

DEGREES OF READING POWER (Sample Test)

TO THE STUDENT:

This is a test to find out how well you read. Do your best to read the passages and answer the questions. Work carefully and do not rush. You will be given 1 hour to complete the test.

DIRECTIONS

This test contains passages for you to read. Words are missing from the passages. Wherever a word is missing, there is a blank line with a number on it. Next to the passage you will find the same number and five words. Choose the word that makes the best sense in the blank.

SAMPLES

S-1

It was sunny and hot for days. Then the _____ changed. It turned cloudy and cool.
a) price b) road c) job d) weather e) size

S-2

It isn't safe to go out today. There was too much _____ yesterday. Many streets are flooded with water.
a) rain b) food c) mail d) noise e) work

Look at the answer for Sample S-1. The word **weather** makes the best sense in the blank.

In Sample S-2 you should have marked the letter "a" because the word **rain** is the word that makes the best sense in the blank.

As you can see, you may not be sure of the answer to a question until you have read the sentences that come after the blank. So be sure to read enough to answer the questions.

Spend your time on what you can read rather than on what is too hard for you.

Sample Passages

Leather making is an ancient art, dating back thousands of years. Now, as then, the process of turning animal hides and skins into leather must begin soon after an animal dies. The skin or hide will rot unless action is taken promptly to prevent decay. There are several ways to _____**1**_____ the skins. They can be dried in the sun to protect them. Alternatively, they can be salted or smoked.

1. a) measure b) fold
c) obtain d) value
e) preserve

Such "curing" of the skins is only the first stage in making leather. The skins must also be cleaned, tanned, and finished. Each of these _____**2**_____ is important. Perhaps the most critical part of the process is tanning, which actually transforms the skins to leather.

2. a) grains b) steps
c) sources d) styles
e) colors

For centuries, only vegetable tannins were used as tanning agents. Skins were layered with these substances, covered with water in a pit, and left to tan. Today, there are other ____3____. Tanning with chrome salts is quite common now. Whereas vegetable tannins took months to work, the salts act in a few hours. This increased ____4____ is important. Faster tanning means more leather can be made.

- 3. a) sizes b) markets
c) methods d) articles
e) dangers
- 4. a) speed b) strength
c) safety d) expense
e) comfort

Each type of tannin gives particular characteristics to leather. Vegetable tannins produce stiff, heavy leathers. These are fine for luggage or shoe soles. However, such ____5____ leathers aren't always desired. When gloves or wallets are made, an agent is needed that produces soft, lightweight leathers, as chrome salts do. The kind of leather that is desired thus governs the choice of a tanning agent. Sometimes, one agent alone cannot give all the needed properties. In such cases, tanning agents are ____6____. Two or more are used to get the desired results.

- 5. a) perfect b) cheap
c) dark d) hard
e) natural
- 6. a) combined b) boiled
c) removed d) wasted
e) pounded

Leather was once made entirely by hand. Today, machines are used for certain tasks. But skins differ greatly in shape, thickness and quality. This lack of uniformity means that leather-making cannot be fully automated. The skins ____7____ too much. Hand labor is required to finish each piece to best advantage.

- 7. a) weigh b) smell
c) vary d) spot
e) yellow

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Although certain animals, like bears, are said to hibernate; they are not truly dormant during winter. Their slightly lowered body temperature and lethargic behavior place them only in a state of shallow hibernation. This shallow state contrasts markedly with true hibernation. The two \_\_\_\_8\_\_\_\_ are very different. In true hibernation, a biological adjustment of the highest order takes place. In shallow hibernation, the metabolic changes are minimal.

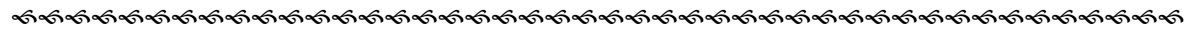
- 8. a) shelters b) seasons  
c) conditions  
d) movements  
e) sound

The bear's temperature drops only about ten degrees during its winter sleep. Among true hibernators, the change is far greater. Much more \_\_\_\_9\_\_\_\_ takes place. Body temperature falls to match that of the environment, and may reach the freezing point. While the bear is lethargic in winter, it can act if it needs to. It can fight if a predator attacks, or flee if the den is flooded. Faced with these dangers, the true hibernator cannot respond. It cannot protect itself by fighting. Neither can it \_\_\_\_10\_\_\_\_. Although a strong stimulus can trigger the waking process, the true hibernator cannot awaken all at once. More \_\_\_\_11\_\_\_\_ is required. It takes the ground squirrel, for example, three hours to awaken from dormancy.

