

Part 4

Paragraph Comprehension

Directions

This test contains 15 items measuring your ability to understand what you read. This section includes one or more paragraphs of reading material followed by incomplete statements or questions. Read the paragraph and select the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question. Mark your choice on your answer sheet using the correct letter with each question number. Try the following sample questions:

- S1. A real estate agent says that there are three things that determine the value of a house: location, location, location.

According to this passage, the value of a house

- (A) is determined by its location.
(B) is difficult to calculate.
(C) is determined by three factors, only one of which is location.
(D) is based on the quality of construction.

According to the passage, location determines the value of a house, so A is correct.

- S2. During a drought, the city council enacted a water conservation program that restricted people to watering their lawns only on alternate days.

Under this program, how often can lawns be watered?

- (A) They can be watered only when the neighbors are watering their lawns.
(B) They can be watered only as much as necessary.
(C) They cannot be watered at all.
➤ (D) They can be watered only on alternate days.

Lawns can be watered only on alternate days, so D is correct.

Your score on this test is based on the number of questions you answer correctly. Try to answer every question. Don't spend too much time on any one question.

When you begin, be sure to start with Question 1 in Part 4 of your test booklet and Question 1 in Part 4 on your answer sheet.



IF YOU FINISH BEFORE THE TIME IS UP, YOU MAY
CHECK OVER YOUR WORK ON THIS PART ONLY.

Part 4

Paragraph Comprehension

Time: 13 minutes; 15 questions

1. *Therapeutic* drug use helps people. Drug *misuse* and *abuse* harms people. *Drug misuse* happens when a drug is used in a way in which it was not meant to be used. For example, a person might use pain medication to feel good, not to control pain. *Drug abuse* happens when a person feels that they *must* use a drug, regardless of the consequences.

According to this passage:

- (A) All drug use is harmful.
 (B) No difference exists between drug misuse and drug abuse.
 (C) Drug use can sometimes help people.
 (D) Drug abuse is a serious problem in this country.

2. The U.S. Congress consists of 100 senators and 435 representatives. Two senators are elected from each state. The number of representatives from each state is based on population, although each state has at least one representative. Senators serve six-year terms and representatives serve two-year terms.

According to this passage:

- (A) There are an equal number of senators and representatives.
 (B) The number of representatives from each state is decided by a lottery.
 (C) It is possible for a state to have no representatives.
 (D) Senators and representatives have different term lengths.

3. Indo-European languages consist of those languages spoken by most of Europe and in those parts of the world that Europeans have colonized since the 16th century (such as the United States). Indo-European languages are also spoken in India, Iran, parts of western Afghanistan, and in some areas of Asia.

The author of this passage would agree that

- (A) Indo-European languages are spoken in areas all over the world.

- (B) Indo-European languages include all the languages spoken in the world.
 (C) only Europeans speak Indo-European languages.
 (D) Indo-European language speakers can easily understand one another.

4. In the process of digestion, proteins are broken down in the stomach and in the small intestine. Carbohydrates are mainly broken down in the small intestine. Fats are broken down by the movement of the stomach and by enzymes in the stomach and the small intestine.

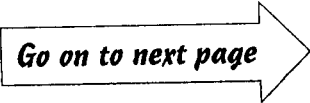
This paragraph best supports the statement that

- (A) the process of digestion occurs only in the stomach.
 (B) proteins, carbohydrates, and fats are mostly broken down in the stomach and the small intestine.
 (C) proteins are more difficult to break down than carbohydrates.
 (D) fats can only be broken down by stomach movement.

5. Studies have shown that most employees are not highly motivated by money. Enjoyment of their work and recognition for a job well done are greater predictors of job satisfaction than salary is.

From this passage, it is reasonable to assume:

- (A) An employer can improve employee morale by offering a 4% raise in salary.
 (B) Job satisfaction can be guaranteed by recognizing employees for their good work.
 (C) A person who enjoys her work and is regularly recognized for her good work is likely to be satisfied with her job.
 (D) Employers can do more to make certain that people enjoy their jobs.

Go on to next page 

6. Cloud seeding is accomplished by dropping particles of dry ice (solid carbon dioxide) from a plane onto super-cooled clouds. This process encourages condensation of water droplets in the clouds, which usually, but not always, results in rain or snow.

From this passage, it is reasonable to assume:

- (A) Cloud seeding could be used to end a drought.
 - (B) Cloud seeding is prohibitively expensive.
 - (C) Cloud seeding is rarely used.
 - (D) Cloud seeding can be accomplished using regular ice.
7. The ability to communicate clearly and effectively is important to career success. Many business people invest time and energy improving their public speaking skills, but they don't spend much time improving their writing skills, even though writing skills are equally necessary for good communication.
- The main point of this passage is:
- (A) Most business people are already good writers and don't need additional instruction.
 - (B) More business people should invest time and energy improving their speaking skills.
 - (C) Both writing and speaking skills are necessary for good communication.
 - (D) It's pointless for business people to spend time improving their writing skills.
8. The transistor, a small, solid-state device that can amplify sound, was invented in 1947. At first, it was too expensive and too difficult to produce to be used in cheap, mass-market products. By 1954, though, these cost and production problems had been overcome, and the first transistor radio was put on the market.

According to this passage:

- (A) There was no market for transistors before 1954.
- (B) When transistors could be produced cheaply and easily, the transistor radio was put on the market.

(C) Transistors were invented in 1947 by order of the Department of Defense.

(D) Transistors are still expensive to produce.

9. The Running of the Bulls is a wildly popular tradition in which a handful of bulls chase willing participants through the streets of Pamplona, Spain, often resulting in injury to some of the participants. A 900-yard course through the center of town leads to the bullring where bullfights are staged. A series of runs occur in July each year.

