Level A

Reading

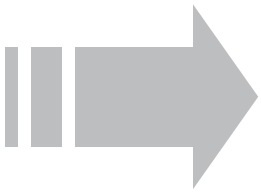
GOALS

Sample Items

2018

CASAS

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TURN THE PAGE

DIRECTIONS

1. Mark your answers on the answer sheet. Use a number 2 pencil only.
2. Please do **not** write in the test booklet.
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PRACTICE 1



A. coat

B. dress

C. pants

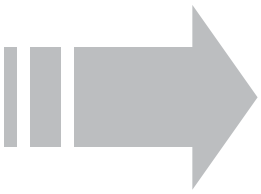
D. shoes

PRACTICE 2



A. day
B. month
C. year
D. week





TURN THE PAGE
TO BEGIN THE TEST



1.

A. pencil
B. book
C. paper
D. desk



---

2. The pool opens on Sunday at _____.

A. 5 AM

B. 8 AM

C. 10 AM

D. 5 PM



3. How much is one adult ticket?

   A. free

   B. $1.30

   C. $3.00

   D. $4.50

4. How can you get a free child ticket?

   A. buy one child ticket

   B. buy two child tickets

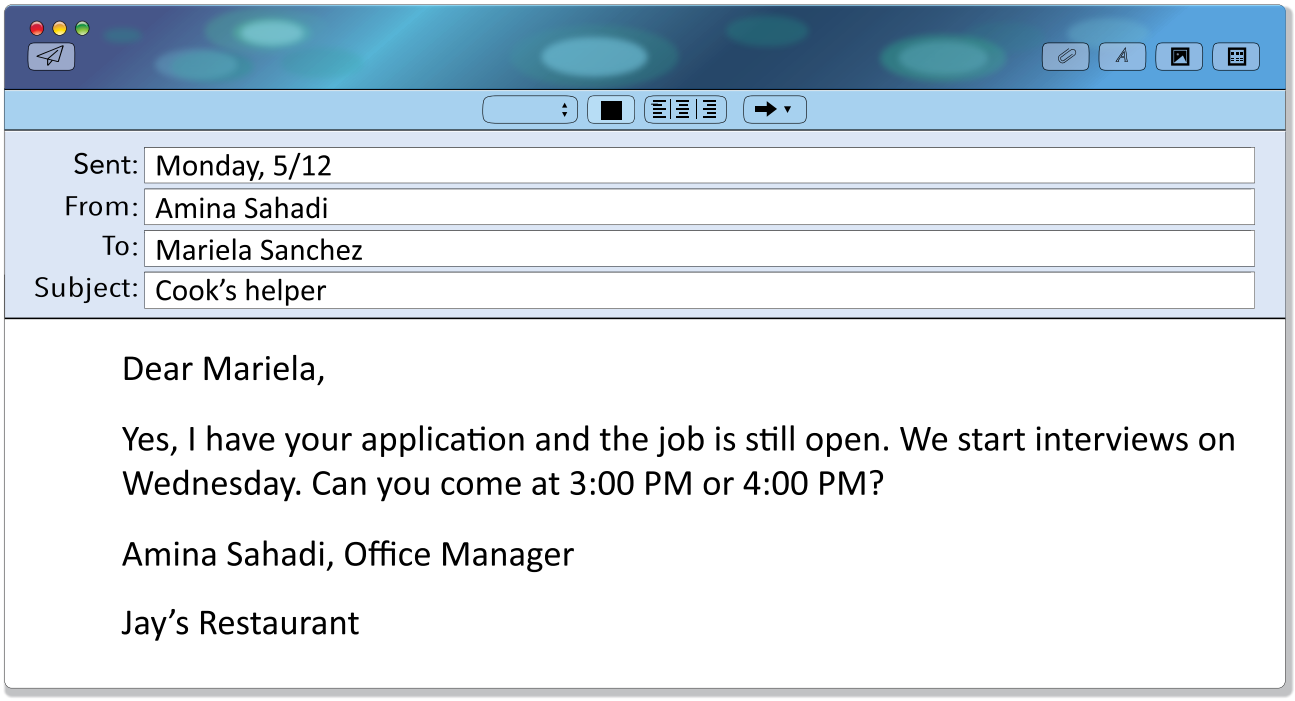
   C. buy one adult ticket

   D. buy three adult tickets



5. How much corn is in this recipe?

A. 2/3 cup
B. 1 cup
C. 2 cups
D. 2 1/2 cups



Sent: Monday, 5/12
From: Amina Sahadi
To: Mariela Sanchez
Subject: Cook's helper

Dear Mariela,

Yes, I have your application and the job is still open. We start interviews on Wednesday. Can you come at 3:00 PM or 4:00 PM?

Amina Sahadi, Office Manager

Jay's Restaurant

---

6. Amina Sahadi wrote the e-mail____.

   A. on Wednesday
   B. at 3:00 PM
   C. to Mariela Sanchez
   D. to Jay's Restaurant

Jane takes the bus to school or rides her bicycle. It is too far to walk and she doesn't drive. Today she waited at the bus stop while it was raining. She forgot her umbrella at home and was wet when she arrived at school. Next time she will bring her umbrella.

