

Reading Test		Science Reasoning Test	
1. C	21. A	1. A	21. A
2. G	22. J	2. J	22. G
3. A	23. D	3. C	23. C
4. H	24. G	4. F	24. H
5. C	25. C	5. C	25. A
6. F	26. J	6. G	26. J
7. D	27. A	7. B	27. B
8. J	28. G	8. J	28. H
9. C	29. B	9. A	29. B
10. J	30. F	10. F	30. H
11. A	31. B	11. C	31. A
12. F	32. J	12. J	32. G
13. B	33. C	13. A	33. D
14. J	34. G	14. H	34. J
15. C	35. B	15. C	35. A
16. F	36. G	16. F	36. H
17. D	37. A	17. D	37. C
18. H	38. G	18. G	38. F
19. B	39. B	19. D	39. B
20. G	40. J	20. H	40. H

Reading Test Explanations

PASSAGE I

1. **The best answer is C.** Granny makes this statement in response to Sheila's comment that, once Martin goes to school, "it will all be so much easier." This suggests that Granny was not convinced that school would challenge Martin effectively. The other answer choices are not supported by the passage.
2. **The best answer is G.** During the conversation Granny says, "I know you're tired from working long hours, but Martin isn't reciting—he's reading!" You can infer that Granny believes Sheila is too overworked to recognize Martin's gift, answer choice G.
3. **The best answer is A.** When Martin's mother says, "He even turns the pages. It's very cute!," she indicates that she doesn't actually think that he can read. This is the best example of the idea that she is unaware of his abilities. The other answer choices do not reflect Sheila's ignorance of her son's reading ability.
4. **The best answer is H.** The word *plight* is used in the first paragraph to indicate Martin's situation. Based on the context of the paragraph, his situation is not easy. Therefore, *plight* most nearly means "predicament," which refers to a difficult situation. The other answer choices are not supported by the context of the passage.
5. **The best answer is C.** Throughout the passage, Granny is clearly referred to as Martin's grandmother, so answer choice D should be eliminated. It is also made clear that Granny is Sheila's mother. Therefore, since Sheila is Martin's mother, Granny must be Martin's maternal grandmother, answer choice C.
6. **The best answer is F.** At the end of the passage, Martin's mother agrees that she will start finding out how to get to America with Martin. This best supports answer choice F.
7. **The best answer is D.** Sheila states in the passage, "I'll start finding out what I need to do to get Martin and me to America." This suggests that she understands the importance of going to America and will probably do whatever she can to help Martin succeed. The other answer choices are not supported by details in the passage.
8. **The best answer is J.** The first paragraph states that Martin's brothers are selfish boys, who "let Martin fend for himself" and "made him the

target of their pranks." This suggests that Martin's brothers cared more for themselves than they did for Martin. The other answer choices are not supported by the passage.

9. **The best answer is C.** When Martin's grandmother says, "Sweetie, he's got a gift and you gotta do something with that gift," she is referring to his talent as a reader. The other answer choices are not supported by the context of the passage.
10. **The best answer is J.** The first paragraph states that "Martin spent most of his childhood in a tropical paradise" but that his "early life was difficult." The word *paradise* most often refers to a delightful or beautiful place. In this case, however, despite the fact that the island of Barbados contains the natural beauty associated with a paradise, the living conditions were not so delightful. This best supports answer choice J.

PASSAGE II

11. **The best answer is A.** The passage makes it clear that the Donner Party began its journey in 1846. According to information about the source of the passage, it was written nearly forty years later. Also, the last paragraph states that the "first days are written about by the survivors" which suggests that journal entries were discovered on which to base the conclusions made about the coverage of the Donner Party.
12. **The best answer is F.** The passage discusses the type of people who were members of the Donner Party and their experiences of the journey. Also discussed in the passage are some of the characteristics of the United States in 1846: "the almost unexplored plains, which lay between the Mississippi and the fair young land called California," "the States along the Mississippi were but sparsely settled," "the way was through almost trackless valleys waving with grass." This best supports answer choice F.
13. **The best answer is B.** According to the passage, at the time that the Donner Party began its journey, "comparatively few had dared attempt to cross the almost unexplored plains, which lay between the Mississippi and the fair, young land called California." This suggests that the Donner Party was among the first to cross the country to California, answer choice B. The other answer choices are not supported by details in the passage, or they are too general to explain the relationship between the Donner Party and other pioneers.

14. **The best answer is J.** The passage clearly indicates that the Donner Party was attempting to reach California. The other answer choices are not supported by details in the passage.
15. **The best answer is C.** The third paragraph states that the “road was difficult, and in places almost unbroken.” This statement does not support the idea that *unbroken* means “intact,” “easy to follow,” or “well-built,” so you can eliminate answer choices A, B, and D. Answer choice C fits the context of the sentence, so it is correct.
16. **The best answer is F.** In the third paragraph, the statement is made that the “noble-hearted pioneers” of the Donner Party were enthusiastic and eager to begin their journey. Even though the journey would prove to be difficult and tragic, early on the members of the party were determined to succeed and even enjoy the experience. This best supports answer choice F.
17. **The best answer is D.** It is reasonable to infer that the word *train*, as it used in the passage—“the train comprised about one hundred persons”—refers to a line of wagons, answer choice D. The other answer choices are not supported by the passage.
18. **The best answer is H.** The fifth paragraph mentions that “in later years . . . the broken fragments of wagons . . . were thickly strewn on either side of the highway.” Also, the discussion of the poor condition of the roads would suggest that one danger that the Donner Party faced was wagons breaking down, answer choice H. The other answer choices are not supported by details in the passage.
19. **The best answer is B.** The passage indicates that the Donner Party was on its way to California, but nowhere does it mention that Californians were members of the party. All of the other answer choices are listed explicitly in the passage.
20. **The best answer is G.** It is clearly indicated in the passage that the road conditions were poor, so it is unlikely that the Donner Party would enjoy the road conditions at any point in their journey. The last paragraph states that they did enjoy the scenery, the stops at night that included singing, and the “good fellowship” that existed among the members.

