



## ESSAY

Time — 25 minutes

The essay gives you an opportunity to show how effectively you can develop and express ideas. You should, therefore, take care to develop your point of view, present your ideas logically and clearly, and use language precisely.

Your essay must be written on the lines provided on your answer sheet—you will receive no other paper on which to write. You will have enough space if you write on every line, avoid wide margins, and keep your handwriting to a reasonable size. Remember that people who are not familiar with your handwriting will read what you write. Try to write or print so that what you are writing is legible to those readers.

**Important Reminders:**

- **A pencil is required for the essay.** An essay written in ink will receive a score of zero.
- **Do not write your essay in your test book.** You will receive credit only for what you write on your answer sheet.
- **An off-topic essay will receive a score of zero.**
- **If your essay does not reflect your original and individual work, your test scores may be canceled.**

You have twenty-five minutes to write an essay on the topic assigned below.

Think carefully about the issue presented in the following excerpt and the assignment below.

Both in society and in our own lives, today's problems are serious and require serious solutions. Increasingly, however, people are taught to laugh at things that aren't usually funny and to cope with difficult situations by using humor. They are even advised to surround themselves with funny people. There is strong evidence that laughter can actually improve health and help fight disease.

Adapted from Marshall Brain, "How Laughter Works"

**Assignment:** Is using humor the best way to approach difficult situations and problems? Plan and write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, studies, experience, or observations.

BEGIN WRITING YOUR ESSAY ON PAGE 2 OF THE ANSWER SHEET.

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Think carefully about the issue presented in the following excerpt and the assignment below.

Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a family. Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one. You need one because you are human. You didn't come from nowhere. Before you, around you, and, presumably, after you, there are others. Even if you live alone and even if your solitude is by your own choice, you still cannot do without a network or a family.

Adapted from Jane Howard, "All Happy Clans Are Alike: In Search of the Good Family"

**Assignment:** Does everyone, even people who choose to live alone, need a network or family? Plan and write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, studies, experience, or observations.

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You have twenty-five minutes to write an essay on the topic assigned below.

Think carefully about the issue presented in the following excerpt and the assignment below.

Good news is, for the most part, no news. It is not sufficiently compelling or important to make leading stories and front pages in the media, certainly not as often as bad news. Bad news sells, or so it seems from the books, newspapers, and television reports that fill our lives. But in this endless focus on the bad, the media present a distorted view of the world.

Adapted from Richard B. McKenzie, *The Paradox of Progress: Can Americans Regain Their Confidence in a Prosperous Future?*

**Assignment:** Do books, newspapers, and other media focus too much on bad news? Plan and write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, studies, experience, or observations.

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You have twenty-five minutes to write an essay on the topic assigned below.

Think carefully about the issue presented in the following excerpt and the assignment below.

People distinguish between knowledge and action and pursue them separately, believing that one must know everything about a problem before one can take any action on it. This idea that people should put knowledge first and save action for later is not new. There have always been people who waste precious hours of their lives in this manner, saying that they will wait until they truly know all there is to know before putting their knowledge into practice.

Adapted from Wang Yang-ming, cited in *A Source Book in Chinese Philosophy*

**Assignment:** Is it better for people to know everything they can about something before taking action, or should they take action first and get more information later? Plan and write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, studies, experience, or observations.

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## SECTION 2

Time — 25 minutes

25 Questions

Turn to Section 2 (page 4) of your answer sheet to answer the questions in this section.

**Directions:** For each question in this section, select the best answer from among the choices given and fill in the corresponding circle on the answer sheet.

Each sentence below has one or two blanks, each blank indicating that something has been omitted. Beneath the sentence are five words or sets of words labeled A through E. Choose the word or set of words that, when inserted in the sentence, best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

**Example:**

Hoping to ----- the dispute, negotiators proposed a compromise that they felt would be ----- to both labor and management.

- (A) enforce . . useful  
(B) end . . divisive  
(C) overcome . . unattractive  
(D) extend . . satisfactory  
(E) resolve . . acceptable

(A) (B) (C) (D) ●

- Although the hardy emperor penguin survives in Antarctica in great numbers, the region's harsh climate is ----- to many species.  
(A) demeaning (B) necessary (C) inhospitable  
(D) sustaining (E) predictable
- The defendant's ----- demeanor on the witness stand tended to ----- the jury's impression that he had little respect for the law.  
(A) remorseful . . bolster  
(B) insolent . . weaken  
(C) defiant . . reinforce  
(D) deferential . . confirm  
(E) lackadaisical . . dispel
- Metis, the innermost ----- of Jupiter, completes a full revolution around this giant planet every seven hours.  
(A) atmosphere (B) constellation (C) core  
(D) satellite (E) meteor
- Civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer's statement "I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired" was an intentional ----- that illustrated Hamer's ----- about the plight of African Americans in the 1960s.  
(A) redundancy . . frustration  
(B) euphemism . . despair  
(C) irony . . exultation  
(D) aspersion . . despondency  
(E) paradox . . optimism
- It was not until Dr. Anna Reinstein ----- the results of her several different research projects that the findings ----- into a single, definitive pattern.  
(A) compromised . . coalesced  
(B) synthesized . . crystallized  
(C) verified . . degenerated  
(D) commandeered . . amalgamated  
(E) repudiated . . regressed
- Benjamin Franklin was renowned for being a -----, having delved deeply into fields as diverse as politics, business, diplomacy, statecraft, science, and publishing.  
(A) sycophant (B) pedant (C) pundit  
(D) nemesis (E) polymath
- Readers who delight in rarefied words cannot help but be ----- by the esoteric ----- Annie Dillard expertly wields in her novel *The Maytrees*.  
(A) enthralled . . portent  
(B) incensed . . diction  
(C) extolled . . syllogism  
(D) entranced . . lexicon  
(E) embroiled . . entropy
- Media reports alleged that the candidate's campaign strategy was designed to ----- her opponent's chances for election by defaming his reputation.  
(A) hobble (B) decode (C) expedite  
(D) disseminate (E) augment

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