This passage best supports which statement:

- (A) The Running of the Bulls is a dying tradition.
 - (B) The bulls are free to run anywhere in the town.
 - (C) The Running of the Bulls can be dangerous.
 - (D) The Running of the Bulls is held at different times and places each year.
10. Surveys show that the average child under the age of 18 watches four hours of television per day. Although some of the programming may be educational, most is not. Spending this much time watching television interferes with a child's ability to pursue other interests, such as reading, participating in sports, and playing with friends.
- The author of this passage would agree that
- (A) television viewing should be restricted.
 - (B) parents who let their children watch this much television are neglectful.
 - (C) reading, participating in sports, playing with friends, and watching television should all be given equal time.
 - (D) adults over 18 can watch as much television as they want.

Questions 11 and 12 are based on the following passage.

High school and college graduates attempting to find jobs should participate in mock job interviews. These mock interviews help students prepare for the types of questions they'll be asked, make them more comfortable with common interview formats, and help them critique their performance before facing a real interviewer. Because they're such a valuable aid, schools should organize mock job interviews for all of their graduating students.

11. The above passage states that mock job interviews
- (A) frighten students.
 - (B) should be offered to the best students.
 - ✓(C) help prepare students for real job interviews.
 - (D) should be organized by students.
12. From the above passage, it is reasonable to assume that
- ✓(A) mock interviews can increase a student's confidence when he or she goes into a real job interview.
 - (B) mock interviews are expensive to organize.
 - (C) few students are interested in mock interviews.
 - (D) students don't need job-interview preparation.

Questions 13–15 are based on the following passage.

Due process, the guarantee of fairness in the administration of justice, is part of the 5th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The 14th Amendment further requires states to abide by due process. After this amendment was enacted, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down many state laws that infringed on the civil rights guaranteed to citizens in the Bill of Rights.

13. According to the above passage, due process
- (A) is an outdated concept.
 - ✓(B) guarantees fairness in the justice system.
 - (C) never became part of the U.S. Constitution.
 - (D) is the process by which winning lottery tickets are selected.
14. According to the above passage, it is reasonable to assume that the 5th Amendment
- (A) is about taxes.
 - (B) guarantees due process in all criminal and civil cases.
 - ✓(C) guarantees due process in federal law.
 - (D) should never have become part of the Bill of Rights.
15. The author of the above passage would agree that
- ✓(A) without the passage of the 14th Amendment, many laws restricting civil rights would still exist in various states.
 - (B) the Supreme Court overstepped its jurisdiction when it struck down laws infringing on citizens' civil rights.
 - (C) the Supreme Court had every right to strike down state laws before the passage of the 14th Amendment.
 - (D) the 14th Amendment was opposed by all states.



IF YOU FINISH BEFORE THE TIME IS UP, YOU MAY CHECK OVER YOUR WORK ON THIS PART ONLY.

24. B. Determine the cost of each option. Choice A doesn't provide enough paint (2×25 gallons = 50 gallons). Choice B: $11 \times \$108 = \$1,188$. Choice C: $6 \times \$215 = \$1,290$. Choice D: $55 \times \$23 = \$1,265$. The lowest price is \$1,188.
25. D. Divide 532 by 4 to determine how many feet of shelving will be needed.
26. D. The train headed for Wichita traveled 55 miles per hour \times 3 hours = 165 total miles. The train headed for Des Moines traveled 70 miles per hour \times 3 hours = 210 total miles. Adding the distances together gives you the number of miles apart the two trains were after three hours: $210 + 165 = 375$. Another option: You can add the two rates of speed ($55 + 70$) and multiply the sum by 3 hours (125×3 hours = 375).
27. A. Convert the mixed number to inches. 3 feet 8 inches equals 44 inches (12 inches per foot \times 3 feet = 36 inches + 8 inches = 44 inches). 44 inches (length each section needs to be) \times 4 (number of sections needed) = 176 inches (total molding needed). To determine the amount of molding needed in feet, convert 176 inches into feet by dividing 176 inches by 12 inches. You get $14\frac{2}{3}$ feet, so the shortest board length is 15 feet.
28. A. One turkey breast costs \$8.50 minus 10% of \$8.50, or $\$8.50 - \$0.85 = \$7.65$. The other turkey breast is full price. $\$7.65 + \$8.50 = \$16.15$.
29. C. Don't let the number of miles traveled confuse you — you don't use them to solve the problem. $\frac{3}{5}$ of a 40-hour workweek is $\frac{3}{5} \times 40\% = 80\%$. Reduce the fraction: $80 \div 5 = 16$ hours per week spent traveling.
30. A. Simply add the cost of all the items: $\$23.00 + \$14.95 + \$7.98 + \$7.98 = \$53.91$.

Part 3: Word Knowledge Answers

Scoring well on the Word Knowledge subtest is crucial to your enlistment and career plans. The Word Knowledge subtest makes up part of the Armed Forces Qualifying Test (AFQT), and your score on this determines if you can even enlist in the military. If your score is weak in this area, spend time reviewing the material and improving your vocabulary (see Chapter 4).

- | | | | | |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. B | 8. D | 15. D | 22. C | 29. C |
| 2. A | 9. D | 16. A | 23. A | 30. B |
| 3. D | 10. A | 17. C | 24. D | 31. A |
| 4. B | 11. C | 18. B | 25. D | 32. D |
| 5. D | 12. C | 19. B | 26. D | 33. C |
| 6. C | 13. B | 20. A | 27. A | 34. A |
| 7. B | 14. D | 21. B | 28. C | 35. A |

Part 4: Paragraph Comprehension Answers

The Paragraph Comprehension subtest can be a bit tricky. But you need to get a good score on this subtest to enlist and get the career you want. So pay special attention if you've missed more than a couple of these answers — you need some study time (see Chapter 5). Remember that rereading the paragraph several times to make sure that you have the right answer is perfectly fine.

