



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

California Basic Educational Skills Test - Reading

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### QUESTION 1

Rhesus monkeys use facial expressions to communicate with each other and to enforce social order. For example, the "fear grimace," although it looks ferocious, is actually given by a \_\_\_\_\_ monkey who is intimidated by a

\_\_\_\_\_ member of the group.

On the basis of above passage please answer the following question

Which pair of words or phrases, if inserted into the blanks in sequence, makes the most sense in the writers context?

- A. calm . . . aggressive
- B. dominant . . . subordinate
- C. confident . . . fearless
- D. subordinate . . . dominant
- E. high-ranking . . . low-ranking

Correct Answer: D

Answers a and c do not include the sense of hierarchy conveyed in the phrase to enforce social order. Answers b and e do convey a sense of hierarchy but reverse the proper order of meanings in the context.

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### QUESTION 2

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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### QUESTION 3

(1)

Produced in 1959, Lorraine Hansberry's 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 writer of the passage suggests that Hansberrys political beliefs had their origins in her experience as

A.

the daughter of politically active parents.

B.

a successful playwright in New York.

C.

a resident of Southside Chicago.

D.

an intellectual in Greenwich Village.

E.

a civil rights activist.

Correct Answer: A

The first paragraph speaks of Hansberrys being raised as the daughter of political activists. Choices b, d, and e are related to her beliefs but are not depicted as the origin of those beliefs. The passage does not say that Hansberry herself ever lived in Southside Chicago (choice c).

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#### QUESTION 4

Cuttlefish are intriguing little animals. The cuttlefish resembles a rather large squid and is, like the octopus, a member of the order of cephalopods. Although they are not considered the most highly evolved of the cephalopods, they are extremely intelligent. While observing them, it is hard to tell who is doing the observing, you or the cuttlefish, especially since the eye of the cuttlefish is very similar in structure to the human eye. Cuttlefish are also highly mobile and fast creatures.

They come equipped with a small jet located just below the tentacles that can expel water to help them move. Ribbons of flexible fin on each side of the body allow cuttlefish to hover, move, stop, and start.

\_\_\_\_\_. The cuttlefish is sometimes referred to as the

"chameleon of the sea" because it can change its skin color and pattern instantaneously. Masters of camouflage, they can blend into any environment for protection, but they are also capable of the most imaginative displays of iridescent, brilliant color and intricate designs, which scientists believe they use to communicate with each other and for mating displays. However, judging from the riot of ornaments and hues cuttlefish produce, it is hard not to believe they paint themselves so beautifully just for the sheer joy of it. At the very least, cuttlefish conversation must be the most sparkling in all the sea.

On the basis of above passage please answer the following question



Which of the following sentences, if inserted into the blank line, would best sum up the first paragraph and lead into the next?

- A. The cuttlefish can be cooked and eaten like its less tender relatives, the squid and octopus, but must still be tenderized before cooking in order not to be exceedingly chewy.
- B. On a scuba dive when you're observing cuttlefish, it is best to move slowly because cuttlefish have excellent eyesight and will probably see you first.
- C. Cuttlefish do not have an exoskeleton; instead, their skin is covered with chromatophors.
- D. The cuttlefish has ten arms, two of which are specialized feeders and its mouth is beak-like; this enables it to capture crustaceans with its powerful arms and crack shells with its strong mouth.
- E. By far their most intriguing characteristic is their ability to change their body color and pattern.

Correct Answer: E

Choice e sums up the first paragraph, which is essentially a list of the cuttlefish's characteristics, by declaring which is the most interesting characteristic, and the sentence introduces the subject of the second paragraph the ability of the cuttlefish to change color. Choice a adds information not in keeping with the tone or focus of the passage. Choice b basically repeats information in the first paragraph but does not introduce the next one. Choice c uses but does not explain scientific language, which is out of keeping with the general informational style of the passage. Choice d adds to the list of characteristics in the first paragraph without summing it up.

## QUESTION 5

Businesses today routinely keep track of large amounts of both financial and non-financial information. Sales departments keep track of current and potential customers; marketing departments keep track of product details and regional demographics; accounting departments keep track of financial data and issue reports. To be useful, all this data must be organized into a meaningful and useful system. Such a system is called a management information system, abbreviated MIS. The financial hub of the MIS is accounting. Accounting is the information system that records, analyzes, and reports economic transactions, enabling decision-makers to make informed choices when allocating scarce economic resources. It is a tool that enables the user, whether a business entity or an individual, to make wiser, more informed economic choices. It is an aid to planning, controlling, and evaluating a broad range of activities. A financial accounting system is intended for use by both the management of an organization and those outside the organization. Because it is important that financial accounting reports be interpreted correctly, financial accounting is subject to a set of \_\_\_\_\_ guidelines called "generally accepted accounting principles" (GAAP). On the basis of above passage please answer the following question. According to the information in the passage, which of the following is LEAST likely to be a function of accounting?

- A. helping business people make sound judgments
- B. producing reports of many different kinds of transactions
- C. assisting with the marketing of products
- D. assisting companies in important planning activities
- E. providing information to potential investors

Correct Answer: C

Choices a, b, and d are all listed in the passage as functions of accounting. In addition, the passage notes that accounting can benefit entities outside the company, such as those mentioned in e. On the other hand, the second



sentence of the passage speaks of a marketing department, separate from the accounting department.

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