---

7. Where did Jane leave her umbrella?

   A. at home
   B. at school
   C. on the bus
   D. at the bus stop

CASAS Reading GOALS – Sample Test Items

Answer Keys

Level A

Prac. 1. D
Prac. 2. A

1. A
2. C
3. D
4. B
5. B
6. C
7. A

Level B

Reading

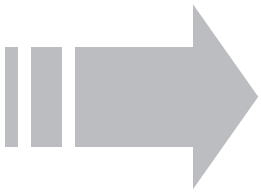
GOALS

Sample Items

2018

CASAS

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PRACTICE



PRACTICE 1

What is the *main* reason this announcement is in the newsletter?

A. to say goodbye to Sandra

B. to make Sandra feel welcome

C. to talk about benefits at Photo Works

D. to describe Sandra's accounting duties

PRACTICE 2

In line 5, the writer of the newsletter uses the word team to give a feeling of ___.

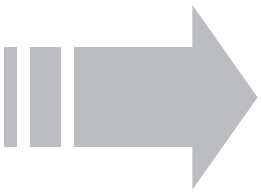
A. ability

B. athletics

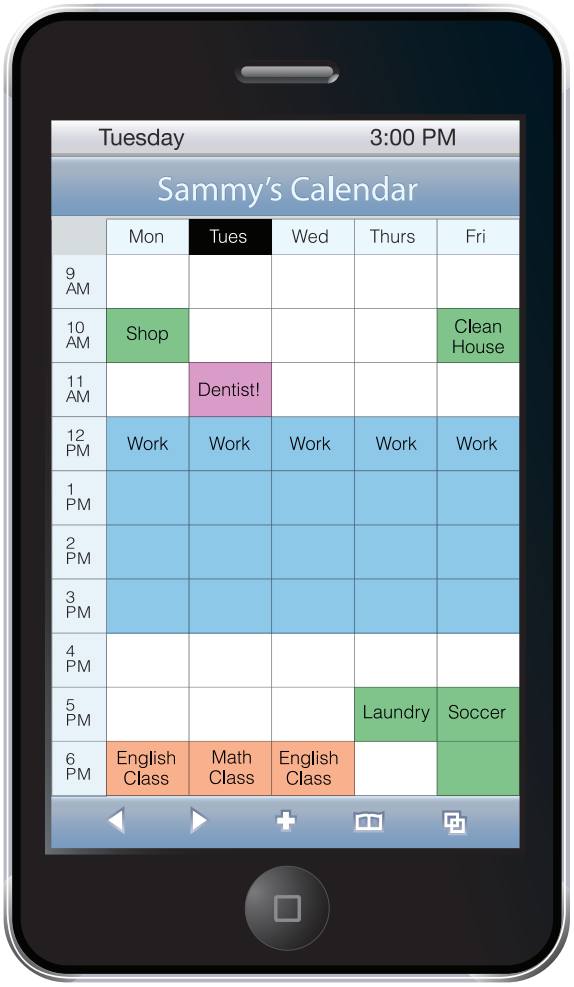
C. community

D. weakness





TURN THE PAGE
TO BEGIN THE TEST



1. When does Sammy play soccer?

   A. Monday

   B. Wednesday

   C. Thursday

   D. Friday

2. Sammy's calendar shows that on Thursday at 5:00 PM he _____.

   A. cleans the house

   B. goes to Math Class

   C. does the laundry

   D. goes to work

Martinez Community Center

Open daily from 10:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. (except holidays)

Program Sign-Up in the **Mary Martinez Room**

After-school Room

Homework help, Computer games, Arts and Crafts activities
Monday – Friday 2:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.

Computer Room

Computer programming classes (for high school students only)
Meets every Thursday for six weeks from 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.
Classes not offered on the weekend this year.

Activity Room

Daily entertainment for older adults – games, movies, classes, exercise.
See schedule at front desk. For ages 65+.

The Community Center offers exciting programs for the local community. Our mission is to improve local residents' quality of life with social, educational, and recreational activities. We receive our support from the local government and through donations from community members.

3. Where can seniors attend special classes?

   A. Activity Room
   B. Computer Room
   C. After-school Room
   D. Mary Martinez Room

4. How often do the computer classes meet?

   A. every evening
   B. on the weekend
   C. once a week
   D. every two weeks

Olivia Lange

16 Sandilands Road
Oregon City, OR 97045
lange_olivia@cwikmail.com
503-555-6715

EDUCATION	Columbia River Technical College Lewis and Clark High School	2009 - 2011 2004 - 2009
CERTIFICATIONS	Master Plumber Certification	2011
SPECIALTIES	- Sprinklers and Irrigation Systems - Leaks and Clogs - Fixture Repairs	- Sewer and Drain Replacement - Septic Tanks - Hot Water Heaters
EMPLOYMENT	Self-employed, Portland, OR Handyman-on-Call, Portland, OR Fast Service Plumbing, Portland, OR	2016 - Present 2014 - 2015 2011 - 2013

5. Based on Olivia's resumé, she would *most likely* be hired to repair a ____.

   A. broken lawnmower

   B. broken windowpane

   C. slow-draining sink

   D. slow-running computer

6. The information in the employment section of Olivia's resumé is organized from ____.

   A. most recent to least recent

   B. most specific to least specific

   C. least technical to most technical

   D. least important to most important

Ryan,

I stopped by earlier but you were not home.
I am upset that you have not fixed the problem
we talked about last week. There is still a lot of
garbage in your yard. I'm asking you again to
please put it in the trash where it belongs. I
don't like to complain but I want to resolve this
problem. I am trying to sell my house and people
who come to look at it are not happy about the
litter in your yard.

