

# Mini-Test 1

## Reading

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**Directions:** Read the passage. Answer the questions that follow. You have 18 minutes to complete the questions.

### Mother of Culture

What is the nature of the relationship between a people and the land they occupy? Cultural anthropologists tell us that different cultures grow from different environmental circumstances. The land makes the man and the woman. Religious, political, and economic systems are human responses to the resources of nature. Culture results from the simple struggle to survive in a given place.

For example, let us look at the historical relationship of European Americans with their land. Theirs is an Old World culture planted in a new, uncrowded land with seemingly limitless fertile\* soil, forests, water, and other natural resources. But as soon as the first European ship arrived on American shores, this meeting of people and land produced a novel interaction. It was this relation that produced the completely unique new culture of American society.

For the European settlers, home was several months away. This distance was at once frightening and empowering. Attitudes toward traditions began to transform. An independence of thought and a willingness to rethink created America as a unique political entity.

Through the years, as the people worked the land, the land worked the people. The land changed. It grew more crowded, with fewer resources. America's social and political institutions naturally adapted. Americans began to redefine their ideas about social duty and community roles. The government began to redefine its role. For example, the federal government no longer gives away free land.

\*fertile: able to produce crops

Despite America's tremendous wealth, as competition for resources has increased, so have conflicts. ■1 Will we use our forests for economic purposes or for human enjoyment and wildlife? Who gets western water—farmers or city residents? ■2 Is it acceptable that our development patterns create urban settlements that are beginning to consume productive land such as farmland, timberlands, and land atop oil fields? ■3 Should a rancher own the oil, minerals, and water under the land, or is it fair for the rest of society to take what it needs from below ground? Should that rancher have the use of public land for grazing cattle that will feed other citizens? How or why should we provide affordable housing in expensive metropolitan areas? ■4

These issues require measurement of individual rights and benefits associated with land against the interests of the community. The relationship between people and their land is indeed complicated. And change in either creates change in the other, in a never-ending negotiation and renegotiation of the two entities.

1. We can infer from Paragraph 1 that the author believes
- (A) culture, as we know it, would not exist without our need for resources
  - (B) the major religions are not very different from one another
  - (C) culture and the land develop independently of one another
  - (D) true culture can develop only after people meet their basic human needs

2. According to Paragraph 3, what effect did the American environment have on early European settlers?
- (A) It discouraged them from adapting to the new environment.
  - (B) It enabled them to transplant their old culture without changing it.
  - (C) It created an opportunity for changes in general attitudes.
  - (D) It led them to focus on simple survival instead of cultural development.

3. As used in the passage, **worked** is closest in meaning to
- (A) influenced
  - (B) functioned
  - (C) damaged
  - (D) improved

4. All of the following are mentioned in Paragraph 5 as conflicts produced by the competition for resources EXCEPT

- (A) the distribution of water resources
- (B) the need for more energy
- (C) building homes on fertile land
- (D) rights to underground resources

5. As used in the passage, **consume** is closest in meaning to

- (A) set up
- (B) use up
- (C) pay for
- (D) agree on

6. Look at the four squares [■] in the passage, numbered 1–4. Which square indicates the best place to insert the following sentence?

**It is the balance of these conflicting ideals that has helped mold American culture.**

The sentence could best be added at

- (A) ■1
- (B) ■2
- (C) ■3
- (D) ■4

7. An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is given below. Complete the summary by selecting the THREE answer choices that express the most important ideas in the passage. Some answer choices do not belong because they express ideas that are not present in the passage or are minor ideas in the passage.

**This question is worth 2 points.**

**Culture is a by-product of the human effort to use resources.**

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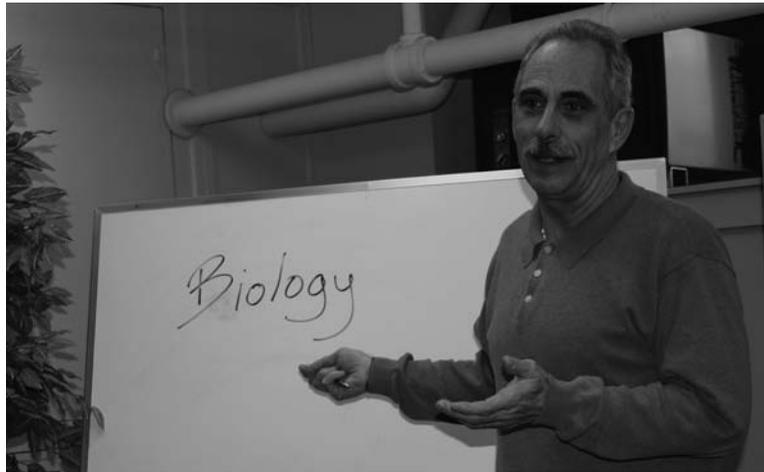
**Answer Choices**