1. C. The passage states that drug use can be helpful, so Choice A is incorrect. The passage defines differences between misuse and abuse, so Choice B is wrong. Although it may be true, the passage doesn't mention Choice D.

2. **D.** The passage gives the numbers of senators and representatives, so Choice A is incorrect. The passage states that each state's population determines the number of representatives a state has, so Choice B is incorrect. The passage says that each state has at least one representative, so Choice C is incorrect.
3. **A.** Many languages are excluded from the Indo-European language group, so Choice B is incorrect. Indians, Iranians, Asians, and Afghans aren't Europeans, so Choice C is incorrect. The passage gives no evidence to support Choice D, which is not true.
4. **B.** The passage shows that digestion also occurs in the small intestine, making Choice A incorrect. Nothing in the passage supports Choice C. The passage states that stomach movement and enzymes break fats down, so Choice D is incorrect.
5. **C.** The passage states that money isn't a motivator — Choice A is incorrect. Recognizing the good work of employees is only part of the job-satisfaction equation, so Choice B is incorrect. Although Choice D may be true, it's not supported in the paragraph.
6. **A.** One can assume that causing rain or snow would end a drought. Nothing in the passage has to do with expense, so Choice B is incorrect. The passage says nothing about how frequently the process is used, so Choice C is incorrect. The passage specifies that dry ice (solid carbon dioxide) is used; solid water (regular ice) is a different chemical, so Choice D is wrong.
7. **C.** The passage doesn't say anything about people already being good writers, making Choice A incorrect. The passage states that business people already spend time and energy improving their speaking, but it doesn't state that more people should do so, so Choice B is incorrect. The passage says that business people don't spend much time improving their writing skills; it doesn't say anything about working to improve writing skills being a waste of time, so Choice D is incorrect.
8. **B.** Products with transistors weren't widely sold before 1954 because of the expense and difficulty of production, not because markets didn't exist, so Choice A is incorrect. Choices C and D aren't supported in the passage. The passage states that the problem of transistors being expensive and difficult to produce was solved by 1954.
9. **C.** The passage says the tradition is still wildly popular, so Choice A is incorrect. The passage states that a course is set through the center of the city, making Choice B incorrect. The passage states that the run is held in Pamplona in July of each year, so Choice D is incorrect.
10. **A.** The author makes no reference to parents in the passage, so Choice B is incorrect. The author doesn't imply anything about all these interests requiring equal time, so Choice C is incorrect. The passage is about children under 18; no conclusion can be drawn about what the author thinks people over 18 should do, so Choice D is incorrect.
11. **C.** The passage doesn't say anything about mock job interviews being frightening, so Choice A is wrong. The passage says that mock job interviews should be available to all students, so Choice B is wrong. The passage says that schools, not students, should organize mock interviews, so Choice D is incorrect.
12. **A.** Choices B, C, and D are the opposite of what the paragraph states and implies.
13. **B.** Nothing in the paragraph supports Choice A, which is incorrect. When an amendment is passed, it becomes part of the Constitution, so Choice C is incorrect. The passage doesn't support Choice D.
14. **C.** Because the 14th Amendment guarantees due process in states' laws, the 5th Amendment must guarantee due process only in federal law. Nothing in the passage implies that the 5th Amendment is about taxes, so Choice A is wrong. Because the passage states that the 14th Amendment had to be enacted to require states to abide by due process, Choice B is incorrect. Choice D is neither stated nor implied in the passage.
15. **A.** Because the Supreme Court struck down many state laws after the 14th Amendment was enacted, it's probably true that these laws would still exist if there had been no 14th Amendment. The passage doesn't support Choices B, C, or D.

Part 4

Paragraph Comprehension

Directions

This test contains 15 items measuring your ability to understand what you read. This section includes one or more paragraphs of reading material followed by incomplete statements or questions. Read the paragraph and select the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question. Try the following sample questions:

- S1. A bar code consists of a printed series of wide, vertical lines that represent a numerical code. The Universal Product Code (UPC) is the standard bar-code format that lists the manufacturer's identification number and a product identification number. An optical scanner can read the bar code and the attached computer can match the product number with a list in its database.

According to this passage, a bar code

- (A) is the same thing as a UPC.
- (B) is an optical scanner.
- (C) is put on products to discourage forgery.
- (D) represents a numerical code.

The passage states that a bar code represents a numerical code, so D is correct.

- S2. Alexander Hamilton established the first Bank of the United States in 1791. Its purpose was to help finance industrial expansion. However, many politicians opposed national banks. Because of this opposition, the bank was closed in 1811.

According to this passage:

- (A) Politicians opposed industrial expansion.
- (B) The Bank of the United States was one of many national banks established in the 18th century.
- (C) The purpose of the bank was to finance industrial expansion.
- (D) The bank closed in 1811 owing to a lack of customers.

The passage states that the purpose of the first Bank of the United States was to help finance industrial expansion, so C is correct.

Your score on this test is based on the number of questions you answer correctly. Try to answer every question. Don't spend too much time on any one question.

When you begin, be sure to start with Question 1 in Part 4 of your test booklet and Question 1 in Part 4 on your answer sheet.



IF YOU FINISH BEFORE THE TIME IS UP, YOU MAY CHECK OVER YOUR WORK ON THIS PART ONLY.

