



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

California Basic Educational Skills Test - Reading

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## QUESTION 1

The Sami are an indigenous people living in the northern parts of Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Russia's Kola peninsula. Originally, the Sami religion was animistic; that is, for them, nature and natural objects had a conscious life, a spirit.

One was expected to move quietly in the wilderness and avoid making a disturbance out of courtesy to these spirits. Ghengis Khan is said to have declared that the Sami were one people he would never try to fight again. Since the

Sami were not warriors and did not believe in war, they simply disappeared in times of conflict. They were known as "peaceful retreaters."

On the basis of above passage please answer the following question

Based on the tone of the passage, which of the following words best describes the authors attitude toward the Sami people?

- A. admiring
- B. pitying
- C. contemptuous
- D. patronizing
- E. perplexed

Correct Answer: A

To depict the Sami, the author uses words that point to their gentleness, which is an admirable quality: They move quietly, display courtesy to the spirits of the wilderness, and were known as peaceful retreaters. There is nothing pitying, contemptuous, or patronizing in the language, and nothing in the passage indicates that the author is perplexed the description of the Sami is clear and to the point.

## QUESTION 2

(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 Hershey's 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 The author most likely included the information in paragraph 5 in order to show that

A.

Hershey's chocolate factory was so successful that a whole town was built around it.

B.

people all over the world have become tourists in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

C.

Hershey's chocolate factory has now become a successful theme park.

D.

Hershey moved back to the town where he was born.

E.

the Hershey Chocolate Company manufactures both chocolate and caramel.

Correct Answer: A

This is the only choice that can be supported by the paragraph. Although tourists and caramel are mentioned in the passage (choices b and e), this is not the main purpose of the paragraph. There is a theme park in Hershey (choice c), but the chocolate factory still exists. Choice d can be ruled out because this information was given in paragraph 4.

### QUESTION 3

A government report addressing concerns about the many implications of prenatal and newborn genetic testing outlined policy guidelines and legislative recommendations intended to avoid involuntary and ineffective testing and to protect confidentiality. The report recommended that all such screening be voluntary. Citing results of two different voluntary newborn screening programs, the report said these programs can achieve compliance rates equal to or better than those of mandatory programs. State health departments might be wise to eventually mandate the offering of tests for diagnosing treatable conditions in newborns; however, careful pilot studies for conditions diagnosable at birth need to be done first. Although the report asserted that it would prefer that all screening be voluntary, it did note that if a state elects to mandate newborn screening for a particular condition, the state should do so only if there is strong evidence that a newborn would benefit from effective treatment at the earliest possible age. Newborn screening is the most common type of genetic screening today. More than four million newborns are tested annually so that effective treatment can be started in a few hundred infants. Obtaining informed consent a process that would include educating participants, not just processing documents would enhance voluntary participation. When offered testing, parents should receive



comprehensive counseling, which should be nondirective. Relevant medical advice, however, is recommended for treatable or preventable conditions. On the basis of above passage please answer the following question According to the report, states should implement mandatory infant screening only

- A. if the compliance rate for voluntary screening is low.
- B. for mothers who are at high risk for genetic disease.
- C. after meticulous research is undertaken.
- D. to avoid the abuse of sensitive information.
- E. if fatal disorders are suspected.

Correct Answer: C

The last sentence of the second paragraph states that careful pilot studies . . . need to be done first.

#### QUESTION 4

Heat reactions usually occur when large amounts of water and/or salt are lost through excessive sweating following strenuous exercise. When the body becomes overheated and cannot eliminate this excess heat, heat exhaustion and heat stroke are possible. Heat exhaustion is generally characterized by clammy skin, fatigue, nausea, dizziness, profuse perspiration, and sometimes fainting, resulting from an inadequate intake of water and the loss of fluids. First aid treatment for this condition includes having the victim lie down, raising the feet 8-12 inches, applying cool, wet cloths to the skin, and giving the victim sips of salt water (1 teaspoon per glass, half a glass every 15 minutes), over the period of an hour. Heat stroke is much more serious; it is an immediately life-threatening situation. The characteristics of heat stroke are a high body temperature (which may reach 106F or more); a rapid pulse; hot, dry skin; and a blocked sweating mechanism. Victims of this condition may be unconscious, and first aid measures should be directed at cooling the body quickly. The victim should be placed in a tub of cold water or repeatedly sponged with cool water until his or her temperature is lowered sufficiently. Fans or air conditioners will also help with the cooling process. Care should be taken, however, not to overchill the victim once the temperature is below 102F. On the basis of above passage please answer the following question. The most immediate concern of a person tending a victim of heat stroke should be to

- A. get salt into the victim's body.
- B. raise the victim's feet.
- C. lower the victim's pulse rate.
- D. have the victim lie down.
- E. lower the victim's temperature.

Correct Answer: E

This is stated in the last paragraph: . . . first aid measures should be directed at cooling the body quickly. The other responses except for choice c, which does not appear in the passage are first aid treatments for heat exhaustion victims.

#### QUESTION 5

Ever since human beings began their conscious sojourn on this planet, they have puzzled over the riddle of evil and



debated its source. Two concepts have predominated in the debate. The first of these holds that evil is an active force, a force of darkness as substantial and powerful as that of light. In terms of the individual human being, this force might be seen as the "Shadow" side of the personality, the feared side that the individual may deny but that is still a real and integral part of her or him. The second of the two concepts holds that evil is essentially \_\_\_\_\_, the absence of good, that darkness is not a thing in itself but rather the absence of light. In terms of the individual human being, this doctrine says that evil arises from a lack, a deprivation, from what John A. Sanford calls "a mutilation of the soul." On the basis of above passage please answer the following question. Which of the following phrases would best fit into the blank in the third sentence of the passage?

- A. perplexing
- B. passive
- C. capricious
- D. ephemeral
- E. artificial

Correct Answer: B

The first side of the debate says that evil is an active force so the opposing side would see evil as just the opposite, something passive. Choice a is reflected in the first sentence: human beings are puzzled (therefore perplexed) by evil, but

their being puzzled is not one of the two concepts of evil discussed in the passage.

Choices c, d, and e are not reflected in the passage.

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