- (A) The use of natural resources in America has changed the environment and the culture of the United States.
- (B) Most cultures worldwide encourage land-use practices similar to those in America.
- (C) Conflicts over the land and its resources have shaped American society.
- (D) The arrival of European colonists to America started a process that has produced a unique culture.
- (E) The original flight of Europeans from the Old World reflected their desire for independence of thought and social organization.

## Listening



**Directions:** Listen to part of a lecture from a biology class. Answer the questions. Use your notes to help you. You have 8 minutes to complete the questions.



### Questions about the Talk

1. What is *Drosophila melanogaster*?

- (A) a monster in a movie
- (B) a fruit fly
- (C) a scientific concept
- (D) an assumption about chromosomes

2. In the study of genetics, what does *universal* mean?

- (A) The same principles apply to all living things.
- (B) Chromosomes contain all of an organism's genes.
- (C) Similar species, like peas and apples, have similar gene structures.
- (D) The species being studied occurs around the globe.

3. Why does the lecturer mention mosquitoes and honey bees?
- (A) Genetically, they are similar to fruit flies.
  - (B) They have historically been studied a lot, too.
  - (C) Like fruit flies, the sequence of their genes is known.
  - (D) They are small and easy to study.

4. What do we know about the life cycle of a fruit fly?  
Choose 2 answers.
- (A) Their lives are short.
  - (B) It takes only two weeks for the female to lay her eggs.
  - (C) Their genes change quickly from one generation to the next.
  - (D) Fruit flies become adult in just 12 days.

5. Why do scientists like to study wing formation and eye color in fruit flies?
- (A) These traits are visible under a microscope.
  - (B) These traits rarely vary.
  - (C) The genes that affect these traits appear on all the fly's chromosomes.
  - (D) These traits are not inherited in fruit flies.

## Speaking

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**Directions:** Listen to the question, and then give a spoken response. You have 15 seconds to prepare your response and 45 seconds to respond. Begin preparing your response after the beep.

### QUESTION

Think about the qualities of a good friend. Describe those qualities. Give specific examples and details in your response.

Preparation time: 15 seconds

Response time: 45 seconds



**Directions:** Read a short passage on a university-related topic, and then listen to a talk on the same topic. You have 45 seconds to read the passage. The recording will be about 30 seconds in length. Respond using information from both the reading and the talk. You have 30 seconds to prepare your response and 60 seconds to respond. Begin preparing your response after the beep that follows the question.

*Reading time: 45 seconds*

### **Changes to Computer Lab Service**

The university has just announced that it is planning to close two of its campus computing centers as part of a cost-reduction program. The other three campus computer labs will operate under revised schedules. The remaining centers will close at 6 PM on Friday and Saturday nights.

The university president announced that it was becoming more expensive to keep all the equipment in good working order and to operate the labs. In addition, computing centers are experiencing decreased student use as more students are coming to campus with their own computers and printers.

### **QUESTION**

The student gives her comments on the new university policy to close computing centers or cut their hours. Summarize her opinion, and state her reasons for holding that point of view.

Preparation time: 30 seconds

Response time: 60 seconds

3.



**Directions:** Listen to a conversation between a professor and a student. Then listen to the question. Respond using information from the conversation. You have 20 seconds to prepare your response and 60 seconds to respond. Begin preparing your response after the beep.

**QUESTION**

Briefly describe the student's problem and the solutions that are suggested. What do you think the student should do and why?

Preparation time: 20 seconds

Response time: 60 seconds

## Writing

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**Directions:** Read the question, and then write an answer. Your answer should be about 250 words long. You have 20 minutes to plan and write your response.

**QUESTION:** The city has just announced that it is going to ban cell phone use in all restaurants, stores, hospitals, and other public buildings. Do you support or oppose this ban? Why?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.