



# CBEST-SECTION-2<sup>Q&As</sup>

California Basic Educational Skills Test - Reading





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### QUESTION 1

A healthy diet with proper nutrition is essential for maintaining good overall health. Since vitamins were discovered earlier in this century, people have routinely been taking vitamin supplements for this purpose. The Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) is a frequently used nutritional standard for maintaining optimal health. The RDA specifies the recommended amount of a number of nutrients for people of both sexes and in many different age groups. The National Research Councils Committee on Diet and Health has proposed a definition of the RDA to be that amount of a nutrient which meets the needs of 98 percent of the population. The RDA approach \_\_\_\_\_. First, it is based on the assumption that it is possible to accurately define nutritional requirements for a given group. However, individual nutritional requirements can vary widely within each group. The efficiency with which a person converts food intake into nutrients can also vary widely. Certain foods when eaten in combination actually prevent the absorption of nutrients. For example, spinach combined with milk reduces the amount of calcium available to the body from the milk. Also, the RDA approach specifies a different dietary requirement for each age and sex; however, it is clearly unrealistic to expect a homemaker to prepare a different menu for each family member. Still, although we cannot rely solely upon RDA to ensure our overall long-term health, it can be a useful guide so long as its limitations are recognized. On the basis of above passage please answer the following question With which of the following would the author most likely agree?

- A. The RDA approach should be replaced by a more realistic nutritional guide.
- B. The RDA approach should be supplemented with more specific nutritional guides.
- C. In spite of its flaws, the RDA approach is definitely the best guide to good nutrition.
- D. The RDA approach is most suitable for a large family.
- E. The RDA approach is too complicated for most consumers.

Correct Answer: B

Choice b is indicated by the final sentence, which indicates that the RDA approach is useful, but has limitations, implying that a supplemental guide would be a good thing. Choice a is contra-dicted by the final sentence of the passage. Choice c is incorrect because the passage says the RDA approach is a useful guide, but does NOT say it is the best guide to good nutrition. Choice d is contradicted by the next-to-last sentence of the passage. The passage states that the RDA approach is frequently used, which indicates it is not too complicated, as stated in choice e.

### QUESTION 2

A narrow fellow in the grass Occasionally rides;

You may have met him did you not?

His notice sudden is.

The grass divides as with a comb,

A spotted shaft is seen,

And then it closes at your feet And opens further on.

He likes a boggy acre,

A floor too cool for corn,



Yet when a boy, and barefoot,  
I more than once at noon Have passed, I thought, a whip-lash  
Unbraiding in the sun,  
When, stooping to secure it,  
It wrinkled, and was gone.  
Several of natures people I know and they know me;  
I feel for them a transport Of cordiality;  
But never met this fellow,  
Attended or alone,  
Without a tighter breathing And zero at the bone.

On the basis of above poem please answer the following question

The speaker of this poem is most likely

- A. an adult woman.
- B. an adult man.
- C. a young girl.
- D. a young boy.
- E. Emily Dickinson.

Correct Answer: B

Stanza three contains the phrase when a boy implying the speaker was a boy in the past and is now, therefore, an adult man.

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### QUESTION 3

(1)

Milton Hershey was born near the small village of Derry Church, Pennsylvania, in 1857. It was a modest beginning that did not foretell his later popularity. Milton only attended school through the fourth grade; at that point, he was apprenticed to a printer in a nearby town. Fortunately for all chocolate lovers, Milton did not excel as a printer. After a while, he left the printing business and was apprenticed to a Lancaster, Pennsylvania, candy maker. It was apparent he had found his calling in life and, at the age of eighteen, he opened his own candy store in Philadelphia. In spite of his talents as a candy maker, the shop failed after six years. (2) Milton Hersheys fans today may be surprised to learn that his first candy success came with the manufacture of caramel. After the failure of his Philadelphia store, Milton headed for Denver, where he learned the art of caramel making. There he took a job with a local manufacturer who insisted on using fresh milk in making his caramels; Milton saw that this made the caramels especially tasty. After a time in Denver, he once again attempted to open his own candy-making businesses, in Chicago, New Orleans, and New York City. Finally, in 1886, he went to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where he raised the money necessary to try again. This company the Lancaster Caramel Company made Milton's reputation as a master candy maker. (3) In 1893, Milton



attended the Chicago International Exposition, where he saw a display of German chocolate-making implements. Captivated by the equipment, he purchased it for his Lancaster candy factory and began producing chocolate, which he used for coating his caramels. By the next year, production had grown to include cocoa, sweet chocolate, and baking chocolate. The Hershey Chocolate company was born in 1894 as a subsidiary of the Lancaster Caramel Company. Six years later, Milton sold the caramel company, but retained the rights, and the equipment, to make chocolate. He believed that a large market of chocolate consumers was waiting for someone to produce reasonably priced candy. He was right. (4)Milton Hershey returned to the village where he had been born, in the heart of dairy country, and opened his chocolate-manufacturing plant. With access to all the fresh milk he needed, he began producing the finest milk chocolate. The plant that opened in a small Pennsylvania village in 1905 is today the largest chocolate factory in the world. The confections created at this facility are favorites in the U.S. and internationally. (5) The area where the factory is located is now known as Hershey, Pennsylvania. Within the first decades of its existence, the town thrived, as did the chocolate business. A bank, a school, churches, a department store, even a park and a trolley system all appeared in short order. Soon, the town even had a zoo. Today, a visit to the area reveals the Hershey Medical Center, Milton Hershey School, and Hersheys Chocolate World, a theme park where visitors are greeted by a giant Reeses Peanut Butter Cup. All of these things and a huge number of happy chocolate lovers were made possible because a caramel maker visited the Chicago Exposition of 1893! On the basis of above passage please answer the following question As it is used in paragraph 1, the underlined phrase found his calling in life most nearly means

- A.  
became educated.
- B.  
discovered a vocation.
- C.  
was a talented person.
- D.  
called on other people to help him.
- E.  
had good luck.