- 9. a) tracking b) eating  
c) crowding d) nesting  
e) cooling
- 10. a) escape b) wait  
c) drink d) rest  
e) learn
- 11. a) room b) time  
c) water d) rest  
e) weight

In true hibernation, the body stretches its energy reserves to last the winter by reducing its caloric requirements to a bare minimum. Even the animal's sleeping posture is efficient. The hibernating animal that curls itself into a ball exposes a minimum of body surface to the air. That is why it \_\_\_\_12\_\_\_\_. To save energy, the heart pumps infrequently. Breathing becomes nearly imperceptible. The only metabolic processes that go on are those absolutely essential to living. Everything else \_\_\_\_13\_\_\_\_. Functioning at such a reduced metabolic level is stressful. Tissues may be damaged and deteriorate. For the species as a whole, hibernation works as a means of survival. But \_\_\_\_14\_\_\_\_ animals may not fare as well. For a given animal in a given year, too much damage may occur during dormancy, and the animal may die.

- 12. a) hunts b) develops  
c) lies d) washes  
e) feeds
- 13. a) grows b) stops  
c) belongs d) helps  
e) remains
- 14. a) white b) active  
c) wild d) furred  
e) individual



In the United States, judicial decisions are subject to appeal. Parties cannot appeal, though, simply because they are dissatisfied with the court's decision. There must be sufficient \_\_\_\_15\_\_\_\_. Decisions may be appealed if new evidence is uncovered, if a law was applied incorrectly, or if improper procedures were used. Because such grounds may be lacking, appellate review is not always possible. Cost is also a consideration. Many who might otherwise go on to appeal a decision find the process prohibitively expensive. They cannot afford to \_\_\_\_16\_\_\_\_.

- 15. a) time b) growth  
c) reason d) respect  
e) distance
- 16. a) wait b) forget  
c) serve d) choose  
e) continue

Courts of appeal, or appellate courts, are empowered to retry cases, rehear witnesses and take additional evidence, but they seldom do. They rely instead on the \_\_\_\_17\_\_\_\_. Justices review the relevant documents, focusing primarily on questions of law both procedural and substantive, rather than on questions of fact. Appellate review is not undertaken merely to assure a fair verdict in a particular case. There is another \_\_\_\_18\_\_\_\_. By providing opinions that clarify the law, appellate justices establish guidelines for future cases.

- 17. a) truth b) record  
c) serve d) majority  
e) government
- 18. a) danger b) answer  
c) crime d) majority  
e) department

Whether a particular lawsuit goes through state or Federal courts hinges primarily on the nature of the case. That is how the court is \_\_\_\_19\_\_\_\_. Federal courts have jurisdiction when Federal law is violated, when lawsuits involve citizens of different states, or when states are parties to disagreements. Most cases originate in state courts and remain there. The state's highest court is the ultimate authority as long as the case pertains only to state and local matters. Sometimes, however, other \_\_\_\_20\_\_\_\_ are involved. Cases involving constitutional questions or Federal statutes may be taken to the Federal courts.

- 19. a) formed b) observed  
c) protected  
d) improved  
e) determined
- 20. a) issues b) chambers  
c) excuses d) unions  
e) committees

If all other avenues of appeal are exhausted, application for review may be submitted to the United States Supreme Court, but such bids are usually futile. The Court grants only a fraction of requests received, usually those raising constitutional questions or matters of public significance. All other cases are \_\_\_\_21\_\_\_\_. Consequently, few cases go beyond a Federal appeals court.

21. a) defended b) compared  
c) combined d) refused  
e) included

#### **DRP**

#### **Answers to Practice Test**

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|-------|-------|
| 1. e  | 12. c |
| 2. b  | 13. b |
| 3. c  | 14. e |
| 4. a  | 15. c |
| 5. d  | 16. e |
| 6. a  | 17. b |
| 7. c  | 18. d |
| 8. c  | 19. e |
| 9. e  | 20. a |
| 10. a | 21. d |
| 11. b |       |