Thank you,
Clara

7. Clara wants to ____.

   A. sell her house

   B. help Mr. Ryan

   C. clean up her yard

   D. apologize to Mr. Ryan

8. The main reason Clara wrote to Ryan was to ____.

   A. ask him to remove the litter

   B. complain about their neighbors

   C. offer to help him with his yard

   D. tell him she is happy they are neighbors

9. In line 6, which word would *best* replace <u>resolve</u> in this letter?

   A. aid

   B. assist

   C. fix

   D. make

CASAS Reading GOALS – Sample Test Items

Answer Keys

Level B

Prac. 1. B
Prac. 2. C

1. D
2. C
3. A
4. C
5. C
6. A
7. A
8. A
9. C

Level C

Reading

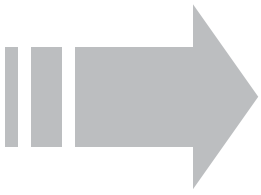
GOALS

Sample Items

2018

CASAS

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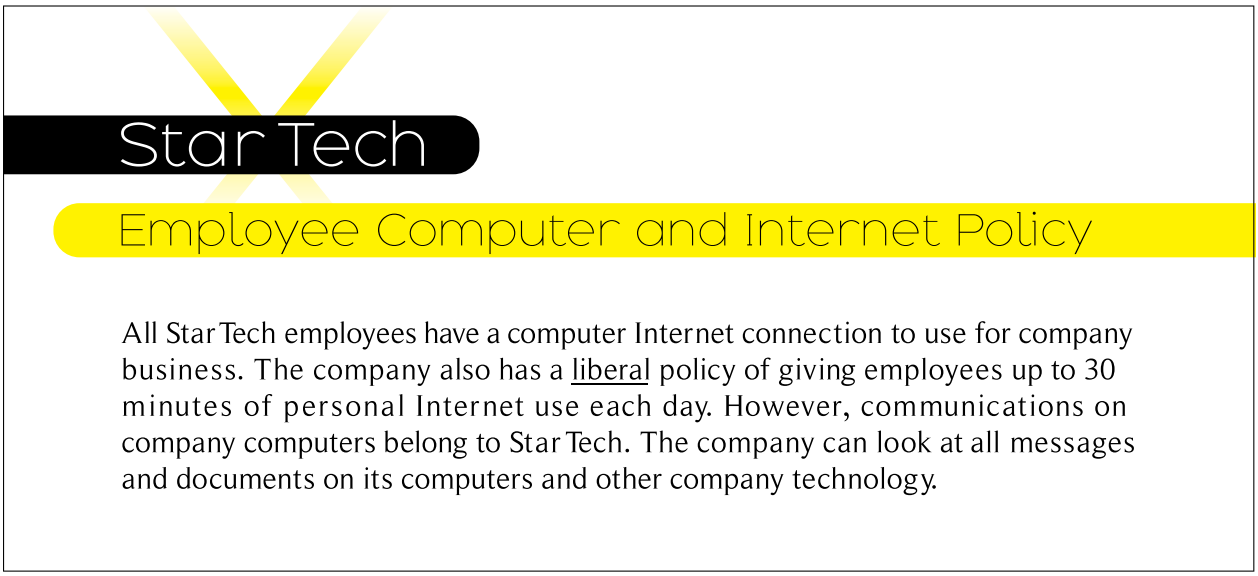


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PRACTICE



PRACTICE 1

In line 2, which word means the same as the underlined word liberal in this announcement?

A. generous

B. radical

C. traditional

D. widespread

PRACTICE 2

Which statement best summarizes this announcement?

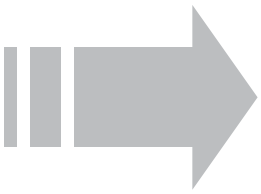
A. The company requires a more straightforward computer-use policy.

B. Too many employees have violated proper computer-use standards.

C. The company plans to prohibit sending and receiving personal e-mail.

D. The company monitors employee personal computer use time.





TURN THE PAGE
TO BEGIN THE TEST

Quick Chef

Plan & Preferences Checkout

Life is good when you cook with Quick Chef!

Delivery Information

First Name: Gloria

Last Name: Martinez

Address Line 1: 3567 Paseo Royal Ct.

City: San Antonio

State: TX

Zip: 99925

Ingredients are chosen seasonally and wrapped with care. They are kept in a refrigerated container so food is fresh even if you are away when it arrives.

You may skip anytime on or before the "Change By" date shown in account settings. By clicking "Place Order," you agree to purchase deliveries on a weekly basis payable with your designated payment method until you cancel. You can terminate your order at any time by contacting Customer Support via phone or through your My Accounts page online. Any orders terminated after processing will incur a $25 cancelation fee. Loyalty discounts will remain unchanged. For more information, see our Terms of Use and FAQs.