Part 4**Paragraph Comprehension**

Time: 13 minutes; 15 questions

1. Scientists believe that a black hole is created when a supernova from a large star collapses on itself. This collapse causes a gravitational field that grows more and more intense until nothing can escape from its pull, not even light. It is thought that the universe may end as a black hole.

According to this passage:

- (A) A black hole emits light.
 - (B) A supernova is a black hole.
 - ✓(C) The gravitational field of a black hole allows nothing to escape.
 - (D) The universe was created by a black hole.
2. The supply-and-demand theory of economics states that, when people want a product (demand) and the product is scarce (supply), the price of the product will go up; when people don't want a product or when the product is plentiful, the price will go down.
- According to this passage:
- (A) Supply and demand are always constant.
 - ✓(B) The price of a product can change depending on supply and demand.
 - (C) Demand drives the price of a product down.
 - (D) People lose interest in scarce products.
3. The Panama Canal is a ship canal that cuts through the Isthmus of Panama, connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Although several foreign companies tried to build the canal throughout the 19th century, none were successful. After the U.S. helped Panama revolt against Columbia, the U.S. was given rights to the land the canal would occupy. The U.S. government finished the canal in 1914.

According to this passage:

- (A) Panama and Columbia fought a war over the Panama Canal.
 - ✓(B) The U.S. was given rights to the canal land.
 - (C) Foreign companies built the canal before the U.S. stepped in.
 - (D) Panama built the canal in 1914.
4. Rocky structures formed in limestone caves are called stalactites and stalagmites. Stalactites grow downward from the roof of the cave and stalagmites grow upward. They are caused by rainwater seeping through the rock and leaving calcite deposits behind.

According to this passage:

- ✓(A) Stalactites and stalagmites are caused by the same phenomenon.
 - (B) Calcite deposits are left behind by careless visitors.
 - (C) "Stalagmite" and "stalactite" are two words for the same thing.
 - (D) Stalactites and stalagmites can cause a cave to collapse.
5. Medieval guilds were similar to modern-day labor unions. These groups of merchants or craftspeople set rules regarding economic activity in order to protect themselves. Some guilds held considerable economic power, but even small guilds protected members. Guilds also served a social purpose.
- According to this passage, guilds
- (A) had only one purpose.
 - (B) had little in common with modern labor unions.
 - (C) exploited workers.
 - ✓(D) held considerable economic power.

Go on to next page 

6. The Mississippi River is one of the world's largest rivers. It travels from Lake Itasca in northwest Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. It runs for nearly 2,350 miles and has more than 250 tributaries.

According to the above passage, the Mississippi River

- (A) starts in Mississippi.
✓(B) is one of the world's largest rivers.
(C) runs about 250 miles.
(D) has the Gulf of Mexico as a tributary.
7. An ex-post-facto law is a law applied retroactively. Usually it makes an act illegal that was legal at the time it was performed. The U.S. Constitution prohibits ex-post-facto criminal laws, although the British Commonwealth allows them.

According to this passage, it can be assumed that

- (A) ex-post-facto laws are a problem in the United States.
(B) laws applied retroactively are fair.
✓(C) a person could be prosecuted for an act that was not a crime when he or she did it.
(D) retroactive laws are illegal in the British Commonwealth.
8. Troy weight is based on a pound of 12 ounces and an ounce of 480 grains. Common, or avoirdupois, weight is based on a pound having 16 ounces and an ounce having 437.5 grains. A common pound has 7,000 grains while a troy pound has 5,760.

According to this passage:

- ✓(A) A troy pound is smaller than a common pound.
(B) A troy pound and a common pound are the same weight.
(C) Common weight and avoirdupois weight are different measures.
(D) A troy ounce is smaller than a common ounce.

9. Greek Revival was an architecture style that was popular in Europe and the United States during the late 18th and 19th centuries. It emphasized modeling buildings on Classical designs. It was part of the Neoclassical art movement, which tried to recapture the style and spirit of ancient Greece.

According to this passage:

- (A) Greek Revival was an art and architecture style popular in ancient Greece.
✓(B) Greek Revival buildings are modeled on Classical designs.
(C) Neoclassical and Greek Revival are two very different types of art.
(D) Greek Revival buildings were expensive to build and maintain.

10. Leukemia is a blood disease in which white blood cells in the blood or bone marrow reproduce rapidly, interfering with the body's ability to produce red blood cells. Red blood cells are needed to perform vital bodily functions.

According to this passage:

- (A) White blood cells perform no vital function in the body.
(B) There is no treatment for leukemia.
✓(C) Leukemia makes it hard for the body to produce red blood cells.
(D) White blood cells are found only in the blood.

Questions 11 and 12 are based on the following passage.

James Naismith invented basketball in 1891 as a way to occupy students between football and baseball seasons. He was a student at the YMCA training camp in Springfield, Massachusetts, when he responded to a request to create a sport that could be played in the late winter and early spring. Later, Naismith became a physical-education teacher at the University of Kansas, where a campus building is named after him.

11. According to the passage above:
- (A) James Naismith invented basketball on a dare.
 - (B) James Naismith was not the founder of basketball after all.
 - (C) James Naismith was a teacher at the University of Kansas when he invented basketball.
 - ✓(D) James Naismith invented basketball in 1891.
12. According to the passage above, James Naismith invented basketball because
- (A) he wanted to create a sport in which tall students could excel.
 - (B) he was bad at football and golf and wanted to invent a sport he could play.
 - ✓(C) students needed a sport to occupy their time between football and baseball seasons.
 - (D) he had to invent a sport to pass his final exams.

Questions 13 through 15 are based on the following passage.

