http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/default.aspx

There are 20 questions of two primary types on the Reading Comprehension test.  The first type consists of a reading passage followed by a question based on the text.  Both short and long passages are provided.  The reading passages can also be classified according to the kind of information processing required including explicit statements related to the main idea, explicit statements related to a secondary idea, application, and inference.

The second type of question, sentence relationships, presents two sentences followed by a question about the relationship between these two sentences.  The question may ask, for example, if the statement in the second sentence supports that in the first, if it contradicts it, or if it repeats the same information.

1. In the words of Thomas DeQuincey, “It is notorious that the memory strengthens as you lay burdens upon it.”  If, like most people, you have trouble recalling the names of those you have just met, try this:  the next time you are introduced, plan to remember the names.  Say to yourself, “I’ll listen carefully; I’ll repeat each person’s name to be sure I’ve got it, and I will remember.”  You’ll discover how effective this technique is and probably recall those names for the rest of your life.

The main idea of the paragraph maintains that the memory

[A.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest1A.aspx)  always operates at peak efficiency.
[B.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest1B.aspx)  breaks down under great strain.
[C.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest1C.aspx)  improves if it is used often.
[D.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest1D.aspx)  becomes unreliable if it tires.

C

Read the statement or passage and then choose the best answer to the question.  Answer the question based on what is stated or implied in the statement or passage.

1. Unemployment was the overriding fact of life when Franklin D. Roosevelt became President of the United States on March 4, 1933.  An anomaly of the time was that the government did not systematically collect statistics of joblessness; actually it did not start doing so until 1940.  The Bureau of Labor Statistics later estimated that 12,830,000 persons were out of work in 1933, about one-fourth of a civilian labor force of over fifty-one million.

Roosevelt signed the Federal Emergency Relief Act on May 12, 1933.  The President selected Harry L. Hopkins, who headed the New York relief program, to run FERA.  A gifted administrator, Hopkins quickly put the program into high gear.  He gathered a small staff in Washington and brought the state relief organizations in to the FERA system.  While the agency tried to provide all the necessities, food came first. City dwellers usually got an allowance for fuel, and rent for one month was provided in case of eviction.

This passage is primarily about

 [A.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest2A.aspx)  unemployment in the 1930’s.
 [B.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest2B.aspx)  the effect of unemployment on United States families.
 [C.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest2C.aspx)  President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s presidency.
 [D.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest2D.aspx)  President Roosevelt’s FERA program.

D

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

1. It is said that a smile is universally understood.  And nothing triggers a smile more universally than a taste of sugar.  Nearly everyone loves sugar.  Infant studies indicate that humans are born with an innate love of sweets.  Based on statistics, a lot of people in Great Britain must be smiling, because on average, every man, woman and child in that country consumes ninety-five pounds of sugar each year.

From this passage it seems safe to conclude that the English

[A.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest3A.aspx)  do not know that too much sugar is unhealthy.
[B.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest3B.aspx)  eat desserts at every meal.
[C.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest3C.aspx)  are fonder of sweets than most people.
[D.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest3D.aspx)  have more cavities than any other people.

C

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

1. With varying success, many women around the world today struggle for equal rights.  Historically, women have achieved greater equality with men during periods of social adversity.  Three of the following factors initiated the greatest number of improvements for women:  violent revolution, world war, and the rigors of pioneering in an undeveloped land.  In all three cases, the essential element that improved the status of women was a shortage of men, which required women to perform many of society’s vital tasks.

We can conclude from the information in this passage that

[A.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest4A.aspx)  women today are highly successful in winning equal rights.
[B.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest4B.aspx)  only pioneer women have been considered equal to men.
[C.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest4C.aspx)  historically, women have only achieved equality through force.
[D.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest4D.aspx)  historically, the principle of equality alone has not been enough to secure women equal rights.

D

1. In 1848, Charles Burton of New York City made the first baby carriage, but people strongly objected to the vehicles because they said the carriage operators hit too many pedestrians.  Still convinced that he had a good idea, Burton opened a factory in England.  He obtained orders for the baby carriages from Queen Isabella II of Spain, Queen Victoria of England, and the Pasha of Egypt.  The United States had to wait another ten years before it got a carriage factory, and the first year only 75 carriages were sold.

Even after the success of baby carriages in England,

[A.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest5A.aspx)  Charles Burton was a poor man.
[B.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest5B.aspx)  Americans were still reluctant to buy baby carriages.
[C.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest5C.aspx)  Americans purchased thousands of baby carriages.
[D.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest5D.aspx)  the United States bought more carriages than any other country.