Correct Answer: B

In the context of the paragraph, this is the only possible choice. Choice a can be ruled out because there is no evidence that Hershey became educated. It is true that Hershey was a talented person (choice b), but was talented is not the same as having found something. Choice d is wrong because there is no evidence in paragraph 1 that Hershey called on anyone to help him. The passage talks about Hersheys hard work, but does not say he was lucky (choice e).

#### QUESTION 4

(1)  
Produced in 1959, Lorraine Hansberrys play, A Raisin in the Sun, was a quietly revolutionary work that depicted African-American life in a fresh, new, and realistic way. The play made her the youngest American, the first African-American, and the fifth woman to win the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Play of the Year. In 1961, it was produced as a film starring Sydney Poitier and has since become a classic, providing



inspiration for an entire generation of

African-American writers.

(2)

Hansberry was not only an artist but also a political activist and the daughter of activists. Born in Chicago in 1930, she was a member of a prominent family devoted to civil rights. Her father was a successful real-estate broker, who won an anti-segregation case before the Illinois Supreme Court in the mid-1930s, and her uncle was a Harvard professor. In her home, Hansberry was privileged to meet many influential cultural and intellectual leaders. Among them were artists and activists such as Paul Robeson, W.E.B. DuBois, and Langston Hughes.

(3)

The success of *A Raisin in the Sun* helped gain an audience for her passionate views on social justice. It mirrors one of Hansberry's central artistic efforts, that of freeing many people from the smothering effects of stereotyping by depicting the wide array of personality types and aspirations that exist within one Southside

Chicago family. *A Raisin in the Sun* was followed by another play, produced in 1964, *The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window*. This play is about an intellectual in

Greenwich Village, New York City, a man who is open-minded and generous of spirit who, as Hansberry wrote, "cares about it all. It takes too much energy not to care."

(4)

Lorraine Hansberry died on the final day of the plays run on Broadway. Her early death, at the age of 34, was unfortunate, as it cut short a brilliant and promising career, one that, even in its short span, changed the face of American

theater. After her death, however, her influence continued to be felt. A dramatic adaptation of her autobiography, *To Be Young, Gifted, and Black*, consisted of vignettes based on Hansberry's plays, poems, and other writings. It was produced

Off-Broadway in 1969 and appeared in book form the following year. Her play, *Les Blancs*, a drama set in Africa, was produced in 1970; and *A Raisin in the Sun* was adapted as a musical, *Raisin*, and won a Tony award in 1973.

(5)

Even after her death, her dramatic works have helped gain an audience for her essays and speeches on wide-ranging topics, from world peace to the evils of the mistreatment of minorities, no matter what their race, and especially for her

works on the civil-rights struggle and on the effort by Africans to be free of colonial rule. She was a woman, much like the characters in her best-known play, who was determined to be free of racial, cultural, or gender-based constraints.

On the basis of above passage please answer the following question.

The main purpose of the passage is to

A.

praise Lorraine Hansberry's writings and illustrate their artistic and political influence.

B.



summarize Lorraine Hansberry's best-known works.

C.

demonstrate that if one is raised in a well-educated family, such as Lorraine Hansberry's, one is likely to succeed.

D.

show Lorraine Hansberry's difficult struggle and ultimate success as a young female writer.

E.

persuade students to read *A Raisin In The Sun*.

Correct Answer: A

The passage begins and ends with praise of Hansberry's works and influence. Hansberry's works are summarized (choice b) but this is not the main purpose of the passage. Choice c is not necessarily true and is not in the passage. Lorraine Hansberry may have had a difficult struggle (choice d), but the struggle is not shown in the passage. The author tells about Hansberry's plays, but does not try to persuade students to read them (choice e).

## QUESTION 5

O'Connell Street is the main thoroughfare of Dublin City. Although it is not a particularly long street, Dubliners will tell the visitor proudly that it is the widest street in all of Europe. This claim usually meets with protests, especially from French tourists, claiming the Champs Elysees of Paris as Europe's widest street. But the witty Dubliner will not relinquish bragging rights easily and will trump the French visitor with a fine distinction: the Champs Elysees is a boulevard; O'Connell is a street. Divided by several important monuments running the length of its center, the street is named for Daniel O'Connell, an Irish patriot. \_\_\_\_\_ O'Connell stands high above the unhurried crowds of shoppers, business people, and students on a sturdy column, surrounded by four serene angels seated at each corner of the monument's base. Further up the street is the famous General Post Office that the locals affectionately call "the GPO." During the 1916 rebellion, the GPO was taken over and occupied by the Irish rebels to British rule, sparking weeks of armed combat in the city's center. To this day, the angels of O'Connell's monument bear the marks of the fighting: one sits reading calmly, apparently unaware of the bullet hole dimpling her upper arm; another, reaching out to stroke the ears of a huge bronze Irish wolfhound, has survived what should be a mortal wound to her heart. On the basis of above passage please answer the following question Which of the following would be the best title for this passage?

A. Dublin's Famous Monuments

B. The Irish Take Pride in Their Capital City

C. The Widest Street in Europe

D. Sights and History on Dublin's O'Connell Street

E. Tourism in Dublin

Correct Answer: D

The title Sights and History on Dublin's O'Connell Street touches on all the specific subjects of the passage the sights to see on this particular street and the history connected to them. Answers a and e are too general about the place described, which is a particular street in Dublin, not the whole city. Answers b and c are too specific in that they cover only the material in the first paragraph.



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