Place Order

Order Summary

EMAIL
martinez27@email.com

PHONE NUMBER
726-555-2917

PLAN
2-person, 3 recipes per week (each serves 2)

DIETARY PREFERENCES:
You will receive a mix of poultry, pork, and seafood recipes. All orders come with reasonably priced organic vegetables and grains.

WEEKLY DELIVERY DAY:
Enter zip code to see available delivery days.

Recurring Weekly Total

Weekly Cost	$59.97
First-time Discount	$30.00
Shipping	FREE
Total	$29.97

1. Which information is not included in the order form?

   A. number of servings to be delivered

   B. resources for customer questions

   C. guidelines for ending deliveries

   D. options for ordering dessert

2 According to the order form, a customer who goes on vacation can _____.

   A. offer the order to their neighbor

   B. refund the delivery at a later time

   C. skip a delivery by a certain date

   D. not make changes to their order

3. Which statement would the Quick Chef Company *most likely* agree with?

   A. Discounts do little to keep customers coming back.

   B. Anyone can cook delicious meals with a little assistance.

   C. Customers should be encouraged to follow vegetarian diets.

   D. Healthy foods are not affordable for most people these days.

Nationwide Employment Journal

WANTED: Problem Solvers

By Emily Kemboi

1 Today's employers are looking to hire workers who have the ability to solve problems. In order to compete for good paying jobs, you will need to know how to find solutions for the issues that occur every day in a modern company. But is this a skill at which you excel? If not, here are some tips that will help you become a first-rate problem solver.

2 When you try to solve a problem at work, your first step should be to state the problem as precisely as possible. For example, "Managers are making errors in reporting employee absences to the personnel department." Next, you need to evaluate the problem rationally and calmly. What are the effects of the problem on the company? What are some possible causes of the problem? Put your thoughts in writing; the physical act of writing helps the mind to evaluate many things more clearly.

3 After you have described the problem thoroughly, read what you have written, and begin to write down some potential solutions. In the early stages of generating solutions, list each idea that comes to mind. Your goal is to consider basic as well as innovative fixes for the problem. Every idea is worth contemplating, and sometimes an unlikely solution is the one that works.

4 After you have listed all your ideas, write down the pros and cons of each potential solution. This will help you separate those that might work from those that are less likely to be helpful. Do not simply choose to use the first solution you think will work. There may be better solutions available. Carefully evaluate all the "finalists," and then choose the solution that you believe will work best.



4. In paragraph 3, which word is the closest in meaning to the underlined word potential?

   A. contrary
   B. possible
   C. unavailable
   D. unlikely

5. Which paragraph does not provide specific steps to solve problems?

   A. paragraph 1
   B. paragraph 2
   C. paragraph 3
   D. paragraph 4

6. Which action does the writer suggest?

   A. Use the first workable idea you have.
   B. Focus on finding the fastest solution.
   C. Ask an employee to check your ideas.
   D. Consider pros and cons of solutions.

7. According to the writer, what is the first step in solving a problem?

   A. evaluating the problem rationally
   B. making a list of pros and cons
   C. listing all potential solutions
   D. stating the problem clearly



Need a great way to earn extra money? Try Mystery Shopping!

Mystery shopping is a method of evaluating customer service. Stores employ mystery shoppers, sometimes referred to as secret shoppers, as a way to assess their employees. A mystery shopper is someone unknown to employees undergoing evaluation. They may dress, act, and speak like average customers, except in reality they are actually assessing the store's performance. The idea is to zero in on the ability of employees to respond to a variety of situations calmly and professionally. The mystery shopper may create potentially high stress situations for employees such as returning purchases without a receipt, asking questions about competitors' products, or making trivial complaints, and then demanding to talk to the manager. After a visit, mystery shoppers report to the employer on their experiences and the employees' conduct.

The report may include such topics as—

- the number of employees visible upon entering the store
- how quickly an employee greets the mystery shopper
- the clothing and general appearance of employees
- the overall professionalism and courtesy of the employees
- how engaged employees are with their jobs
- how knowledgeable employees are about the store's products and policies
- the cleanliness of the business

Mystery shopping is a part-time job. This makes mystery shopping a great way to earn extra money. Moreover, an added benefit for mystery shoppers is that they often are allowed to keep the merchandise they "shopped" for. If you like to shop, this is definitely the job for you!

8. The writer's main purpose in creating this advertisement is to _____.

   A. answer criticism of mystery shopping
   B. explain what a mystery shopper does
   C. make shoppers aware of potential problems
   D. investigate the need for mystery shopping

9. Which statement is correct about mystery shoppers?

   A. They should avoid interacting with employees.
   B. They must hide their identity from employees.
   C. They cannot keep products they purchase.
   D. They may be offered full-time positions.

10. In line 21, the underlined word <u>moreover</u> indicates that the writer plans to _____.

    A. summarize each idea presented
    B. rephrase ideas previously stated
    C. refuse to consider other options
    D. expand on a point being discussed

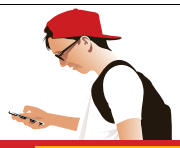
11. According to the advertisement, the final task of a mystery shopping assignment is to _____.

    A. ask the store's competitors questions
    B. return purchases without a receipt
    C. report on the mystery shopping event
    D. explain the results to shoppers

Online News - editorial

Search

Technology at School



NEWS FEATURE SPORTS BLOGS OPINION EDITORIAL

To the Editor:

I applaud the recent decision by our school board to ban mobile devices from schools. Our society is plagued by an epidemic of teens and children spending too much time on their phones and tablets watching videos and playing games. Eliminating these personal mobile devices on school grounds is important to safeguard the well-being of our youth.

