

Academic Skills Center

guess in order to understand the main idea. In these sorts of passages, the main idea is the general statement that all of the details make sense when they are considered as a whole. The main idea must be general enough that all of the details fit into it.

The smaller a group is, the more opportunities we have to get to know other people well and to establish close ties with them. Two-person groups are the setting for many of our most intense and influential relationships. In three-person groups, coalitions become possible, with two members joining force against a third member. Five-person groups are large enough so that people feel they can express their emotions freely and even risk antagonizing one another, yet they are small enough so that members should regard for one another's feelings and needs.

Which statement best expresses the unstated main idea of the above sentences?

a) Two-person groups are an important part of our lives.

b) A five-person group is better than a two-person group.

c) The number of people in a group affects relationships within the group.

d) Groups play a central part in every human activity, within family, the workplace, and the government.

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! (answer a

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Below you will find brief passages followed by questions related to what you read that may be used to practice what you have learned in this packet. The answers are found on the last page of the reading section. Each answer is followed by the reading skill that was emphasized in the passage. If you did not get the correct answer, it would be wise for you to review that section of the packet.

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1.

people lost touch * ith each other permanently.

1. The reasons that fads do not endure
2. The lasting appeal of Bothra
3. The difficulty of marketing good horror movies
4. 2D models for creatures are still used because making new monsters is expensive.
5. In order to ensure that America would depart from European traditions regarding religion and royalty, the early U.S. could be described as a place that focused more on work than on the entertainment offered by spectacle and ceremony in the 18th world. However, national celebrations such as the lighting of the White House Christmas tree and the ceremonies used to swear in new federal officials give the American people some experiences that are based upon national tradition.

1. It cancels the meaning of the first sentence
2. It provides an example of the first sentence.
3. It adds more detail to the first sentence.
4. It offers an exception to the information given in the first sentence.
5. The Earth's past climate including temperature and elements in the atmosphere has recently been studied by analyzing ice samples from Greenland and Antarctica. The air bubbles in the ice have shown that, over the past 10,000 years, there has been a close correlation between temperature changes and level of natural greenhouse gases carbon dioxide and methane. The recent analysis from Greenland showed that at the end of the last glacial period when the great ice sheets began to retreat to their present position, temperatures in southern Greenland rose from 5 to 8 degrees in about 100 years. Air bubbles are not the only method of determining characteristics of the Earth's ancient climate history. Analysis of dust layers from ancient volcanic activity is another such method; as is the study of ice cores, which interpret past solar activity that may have affected our climate.

1. The greenhouse effect is destroying the planet's atmosphere.
2. Temperatures in Greenland have been unusually stable over the past 100 years.
3. There is more than one kind of information that scientists can use to determine the characteristics of the Earth's early climate.
4. Solar energy is the key of the future.
5. Before video cameras were widely used, home and business owners had to rely only on written reports and photos as a way to document their valuables for insurance purposes. This form of documentation was difficult for some insurance policy holders. They found it was easy to lose lists, forget to add new items they purchased, or delete items they no longer had. As a result, these insurance inventories were often inaccurate. While videotaping is not an option for every home or business owner, this kind of insurance documentation is helpful for some.

1. They repeat the same idea.
2. They contradict one another.
3. They compare two forms of written documentation.
4. They present a problem and a solution.

H. Cause/Effect

15. The rise in personal debt in recent years is due largely to aggressive and unarranged hustling by credit card companies. Between 1980 and 1990, credit card debt doubled. Today it is still rising. Credit cards with interest rates reaching nearly 20 percent are a remarkably lucrative part of the loan business. Homeowners pay an average of 10,000 a year in interest and fees alone, money that could instead have been used for a college or retirement fund. Using subtle tactics to tempt ordinary consumers to borrow, credit card companies have led consumers to hold more cards and to fork over a bigger and bigger fraction of their income to the companies.

