

# Form 68A

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The **ACT**<sup>®</sup>

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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.

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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

The Tale of *The Tale of Genji*

Murasaki Shikibu, an aristocratic Japanese woman<sup>1</sup> was born in Kyoto, Japan, around AD 973. Like most ladies of that period who served<sup>2</sup> in the court of the empress, Lady Murasaki was likely accomplished in both music and writing. However, her writing was not limited to the traditional poetry was expected<sup>3</sup> of cultured women of that time. She wrote a long work of fiction, *The Tale of Genji*, which not only is still read today and<sup>4</sup> has been called the world's first great novel.

Although little<sup>5</sup> is known of the events of her life, but scholars speculate that Lady Murasaki began writing her fiction before she came into the service of the Empress Akiko. Since the "grand ladies" of the court thought literature important, perhaps Murasaki's writing was the reason she was summoned to court.

Instead<sup>6</sup>, she completed most of the stories of the life of Genji while both serving the empress

1. A. NO CHANGE  
B. Shikibu an aristocratic Japanese woman,  
C. Shikibu, an aristocratic Japanese woman,  
D. Shikibu an aristocratic Japanese woman
2. F. NO CHANGE  
G. that they were serving  
H. which served  
J. served
3. A. NO CHANGE  
B. expected  
C. expecting  
D. that expected
4. F. NO CHANGE  
G. while  
H. but also  
J. so it
5. A. NO CHANGE  
B. While little  
C. Even though little  
D. Little
6. Which transition word or phrase best emphasizes the limited knowledge scholars have about Lady Murasaki?  
F. NO CHANGE  
G. Apparently,  
H. On the other hand,  
J. Likewise,

1 ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ 1

and observed the activities and attitudes of court society.  
7

The fifty-four-chapter book,  
which takes place over almost three-quarters of a century,  
8  
describes the life and loves of a Prince Genji and the

lives of there children and grandchildren. Although other  
9  
fiction was written during this period, Murasaki's work  
went beyond the usual style. Instead of using the flat  
characterizations and fairy-tale predicaments of the typical  
romance, Murasaki portrayed believable people in daily  
situations. Recent critics have been astonished at the  
modern character of the tale.

In the more than one thousand years since  
10  
*The Tale of Genji* was written, it has been translated  
into over thirty languages and has appeared in a  
variety of formats. In the twelfth century, the tale  
was illustrated with picture scrolls; in the  
seventeenth century, books of wood-block prints  
11

based on the tale was produced.  
12

13 Today, Lady Murasaki's eleventh-century  
tale can even be read online at a Web site provided

7. A. NO CHANGE  
B. had observed  
C. was observing  
D. observing
8. If the writer were to delete the underlined portion, the paragraph would primarily lose:  
F. a detailed description of the setting of the book.  
G. a sense of the length of time the book's events span.  
H. information about the specific length of each character's life.  
J. a tone of mystery and suspense.
9. A. NO CHANGE  
B. our  
C. his  
D. DELETE the underlined portion.
10. F. NO CHANGE  
G. thousand years, since  
H. thousand, years since  
J. thousand years since,
11. A. NO CHANGE  
B. century, books of wood-block prints,  
C. century books, of wood-block prints  
D. century books of wood-block prints,
12. F. NO CHANGE  
G. is  
H. were  
J. are
13. At this point, the writer is considering adding the following true statement:  
It is also known that Lady Murasaki's name Shikibu was most likely based on her father's court position in the Bureau of Ceremony, or *shikibu-shō*.  
Should the writer make this addition here?  
A. Yes, because it adds relevant information about Lady Murasaki's name that helps modern readers understand this paragraph.  
B. Yes, because it shows an additional way that Lady Murasaki was connected to the court.  
C. No, because it interrupts the flow of this paragraph, which is not primarily about Lady Murasaki's background.  
D. No, because it doesn't provide enough information about Lady Murasaki's father.

by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. 14

14. Given that all the following statements are true, which one, if added here, would most effectively conclude the paragraph and support information given in the preceding sentence?
- F. Lady Murasaki's tale is still rather interesting.
  - G. Lady Murasaki had to write by hand with a pen dipped in ink.
  - H. The character of Prince Genji was probably based on several people known by Lady Murasaki.
  - J. Prince Genji is starting his second millennium with the latest technology.

Question 15 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

15. Suppose that the writer had intended to write an essay giving an overview of the history of the development of the novel as a literary form. Would this essay accomplish that goal?
- A. Yes, because it discusses the elements of *The Tale of Genji* that make it a novel.
  - B. Yes, because it notes that *The Tale of Genji* was written over one thousand years ago.
  - C. No, because it fails to mention other novels written by Lady Murasaki.
  - D. No, because it focuses only on *The Tale of Genji*, an example of an early novel.

PASSAGE II

**Stars in His Eyes**

Some people are starstruck at an early age, but one 16

such person is Neil de Grasse Tyson, whom turned his 17 fascination for the star-studded sky into a career. By the

age of nine, with the knowledge that he wanted to spend 18 his life exploring the universe. Today, Tyson is a prominent astrophysicist, writer, and educator. He is also the youngest person and the first African American to direct New York City's Hayden Planetarium.

16. F. NO CHANGE  
G. age, so one  
H. age. As a result, one  
J. age. One
17. A. NO CHANGE  
B. he  
C. who  
D. which
18. F. NO CHANGE  
G. he knew  
H. having the knowledge  
J. knowing

1 ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ 1

In his memoir, *The Sky Is Not the Limit*, Tyson tells the story of how he was first captivated by the cosmos. A close friend from his Bronx, New York, neighborhood took him to the rooftop of a building, there Tyson was told to<sup>19</sup> look up into the night sky. Through a simple pair of binoculars, Tyson viewed the Moon as an exciting new three-dimensional world that astounded him.<sup>20</sup> From that

point on,<sup>21</sup> his interest in becoming a scientist was set.

[1] In junior high, Tyson bought his first telescope<sup>22</sup> with money he had earned walking his neighbors' dogs. [2] To further prepare for his future career, he joined astronomy clubs, took extra mathematics courses,<sup>23</sup> and spent many hours looking up at the star-filled dome inside the planetarium that he now oversees. [3] While earning university degrees in both physics and astrophysics, he worked as a columnist for *StarDate*, an astronomy magazine. [4] In 1988, he published the first of his numerous books on astronomy and astrophysics. [5] Soon after he was appointed director of the Hayden Planetarium in 1996, Tyson spearheaded a seventy-million-dollar reconstruction project. [6] Under his leadership, the New York City landmark was transformed, one at a time,<sup>24</sup> into a high-tech glass-and-steel wonder.

19. A. NO CHANGE  
B. building and told Tyson  
C. building, then Tyson was told  
D. building, momentarily, Tyson was told
20. Given that all the choices are true, which one provides the most specific visual details of what Tyson saw?  
E. NO CHANGE  
F. world, which he later described in detail in his book.  
G. world of craters, mountains, and plains.  
H. world of remarkable features unlike those visible to the naked eye.
21. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?  
A. point,  
B. point ahead,  
C. point forward,  
D. point onward,
22. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?  
E. a telescope, his first one,  
F. himself his first telescope  
G. his first telescope for him  
H. a telescope—his first—
23. Given that all the choices are true, which one most effectively provides new and specific information?  
A. NO CHANGE  
B. joined clubs, took classes,  
C. showed an interest in astronomy  
D. made a point of learning relevant information
24. E. NO CHANGE  
F. transformed, for instance,  
G. transformed, before you know it,  
H. transformed