Recent research studies have shown that heavy use of mobile devices can have significant effects on brain function. Our youth are too often glued to their screens, even during class time. Their use is not only disruptive during classes, but also hampers the ability for all students to learn. If children continue to use mobile devices in these ways, their ability to think critically and engage with their surroundings in a healthy way will be compromised. Therefore, I strongly approve of the school board's bold recent action.

Sincerely,
Rosina Smith

To the Editor:

I am a psychologist at Scovil University, and I believe that the school board's recent decision to ban personal mobile devices from the schools is misguided. Many of those in favor of this ban argue that using mobile devices causes a decline in brain functioning. While excessive use can exacerbate learning difficulties, these arguments overlook the changing educational landscape of our schools.

Proponents of a technology ban continually cite the fact that children spend 30 percent of their waking hours using mobile devices. However, interpreting this as solely negative is misleading because this number includes instruction in school that uses these devices. If children cannot bring or use these types of devices at school, then they may fall behind their peers at other learning institutions. In the end, this could do more harm than good.

Best regards,
Dr. Gregory Castillo

12. Rosina Smith supports her claims by _____.

A. giving her opinion

B. referring to research

C. quoting famous psychologists

D. describing personal experiences

13. In paragraph 1, Rosina Smith uses the words plagued and epidemic to _____.

A. give a sense of widespread urgency to the issue

B. stress that mobile devices have restricted use

C. show mobile devices cause diseases in children

D. liken the use of mobile devices to other addictions

14. The *most likely* reason Dr. Castillo mentions his occupation is to imply that he _____.

A. extensively uses mobile devices at the university

B. understands mobile devices more than most people do

C. should have been consulted about the mobile device ban

D. is qualified to judge the effects of using mobile devices

15. Dr. Castillo bases his argument on the fact that _____.

A. institutions do not have much access to mobile devices

B. schools do not have the power to regulate mobile devices

C. several reports show the dangers of overusing mobile devices

D. people misunderstand the ways youth use mobile devices

16. Dr. Castillo's main point is that _____.

A. mobile devices are causing attention issues in youth

B. banning mobile devices will hurt student learning

C. there is no evidence that mobile devices are harmful

D. schools should avoid using mobile devices in class

To: John Kang
From: Sasha Banks
Date: January 29
Subject: Clarification

1 Welcome to our team here at The Brighton Group. Thanks so much to you and your team for your hard work this past week getting the Fullerton project finished. I assure you that last week was unusual, and everyone typically does leave at 5 p.m. Regarding your paid leave questions, the policy is in your employee manual (see pp. 22-23), but it can sometimes be confusing so I'll try to explain it a little better.

2 As a new employee, you accrue nine hours of paid personal leave every month. This translates to about 13.5 days of vacation per year. In regard to sick days, you accrue two hours each month, which equates to three sick days per year. As a new employee, you cannot start to use your paid leave until you have been working here for a minimum of two months.

3 In the meantime, you can take a vacation day if needed, but without pay. Also, if you work a little extra to get a project finished, we do not consider this to be overtime. However, if you work a significant amount of extra hours, we will compensate you by allowing you to take a few hours off at a later time.

4 Your paid vacation and sick leave time is monitored by Human Resources, so you can always check with me if you want to know how much you have. If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Sasha Banks

Human Resources Manager

17. The main purpose of the e-mail is to _____.

A. give an overview of the paid leave policy

B. explain why John should take paid leave

C. outline changes to the paid leave policy

D. welcome John to the Brighton Group

18. In paragraph 3, which word *best* matches the meaning of <u>compensate</u>?

A. allow

B. correct

C. limit

D. repay

19. A new employee _____.

A. accrues two hours of vacation leave each month

B. may take additional vacation days without pay

C. receives overtime pay for all work done after 5 p.m.

D. can use vacation days immediately after they are accrued

CASAS Reading GOALS – Sample Test Items

Answer Keys

Level C

Prac. 1. A
Prac. 2. D
1. D
2. C
3. B
4. B
5. A
6. D
7. D
8. B
9. B
10. D
11. C
12. B
13. A
14. D
15. D
16. B
17. A
18. D
19. B

Level D

Reading

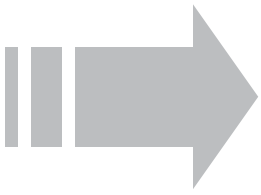
GOALS

Sample Items

2018

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PRACTICE

The Goffe Health Center

We Are Your Health Authority

"Use it or lose it." This is an expression we often say when we talk about physical skills or activities that require us to use our muscles.

Goffe Health Center (GHC) researchers have now proven that these words also apply to cognition, especially as we age. As a result, your GHC physicians now encourage senior citizens to use their mental skills in new and different ways – every day!

- Go to a movie or play.
- Read a newspaper or magazine.
- Do a Sudoku or crossword puzzle.
- Keep a diary or write your life story.
- Take a course at a nearby college or senior center.

PRACTICE 1

In line 11 of the health advisory, which activity *best* matches the physicians' advice?
A woman in her ____.