Genetics is a branch of science dealing with heredity. The field is concerned with how genes operate and the way genes are transmitted to offspring. Subdivisions in the field include cytogenetics, which is the study of the cellular basis of inheritance; microbial genetics, the study of inheritance in microbes; molecular genetics, the study of the biochemical foundation of inheritance; and human genetics, the study of how people inherit traits that are medically and socially important. Genetic counselors are primarily concerned with human genetics. They advise couples and families on the chances of their offspring having specific genetic defects.

13. In the passage above, cytogenetics is defined as:
- (A) the study of the psychological impact of genetics
 - ✓(B) the study of the cellular foundation of genetics
 - (C) the study of molecular genetics
 - (D) the study of human genetics
14. According to the passage above, genetics
- ✓(A) concerns how genes operate and how they're passed along.
 - (B) is a field of study populated by quacks, fakes, and frauds.
 - (C) is a field of study only concerned with human genetics.
 - (D) is a new field of study.
15. According to the passage above, it is reasonable to assume that genetic counseling
- (A) is restricted to the very rich.
 - (B) is used to diagnose diseases.
 - ✓(C) can be used by parents to learn if their offspring are likely to inherit a disease one of the parents has.
 - (D) can be used by parents to prevent their offspring from inheriting a specific genetic defect.



IF YOU FINISH BEFORE THE TIME IS UP, YOU MAY CHECK OVER YOUR WORK ON THIS PART ONLY.

Part 4: Paragraph Comprehension Answers

Doing well on this subtest is really important if you want to enlist in the military — your Paragraph Comprehension score counts toward your AFQT score. If you're still missing more answers than you should, concentrate on improving your analytical-reading skills as you prepare to take the third sample ASVAB. (Review the information in Chapter 5, too.) For example, when you're reading the evening newspaper, ask yourself what the main point of an article is. Or, when you finish a news story, set the paper down and try to remember what the president said about the budget deficit. Think of this technique as a workout for your mind.

1. **C.** Nothing escapes from a black hole, including light, so Choice A is incorrect. A black hole occurs when a supernova collapses, but they're not the same thing, so Choice B is incorrect. The passage states that the universe might end as a black hole, not that a black hole created the universe, so Choice D is incorrect.
2. **B.** The passage states that supply and demand can go up or down, so Choice A is incorrect. The passage also states that demand drives prices up, so Choice C is incorrect. The passage doesn't support Choice D.
3. **B.** The passage states that Panama revolted against Columbia, not that they fought over the canal, so Choice A is incorrect. The passage states that the foreign companies were unsuccessful in building the canal, so Choice C is incorrect. The United States, not Panama, built the canal, so Choice D is wrong.
4. **A.** Rainwater, not careless visitors, leaves calcite behind, so Choice B is incorrect. The passage describes the difference between stalagmites and stalactites, so Choice C is incorrect. The passage doesn't support the statement in Choice D.
5. **D.** The passage states that guilds had economic and social purposes, so Choice A is incorrect. The passage states that guilds were similar to labor unions, so Choice B is incorrect. The passage states that guilds protected merchants and craftspeople; it says nothing about exploiting workers, so Choice C is incorrect.
6. **B.** Because the passage states that the river begins in northwest Minnesota, Choice A is incorrect. The river runs almost 2,350 miles, not 250 miles, so Choice C is incorrect. The Gulf of Mexico is where the river ends; it's not a tributary, so Choice D is wrong.
7. **C.** Because the U.S. Constitution prohibits these kinds of laws, Choice A is incorrect. The passage doesn't support Choice B. The passage states that the British Commonwealth allows ex-post-facto laws, so Choice D is incorrect.
8. **A.** The passage describes how troy and common weight are different, so Choice B is incorrect. Common and avoirdupois are the same system, so Choice C is incorrect. A troy ounce is larger than a common ounce, so Choice D is incorrect.
9. **B.** Greek Revival was popular in 18th- and 19th-century America and Europe, not ancient Greece, so Choice A is incorrect. Neoclassical and Greek Revival are related, so Choice C is incorrect. The passage doesn't support Choice D.
10. **C.** The passage doesn't support Choices A or B. The passage states that white blood cells are found in blood and bone marrow, so Choice D is wrong.
11. **D.** Naismith invented basketball by request, not on a dare, so Choice A is incorrect. Naismith *is* the inventor of basketball, so Choice B is wrong. Naismith was a student in Massachusetts when he invented basketball, so Choice C is wrong.
12. **C.** The passage doesn't support Choices A, B, or D.
13. **B.** Cytogenetics is the study of the cellular basis of inheritance; the text doesn't support Choices A, C, or D.
14. **A.** Nothing in the passage supports Choices B or D. Although human genetics is an important subfield of genetics, nothing in the passage suggests that it's the only concern of geneticists. Microbial genetics, as mentioned in the passage, is a subfield in genetics that has nothing to do with humans, so Choice C is incorrect.
15. **C.** Nothing in the passage supports Choices A, B, or D.

Part 4

Paragraph Comprehension

Directions

This test contains 15 items measuring your ability to understand what you read. This section includes one or more paragraphs of reading material followed by incomplete statements or questions. Read the paragraph and select the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question. Mark your choice on your answer sheet using the correct letter with each question number. Try the following sample questions:

- S1. A job-application letter should showcase the writer's skills. It should be written clearly and logically. It should get to the point and be free from grammar errors and spelling mistakes.
- According to this passage, a job-application letter
- (A) should be an in-depth, detailed explanation of why the writer should be hired.
 - (B) doesn't need to be proofread carefully unless you're applying for a job as a writer.
 - (C) should showcase the writer's skills.
 - (D) doesn't require much time or attention.

