# **CBEST-SECTION-2**<sup>Q&As</sup>

California Basic Educational Skills Test - Reading

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#### **QUESTION 1**

In 1899, Czar Nicholas II of Russia invited the nations of the world to a conference at The Hague. This conferenceand a follow-up organized by Theodore Roosevelt in 1907ushered in a period of vigorous growth in international law. This growth was in response to several factors, not least of which was the increasing potential for destruction of modern warfare. The recently concluded Civil War in the United States made this potential clear. During this growth, the subjects of international law were almost exclusively restricted to the relationships that countries had with one another. Issues of trade and warfare dominated both the disputes and the agreements of the period. \_\_\_\_\_\_, the developments of this period paved the way for further expansion of international law, which has occurred in the last several years. \_\_\_\_\_\_, organizations such as the United Nations and the International Court of Justice are greatly concerned not only with the way countries deal with one another, but the ways in which they treat their own citizens. On the basis of above passage please answer the following question According to the passage, what was the impact of the U.S. Civil War on the development of international law?

A. It encouraged the United States to join the international community.

- B. It allowed armaments manufacturers to test new weapons.
- C. It diminished the influence of the United States internationally.
- D. It resulted in the suspension of agriculture exports from Southern states.
- E. It highlighted the increasing destructive capabilities of modern warfare.

Correct Answer: E

Choices a, b, c, and d are not supported by information in the passage. Thus, the best choice is e.

#### **QUESTION 2**

In Ralph Waldo Emersons view, although individual consciousness will eventually be lost, every living thing is part of the blessed Unity, part of the transcendent "over-soul" which is the universe. And so, in the main body of his philosophy, Emerson accepts the indifference of Nature to the individual life, and does not struggle against it. His acceptance of Nature as tending toward overall unity and good in spite of her indifference to the individual is curiously and ironically akin to the Puritan acceptance of the doctrine of Divine Election. In his "Personal Narrative" Jonathan Edwards writes that he finally has "a delightful conviction" of the doctrine of God\\'s sovereignty, of God\\'s choosing according to His divine and arbitrary will, "whom he would to eternal life, and rejecting whom he pleased . . . . "He writes that the doctrine had formerly seemed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to him; however, it had finally come to seem "exceedingly pleasant, bright, and sweet." In "Fate," Emerson writes that "Nature will not mind drowning a man or a woman, but swallows your ship like a grain of dust," but that "the central intention of Nature [is] harmony and joy. Let us build altars to the Beautiful Necessity. . . . " On the basis of above passage please answer the following question In the context of the passage, which of the following words would best fit in the blank?

- A. loving
- B. just
- C. horrible
- D. imperious
- E. satisfying

#### Correct Answer: C

The word horrible most definitely contrasts to the words exceedingly pleasant, bright, and sweet, and the words formerly and however indicate that the sentence is describing a contrast. The other choices do not necessarily point to a contrast.

#### **QUESTION 3**

When the current measure used to calculate poverty levels was introduced in 1963, the poverty line for a family of two adults and two children was about \$3,100. In 1992, there were 36.9 million people, or 14.5% of the U.S. population, with incomes below the poverty line. A proposed new way of measuring poverty levels would include for the first time the effects of work-related expenses such as transportation costs and child care costs on families available income. The largest effect of the new measure would be a decrease in the percentage of people in families receiving cash welfare who fall under the poverty line, and an increase in the percentage of people in working families who fall under it. People in families receiving cash welfare would make up 30% of the poor under the new measure, compared with 40% under the current measure. In contrast, people in working families would make up 59% of the poor under the new measure, compared with 51% under the current measure. On the basis of above passage please answer the following question One difference between the current and proposed measures is the fact that

A. the proposed measure identifies fewer working poor.

B. the current measure identifies fewer working poor.

C. the proposed measure disregards expenses for basic needs.

D. the current measure includes more people with health insurance.

E. the current measure ignores the completely destitute.

Correct Answer: B

The second paragraph states that the current measure identifies fewer working poor, so choice a is incorrect. The proposed measure does not disregard expenses for basic needs (choice c); it includes the value of non-cash benefits. The

current measure identifies fewer people with health insurance (choice d).

There is no indication in the passage that either measure ignores the destitute (choice e).

#### **QUESTION 4**

heart. On the basis of above passage please answer the following question Which of the following would be the best title for this passage?