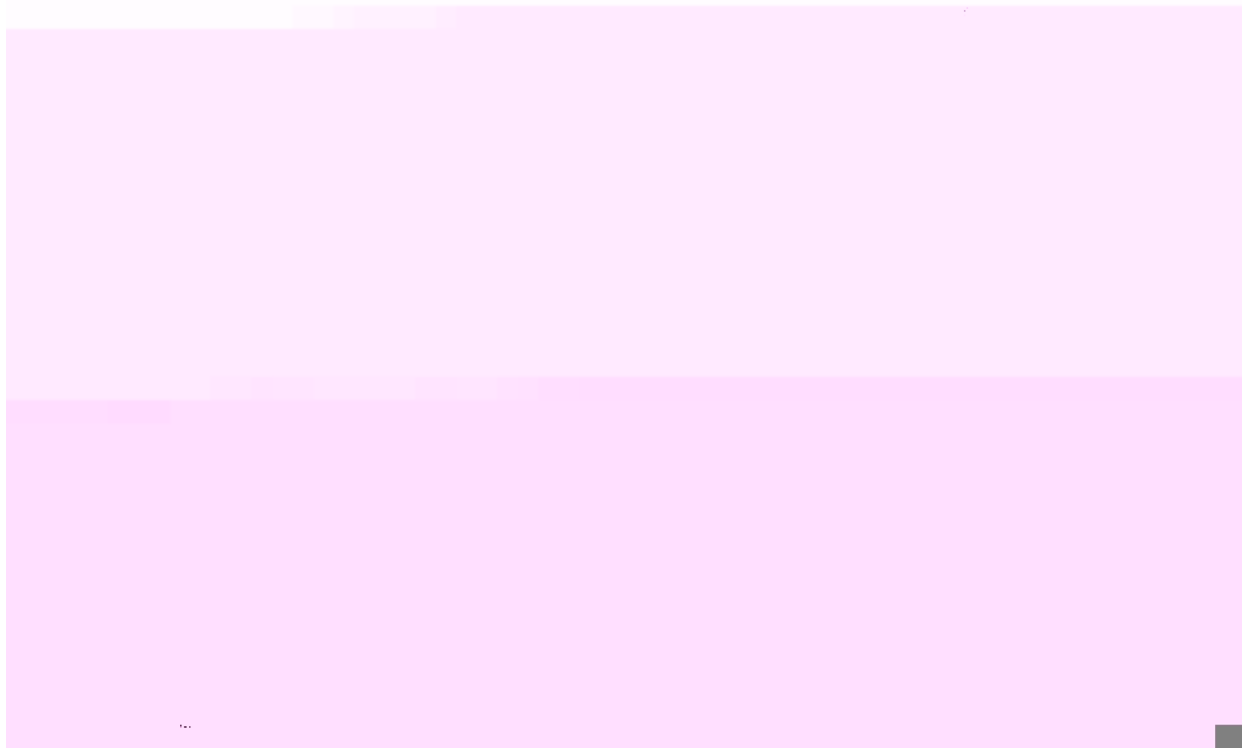
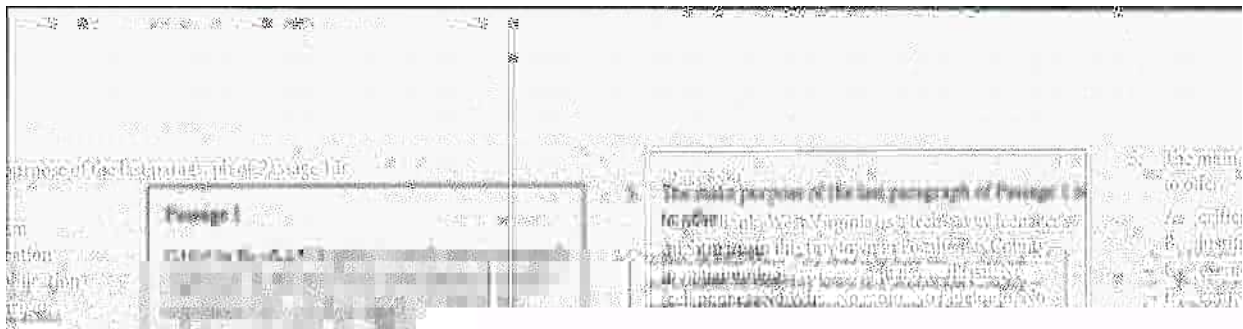
- /
- (. Cause/Effect
- ?. Comparison/Contrast
- A. Description
- H. Explanation

16. The following sentence has a blank indicating that something has been left out. Beneath the sentence are four words or phrases. Choose the word or phrase that, when inserted in the sentence, best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

Deciding that none of the nominees deserved the award, the film committee began reviewing a new group of candidates with better qualifications.

- (. Reason for
- ?. Pleased with
- A. Enthusiastic about
- H. Interested in

Here is an example of a question with 2 paired passages which are both related by the subject discussed. These questions measure the test taker's ability to synthesize across the multiple texts. Based on the text and question complexity, these are moderately challenging questions. The following questions are considered answers 1E.2 in the answer key.



Using the answers below, grade your practice test and review the questions you missed in the Reading Skills sections listed next to the correct answer.

1. H
2. (
3. (
4. A
5. ?
6. H
7. ?
8. H
9. A
10. H
11. (
12. H
13. A
14. ?
15. (
16. A
17. ?
18. H
19. (
20. A