

ACCUPLACER Next Generation Reading Exam

Section: ACCUPLACER Next Generation Reading Exams • Total Questions: 10 • Format: Verified Q&A

1. Which is the best version of the underlined portion of sentence 2? Vital to a neighborhood, clean water, unspoiled open lands, and diverse species of plants and wildlife are essential for a thriving community.

- (A) (As it is now)
- (B) Mandatory for residents, clean
- (C) Crucially, clean
- (D) Clean

2. Which choice best conveys a central idea of the passage?

Not until the nineteenth century was it evident that visible light is just one band of a broad spectrum of electromagnetic radiation—the band that human beings just happen to see. Infrared was discovered in 1800, ultraviolet in 1801, radio waves in 1888, X rays in 1895, and gamma rays in 1900. Decade by decade in the following century, new kinds of telescopes came into use, fitted with detectors that could 'see' these formerly invisible parts of the electromagnetic spectrum. Now astrophysicists began to unmask the true character of the universe. Turns out that some celestial bodies give off more light in the invisible bands of the spectrum than in the visible. And the invisible light picked up by the new telescopes showed that mayhem abounds in the cosmos: monstrous gamma-ray bursts, deadly pulsars, matter-crushing gravitational fields, matter-hungry black holes that flay their bloated stellar neighbors, newborn stars igniting within pockets of collapsing gas. And as our ordinary, optical telescopes got bigger and better, more mayhem emerged: galaxies that collide and cannibalize each other, explosions of supermassive stars, chaotic stellar and planetary orbits.

- (A) Much of the light in the universe comes from invisible bands of electromagnetic radiation
- (B) Telescopes have allowed humans to view many types of light, such as infrared and ultraviolet
- (C) Some planets and stars provide more invisible light than visible light, which causes major disturbances
- (D) The ability to view the broad spectrum of electromagnetic radiation has revealed the chaos of the universe

3. Which is the best version of the underlined portion of sentence 10? The same ravens seemed unconcerned about protecting their hidden food when other ravens were nearby, but, stuck behind an obstacle that would have obscured their view.

- (A) (as it is now)
- (B) food—when other ravens were nearby—but
- (C) food: when other ravens were nearby, but
- (D) food when other ravens were nearby but

4. Which is the best version of the underlined portion of sentence 13: 'It might result in fewer trips to the store, which could keep fuel and cut down on pollution'?

Between a quarter and a third of the food produced in the United States gets wasted. A lot of the waste happens during farming and processing, before the food even gets to consumers. Later, buyers often reject produce because of minor blemishes, or they throw away food when they bought too much or allowed it to rot. An average family spends hundreds of dollars each year on food that does not get eaten. Compounding the problem is that food distribution system's currently require a lot of energy. An item of food on an American plate has typically made a trip of over 2,400 kilometers. Then once the food arrives at a market there is energy consumed by unloading and stocking it. All told, around 15 percent of all the energy used in the United States is devoted to producing and distributing food. They say we could save a great deal of energy by addressing the problem of food waste. The 'sell by' dates on foods are typically very conservative and result in people throwing away perfectly edible items. Shoppers could be better informed about the true shelf life of the products they purchase. This would help them plan meals more efficiently and end up with less spoiled food. It might result in fewer trips to the store, which could keep fuel and cut down on pollution.

- (A) (as it is now)
- (B) protect
- (C) conserve
- (D) support

5. The passage is an example of which rhetorical strategy?

In nature, a 'symbiotic relationship' is one where two organisms or animals of different species form a mutually beneficial relationship. This type of relationship reputedly occurs between the Nile crocodile and the Egyptian plover (a bird). According to reports, after the crocodile has eaten a meal, the plover lands in the crocodile's mouth and uses its beak to remove edible food particles from between the crocodile's teeth, thus providing a benefit to both animals.

- (A) Claim–evidence
- (B) Compare–contrast
- (C) Quotation–analysis
- (D) Definition–example

6. Which is the best version of the underlined portion of sentence 2? Its first bike lane - and the country's first - was built...

(1) New York City has a long history with bicycle lanes, which are either painted on a street or constructed alongside a street and are used by bicycles rather than cars. (2) Its first bike lane - and the country's first - was built in 1894, along Brooklyn's Ocean Parkway. (3) Interest in bicycle lanes reappeared in the 1970s, and by 1980 Mayor Ed Koch saw to the construction of them on Sixth and Seventh Avenues in Midtown. (4) However, those lanes faced such fierce opposition they were immediately removed. (5) Things have recently changed: since 2006, the city has taken bike lanes to a whole new level. (6) They installed more than 250 miles around the city's five boroughs. (7) Many New Yorkers complained the new bike lanes slowed car traffic and reduced the number of parking spaces. (8) Others complained bicyclists were not following traffic rules in the lanes. (9) In Williamsburg, Brooklyn, religious leaders convinced the city to remove a new strip of freshly-painted bike lane in their neighborhood. (10) Elected officials and perturbed residents of Staten Island also pressured the city into removing its own 2.35-mile dedicated lane. (11) Most New Yorkers have gotten used to the idea: a recent poll of New York City residents show that two-thirds of them support the bike lanes. (12) They cite environmental reasons for their support, as well as the health and safety benefits the lanes provide bike riders. (13) Ultimately, the city can be happy knowing that statistics have shown its new bike lanes have already made the streets of New York safer for bikers and pedestrians.

- (A) (as it is now) first,
- (B) first
- (C) first:
- (D) first-

7. Which is the best version of the underlined portion of sentence 6 (reproduced below)? More recent discoveries of sauropod fossils in locations around the world have confirmed that these resilient animals, did indeed walk the earth for millions of years.