A. Dublin\\'s Famous Monuments

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- B. The Irish Take Pride in Their Capital City
- C. The Widest Street in Europe
- D. Sights and History on Dublin\\'s O'Connell Street
- E. Tourism in Dublin

Correct Answer: D

The title Sights and History on Dublins OConnell Street touches on all the specific subjects of the passage the sights to see on this particular street and the history connected to them. Answers a and e are too general about the place described, which is a particular street in Dublin, not the whole city. Answers b and c are too specific in that they cover only the material in the first paragraph.

#### **QUESTION 5**

It has been more than twenty-five years since the National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA) last sent a craft to land on the moon. The Lunar Prospector took off in January of 1998, in the first moon shot since astronauts last walked on the moon in 1972. This time, the moon-traveller is only a low-cost robot, who will spend a year on the surface of the moon, collecting minerals and ice. Unlike the moon shots of the 1960s and 1970s, Lunar Prospector does not carry a camera, so the American public will not get to see new pictures of the moons surface.

\_\_\_\_\_\_. Scientists are anxious for the results of one exploration in particularthat done by the neutron spectrometer. Using this instrument, Prospector will examine the moons poles, searching for signs of water ice. There has long been speculation that frozen water from comets may have accumulated in craters at one of the moons poles and may still be there, as this pole is permanently shielded from the sun. The neutron spectrometer seeks out the hydrogen atoms in water and can detect the presence of as little as one cup of water in a cubic yard of soil. On the basis of above passage please answer the following question Which of the following is the best meaning of the word "speculation" as it is used in the second paragraph of the passage?

A. a theory

- B. an investment
- C. a vision
- D. an image
- E. a process

Correct Answer: A

Either a or b are possible definitions of speculation, however, the passage suggests that in this case the author is referring to a theory choice a. The other choices are vaguely similar, but are not accurate, based on the passage as a whole.

#### **QUESTION 6**

A government report addressing concerns about the many implications of prenatal and newborn genetic testing outlined policy guidelines and legislative recommendations intended to avoid involuntary and ineffective testing and to protect confidentiality. The report recommended that all such screening be voluntary. Citing results of two different voluntary newborn screening programs, the report said these programs can achieve compliance rates equal to or better than those of mandatory programs. State health departments might be wise to eventually mandate the offering of tests for diagnosing treatable conditions in newborns; however, careful pilot studies for conditions diagnosable at birth need to be done first. Although the report asserted that it would prefer that all screening be voluntary, it did note that if a state elects to mandate newborn screening for a particular condition, the state should do so only if there is strong evidence that a newborn would benefit from effective treatment at the earliest possible age.Newborn screening is the most common type of genetic screening today. More than four million newborns are tested annually so that effective treatment can be started in a few hundred infants. Obtaining informed consenta process that would include educating participants, not just processing documentswould enhance voluntary participation. When offered testing, parents should receive comprehensive counseling, which should be nondirective. Relevant medical advice, however, is recommended for treatable or preventable conditions. On the basis of above passage please answer the following question Based on the passage, for which of the following would the government report LEAST likely recommend mandated genetic testing?

- A. contagious diseases
- B. untreatable conditions
- C. fatal diseases
- D. disabling diseases
- E. carrier diseases
- Correct Answer: B

See the first sentence of the third paragraph, which asserts that states should mandate genetic testing only if there is strong evidence that a newborn would benefit from effective treatment at the earliest possible age.

#### **QUESTION 7**

It has been more than twenty-five years since the National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA) last sent a craft to land on the moon. The Lunar Prospector took off in January of 1998, in the first moon shot since astronauts last walked on the moon in 1972. This time, the moon-traveller is only a low-cost robot, who will spend a year on the surface of the moon, collecting minerals and ice. Unlike the moon shots of the 1960s and 1970s, Lunar Prospector does not carry a camera, so the American public will not get to see new pictures of the moons surface.

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- A. an astrophysics text book
- B. a history text book
- C. a collection of personal essays
- D. a general circulation magazine
- E. an internal NASA memo

#### Correct Answer: D

This passage is written in a style directed to a general audience; therefore, choices a, b, and e are not correct, as they are aimed toward specialized audiences.

Nor is this passage in the style of a personal essay (choice c), which would contain impressions and conclusions. The articles in general circulation magazines are aimed toward wide audiences, as is this passage.