A. twenties learning to play tennis

B. thirties watching the news every night

C. forties walking three miles a day

D. sixties learning a foreign language

PRACTICE 2

In line 4, the writer uses the phrase as a result to show that ____.

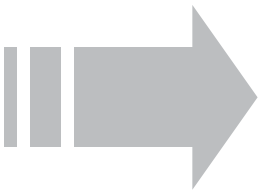
A. sentence 3 is more accurate than sentence 4

B. sentence 4 is more important than sentence 3

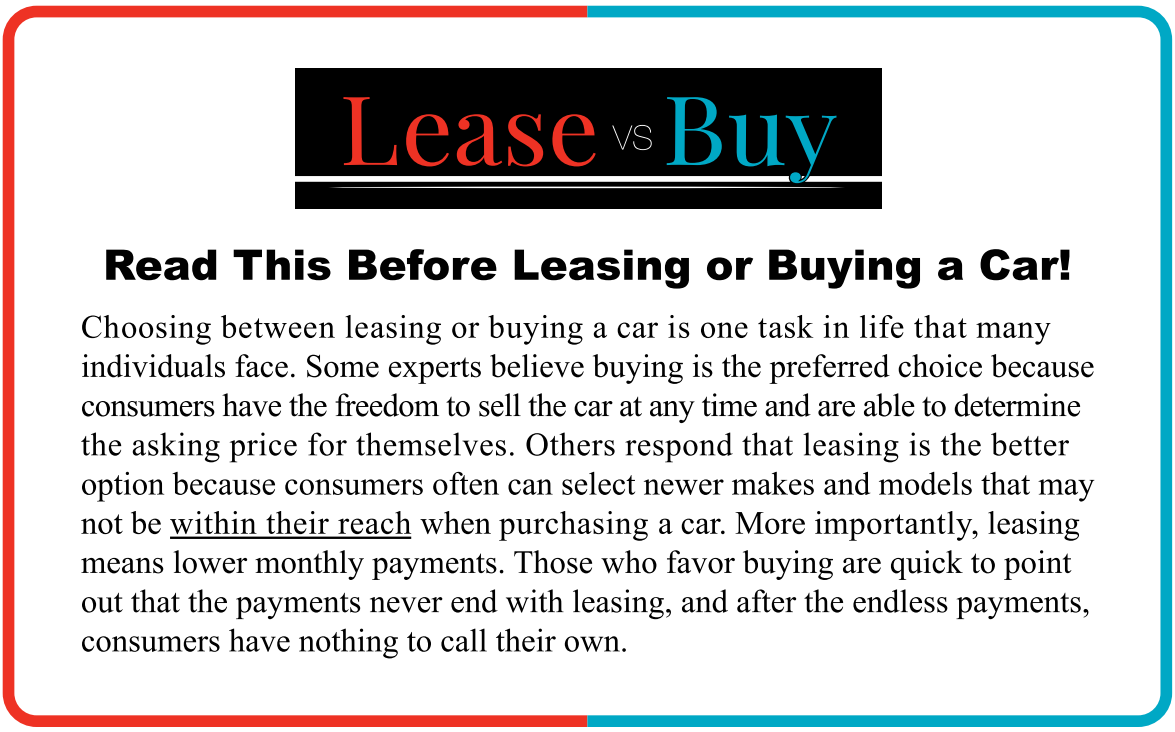
C. the idea in sentence 4 is caused by the idea in sentence 3

D. the idea in sentence 4 is the opposite of the idea in sentence 3





TURN THE PAGE
TO BEGIN THE TEST



Read This Before Leasing or Buying a Car!

Choosing between leasing or buying a car is one task in life that many individuals face. Some experts believe buying is the preferred choice because consumers have the freedom to sell the car at any time and are able to determine the asking price for themselves. Others respond that leasing is the better option because consumers often can select newer makes and models that may not be within their reach when purchasing a car. More importantly, leasing means lower monthly payments. Those who favor buying are quick to point out that the payments never end with leasing, and after the endless payments, consumers have nothing to call their own.

1. The writer distinguishes between leasing and buying by emphasizing the _____.

   A. affordability of leasing a car
   B. high cost of purchasing a car
   C. similarities of both options
   D. pros and cons of the options

2. In line 6, what phrase can *best* replace within their reach?

   A. their ability to select
   B. in their price range
   C. for their needs
   D. of their liking

3. Which sentence would make the *best* conclusion to this article?

   A. Leasing the newest model beats owning an older one.

   B. The decision depends on each person's situation.

   C. It is obvious that leasing involves too many costs.

   D. Most experts see little difference between leasing and buying.

4. Which argument does the writer use to reject the idea that leasing makes financial sense?

   A. "freedom to sell the car at any time" (line 3)

   B. "determine the asking price" (lines 3-4)

   C. "select newer makes and models" (line 5)

   D. "payments never end" (line 8)



The National Employment Guide

Making the First-Day Connection

By Rita Goh

1 Anyone employed has had a first day at work and felt nervous, but if you follow these guidelines, you should be able to relax those jitters. Take a breath, realize that nearly all new employees have initial anxieties, and remember that because you are new, everyone accepts that you're a novice in their world.

2 Prior to your first day, do as much research about the company as possible. Study the company's website carefully, and research the industry. You can always learn something new, even if you have experience in the particular field.