A job application should showcase the writer's skills, so C is the correct answer.

- S2. When chain-store executives investigate the possibility of locating a branch in a new city, they consider the population of the city, the costs of renting or buying an appropriate property, and the number of workers available in the area to staff the store.
- According to this passage, chain-store executives
- (A) rarely expand into new cities.
 - (B) conduct an investigation before expanding.
 - (C) rely on instinct to decide where to expand.
 - (D) can conduct a site investigation in less than two weeks.

A chain store conducts an investigation before expanding, so B is the correct answer.

Your score on this test is based on the number of questions you answer correctly. Try to answer every question. Don't spend too much time on any one question.

When you begin, be sure to start with Question 1 in Part 4 of your test booklet and Question 1 in Part 4 on your answer sheet.



IF YOU FINISH BEFORE THE TIME IS UP, YOU MAY
CHECK OVER YOUR WORK ON THIS PART ONLY.

Part 4**Paragraph Comprehension**

Time: 13 minutes; 15 questions

1. When deciding whether to remodel, a homeowner must take into consideration the cost of remodeling, the value he or she will receive from remodeling, and the likelihood that the remodeling effort will increase the home's market value.

According to the passage:

- (A) Before remodeling, a homeowner should call several contractors.
- ✓(B) A homeowner should consider several factors carefully before making the decision to remodel.
- (C) Improving a home's resale value is not a consideration when deciding to remodel.
- (D) The cost of remodeling is the most important consideration in the decision to remodel.

2. Cougars are the most wide-ranging big cats in North America, inhabiting a wide variety of environments. A cougar, also called a puma or a mountain lion, lives about 18 years in the wild, can jump 20 feet (in distance) at a time, and can range 50 miles when on the prowl for food.

According to this passage:

- (A) A cougar is not the same thing as a mountain lion.
- (B) Cougars are an endangered species.
- ✓(C) Cougars live in many areas of North America.
- (D) Cougars live only a few years in the wild.

3. The Enlightenment was an intellectual movement during the mid-18th century that emphasized the development of science and empirical evidence. It relied on reason and logic to explain natural phenomena.

According to this passage:

- (A) The Enlightenment was a movement that emphasized getting in touch with your feelings.
- ✓(B) Intellectual achievement in the mid-18th century emphasized the development of science.

(C) Reason and logic cannot explain natural phenomena.

(D) The Enlightenment was a style of painting.

4. Many small cities and towns rely on volunteer fire departments to put out fires. A professional fire department, however, has more training, more expertise, and more experience in fighting fires and investigating their causes. In many cases, it is worthwhile for even very small towns to hire professional firefighters.

According to this passage, it would be reasonable to assume that

- ✓(A) volunteer firefighters have less training, expertise, and experience than professional firefighters.
- (B) volunteer firefighters have the skills and resources to investigate the causes of fires.
- (C) professional firefighters don't know what causes fires.
- (D) a professional fire department is cost prohibitive for small towns.

5. A normal pulse rate for an adult is between 68 and 80 beats per minute. Athletes sometimes have slower rates. Sickness, fever, anxiety, and heart conditions can increase the rate. The loss of a pulse may mean that an artery is blocked or the heart has stopped.

According to this passage:

- (A) It is dangerous to have a pulse rate lower than 68.
- ✓(B) Sickness and other conditions can alter the pulse rate.
- (C) Athletes sometimes experience the loss of a pulse.
- (D) Pulse rate is measured in pounds per square inch.

Go on to next page

6. Epidemiology is the study of what causes diseases; injuries, and other physiological damage to humans and why such problems occur. Epidemiologists examine where and when disease outbreaks occur. Using statistics and other scientific methods, epidemiologists determine what factors affect the frequency and severity of disease patterns. The primary goal of epidemiology is to control or prevent outbreaks of disease — other goals are subordinate.

What would be the best title for this passage?

- (A) Epidemiology: The Study of Disease Patterns
 - (B) Goals for the Future of Epidemiology
 - (C) Using Statistical Methods in Epidemiology
 - (D) Employment Outlook for Epidemiologists
7. A survey showed that college students say that computer skills have helped them succeed in their college classes more than any other type of college-prep skill. A majority of students say classes in computer skills should be required at the high-school level.
- According to this passage, college students think that
- (A) computer skills will be helpful in the real world.
 - (B) high schools should require computer-skills classes.
 - (C) other college-prep skills have helped them more than computer skills have.
 - (D) computer skills are overrated.

Questions 8 and 9 are based on the following passage.

Many criminal-law statutes permit more severe punishment of a person convicted of a crime if he or she intended to harm another person. For example, voluntary manslaughter carries a heavier penalty than involuntary manslaughter in most states. Planned crimes are also punished more severely than spur-of-the-moment crimes.

The problem is that juries find it difficult to know what the intent of a person was at the time he or she committed a crime. Many defendants will deny that they intended to harm the other person and claim that any harm that occurred was "accidental." The law asks too much of juries when it expects them to determine what a person was thinking. Juries should only be asked to weigh objective evidence.

8. The author of this passage would agree that
- (A) laws should not punish people based on intention.
 - (B) juries are not intelligent enough to weigh evidence.
 - (C) more laws should distinguish between crimes committed with intent and crimes committed on the spur of the moment.
 - (D) lawyers will lie about anything.
9. According to this passage:
- (A) Most states do not distinguish between voluntary and involuntary manslaughter.
 - (B) Punishing people more severely for voluntary manslaughter is unconstitutional.
 - (C) It is difficult for juries to determine a defendant's intentions at the time a crime was committed.
 - (D) Prosecutors can, through careful questioning, show a defendant's intention at the time a crime was committed.