B

1. All water molecules form six-sided structures as they freeze and become snow crystals.  The shape of the crystal is determined by temperature, vapor, and wind conditions in the upper atmosphere.  Snow crystals are always symmetrical because these conditions affect all six sides simultaneously.

The purpose of the passage is to present

[A.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest6A.aspx)  a personal observation.
[B.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest6B.aspx)  a solution to a problem.
[C.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest6C.aspx)  actual information.
[D.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest6D.aspx)  opposing scientific theories.

C

1. The Midwest is experiencing its worst drought in fifteen years.

Corn and soybean prices are expected to be very high this year.

What does the second sentence do?

[A.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest7A.aspx)  It restates the idea found in the first.
[B.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest7B.aspx)  It states an effect.
[C.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest7C.aspx)  It gives an example.
[D.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest7D.aspx)  It analyzes the statement made in the first.

B

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

1. Social Studies classes focus on the complexity of our social environment.

The subject combines the study of history and the social sciences and promotes skills in citizenship.

What does the second sentence do?

[A.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest8A.aspx)  It gives an example.
[B.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest8B.aspx)  It makes a contrast
[C.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest8C.aspx)  It proposes a solution.
[D.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest8D.aspx)  It states an effect.

A

1. Knowledge of another language fosters greater awareness of cultural diversity among the peoples of the world.

Individuals who have foreign language skills can appreciate more readily other peoples’ values and ways of life.

How are the two sentences related?

[A.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest9A.aspx)  They contradict each other.
[B.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest9B.aspx)  The present problems and solutions.
[C.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest9C.aspx)  They establish a contrast.
[D.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest9D.aspx)  They repeat the same idea.

D

1. Serving on a jury is an important obligation of citizenship.

Many companies allow their employees paid leaves of absence to serve on juries.

What does the second sentences do?

[A.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest10A.aspx)  It reinforces what is stated in the first.
[B.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest10B.aspx)  It explains what is stated in the first.
[C.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest10C.aspx)  The second expands on the first.
[D.](http://www.dcccd.edu/Emp/Departments/EA/Student%20Affairs/Assessment%20Practice%20Tests/ACCUPLACER/Reading%20Comprehension/Pages/Quest10D.aspx)  It draws a conclusion about what is stated in the first.

A

<http://php.yccd.edu/assessment/tests/reading.html>

**YCCD Assessment & Testing Center**

**Reading Comprehension: Sample Test**

**Narrative Question**:
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 statement or passage.

There are two types of pottery that I do. There is production pottery-mugs, tableware, the kinds of things that sell easily. These pay for my time to do other work, which is more creative and satisfies my needs as an artist.

1. The author of this passage implies that:

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A) artists have a tendency to waste valuable time
B) creativity and mass-production are incompatible
C) most people do not appreciate good art
D) pottery is not produced by creative people

**Sentence Relationship Question**:
Two underlined sentences are followed by a question or statement about them. Read each pair of sentences and then choose the best answer to the question or the best completion of the statement.

The Midwest is experiencing its worst drought in fifteen years.
Corn and soybean prices are expected to be very high this year.

2. What does the second sentence do?

A) It restates the idea found in the first.
B) It states an effect.
C) It gives an example.
D) It analyzes the statement made in the first.

*Read the statment of passage and then choose the best anser to the question. Answer the question based on what is stated or implied in the statement or passage.*

3. Myths are stories, the products of fertile imagination, sometimes simple, often containing profound truths. They are not meant to be taken too literally. Details may sometimes appear childish, but most myths express a culture’s most serious beliefs about human beings, eternity and God.

The main idea of this passage is that myths
A. are created primarily to entertain young children.
B. are purposely written for the reader who lacks imagination.
C. provide the reader with a means of escape from reality.
D. illustrate the values that are considered important to a society.

4. In the words of Thomas DeQuincy, “It is notorious that the memory strengthens as you lay burdens upon it.” If, like most people, you have trouble recalling the names of those you have just met, try this: The next time you are introduced, plan to remember the names. Say to yourself, “I’ll listen carefully; I’ll repeat each person’s name to be sure I’ve got it, and I will remember.” You’ll discover how effective this technique is and probably recall those names for the rest of your life.

The main idea of the paragraph maintains that the memory
A. always operates at peak efficiency.
B. breaks down under great strain.
C. improves if it is used often.
D. becomes unreliable if it tires.

5. The ultimate source of energy for all plants and animals is sunlight. But the sun’s energy can be harnessed by plants, through photosynthesis, and stored in molecules of carbohydrates. When animals eat these nzymes, large amounts of energy become available. Animals immediately convert this energy into molecules of high-energy ATP (adenosine triphosphate) – the universal currency of energy in living things. Excluding only the very first stages in carbohydrate breakdown, which are called glycolysis, the entire complicated process of energy transfer to ATP takes place within the mitochondria.