#### **QUESTION 8**

The fictional world of Toni Morrison\\'s novel Sula—the African-American section of Medallion, Ohio, a community called "the Bottom"—is a place where people, and even natural things, are apt to go awry, to break from their prescribed

boundaries, a place where bizarre and unnatural happenings and strange reversals of the ordinary are commonplace. The very naming of the setting of Sula is a turningupside- down of the expected; the Bottom is located high up in the hills.

The novel is furthermore filled with images of mutilation, both psychological and physical. A great part of the lives of the characters, therefore, is taken up with making sense of the world, setting boundaries and devising methods to control

what is essentially uncontrollable. One of the major devices used by the people of the

Bottom is the seemingly universal one of creating a \_\_\_\_\_\_in this case, the title character Sulaupon which to project both the evil they perceive outside themselves and the evil in their own hearts.

On the basis of above passage please answer the following question.

Based on the description of the setting of the novel Sula, which of the following adjectives would most likely describe the behavior of many of its residents?

- A. cowardly
- B. artistic
- C. unkempt
- D. arrogant
- E. eccentric
- Correct Answer: E

The passage says of the people who live in "the Bottom" that they are apt to go awry, to break from their natural boundaries. A person who is eccentric is quirky or odd. Nowhere in the passage is it implied that the people are cowardly, artistic, unkempt, or arrogant (choices a, b, c, and d).

#### **QUESTION 9**

Electronic mail (e-mail) has been in widespread use for more than a decade. E-mail simplifies the flow of ideas, connects people from distant offices, eliminates the need for meetings, and often boosts productivity. But e-mail should be carefully managed to avoid unclear and inappropriate communication. E-mail messages should be concise and limited to one topic. When complex issues need to be addressed, phone calls are still best. On the basis of above passage please answer the following question The paragraph best supports the statement that e-mail

- A. is not always the easiest way to connect people from distant offices.
- B. has changed considerably since it first began a decade ago.
- C. causes people to be unproductive when it is used incorrectly.
- D. is most effective when it is wisely managed.

E. should be used mainly for unimportant messages.

Correct Answer: D

The correct answer is implied by the statement in the third sentence that carefully managed email results in effective communication. Choice a is wrong because the opposite is true. Choice b is wrong because even though e-mail is more widespread, it has not necessarily changed considerably. Choices c and e are not indicated in the paragraph.

#### **QUESTION 10**

Off-site disposal of regulated medical wastes remains a viable option for smaller hospitals (those with less than 150 beds). However, some preliminary on-site processing, such as compaction or hydropulping, may be necessary prior to sending the wastes off-site. Compaction reduces the total volume of solid wastes, often reducing transportation and disposal costs, but does not change the hazardous characteristics of the waste. However, compaction may not be economical if transportation and disposal costs are based on weight rather than volume. Hydropulping involves grinding the waste in the presence of an oxidizing fluid, such as hypochlorite solution. One advantage of hydropulping is that waste can be rendered innocuous and reduced in size within the same system. Disadvantages are the added operating burden, difficulty of controlling fugitive emission, and the difficulty of conducting microbiological tests to determine whether all organic matters and infectious organisms from the waste have been destroyed. On-site disposal is a feasible alternative for hospitals generating two tons per day or more total of solid waste. Common treatment techniques include steam sterilization and incineration. Although other options are available, incineration is currently the preferred method for on-site treatment of hospital waste. A properly designed, maintained, and operated incinerator achieves a relatively high level of organism destruction. Incineration reduces the weight and volume of the waste as much as 95 percent and is especially appropriate for pathological wastes. On the basis of above passage please answer the following question The process that transforms waste from hazardous to harmless AND diminishes waste volume is

- A. sterilization.
- B. hydropulping.
- C. oxidizing.
- D. processing.
- E. compacting.
- Correct Answer: B

See sentence four of the second paragraph. The effects of sterilization of waste (choice a) is not included in the passage. Oxidizing (choice c) is simply a part of the process of hydropulping. Processing (choice d) is the general category that includes all the methods of disposing of medical wastes. While compacting (choice e) does change the volume of the waste, it is not appropriate for eliminating hazardous materials.

#### **QUESTION 11**

#### (1)

Produced in 1959, Lorraine Hansberrys play, A Raisin in the Sun, was a quietly revolutionary work that depicted African-American life in a fresh, new, and realistic way. The play made her the youngest American, the first African-American,

and the fifth woman to win the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best

Play of the Year. In 1961, it was produced as a film starring Sydney Poitier and has since become a classic, providing inspiration for an entire generation of

African-American writers.

