

Reading Accuplacer Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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SAMPLE

Questions

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- 1. What commonly consists of prefixes and suffixes?**
 - A. Affixes**
 - B. Interfixes**
 - C. Circumfixes**
 - D. Allophones**
- 2. What feature of a book helps to clarify source citations or links?**
 - A. Appendix**
 - B. Footnotes**
 - C. Glossary**
 - D. Index**
- 3. Why is understanding the audience's perspective crucial in reading?**
 - A. It helps to identify the book's publisher**
 - B. It informs the construction and emphasis of arguments**
 - C. It clarifies the author's personal experiences**
 - D. It determines the page layout of the text**
- 4. When referring to the "central argument," what is being asked?**
 - A. The primary claim or stance the author is making**
 - B. The evidence provided to support the argument**
 - C. The background information about the topic**
 - D. The conclusion of the text**
- 5. Which literary term defines an indirect reference to a person, place, or event?**
 - A. Analogy**
 - B. Allusion**
 - C. Metaphor**
 - D. Paradox**

- 6. What do you call dialogue that is heard by the audience but not by other characters?**
- A. Asides**
 - B. Soliloquies**
 - C. Monologues**
 - D. Expositions**
- 7. Which literary device involves exaggeration for effect?**
- A. Verbal Irony**
 - B. Simile**
 - C. Hyperbole**
 - D. Personification**
- 8. What is diction in relation to literature?**
- A. Word choice that establishes tone and effect**
 - B. The arrangement of sentences**
 - C. An emotional appeal**
 - D. A form of visual imagery**
- 9. What component is critical in forming new words by attaching to roots?**
- A. Prefix**
 - B. Surfix**
 - C. Affix**
 - D. Interfix**
- 10. What does "textual evidence" refer to in reading comprehension?**
- A. General summaries of the text**
 - B. Opinions about the text**
 - C. Specific examples or quotes from the text used to support an interpretation**
 - D. Characters' backgrounds and motivations**

Answers

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1. A
2. B
3. B
4. A
5. B
6. A
7. C
8. A
9. C
10. C

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Explanations

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1. What commonly consists of prefixes and suffixes?

A. Affixes

B. Interfixes

C. Circumfixes

D. Allophones

The correct answer is affixes, as they specifically refer to morphemes that can be attached to a root word to modify its meaning or create a new word. Affixes include both prefixes, which are added to the beginning of a word, and suffixes, which are added to the end. For example, in the word "unhappiness," "un-" is a prefix that negates the meaning, while "-ness" is a suffix that converts an adjective into a noun. Interfixes and circumfixes, while related to morphological processes, are more specialized and not as broadly applied as affixes. Interfixes are elements inserted within a word, and circumfixes are affixes that attach to both the beginning and the end of a word simultaneously, which are less common in English. Allophones, on the other hand, relate to phonetics and refer to the variations in pronunciation of a single phoneme rather than morphological structures. Thus, the term "affixes" is the most appropriate choice involving both prefixes and suffixes.

2. What feature of a book helps to clarify source citations or links?

A. Appendix

B. Footnotes

C. Glossary

D. Index

Footnotes serve as an important feature in a book that clarifies source citations or links. Usually found at the bottom of the page, footnotes provide additional information about a specific statement or reference. This may include citations of sources, elaboration on key points, or references to further reading. By using footnotes, authors can keep the main text clear and concise while still providing readers with the context they need to understand the sources of their information or to explore related topics. This allows for a better understanding of the material and supports academic integrity by properly attributing ideas and research to their original authors. The other features mentioned, such as the appendix, glossary, and index, serve different purposes. An appendix typically contains supplementary material that aids in comprehending the main text, a glossary provides definitions of specific terms, and an index lists topics or terms found in the book for quick reference. While all these elements contribute to the overall utility of a book, it is the footnotes that specifically address source citations and provide clarity on referenced material.

3. Why is understanding the audience's perspective crucial in reading?

- A. It helps to identify the book's publisher**
- B. It informs the construction and emphasis of arguments**
- C. It clarifies the author's personal experiences**
- D. It determines the page layout of the text**

Understanding the audience's perspective is crucial in reading because it informs the construction and emphasis of arguments. When an author is aware of their audience, they tailor their message to resonate with that group's values, beliefs, and knowledge level. This consideration significantly shapes how arguments are presented—what points are highlighted or downplayed, the language used, and the examples chosen to support claims. A well-crafted argument that aligns with the audience's perspective is more persuasive and impactful, making it essential for effective communication in various texts. This understanding allows readers to interpret and evaluate the material more thoroughly, recognizing the strategies employed by the author to connect with the intended audience.

4. When referring to the "central argument," what is being asked?

- A. The primary claim or stance the author is making**
- B. The evidence provided to support the argument**
- C. The background information about the topic**
- D. The conclusion of the text**

The term "central argument" refers to the main claim or stance that the author is presenting in a piece of writing. This key concept encapsulates the author's primary message or belief about the topic being discussed. Understanding the central argument is crucial for comprehending the overall purpose and direction of the text. In analyzing a written work, identifying the central argument allows readers to critically evaluate the author's positions and to discern how supporting details and evidence contribute to this main point. By focusing on the primary claim, readers can engage more deeply with the text, assessing its strengths and weaknesses while building a more informed perspective on the subject matter.

