenty (20) multiple-choice questions. This exam has one question per screen with directions given for each individual question. The following are examples of the types of questions found on the CPT.

Directions: Read the statement or passage and then choose the **best** answer to the question. Answer the question on the basis of what is **stated** or **implied** in the passage.

The world was amazed when, in October of 1957, the USSR announced the news that they had successfully launched a rocket, Sputnik 1, into space. This was the first rocket into space. Sputnik 2, launched a month later, carried a dog into space. The United States launched its first rocket, Explorer 1, in January of 1958. Until then space travel had only been a dream.

1. Which of the following has been stated or implied from the above passage?
 - a. There were many rockets sent into space in the late 1950s.
 - b. In the 1950s, the Russians were very secretive of their space program.
 - c. The Space Race began in the late 1950s, with the Americans trying to catch up to the Russians.
 - d. "Sputnik" is Russian for traveling companion.

Many people think that writing would be an exciting career. A lot of careful thought must be given before words can be put on paper. Often, after the words have been written, a writer discovers that they aren't quite the right words. Perhaps the words are in the wrong order or their meaning isn't quite clear. Then the real work in writing, the rewrite, takes place. A final product that looks and sounds correct is sometimes greater reward than fame and fortune.

2. Which of the following has been stated or implied from the above passage?
 - a. Writing is really hard work.
 - b. Many writers are famous.
 - c. Writing may sound like an exciting career, but it is boring.
 - d. Becoming a published writer takes a long time and lots of luck.

The sky doesn't really fall as "Chicken Little" thought in the children's fable, but sometimes meteorites do fall from the sky. Meteorites fall with enough regularity that there is a chance of a person being struck. A group of scientists studying meteorites calculated that an individual would be struck by one of these falling "pieces of sky" every 180 years. A lady in Alabama was bruised by a 9-pound meteorite in 1954, so the odds are, we're safe for the next one hundred years or so.

3. Which of the following has been stated or implied from the above passage?
- a. Meteorites fall on people in Alabama.
 - b. Canadian scientists study children's fables to see if they are based on fact.
 - c. There's no need for us to buy steel umbrellas; the odds of being struck by a falling meteorite are very small.
 - d. Meteorites fall from the sky when they are pulled by the Earth's gravity from space.

Spiders are not insects, as many people think. Spiders have eight legs and are more closely related to crabs and lobsters than they are to ants and bumblebees. Most spiders are about the same size as most insects but spiders can grow to be much larger. Spiders have long fascinated entomologists who observe them. It has been found that these tiny arthropods have special skills and unique habits.

4. Which of the following has been stated or implied from the above passage?
- a. People who are afraid of bugs should not be afraid of spiders.
 - b. Entomologists are scientists who study spiders.
 - c. Crabs and lobsters have no teeth like spiders.
 - d. People who are afraid of spiders often lose their fear when they study these intriguing creatures.

Leather baby shoes with high tops are no longer in demand by new parents. It was believed a toddler needed the ankle support offered by this style of shoe in order to learn to walk properly. Today, parents and pediatricians agree that shoes that support a child's ankles are unnecessary. Children can learn to walk while going barefoot or in any kind of comfortable, well fitting, shoe.

5. Which of the following has been stated or implied from the above passage?
- a. Leather shoes are too costly, heavy, and uncomfortable for children to learn to walk in.
 - b. Retailers now sell more baby high topped sneakers than they do leather high tops.
 - c. Parents and pediatricians agree that comfort is more important than ankle support while a baby is learning to walk.
 - d. Parents and pediatricians are also no longer as rigid about potty training too.

The police questioned him as to his whereabouts that night. He answered that he was at a party just two blocks from where the accident occurred. His proximity to the scene made him a suspect.

6. The best meaning of the word proximity in the above passage is...
- a. closeness
 - b. opposition
 - c. separation
 - d. transportation

One of my first jobs as a teenager was in a fast food restaurant. One of my duties was to shred the lettuce and cheese for the tacos. My first day, I cut my knuckles on the grater. From then on I was very careful.

7. The word grater in the above passage refers to...
- a. a metal grid
 - b. a feeling of euphoria
 - c. a sandwich wrapping machine
 - d. a kitchen tool

The wind howled during the night. It was as if the night itself mourned the loss of my beloved friend.

8. The author's mood in the above passage is...
- a. whimsical
 - b. apologetic
 - c. somber
 - d. flippant

"Of course," the mother replied, "I'd be glad to drop everything and drive you across town to the mall. I have a whole hour before your father and his new boss arrive home for dinner."