(1) Sauropods, known today as the largest dinosaurs, were long-necked giants.(2) Their fossils have baffled scientists for decades.(3) These animals were so large that scientists did not know how they were able to support their own weight- unless they lived entirely in the water.(4) Scientists also argued that these overgrown creatures were not well suited for survival and likely became extinct after only a few generations.(5) However, the fossil evidence suggested that sauropods had existed, on land, for quite a long time.(6) More recent discoveries of sauropod fossils in locations around the world have confirmed that these resilient animals did indeed walk the Earth for millions of years.(7) As a result, scientists have had to rethink many of their previous assumptions about these creatures.(8) By studying these fossils, they are starting to gain a better understanding of how sauropods lived and adapted to the changing environment around them.(9) One area of particular interest involves the growth rates of the creatures.(10) Because sauropods are reptiles, most early dinosaur researchers estimated sauropod growth rates based on the growth rates of modern reptiles.(11)By those calculations, it would have taken sauropods a century to reach their full size.(12)A different perspective developed when scientists began to more closely examine various features of sauropod bones.(13)It was determined that the animals' growth rates would actually have been faster than those of modern reptiles and closer to those of large-bodied mammals.

- (A) (as it is now)
- (B) that, these resilient animals
- (C) that these resilient animals.
- (D) that these resilient animals

8. According to the author of Passage 2, fierce animal species inspire what feeling in humans?

Passage 1: I have always been wary of cats, and now, walking alongside a 500-pound African black-maned lion, I know why. They remind me there is something higher than I am on the food chain. Josef, the lion beside me, is trained- 'the best lion in the business,' his owner says, beaming. Josef has starred in movies and posed for film animators. Josef is a big-time Hollywood cat. But Josef is not tame. No big cat ever is- a difficult fact to ignore as we climb the hills near the ranch Josef calls home. He strides with the fluidity of unfurling silk, deliberately- not an ounce of tentativeness in each footfall. 'Cats don't rent; they own,' it is said. Lions own everything in sight. Passage 2: From Cathy Newman, 'Nature's Masterwork: CATS.' ©1997 by National Geographic Society. While packs of cave bears and saber-toothed tigers may once have terrorized early humanity, most regions of our planet have since been stripped of their descendants. And due to a variety of factors, many other 'man-eating' species now face the possibility of extinction. Their disappearance from Earth is a sobering prospect, not least because of the role they play in keeping us humble. The possibility of being prey, rather than agents of planetary dominion, keeps us acutely aware of our membership within the natural world. The emotions inspired by such possibilities remind us that the world is a dangerous, yet beautiful, place.

- (A) Humor
- (B) Humility
- (C) Bravery
- (D) Arrogance

9. In context, which of the following words or phrases would most appropriately be inserted immediately before "in my own home kitchen" in sentence 7 (reproduced below)? It's only when I'm in my own home kitchen that I can relax and take real pleasure in the culinary arts.

(1) I'm a professional chef, but frankly, I've always had a preference for cooking at home. (2) There are two reasons for this. (3) First, restaurant cooking can be very restrictive, whereas cooking at home allows me freedom to experiment. (4) The more important reason, therefore, is that at home I can cook alone. (5) While I'm on the job, I have no time to myself. (6) I'm managing a hectic, crowded kitchen and supervising more than a dozen people. (7) It's only when I'm in my own home kitchen that I can relax and take real pleasure in the culinary arts. (8) But last Monday night I underwent an attitude shift. (9) My husband and I have invited a neighboring family to dinner. (10) While the others entertained themselves in the family room, I was alone in the kitchen, blissfully trying out a new recipe for pasta sauce. (11) Looking up from the onions I was chopping, I saw our neighbors' son, Danny, poking his head through the doorway. (12) "Do you mind if I watch?" he asked. (13) Actually, I did mind but grudgingly allowed him entrance into my sanctuary. (14) My grumpiness dissolved. (15) I saw how truly fascinated Danny was with what I was doing. (16) I asked if he wanted to help, and we spent the next 40 minutes sharing the joy of cooking. (17) I so thoroughly enjoyed the experience that I was forced to reassess my view of cooking as an ideally solitary activity. (18) In fact, the next time we invite his family to dinner, I think I'll ask Danny if he'd like to be my assistant again.

- (A) here
 - (B) helping out
 - (C) surrounded by family
 - (D) by myself
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10. Which is the best version of the underlined portion of sentence 12 (reproduced below)? Mason's new study is one of many that are changing how scientists think about empathy and altruism, namely: that such characteristics are not limited to people, as they once thought.

(1) Calling someone a rat may be complimentary. (2) in one experiment, University of Chicago neuroscientist Peggy Mason placed 30 pairs of rats in pens. (3) One rat was caged in the middle of the pen, while the other was free to run around. (4) Eventually, 23 of 30 rats liberated their peers by pushing the cage door open with their heads or leaning against the door until it tipped over. (5) In another experiment, Mason gave rats access to two cages, in one cage was another rat, in the other was a pile of chocolate chips. (6) The rats eating the chocolate themselves. (7) instead, most of the rodents opened both cages and shared the sweets. (8) "In rat land, that is big." Mason says, claiming that this study is the first to show altruistic behavior in rodents. (9) Not all scientists agree with the conclusion Mason drew from the experiment, however. (10) The jailbreaking rats might have only been trying to silence their cohorts' distressing alarm calls. (11) Mason counters that the alarm calls from the caged rats were not frequent enough to motivate their peers, but both parties are speculating at this point. (12) Mason's new study is one of many that are changing how scientists think about empathy and altruism, namely: that such characteristics are not limited to people, as they once thought. (13) It now seems that many animals have evolved instincts to help others.

- (A) (as it is now)
- (B) altruism: namely
- (C) altruism, namely,
- (D) altruism-namely,