5. Which literary term defines an indirect reference to a person, place, or event?

- A. Analogy**
- B. Allusion**
- C. Metaphor**
- D. Paradox**

The literary term that defines an indirect reference to a person, place, or event is allusion. Allusions allow writers to connect their work to well-known figures, stories, historical events, or cultural artifacts, enriching the text's meaning and creating deeper layers of understanding for the reader. This technique relies on the audience's familiarity with the reference, which can evoke certain emotions or thoughts without elaborating on the details. For example, a writer might refer to "the Garden of Eden" to imply themes of innocence and loss without explicitly describing the biblical story. This indirect reference can evoke a shared cultural understanding, making it a powerful storytelling device. By using allusion, authors can create resonance and depth in their writing, making it more engaging and thought-provoking for readers.

6. What do you call dialogue that is heard by the audience but not by other characters?

- A. Asides**
- B. Soliloquies**
- C. Monologues**
- D. Expositions**

Dialogue that is heard by the audience but not by other characters is referred to as asides. This technique allows a character to express thoughts or feelings directly to the audience, providing deeper insight into their motivations or reactions without other characters being aware of it. Asides often enhance the dramatic effect by creating a connection between the character and the audience, allowing viewers to see things from the character's perspective. The other terms might be misunderstood in this context: soliloquies are lengthy speeches delivered by a character alone on stage, revealing their inner thoughts but with no interaction with others. Monologues are extended speeches by a character in the presence of others, meant to convey information or emotions to those characters, rather than to the audience alone. Expositions refer to background information or context provided to the audience about events, settings, or character backgrounds, rather than a specific piece of dialogue directed to the audience.

7. Which literary device involves exaggeration for effect?

- A. Verbal Irony
- B. Simile
- C. Hyperbole**
- D. Personification

The choice of hyperbole is correct because this literary device is defined by its intentional use of extreme exaggeration to create a strong impression or emphasize a point. It is not meant to be taken literally but instead aims to evoke strong feelings or provide a dramatic effect in storytelling or poetry. For instance, saying "I'm so hungry I could eat a horse" utilizes hyperbole to express a heightened sense of hunger, making the sentiment more vivid and relatable. In contrast, verbal irony involves saying the opposite of what is meant, using sarcasm or understatement, and does not rely on exaggeration for effect. A simile compares two different things using "like" or "as," and while it can create vivid imagery, it does not exaggerate for dramatic emphasis as hyperbole does. Lastly, personification attributes human characteristics to non-human elements, which is a different form of figurative language that does not involve exaggeration.

8. What is diction in relation to literature?

- A. Word choice that establishes tone and effect**
- B. The arrangement of sentences
- C. An emotional appeal
- D. A form of visual imagery

Diction refers to the specific word choices made by a writer or speaker that contribute to the overall tone, style, and meaning of a piece of literature. It plays a critical role in conveying emotions and creating imagery. The words selected can evoke certain feelings and can significantly alter the reader's perception of a character, setting, or situation. For instance, a writer may choose formal, elevated language to create a sense of seriousness or convey a character's sophistication, while colloquial language might be used to establish a more relaxed or humorous tone. While other concepts like sentence arrangement, emotional appeals, and visual imagery are relevant in literature, they do not specifically define diction. Sentence arrangement pertains more to syntax, while emotional appeals relate to rhetoric and persuasion. Visual imagery focuses on the use of descriptive language to create mental pictures in the reader's mind, but it is distinct from the careful selection of words that makes up diction. Therefore, diction fundamentally encompasses the art of word choice, making the first option the correct response.

9. What component is critical in forming new words by attaching to roots?

- A. Prefix**
- B. Surfix**
- C. Affix**
- D. Interfix**

The correct answer, which identifies the component critical in forming new words by attaching to roots, is "affix." An affix is a linguistic element that is added to a root word to alter its meaning or create a new word. There are two main types of affixes: prefixes, which are added to the beginning of a root, and suffixes, which are added to the end. Understanding affixes is essential because they expand the vocabulary by forming derivatives, enabling the creation of various forms of a word, such as turning nouns into verbs or adjectives. For example, the root word "act" can become "action" with the addition of the suffix "ion," making "action" a noun that derives from the verb form. While prefixes and suffixes are specific types of affixes, the term "affix" itself encompasses all such modifications. The term "surfix" is not widely recognized in linguistic terminology, and "interfix" refers to a less common concept used in specific linguistic contexts, further illustrating the superiority of the term "affix" in this context. Thus, "affix" is the most encompassing and correct term that captures the concept of modifying root words in word formation.

10. What does "textual evidence" refer to in reading comprehension?

- A. General summaries of the text**
- B. Opinions about the text**
- C. Specific examples or quotes from the text used to support an interpretation**
- D. Characters' backgrounds and motivations**

Textual evidence refers to specific examples or quotes directly taken from a text that are used to support interpretations or conclusions regarding its content. When analyzing a piece of literature, argument, or any written material, textual evidence is essential because it grounds interpretations in the actual words and context of the author. This evidence includes direct quotations, paraphrases, or specific details that illustrate the points being made, thereby lending credibility and substantiation to an argument or analysis. For instance, if someone interprets a character's actions in a story, citing a specific instance from the text where those actions occur serves as textual evidence. This not only clarifies the interpretation but also demonstrates a deeper engagement with the text itself. Other choices, like general summaries or opinions, do not provide the precise backing needed for meaningful analysis because they do not anchor the interpretation in the text. Similarly, discussing characters' backgrounds without referencing specific instances in the text lacks a direct connection to the material being analyzed. Hence, referring to specific examples or quotes clearly identifies what textual evidence is and why it is a crucial component of reading comprehension.