Questions 10 through 12 are based on the following passage.

Ergonomics is the science of designing and arranging workspaces so that people and objects interact efficiently and safely. Lack of attention to ergonomics causes thousands of workers to suffer repetitive stress injury, eye fatigue, muscle soreness, and many other medical problems each year.

Go on to next page 

Adequate lighting, well-designed chairs, and clutter-free work areas contribute to effective ergonomic design. The opportunity to take short breaks every hour or two, especially for desk-bound workers, is also helpful. It is also important for workers to avoid performing the same movements over and over for hours at a time. Variety in the type of work being done can decrease the chance of injury.

10. According to this passage:
- (A) Ergonomics can cause injuries.
 - (B) Ergonomics is about designing and arranging workspaces efficiently and safely.
 - (C) Ergonomics is expensive and time consuming.
 - (D) Few people experience problems due to poor ergonomics.
11. According to this passage:
- (A) Adequate lighting and well-designed chairs, although important, have nothing to do with ergonomics.
 - (B) Repetition in the type of work a person does helps them accomplish their tasks safely and efficiently.
 - (C) Short breaks are not important for desk-bound employees because they do little heavy labor.
 - (D) Ergonomic design also includes keeping work areas well lit and clutter free.
12. According to this passage, it is reasonable to assume that
- (A) employers should invest in ergonomic design to protect workers.
 - (B) lack of ergonomic design is not dangerous.
 - (C) labor unions have opposed ergonomic design.
 - (D) poor design is responsible for most employee accidents.

Questions 13 through 15 are based on the following passage.

Electricity is the most inefficient and costly way to heat a home. One kilowatt-hour of electricity creates about 3,400 British thermal units. (BTUs are a standard heat measurement.) The price of electricity per kilowatt-hour is between \$0.10 and \$0.25, or between \$29.35 and \$73.13 per million BTUs.

In contrast, fuel oil, which produces 140,000 BTUs per gallon, costs about \$8.33 to \$13.89 per million BTUs. Natural gas, which produces 100,000 BTUs per therm, can be purchased for \$5.00 to \$22.50 per million BTUs. Oak firewood, which produces 26,000,000 BTUs per cord, costs \$5.77 to \$13.46 per million BTUs.

Choosing the right heating method for your home, based on the cost of fuel, may be more expensive at installation but will be cheaper in the long run.

13. According to the above passage, a BTU
- (A) is an unusual method of measuring heat.
 - (B) stands for "British thermal unit."
 - (C) is the abbreviation for a "big thermal unit."
 - (D) can heat a 9-x-12 room.
14. According to the above passage:
- (A) Heating with fuel oil is always cheaper than other methods.
 - (B) Oak firewood produces fewer BTUs per dollar than the other types of fuel.
 - (C) Natural gas costs more than all other fuels except oak firewood.
 - (D) Electricity is always the most expensive way to heat a house.
15. The title of this passage should be:
- (A) Choosing the Right Heating Method
 - (B) Heating Methods for Houses
 - (C) Know Your BTUs
 - (D) Price List for Fuel



IF YOU FINISH BEFORE THE TIME IS UP, YOU MAY CHECK OVER YOUR WORK ON THIS PART ONLY.

1. A	8. D	15. D	22. A	29. D
2. D	9. B	16. B	23. C	30. C
3. A	10. A	17. C	24. D	31. C
4. B	11. D	18. D	25. D	32. A
5. C	12. A	19. B	26. D	33. B
6. C	13. D	20. B	27. B	34. C
7. A	14. C	21. A	28. C	35. B

Part 4: Paragraph Comprehension Answers

Because the military bigwigs use the Paragraph Comprehension subtest to determine if you even qualify for enlistment (it counts toward your AFQT score), you need to do well here. If you're still struggling, remember to take your time when you read the passages. And, after you read each question, you can quickly reread the passage just to make sure you're on the money. The information is in the paragraph; you just have to concentrate to pull it out. Turn to Chapter 5 if you still need additional help to pull off a good score on this subtest.

- B.** Although Choice A may be true, the passage doesn't mention it. The passage states that the home's resale value *is* a consideration, so Choice C is incorrect. The cost of the remodel is only one of several factors to consider, so Choice D is incorrect.
- C.** The passage states that pumas, mountain lions, and cougars are the same thing, so Choice A is incorrect. Nothing in the passage supports Choice B. The passage states that cougars live about 18 years in the wild, so Choice D is incorrect.
- B.** As the paragraph states, the Enlightenment was an intellectual movement that emphasized science, reason, and logic, so Choice A is incorrect. The passage says reason and logic were used to explain natural phenomenon, not that they couldn't explain natural phenomenon, so Choice C is incorrect. The Enlightenment was an intellectual movement, not an artistic movement, so Choice D is incorrect.
- A.** The passage says that professionals, not volunteers, have the skills needed to investigate fires, so Choice B is incorrect. The passage states that professional firefighters have more experience investigating the causes of fires, so Choice C is incorrect. The passage states that hiring professional firefighters is worthwhile, so Choice D is incorrect.
- B.** Although the passage states that 68 to 80 beats per minute is the normal pulse rate, nothing in the passage suggests that a lower rate is dangerous, so Choice A is incorrect. The passage states that athletes have slower pulses, not loss of a pulse, so Choice C is incorrect. Pulse rate is measured in beats per minute, so Choice D is wrong.
- A.** The main point of the passage is to define epidemiology. Choices B, C, and D aren't the main points of the passage.
- B.** Choice A may be true, but the passage doesn't support the statement, so it's incorrect. The passage says that college students think computer skills have been more helpful than other skills, so Choice C is incorrect. The passage states that college students think that computer skills have helped them in their class work, so Choice D is incorrect.
- A.** Choice B isn't supported by the passage. Choice C is the opposite of what the author argues. The text doesn't support Choice D.
- C.** The passage says that most states punish voluntary manslaughter more severely than involuntary manslaughter, so Choice A is incorrect. The argument that punishing people more severely for voluntary manslaughter is unconstitutional isn't made in the passage, so Choice B is incorrect. The passage doesn't support Choice D.

