Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency

Reading

Sample Test Questions Booklet

ACT®

Note to Users

Welcome to the CAAP Sample Reading Test!

You are about to look at some sample test questions as you prepare to take the actual CAAP test. The examples in this booklet are similar to the kinds of test questions you will see when you take the actual CAAP test. Since this is a practice exercise, you won't receive a real test score. The aim of this booklet is to give a sense of the kinds of questions examinees will face and their levels of difficulty. An answer key is provided at the end of the booklet.

We hope you benefit from these sample questions, and we wish you success as you pursue your education and career goals!

CAAP Reading Test

The CAAP Reading Test is a 36-item, 40-minute test that measures reading comprehension as a combination of two general categories: referring and reasoning. Within each of these two general categories are several content categories that further specify the skills and knowledge assessed by each test question. Referring test questions pose questions about material explicitly stated in a passage. Reasoning test questions assess proficiency at making appropriate inferences, demonstrating a critical understanding of the text, and determining the specific meanings of difficult, unfamiliar, or ambiguous words based on the context.

The four reading passages come from four general content areas, one passage from each area:

- **Prose Fiction:** Entire stories or excerpts from short stories or novels.
- **Humanities:** Art, music, philosophy, theater, architecture, dance.
- **Social Studies:** History, political science, economics, anthropology, psychology, sociology.
- **Natural Sciences:** Biology, chemistry, physics, physical sciences.

Samples of test questions in the CAAP Reading Test are provided on the following pages.

READING TEST

40 Minutes—36 Questions

DIRECTIONS: There are four passages in this test. Each is followed by nine questions. After reading a passage, choose the best answer to each question by circling the corresponding answer option. You may refer to the passages as often as necessary.

Passage I

Geysers are spectacular hydrothermal events. The word geyser is derived from an old Icelandic verb, *gjose*, meaning to erupt. It refers specifically to a reservoir of hot water that intermittently and explosively ejects part or all of its contents. Activity in most geyser areas ranges over a wide spectrum: quiescent hot pools, vigorously boiling pools, dry stream jets, mud pots, and geysers. Although there are several thousand hot springs in the world, there are not more than about 400 geysers. In Yellowstone National Park, the most extensive geyser area, the ratio of hot springs to geysers is about ten to one.

A geyser is essentially a hot spring but its unique characteristic is that it periodically becomes thermodynamically and hydrodynamically unstable. A very special set of circumstances must exist for a hot spring to erupt. It must have a source of heat. It must have a place to store water while it is heated up to just the right temperature, an opening of the optimum size out of which to throw the hot water, and underground channels adequate for bringing in fresh water after an eruption. Only very rarely does the right combination exist. When there is little water but intense heat, a steam vent called a fumarole exists. A mud pot occurs when the hot water is laden with dirt. If there is plenty of incoming water but it is comparatively cool, it is a hot pool; or if too hot, a spouter continuously spitting out steam and hot water. If the opening is too large or the reservoir so shaped that circulation can occur freely, instabilities may not be able to develop and the hot spring simply boils.

A geyser erupts when a part of its stored hot water becomes unstable, i.e., its heat content reaches some critical level of distribution. Abrupt and vigorous generation of steam occurs within the geyser comparatively close to its surface opening. The transformation of 1 g of water to steam can do as much work as the detonation of 1 g of explosive. Water in the form of steam occupies more than 1500 times as much volume as in the form of liquid, the same ratio as the gases generated by a solid explosive. The presence of steam greatly modifies both temperature and fluid distributions, forcibly throwing water out of the geyser and precipitating a full-fledged eruption. When the geyser has exhausted its excess heat and water, it returns to a stable condition, all set to begin a new cycle of instability. The buildup of heat usually results from hot water or steam entering the reservoir at a deep level, a few hundred to a few thousand meters below.

Although no two geysers are alike in all respects, most fall into one of two rather distinct classes and traditionally have been classed as fountain or pool, and columnar or cone geysers. Fountain or pool geysers are usually characterized by their surface pools of hot water. Their eruptions consist of series of steam and water explosions the source of which are blobs of superheated water which suddenly rise to the surface of the upper basin and flash into steam.

Columnar or cone geysers for the most part display cones or protuberances above their narrow subsurface tubes which are filled with water and are emptied partially or completely during eruptions. Their eruptions are precipitated when underlying superheated water down within the tube is heated to the point where steam bubbles begin to form. These bubbles reduce the . . . pressure of the overlying water column, more superheated water flashes into steam, and soon the whole tube empties itself catastrophically. . . .

Geysers are not common geologic features. They exist only here and there in a few widely separated, highly localized regions. The most famous areas are in Yellowstone National Park in northwestern United States, Iceland, the North Island of New Zealand, Kamchatka in northeastern USSR [Russia], and Japan. . . .

All of the principal geyser areas are found in volcanic regions. . . .

No geyser looks or acts the same as any other. Each has its own arrangement of reservoirs and tubes, water supply, and heat source. However, by closely observing the activity of individual geysers and groups of them, it is possible to learn much concerning the general nature of operational modes. . . .

Waimangu, the largest geyser ever observed to erupt, was very active from January 1900 to November 1904. Its dormant site is now almost unidentifiable by the growth of vegetation. When active, an eruption, occurring at about 36 hr intervals, threw jets of mud, rocks, water, and steam to heights of up to 450 m in one large explosive burst. . . .

Old Faithful is perhaps the best known in the world. . . .

[Its] eruption is heralded by premonitory splashes that rise to a height of a few meters. The eruption starts with a higher splash, quickly followed by another and another, each noisily rising to a greater height before the others have completely fallen to the ground. It takes a minute or two for the ebullient column of gushing water to reach its peak. One or two spurts may shoot even higher before the column begins to fall in easy stages. Total water play will last from 2 to 5 min, followed by several minutes of steam play during which steam in great quantities billows out of the opening. . . . The time to the next eruption can range from 30 to 100 min. It is predictable to within 5 min based on its just-passed length of play.

1. The production of steam causes the eruption of a geyser because:

A. steam is lighter than water.
B. geysers require intense heat.
C. steam takes up more space than water.
D. hot water rises while cold water sinks.

2. If the water supply to a geyser were greatly reduced, it is most likely that the geyser would become a:

F. mud pot.
G. spouter.
H. hot pool.
J. fumarole.

3. According to the passage, geysers are most likely to occur:

A. near the equator.
B. in cold climates.
C. in volcanic regions.
D. at low altitudes.

4. For a geyser to exist, each of the following conditions must be present EXCEPT:

F. a source of heat.
G. a protuberance above the surface.
H. a system to supply fresh water.
J. a place to store water.

5. A hot spring that continually shoots out steam and hot water is called a:

A. spouter.
B. geyser.
C. fumarole.
D. hot pool.

6. One of the most famous geyser areas is located in:

F. Greenland.
G. Panama.
H. China.
J. New Zealand.

7. Compared to those of Old Faithful, the eruptions of Waimangu can most accurately be characterized as:

I. more explosive.
II. of longer duration.
III. more frequent.

A. I only
B. II only
C. III only
D. I and II only

8. A geyser is a hot spring in which both the water temperature and the amount of water present:

F. fluctuate periodically.
G. cause vigorous boiling.
H. are constant.
J. maintain thermodynamic equity.

9. All of the following characteristics will usually differ from geyser to geyser EXCEPT:

A. type of geographic location.
B. type of surface opening.
C. arrangement of reservoirs and tubes.
D. source of heat.