

(June 2008)

ACT Assessment[®]

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In response to your recent request for test information release materials, this booklet contains the test questions and conversion tables used in determining your ACT scores. Enclosed with this booklet is a report listing your answers to the ACT Assessment tests and the answer key.

If you wish to order a photocopy of your answer document—including, if you took the Writing Test, a copy of your written essay—please use the order form on the inside back cover of this booklet.

We hope that you will find this information helpful.

ENGLISH TEST

45 Minutes—75 Questions

DIRECTIONS: In the five passages that follow, certain words and phrases are underlined and numbered. In the right-hand column, you will find alternatives for the underlined part. In most cases, you are to choose the one that best expresses the idea, makes the statement appropriate for standard written English, or is worded most consistently with the style and tone of the passage as a whole. If you think the original version is best, choose "NO CHANGE." In some cases, you will find in the right-hand column a question about the underlined part. You are to choose the best answer to the question.

You will also find questions about a section of the passage, or about the passage as a whole. These questions do not refer to an underlined portion of the passage, but rather are identified by a number or numbers in a box.

For each question, choose the alternative you consider best and fill in the corresponding oval on your answer document. Read each passage through once before you begin to answer the questions that accompany it. For many of the questions, you must read several sentences beyond the question to determine the answer. Be sure that you have read far enough ahead each time you choose an alternative.

PASSAGE I

Will Rogers, the Cowboy Philosopher

Over the course of the first three and a half decades of the twentieth century, a Cherokee cowboy and trick roper named Will Rogers became one of the most beloved celebrities in the United States. A working cowhand who left the hard life of the range to become a stage comedian, newspaper columnist, radio commentator, author, and movie star, Rogers won the admiration of a public who relished his sarcastic quips, often directed at pretentious people and their hypocrisy. He was a humorist who ¹ cloaked his insights in the homely garb of folk wit.

To achieve success, Will Rogers had to ride a rough trail. The son of a Cherokee rancher, Will spent his early years working on his father's cattle ranch in what was then Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). He honed his ranching skills, becoming a fine roper and rider, though he would later spoof the cowboy image in some of the films he starred in. ²

1. A. NO CHANGE
B. humorist and
C. humorist;
D. humorist,

2. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would be LEAST acceptable?
F. in which he starred.
G. that he starred in.
H. that starred him.
J. and starred him.

[1] Eventually, Rogers became a success
in New York as a lasso-twirling comedian who's

3

droll, folksy monologues had an effect on

4

audiences. [2] Although Will's father wanted

5

his son to stay on the family ranch, Will wanted
to experience other ways of life. [3] Joining a Wild
West show, he circled the globe and then began a

career on the stage, performing rope tricks. [7]

In today's world, Will Rogers

8

would of probably become a talk show

9

host. [10] In his own time, he gained fame

3. A. NO CHANGE
B. comedian whose
C. comedian, who's
D. comedian who

4. Given that all the choices are true, which one most clearly communicates that Rogers and his monologues were entertaining?

- F. NO CHANGE
G. made an impression on
H. were heard by
J. amused

5. A. NO CHANGE
B. Although, Will's
C. Although, Wills
D. Although Wills

6. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would be LEAST acceptable?

- F. his son to remain
G. to stay his son
H. to keep his son
J. him to stay

7. Which of the following sequences of sentences makes this paragraph most logical?

- A. NO CHANGE
B. 1, 3, 2
C. 2, 3, 1
D. 3, 1, 2

8. F. NO CHANGE
G. today's world,
H. today's world
J. today's world

9. A. NO CHANGE
B. have probably become
C. have probably become
D. of probably become

10. At this point, the writer is thinking about adding the following true statement:

Jay Leno, Oprah Winfrey, and David Letterman are among the most popular talk show hosts today.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- F. Yes, because it compares Rogers's popularity to that of these celebrities.
G. Yes, because it helps define exactly what a talk show host does.
H. No, because it interrupts the flow and development of this paragraph.
J. No, because it suggests that Rogers was a talk show host.

as a social critic who used his cowboy persona

as a means to reach audiences with his shrewd,
¹¹
 commonsense remarks on politics and everyday life.

Gradually, he grew into the role of homespun sage
 and philosopher, much like that of the kindly old

captain he played in his last film, *Steamboat Round*
¹²
the Bend.

At the heart of Rogers's humor was a
 respect for every human being. Nevertheless,
 there was a sharp edge to his wit. Proud of his Native
 American roots, he ridiculed the snobbery of those
¹³
 who bragged about their illustrious forebears:

"Live your life so that whenever you lose, you're ahead."
¹⁴

11. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

- A. in order
- B. so that
- C. so as
- D. DELETE the underlined portion.

12. F. NO CHANGE

- G. captain, he played in his last film,
- H. captain, he played in his last film
- J. captain he played in his last film

13. A. NO CHANGE

- B. there was ridicule of the snobbery
- C. the snobbery was ridiculed
- D. ridiculing the snobbery

14. Given that all the choices are quotations attributed to Rogers, which one would most effectively support the preceding statement in this sentence?

- F. NO CHANGE
- G. "I don't make jokes—I just watch the government and report the facts."
- H. "My ancestors didn't come over on the Mayflower—they met the boat."
- J. "I never met a man I didn't like."

Question 15 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

15. After reviewing this essay, the writer is thinking about deleting its opening phrase—"Over the course of the first three and a half decades of the twentieth century,"—and revising the capitalization accordingly. Should this phrase be kept or deleted?

- A. Kept, because it helps explain how Rogers became a nationally known celebrity.
- B. Kept, because it provides a historical time frame for Rogers's life.
- C. Deleted, because it hinders readers from getting to the main subject of the essay.
- D. Deleted, because this information is presented in a more effective way later in the essay.

PASSAGE II

Shell Seeking on Padre Island

Just off the southern coast of Texas, not far from the Mexican border, lies one of my favorite places, Padre Island. However, some of my best childhood memories¹⁶ are of days spent there with my father.

People go to this narrow strip of land on the Gulf of Mexico, there they sunbathe, fish, swim, explore the¹⁷

towns, or pass the time engaged in leisurely pursuits.¹⁸ We went there to look for shells. And we found them on “Little Shell Beach” and “Big Shell Beach.”

I became very interested in shells over the years. That¹⁹ was how I learned the names of the beautiful objects in my

collection; Scotch bonnets, Atlantic cockles, bay scallops,²⁰ and sand dollars. I also learned the names of shells that

weren't in my collection for which they might be if I kept²¹

going back on return trips to Padre Island.²²

16. F. NO CHANGE
G. Nevertheless, some
H. On the other hand, some
J. Some
17. A. NO CHANGE
B. Mexico to
C. Mexico, they
D. Mexico, tourists
18. Given that all the choices are true, which one best provides new information about Padre Island?
F. NO CHANGE
G. simply stroll along the more than eighty miles of beautiful shoreline.
H. go up and down the beach, not far at all from the coast of Texas.
J. spend time on the beach gazing out at the waters of the Gulf of Mexico.
19. Given that all the choices are true, which one both introduces the subject of this paragraph and reinforces the essay's presentation of the relationship between the narrator and the father?
A. NO CHANGE
B. A book with accurate illustrations helps you learn about your natural surroundings.
C. Now that I live a long way from Texas, my father and I write to each other.
D. For my birthday one year, my father gave me a guidebook to shells.
20. F. NO CHANGE
G. collection
H. collection,
J. collection:
21. A. NO CHANGE
B. but
C. they
D. but when they
22. F. NO CHANGE
G. returning
H. making trips or excursions
J. making the effort to visit on trips