



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

California Basic Educational Skills Test - Reading

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## QUESTION 1

(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 Hershey's Chocolate World, a theme park where visitors are greeted by a giant Reese's 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 Which of the following statements is supported by information in the passage?

A.

Chocolate is popular in every country in the world.

B.

The Hershey Chocolate Company's factory is near Derry Church, Pennsylvania.

C.

Chocolate had never been manufactured in the United States before Milton Hershey did it.

D.

The Hershey Chocolate Company is run by Milton Hershey's children.

E.

The Hershey Chocolate Company has branches in Chicago, New Orleans, and New York City.

Correct Answer: B



Because the passage states that Hershey returned to the village where he had been born to open his plant, and the passage also states that he was born near Derry Church, this statement must be accurate. The other choices cannot be supported. Although the writer mentions the popularity of chocolate internationally, you cannot assume that it is popular in every country (choice a), nor is there any indication that Milton Hershey was the first person to manufacture chocolate in the U.S. (choice c). Choice d is not discussed in the passage at all. The passage states that Hershey did not succeed in his candy-making ventures in other cities (choice e).

## QUESTION 2

The fictional world of Toni Morrison's novel *Sula*—the African-American section of Medallion, Ohio, a community called "the Bottom"—is a place where people, and even natural things, are apt to go awry, to break from their prescribed

boundaries, a place where bizarre and unnatural happenings and strange reversals of the ordinary are commonplace. The very naming of the setting of *Sula* is a turning upside-down of the expected; the Bottom is located high up in the hills.

The novel is furthermore filled with images of mutilation, both psychological and physical. A great part of the lives of the characters, therefore, is taken up with making sense of the world, setting boundaries and devising methods to control

what is essentially uncontrollable. One of the major devices used by the people of the

Bottom is the seemingly universal one of creating a \_\_\_\_\_ in this case, the title character *Sula* upon which to project both the evil they perceive outside themselves and the evil in their own hearts.

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

Based on the description of the setting of the novel *Sula*, which of the following adjectives would most likely describe the behavior of many of its residents?

- A. cowardly
- B. artistic
- C. unkempt
- D. arrogant
- E. eccentric

Correct Answer: E

The passage says of the people who live in "the Bottom" that they are apt to go awry, to break from their natural boundaries. A person who is eccentric is quirky or odd. Nowhere in the passage is it implied that the people are cowardly, artistic, unkempt, or arrogant (choices a, b, c, and d).

## QUESTION 3

It has been more than twenty-five years since the National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA) last sent a craft to land on the moon. The Lunar Prospector took off in January of 1998, in the first moon shot since astronauts last walked on the moon in 1972. This time, the moon-traveller is only a low-cost robot, who will spend a year on the surface of the moon, collecting minerals and ice. Unlike the moon shots of the 1960s and 1970s, Lunar Prospector does not carry a camera, so the American public will not get to see new pictures of the moon's surface.

\_\_\_\_\_. Scientists are anxious for the results of one exploration in particular that done by



the neutron spectrometer. Using this instrument, Prospector will examine the moons poles, searching for signs of water ice. There has long been speculation that frozen water from comets may have accumulated in craters at one of the moons poles and may still be there, as this pole is permanently shielded from the sun. The neutron spectrometer seeks out the hydrogen atoms in water and can detect the presence of as little as one cup of water in a cubic yard of soil. On the basis of above passage please answer the following question Which sentence, if inserted into the blank line in the second paragraph, would be most consistent with the writers purpose and intended audience?

- A. You won't, therefore, be able to see if the surface of the moon has changed much in thirty years.
- B. Instead, Prospector carries instruments that will map the make-up of the entire surface of the moon.
- C. I don't believe that new pictures would prove very interesting, anyway.
- D. However, the topography of the lunar terrain retains a mundane familiarity that is not consistent with the nature of NASAs raison detre and will contribute little to advancements visa vis missions such as Sojourner.
- E. Entertainment of the public does not justify the enormous cost of space exploration.

Correct Answer: B

Choice b best reflects the writing style of the passage, which is for a general audience. Choices a and c are too informal; choice d uses jargon and choice e seems to talk down to the audience.

#### 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.

On the basis of the information in the passage, symptoms such as nausea and dizziness in a heat exhaustion victim indicate that the person most likely needs to

- A. be immediately taken to a hospital.



- B. be immersed in a tub of water.
- C. be given more salt water.
- D. sweat more.
- E. go to an air-conditioned place.

Correct Answer: C

The second paragraph states that for the symptoms of heat exhaustion which include nausea and dizziness first aid treatment includes giving the victim sips of salt water. The other choices relate to heat stroke.

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#### QUESTION 5

Fax machines have made it possible for information to be transmitted to distant locations within minutes, but what about confidential information? Are faxes always secure? To avoid having faxes misdirected, arrange for authorized persons to receive and transmit confidential messages. Always phone the recipient about an incoming confidential fax, and make contact a second time to make sure the fax was received. On the basis of above passage please answer the following question The paragraph best supports the statement that

- A. the majority of faxes contain confidential information.
- B. faxes should not be sent if the information is confidential.
- C. fax machines should be locked up in secure offices.
- D. precautions should be taken before a confidential fax message is sent.
- E. a fax is more timely than other office transmission systems.

Correct Answer: D

The last two sentences point to the need for precautions when sending a fax. There is no indication in the paragraph that choice a is true. Choice b is incorrect because the paragraph indicates that, with caution, confidential faxes can be sent. Choice c is not mentioned. Choice d is vague because it does not define timely; at any rate, a phone call will arrive more quickly than a fax.

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