(2)

Hansberry was not only an artist but also a political activist and the daughter of activists. Born in Chicago in 1930, she was a member of a prominent family devoted to civil rights. Her father was a successful real-estate broker, who won an

anti-segregation case before the Illinois Supreme Court in the mid-1930s, and her uncle was a Harvard professor. In her home, Hansberry was privileged to meet many influential cultural and intellectual leaders. Among them were artists and

activists such as Paul Robeson, W.E.B. DuBois, and Langston Hughes.

(3)

The success of A Raisin in the Sun helped gain an audience for her passionate views on social justice. It mirrors one of Hansberrys central artistic efforts, that of freeing many people from the smothering effects of stereotyping by depicting

the wide array of personality types and aspirations that exist within one Southside

Chicago family. A Raisin in the Sun was followed by another play, produced in 1964, The Sign in Sidney Brusteins Window. This play is about an intellectual in

Greenwich Village, New York City, a man who is open-minded and generous of spirit who, as Hansberry wrote, "cares about it all. It takes too much energy not to care."

(4)

Lorraine Hansberry died on the final day of the plays run on Broadway. Her early death, at the age of 34, was unfortunate, as it cut short a brilliant and promising career, one that, even in its short span, changed the face of American

theater. After her death, however, her influence continued to be felt. A dramatic adaptation of her autobiography, To Be Young, Gifted, and Black, consisted of vignettes based on Hansberrys plays, poems, and other writings. It was produced

Off-Broadway in 1969 and appeared in book form the following year. Her play, Les Blancs, a drama set in Africa, was produced in 1970; and A Raisin in the Sun was adapted as a musical, Raisin, and won a Tony award in 1973.

(5)

Even after her death, her dramatic works have helped gain an audience for her essays and speeches on wide-ranging topics, from world peace to the evils of the mistreatment of minorities, no matter what their race, and especially for her

works on the civil-rights struggle and on the effort by Africans to be free of colonial rule. She was a woman, much like the characters in her best-known play, who was determined to be free of racial, cultural, or genderbased constraints.

On the basis of above passage please answer the following question.

The writer of the passage suggests that Hansberrys political beliefs had their origins in her experience as

Α.

the daughter of politically active parents.

Β.

a successful playwright in New York.

C.

a resident of Southside Chicago.

D.

an intellectual in Greenwich Village.

Ε.

a civil rights activist.

Correct Answer: A

The first paragraph speaks of Hansberrys being raised as the daughter of political activists. Choices b, d,and e are related to her beliefs but are not depicted as the origin of those beliefs. The passage does not say that Hansberry herself ever lived in Southside Chicago (choicec).

#### **QUESTION 12**

Off-site disposal of regulated medical wastes remains a viable option for smaller hospitals (those with less than 150 beds). However, some preliminary on-site processing, such as compaction or hydropulping, may be necessary prior to sending the wastes off-site. Compaction reduces the total volume of solid wastes, often reducing transportation and disposal costs, but does not change the hazardous characteristics of the waste. However, compaction may not be economical if transportation and disposal costs are based on weight rather than volume. Hydropulping involves grinding the waste in the presence of an oxidizing fluid, such as hypochlorite solution. One advantage of hydropulping is that waste can be rendered innocuous and reduced in size within the same system. Disadvantages are the added operating burden, difficulty of controlling fugitive emission, and the difficulty of conducting microbiological tests to determine whether all organic matters and infectious organisms from the waste have been destroyed. On-site disposal is a feasible alternative for hospitals generating two tons per day or more total of solid waste. Common treatment techniques include steam sterilization and incineration. Although other options are available, incineration is currently the preferred method for on-site treatment of hospital waste. A properly designed, maintained, and operated incinerator achieves a relatively

high level of organism destruction.

Incineration reduces the weight and volume of the waste as much as 95 percent and is especially appropriate for pathological wastes.

On the basis of above passage please answer the following question

One disadvantage of the compaction method of waste disposal is that it

A. cannot reduce transportation costs.

B. reduces the volume of solid waste material.

- C. does not allow hospitals to confirm that organic matter has been eliminated.
- D. does not reduce the weight of solid waste material.
- E. cannot be done on-site.