3 On your first day, your supervisor will probably show you your work area and introduce you to others. Introduce yourself with a pleasant hello and a smile, and if your supervisor hasn't already done so, tell them your name. If you later see someone you've met but whose name you cannot remember, explain that you've met a lot of new people and you don't recall his or her name. Then make a mental note to remember this person.

4 Throughout your first several days, focus on what you're learning, and take notes. Don't be reluctant to ask questions if you don't understand something. This shows you're interested and want to learn.

5 If someone asks your opinion, think carefully before you answer. The first day is never the time to tell people that you think they're doing things wrong. Your co-workers are your teammates—you aren't there to judge them. And remember, no one likes a newcomer who is quick to criticize existing methods. Only after you've been with the company long enough to understand its procedures thoroughly should you feel free to suggest improvements.

6 Throughout each day, show respect for all, and display an eagerness to do your job. Your co-workers will warm to you, and your manager will remember your strong start.

5. Which paragraph addresses the issue of preparing in advance for a new job?

   A. paragraph 2
   B. paragraph 3
   C. paragraph 4
   D. paragraph 5

6. In paragraph 1, which of these sentences could *best* replace the phrase <u>everyone accepts that you're a novice in their world</u>?

   A. People assume that you are knowledgeable in your field.
   B. People understand that you are interested and ready to work.
   C. People believe that you are going to be a good fit for the job.
   D. People realize that you are unfamiliar with the company and the job.

7. For what purpose did the writer *most likely* write this article?

   A. to assist readers in finding a different kind of job
   B. to persuade readers to help new employees blend in
   C. to teach readers ways to get along with new co-workers
   D. to entertain readers with an interesting workplace story

8. What recommendation does the writer offer?

   A. Research new procedures to suggest to co-workers.
   B. Keep a brief record of new information to remember.
   C. Think carefully before asking questions about operations.
   D. Be careful that you do not call people by an incorrect name.

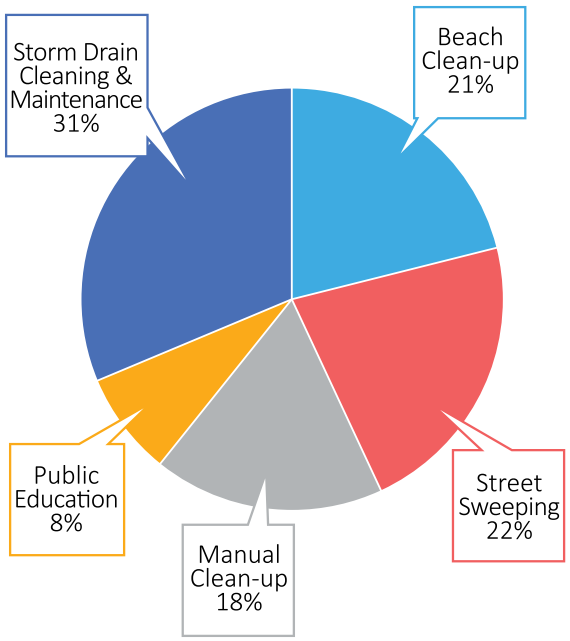
9. The writer indicates that *most* new employees _____.

   A. have not done enough research
   B. feel apprehensive in the beginning
   C. are eager to learn all the guidelines
   D. are too nervous to share their opinions

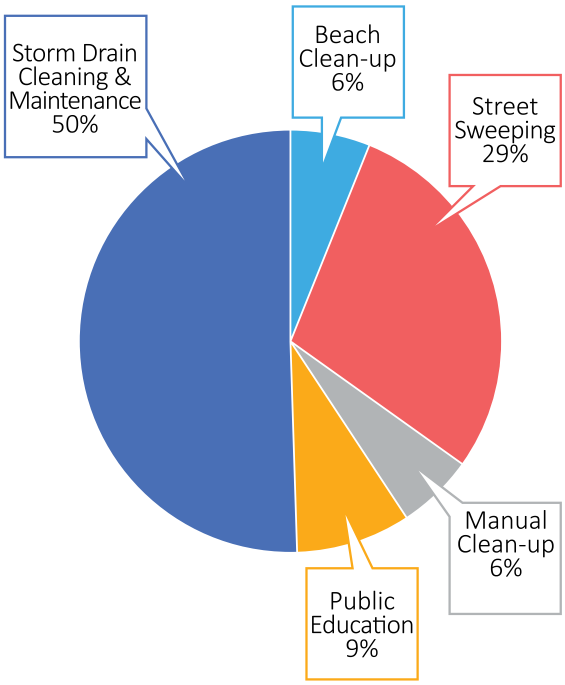
City Spending on Water Clean-up

Plastic waste in waterways harms wildlife, creates hazards for navigation, and may even threaten the health of humans. As a result, communities spend large sums of money to educate the public and to remove trash that might end up in the rivers and oceans. The charts below compare water clean-up budgets for two communities.

Porter City = $24 million
(population 6.8 million)



Santa Bella = $9.5 million
(population 2.1 million)



Statistics compiled by the Water Resource Research Committee.

10. According to the two charts, Porter City and Santa Bella spend the largest percentage of their water-cleanup budgets on _____.