9. The tone of the passage above is...
- a. melancholy
 - b. excited
 - c. anxious
 - d. sarcastic

Sam grew up here. He loves this town. He is a hard worker and has built his sock manufacturing business into an industry that provides many jobs in our area. He has been married for twelve years and has two wonderful kids. He cares about our schools and wants every child to have the best education possible. Sam has lots of good ideas for our town. He'll make a great mayor, so vote for Sam.

10. The author's purpose in the above passage is to...
- a. inform
 - b. persuade
 - c. amuse
 - d. direct

Directions: Read the following pairs of underlined sentences and choose the **best** answer for each of the following questions.

11. When they arrived that morning it was very cold in the classroom.

The temperature had dropped below forty degrees outside and the janitor had let the air conditioner run all night.

- a. The second sentence contradicts the first.
 - b. The second sentence explains the first.
 - c. The second sentence restates the first.
 - d. The second sentence give a summary as to what would follow.
12. The bandleader agreed the group would play at his daughter's high school dance for free.

The other members of the group were very angry.

- a. The second sentence shows the effects of the first.
 - b. The second sentence explains the first.
 - c. The second sentence contradicts the first.
 - d. The second sentence restates the first.
13. The pot roast had burned to a crisp, the foul smoke poured from the oven.

The burnt meal smelled terrible.

- a. The second sentence contradicts the first.
- b. The second sentence restates the first.
- c. The second sentence explains the first.
- d. The second sentence shows the effects of the first.

14. The boy was a wonderful student with a straight A average.

The boy's room was a mess; he never seemed to put anything away.

- a. The two sentences show opposing views of the boy.
- b. The two sentences show the same view of the boy.
- c. The second sentence explains the first.
- d. The first sentence shows the consequences of the second.

Answers and Explanations

Reading

1. **C is correct.** The passage states that the Americans were behind the Russians in space travel. The passage mentions only 3 rockets being launched in the 1950s, 3 may be considered a “few” but not “many.” A is incorrect. The passage mentions only what the Russians told the world about their space achievements. No secrets are mentioned. B is incorrect. The origin of the word Sputnik is not discussed in the passage. D is incorrect.
2. **A is correct.** The passage gives several illustrations of the work that goes into writing well. The passage does not speak of famous writers. B is incorrect. The passage does not imply boredom only the effort that goes into writing. C is not the best answer. The passage does not consider what it takes to become a published writer. D is incorrect.
3. **C is correct.** The odds of being struck are very small, as stated in the passage, so buying a steel umbrella would be of no real use. A is not the best answer. It can not be assumed that meteorites fall on people in Alabama, only one example is given. B is incorrect. The passage stated that Canadian scientists had studied meteorites, there was no reference to them studying children’s fables. D may be scientifically correct but the passage does not mention why meteorites fall from the sky, so D is not the best answer.
4. **B is correct.** The suffix “ology” refers to the science of a particular area and the suffix “1st” refers to an individual. So the “ologist” portion of the word entomologist refers to a scientist from the field of entomology. Other clues are given: spiders are observed, their skills and habits have been mentioned. Answer C is incorrect. It may be true that crabs and lobsters have no teeth just like spiders but teeth are not mentioned in the passage and this fact can not be assumed just because they are related. For example, crabs and lobsters have gills but spiders do not. Answer A is only an opinion and the fear of either bugs or spiders is not discussed in the passage. D is an assumption and fears are not mentioned in the passage, it is not the best answer.
5. **C is the best answer.** Parents and pediatricians are agreed about ankle support and comfort is mentioned later in the passage. A is not the best answer. Neither the cost nor weight of the leather shoe is mentioned and comfort of the shoe is implied. B is incorrect. The baby shoe retail industry is not the topic of this passage. D is incorrect. The passage has nothing to do with potty training.

6. **A**, In this passage proximity means closeness. The clue is “just two blocks away.”
7. **D**, in this passage, grater is a kitchen tool.
8. **C**, the author’s mood in this passage is somber, sad.
9. **D**, the mother in this passage is being sarcastic. One can imagine that she is pressed for time with company coming in only an hour.
10. **B**, the author’s purpose is to persuade you to vote for Sam.
11. **B**, the second sentence explains the first.
12. **A**, the second sentence shows the effects of the first statement.
13. **B**, the second sentence restates the first.
14. **A**, the two sentences show opposing views of the boy, good and bad.