PASSAGE III

21. **The best answer is A.** The narrator states in the introduction that “the unworldly experience continues to haunt my memory as I recall the

unflinching gazes of Pietro Perugino’s subjects staring blankly at me as I admired the power and beauty of the great Italian Renaissance master’s most famous works of art.” Although the narrator briefly speaks about the work of other painters in relation to Perugino, this is not the focus of the paragraph. The narrator is also not impartial about the work of Perugino. In fact, the narrator admits that Perugino is one of his favorite painters. The passage also tells very little about Perugino’s life outside of his contributions to art. Eliminate answer choices B, C, and D.

22. **The best answer is J.** The passage does not mention Donatello as a painter. However, all of the other answer choices are explicitly identified as painters in the passage.
23. **The best answer is D.** Throughout the passage the narrator discussed his or her strong feelings about Perugino’s art. The answer choice that best supports this main idea is answer choice D.
24. **The best answer is G.** *Ingenuity* is another word for *creativity* or *inventiveness*. The narrator is acknowledging that despite his or her admiration for Perugino’s work, it lacked the originality of Botticelli.
25. **The best answer is C.** The narrator states, “Although the brilliance of all of the Italian Renaissance masters is undeniable, the awe-inspiring beauty of Michelangelo’s work or the subtle detail of da Vinci’s *Mona Lisa* cannot match the simple passion evident in Perugino’s paintings.” Even though Perugino’s work may not show some of the technical skill of other Renaissance painters, the narrator believes Perugino’s work outshines the more complicated pieces because of his devotion to and passion for his craft.
26. **The best answer is J.** The use of the word *eclipsed* suggests that the work of Renoir and Manet was overshadowed by Perugino’s work.
27. **The best answer is A.** All of the following quotes appear in the passage: “In that moment, my admiration for artists like Renoir and Manet of the French Impressionist Movement, was eclipsed by the austere exquisiteness of these fifteenth-century paintings,” “cannot match the simple passion evident in Perugino’s paintings,” and “Perugino also experimented with depth, and he rivaled Leonardo da Vinci in his ability to create a definite background and foreground.” These statements best support answer choice A. Abstraction is not mentioned in the passage.

28. **The best answer is G.** The narrator writes, “I remember feeling slightly disconcerted as I looked up at the unsmiling saints, the Virgin Mary, and even Jesus as I wandered through the hushed halls of the museum.” *Disconcerted* is a synonym for *unsettled*.
29. **The best answer is B.** The passage states that “Perugino also experimented with depth, and he rivaled Leonardo da Vinci in his ability to create a definite background and foreground.” This suggests that he was as talented as Leonardo da Vinci at creating depth, which is not a criticism.
30. **The best answer is F.** The passage states that “The work of da Vinci and Michelangelo is seen on postcards and reprinted on cheap posters everywhere because of its universal appeal.” The author does not mention Manet in the discussion about postcard and poster reprints.

PASSAGE IV

31. **The best answer is B.** The passage begins with the author presenting general information about the porcupine and its behavior; this is followed by a discussion of its habitat and concludes by talking about the ways in which porcupines are useful to humans. Answer choice B contains the broadest survey of the information presented within the passage.
32. **The best answer is J.** The first paragraph states that “the porcupine’s mere outward appearance provides more than adequate reason for it rarely to become alarmed or excited.” The passage goes on to describe the porcupine as a “threatening creature,” which suggests that its appearance is what makes it threatening. The other answer choices are not supported by the passage.
33. **The best answer is C.** According to the passage, the porcupine, “unlike most other animals in the wild,” has a threatening appearance that allows it to remain unexcited in the face of danger. The other answer choices are not supported by details in the passage.
34. **The best answer is G.** The author’s statement that “the porcupine’s mere outward appearance provides more than adequate reason for it rarely to become alarmed or excited” suggests that the porcupine moves slowly because it has no reason to move quickly, answer choice G.
35. **The best answer is B.** Information in the passage indicates that “a noseful or mouthful of porcupine quills” can cause “excruciating pain.” This best supports answer choice B.
36. **The best answer is G.** According to the passage, the Yukon Department of Environment considers the porcupine useful, and believes that it has been and can be “appreciated by many.” The passage goes on to give examples of the utility of the porcupine quill. This best supports answer choice G.
37. **The best answer is A.** While the passage mentions humans, dogs, and rodents, it specifically states that “cougars . . . pose a major threat to the porcupine,” answer choice A.
38. **The best answer is G.** The passage states that, in British Columbia, “the porcupine has developed a negative reputation due to its appetite for wood, damaging trees and even wooden buildings.” This suggests that porcupines are damaging forests. The other answer choices are not supported by the passage.
39. **The best answer is B.** According to the passage, if a dog gets a noseful or mouthful of quills, it should be “tended to right away,” so eliminate answer choice C. The passage goes on to say that extraction of the quills can “relieve the excruciating pain,” so it makes sense that imbedded porcupine quills can be very painful, answer choice B.
40. **The best answer is J.** The scientific name for the porcupine is *Erethizon dorsatum*, which is Latin for “irritable back.” The other answer choices are mentioned in the passage, but not in reference to the scientific name of the porcupine.