Glycolysis refers to
A. the initial stages of carbohydrate breakdown.
B. the process of plants producing oxygen and carbohydrates.
C. the production of ATP.
D. the production of body heat which occurs in the mitochondria.

6. Unemployment was the overriding fact of life when Franklin D. Roosevelt became President of the United States on March 4, 1933. An anomaly of the time was that the government did not systematically collect statistics of joblessness; actually it did not start doing so until 1940. The Bureau of Labor Statistics later estimated that 12,830,000 persons were out of work in 1933, about one-fourth of a civilian labor force of over 51,000,000.

Roosevelt signed the Federal Emergency Relief Act on May 12, 1933. The President selected Harry L. Hopkins, who headed the New York relief program, to run FERA. A gifted administrator, Hopkins quickly put the program into high gear. He gathered a small staff in Washington and brought the state relief organizations into the FERA system. While the agency tried to provide all the necessities, food came first. City dwellers usually got an allowance for fuel, and rent for one month was provided in case of eviction. FERA paid for medicine, some doctor bills, but no hospital costs, work-relief, sewing rooms, and renovated hand-me-down clothing.

This passage is primarily about
A. unemployment in the 1930’s.
B. the effect of unemployment on United States families.
C. President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s presidency.
D. President Roosevelt’s FERA program.

7. It is said that a smile is universally understood. And nothing triggers a smile more universally than a taste of sugar. Nearly everyone loves sugar. Infant studies indicate that humans are born with an innate love of sweets. Based on statistics, a lot of people in Great Britain must be smiling, because on average, every man, woman and child in that country consumes 95 pounds of sugar each year.

From this passage it seems safe to conclude that the English
A. do not know that too much sugar is unhealthy.
B. eat desserts at every meal.
C. are fonder of sweets than most people.
D. have more cavities than any other people.

8. With varying success, many women around the world today struggle for equal rights. Historically, women have achieved greater quality with men during periods of social adversity. The following factors initiated the greatest number of improvements for women: violent revolution, world war, and the rigors of pioneering in an undeveloped land. In all three cases, the essential element that improved the status of women was a shortage of men, which required women to perform many of society’s vital tasks.

We can conclude from the information in this passage that
A. women today are highly successful in winning equal rights.
B. only pioneer women have been considered equal to men.
C. historically, women have only achieved equality through force.
D. Historically, the principle of equality alone has not been enough to secure women equal rights.

9. Plastics are synthetic materials that are so common today that we barely notice them. The process of making plastics, called polymerization, is a little over a hundred years old. Vinyl chloride was polymerized in 1838, acrylics in 1843, and polyester in 1847. Oddly, those newly synthesized plastics languished in polymer laboratories for decades because no one had yet found a use for the new materials.

We can see from the information in this passage that
A. commercial use of a material does not always rapidly follow its discovery.
B. people had no need for plastics in the 1800s.
C. the introduction of plastics in the 1800s would have upset the world economy.
D. no practical types of plastics were invented until the 20th century.

10. Primitive people tended to be highly superstitious. Anything out of the ordinary that happened was regarded with superstitious fear. Most people throughout history have been right-handed. For that reason, left-handedness was regarded as an evil omen. The Latin word for left is sinister. Since many people regarded left-handedness as bad, the word sinister entered the English language meaning “evil.”

From this passage we can conclude that fear and superstition usually grew from
A. lack of knowledge.
B. left-handedness.
C. evil omens.
D. terrifying circumstances.

11. In 1848, Charles Burton of New York City made the first baby carriage, but people strongly objected to the vehicles because they said the carriage operators hit too many pedestrians. Still convinced that he had a good idea, Burton opened a factory in England. He obtained orders for the baby carriages from Queen Isabella II of Spain, Queen Victoria of England, and the Pasha of Egypt. The United States had to wait another ten years before it got a carriage factory, and the first year only 75 carriages were sold.

Even after the success of baby carriages in England,
A. Charles Burton was a poor man.
B. Americans were still reluctant to buy baby carriages.
C. Americans purchased thousands of baby carriages.
D. the United States bought more carriages than any other country.

12. All water molecules form six-sided structures as they freeze and become snow crystals. Temperature, vapor, and wind conditions in the upper atmosphere determine the shape of the crystal. Snow crystals are always symmetrical because these conditions affect all six sides simultaneously.

The purpose of the passage is to present
A. a personal observation.
B. a solution to a problem.
C. actual information.
D. opposing scientific theories.

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