    A. Street Sweeping

    B. Beach Clean-Up

    C. Manual Clean-Up

    D. Storm Drain Maintenance

11. What is a reason the cities are spending money on water clean-up?

    A. to satisfy community complaints

    B. to increase visitors to the city

    C. to reduce the use of plastics

    D. to protect local wildlife

THE DAILY PRESS

SECTIONS

WORLD SPORTS NEWS ENTERTAINMENT EDITORIAL LIFESTYLE OPINION AUTOS HOROSCOPES

Editorial

We asked readers to give us their comments about the difficulties faced in the workplace by younger and older workers. Here are two of the many letters we received.

Dear Editor:

I believe those of us who are older workers face greater challenges than younger workers do because they have something we do not have: time. Young people have a long working life ahead of them — time to build a career, time to save for retirement. I do not have that luxury.

According to a study released last year, while economic downturns have an impact on all groups, they frequently have a greater impact on older workers because we have less time to recover. We have worked hard all our lives only to have our savings, investments, and the value of our homes reduced to the point that we have to keep working because we don't have sufficient savings to retire. Some of us who thought we would retire at age 62 will have to work until age 75 and perhaps beyond.

Even if we want to keep working, some of us can't because with age comes health problems. And according to several research studies in well-known medical journals, even if we are capable of working, it is harder for us to find employment if we've been terminated.

I will grant that younger workers have their own unique challenges, but for aging workers, the challenges are greater.

Vincent M. Nieto

Dear Editor:

Young people sometimes face the challenge of starting a career during an economic downturn. An exceedingly high number of twenty-somethings are unemployed. Competition among the young is fierce for available jobs. The reason is that we are both the largest and most educated generation in history, and the supply of workers exceeds the demand.

Older people make the situation even worse by continuing to occupy positions well beyond retirement age, taking jobs we could have. We are also losing jobs to technology or companies overseas.

With all these forces working against us, it is tempting to offer the suggestion that we just have to work a bit harder to achieve the standard of living of our parents. Unfortunately, for many of us, starting from behind means we will never catch up.

Jane Lombardo

12. In the first paragraph of Vincent's letter, which word can *best* replace face without changing the meaning?

    A. demonstrate

    B. encounter

    C. impose

    D. challenge

13. Jane supports her belief that older workers contribute to the problems of younger workers by _____.

    A. blaming older workers for a weakened economy

    B. emphasizing that younger workers are over-educated

    C. explaining that younger people need to work harder

    D. criticizing older workers for staying on the job too long

14. Jane could have provided more evidence for her position by highlighting the ____.

    A. unemployment rate of young people

    B. value of older people staying employed

    C. usefulness of foreign competition

    D. increasing demand for younger workers

Is the College-to-Job Path the Best Route to Higher Employment Rates?

PRO

By Luke Dubois

How can job openings and unemployment statistics occur simultaneously? Why are the unemployed not able to land these available positions? The answer lies in a skills gap resulting from an education system that does not train enough people to meet employers' needs. What is the best way to minimize this gap? By far, the most advantageous solution is to create a path from our educational institutions to companies in need of workers. Such partnerships anticipate the number of skilled workers a company will need and create educational curricula that fulfill this demand. One example is a well-known European car manufacturer that is operating in the United States and forming a partnership with a community college. The company provided input on the tools to train students in using the machinery at their manufacturing plant and contributed to the content of the coursework. This mutual arrangement gives the company skilled workers and provides the college with increased job placement rates to attract new students. Hence, the college-to-job path benefits the country as a whole by increasing the number of educated members of society, a win-win situation for all indeed.

CON

By Nadine Ng

College is not an automatic fit for everyone. In fact, in recent years the number of college students who actually complete their degree has been only slightly above the fifty percent range. The remedial classes that many students end up enrolling in can prolong the time needed to complete degree requirements, making college seem too time-consuming to finish. In addition, in an attempt to develop well-rounded graduates, colleges often make it a mission to expose students to a wide curriculum, which results in a lengthier path leading to lower student graduation rates. In contrast, vocational training programs that do not burden students with additional college requirements are the most logical route to successful job training and placement. To avoid setting up students for failure, we must ensure they are qualified to complete training programs successfully by requiring entrance exam scores. Students who complete vocational programs receive a certificate of completion showing they are ready to work in many industries. Society should focus on expanding the number of graduates from these programs, as their job placement results appear more promising.

15. What word could *best* replace the underlined word <u>hence</u> as used by the PRO writer?

A. briefly

B. except

C. therefore

D. yet

16. Nadine Ng's argument supports the claim that a college education is not for everyone by explaining that _____.

A. many students who start college never graduate

B. a college education limits students' career choices

C. a majority of students transfer to vocational courses

D. colleges put too much emphasis on remedial classes

17. What would be the *best* alternative title for this article?

A. Why Is College Ultimately the Best Route to Career Success?

B. How Much Education Do Effective Workers Really Require?

C. Is College or Vocational Training the Ultimate Answer?

D. Are European Companies Transforming the Labor Market?

CASAS Reading GOALS – Sample Test Items

Answer Keys

Level D

Prac. 1. D
Prac. 2. C

1. D
2. B
3. B
4. D
5. A
6. D
7. C
8. B
9. B
10. D
11. D
12. B
13. D
14. A
15. C
16. A
17. C