10. B. Lack of attention to ergonomics, not ergonomics itself, can cause injury, so Choice A is incorrect. The passage doesn't support Choice C. The passage states that many people suffer injuries when sufficient attention isn't paid to ergonomics, so Choice D is incorrect.
11. D. The passage states that adequate lighting and well-designed chairs are part of ergonomic design, so Choice A is incorrect. The passage states that repetitious work can cause injury, so Choice B is incorrect. The passage states that desk-bound workers should take breaks, so Choice C is incorrect.
12. A. The passage makes it clear that lack of ergonomic design is dangerous, so Choice B is incorrect. Nothing in the passage supports Choice C. Although the passage claims that lack of ergonomic design causes injury, nothing in the passage supports Choice D.
13. B. The passage says that BTUs are the standard measure of heat, so Choice A is incorrect. BTU stands for British thermal unit, so Choice C is incorrect. Nothing in the passage supports Choice D.
14. D. The passage shows that fuel oil can be more expensive than other heating methods, so Choice A is incorrect. Oak firewood is sometimes less expensive than other types of fuel, so Choice B is incorrect. Natural gas can sometimes cost less than firewood, so Choice C is incorrect.
15. A. The main point of this passage deals with choosing the right fuel based on price; only Choice A summarizes this point. Choices B, C, and D are less important points.

Part 5: Numerical Operations Answers

If you're still missing answers on this subtest, you need to slow down and take your time. You're probably making simple mistakes that you can easily correct. If you take a deep breath and calmly approach this subtest, plowing through it will be easier. Consciously slow down; don't work in a panic. Take a look at Chapter 8 for hints on improving your Numerical Operations score.

1. D	11. B	21. D	31. C	41. C
2. B	12. C	22. C	32. C	42. B
3. A	13. C	23. B	33. C	43. A
4. C	14. B	24. B	34. B	44. D
5. C	15. A	25. D	35. C	45. D
6. A	16. C	26. A	36. A	46. C
7. D	17. C	27. D	37. D	47. D
8. B	18. A	28. A	38. B	48. B
9. C	19. C	29. B	39. C	49. A
10. C	20. D	30. D	40. A	50. A

Part 6: Coding Speed Answers

If you're still missing answers on the Coding Speed subtest, you're going too quickly and making avoidable mistakes. Slow it down a bit, and you'll get more answers right. Remember, on the Coding Speed subtest, a wrong answer *does* count against you. Check out Chapter 9 for more information on this subtest.

For this question, it is necessary to determine the proper lighting task for copying figures onto a payroll. This activity requires much more light than either “casual seeing” or “ordinary seeing.” As it is a “very difficult seeing” task, choice D is the correct answer.

5. It can be inferred from the passage above that a well-coordinated lighting scheme is likely to result in
- 5-A greater employee productivity.
 - 5-B lower lighting costs.
 - 5-C more use of natural light.
 - 5-D windowless offices.

In this question, there is no mention of lighting costs or the need for windowless offices in the reading passage. Nor is there any suggestion for greater use of natural light. Choices B, C, and D are therefore eliminated. If inadequate lighting is a common cause of fatigue, one can *infer* that proper lighting would eliminate this fatigue element and should result in greater employee productivity. Choice A is the correct answer.

Sample Questions

1. In the relations of man to nature, the procuring of food and shelter is fundamental. With the migration of man to various climates, ever-new adjustments to the food supply and to the climate became necessary.

According to the passage, the means by which man supplies his material needs are

- 1-A accidental.
 - 1-B inadequate.
 - 1-C limited.
 - ✓ 1-D varied.
2. From a building designer’s standpoint, three things that make a home livable are the needs of the client, the building site, and the amount of money the client has to spend.

According to the passage, to make a home livable,

- 2-A it can be built on any piece of land.
 - 2-B the design must fit the designer’s income.
 - ✓ 2-C the design must fit the owner’s income and site.
 - 2-D the prospective piece of land makes little difference.
3. Twenty-five percent of all household burglaries can be attributed to unlocked windows or doors. Crime is the result of opportunity plus desire. To prevent crime, it is each individual’s responsibility to
- 3-A provide the desire.
 - 3-B provide the opportunity.
 - 3-C prevent the desire.
 - ✓ 3-D prevent the opportunity.

4. In certain areas, water is so scarce that every attempt is made to conserve it. For instance, on one oasis in the Sahara Desert, the amount of water necessary for each date palm has been carefully determined.

How much water is each tree given?

- 4-A No water at all
- 4-B Water on alternate days
- ✓4-C Exactly the amount required
- 4-D Water only if it is healthy

Answers and Explanations

- 1-D The author talks about “adjustments” to the food supply and climate. Of the available choices, the only word related to adjustment is “varied.”
- 2-C The author mentions three necessary items; the needs of the clients, the building site, and amount of money available. Choice C is the only answer that contains any of these items.
- 3-D Choices A and B can be immediately eliminated, and since individuals cannot control the desires of burglars, choice D is the only logical answer.
- 4-C The only conclusion that can be drawn from information given is contained in choice C. The author talks about “...the amount of water necessary...” This is the key to the correct answer.