Correct Answer: D

See the second sentence of the second paragraph. Compaction may well reduce transportation costs (choice a) according to the first sentence of the second paragraph. That it reduces the volume of waste (choice b) is an advantage, not a disadvantage. Compaction is not designed to eliminate organic matter, so confirming that it has been eliminated (choice c) is not an issue. Compaction is done on-site (refuting choice e), as asserted in the first paragraph.

#### **QUESTION 13**

It has been more than twenty-five years since the National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA) last sent a craft to land on the moon. The Lunar Prospector took off in January of 1998, in the first moon shot since astronauts last walked on the moon in 1972. This time, the moon-traveller is only a low-cost robot, who will spend a year on the surface of the moon, collecting minerals and ice. Unlike the moon shots of the 1960s and 1970s, Lunar Prospector does not carry a camera, so the American public will not get to see new pictures of the moons surface.

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A. You won\\'t, therefore, be able to see if the surface of the moon has changed much in thirty years.

B. Instead, Prospector carries instruments that will map the make-up of the entire surface of the moon.

C. I don///t believe that new pictures would prove very interesting, anyway.

D. However, the topography of the lunar terrain retains a mundane familiarity that is not consistent with the nature of NASAsraison detreand will contribute little to advancements visa vis missions such as Sojourner.

E. Entertainment of the public does not justify the enormous cost of space exploration.

Correct Answer: B

Choice b best reflects the writing style of the passage, which is for a general audience. Choices a and c are too informal; choice d uses jargon and choice e seems to talk down to the audience.

#### **QUESTION 14**

A government report addressing concerns about the many implications of prenatal and newborn genetic testing outlined policy guidelines and legislative recommendations intended to avoid involuntary and ineffective testing and to protect confidentiality. The report recommended that all such screening be voluntary. Citing results of two different voluntary newborn screening programs, the report said these programs can achieve compliance rates equal to or better than those of mandatory programs. State health departments might be wise to eventually mandate the offering of tests for diagnosing treatable conditions in newborns; however, careful pilot studies for conditions diagnosable at birth need to be done first. Although the report asserted that it would prefer that all screening be voluntary, it did note that if a state elects

to mandate newborn screening for a particular condition, the state should do so only if there is strong evidence that a newborn would benefit from effective treatment at the earliest possible age. Newborn screening is the most common type of genetic screening today. More than four million newborns are tested annually so that effective treatment can be started in a few hundred infants. Obtaining informed consenta process that would include educating participants, not just processing documentswould enhance voluntary participation. When offered testing, parents should receive comprehensive counseling, which should be nondirective. Relevant medical advice, however, is recommended for treatable or preventable conditions. On the basis of above passage please answer the following question According to the passage, the most prevalent form of genetic testing is conducted

A. on high-risk populations.

B. on adults.

C. on fetuses prior to birth.

- D. on infants shortly after birth.
- E. on mothers shortly after they give birth.

Correct Answer: D

See the third paragraph: Newborn screening is the most common type of genetic screening today.

#### **QUESTION 15**

Heat reactions usually occur when large amounts of water and/or salt are lost through excessive sweating following strenuous exercise. When the body becomes overheated and cannot eliminate this excess heat, heat exhaustion and heat

stroke are possible. Heat exhaustion is generally characterized by clammy skin, fatigue, nausea, dizziness, profuse perspiration, and sometimes fainting, resulting from an inadequate intake of water and the loss of fluids. First aid treatment for

this condition includes having the victim lie down, raising the feet 812 inches, applying cool, wet cloths to the skin, and giving the victim sips of salt water (1 teaspoon per glass, half a glass every 15 minutes), over the period of an hour. Heat

stroke is much more serious; it is an immediately life-threatening situation.

The characteristics of heat stroke are a high body temperature (which may reach 106F or more); a rapid pulse; hot, dry skin; and a blocked sweating mechanism.

Victims of this condition may be unconscious, and first aid measures should be directed at cooling the body quickly. The victim should be placed in a tub of cold water or repeatedly sponged with cool water until his or her temperature is

lowered sufficiently. Fans or air conditioners will also help with the cooling process.

Care should be taken, however, not to overchill the victim once the temperature is below 102F.

On the basis of above passage please answer the following question.

Which of the following is a symptom of heat exhaustion?

A. unconsciousness

- B. excessive sweating
- C. hot, dry skin
- D. a weak pulse
- E. a rapid pulse
- Correct Answer: B

This is clearly stated in the first sentence of the second paragraph. Choices a, c, and e are symptoms of heat stroke. Choice d is not mentioned.

**Dumps** 

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