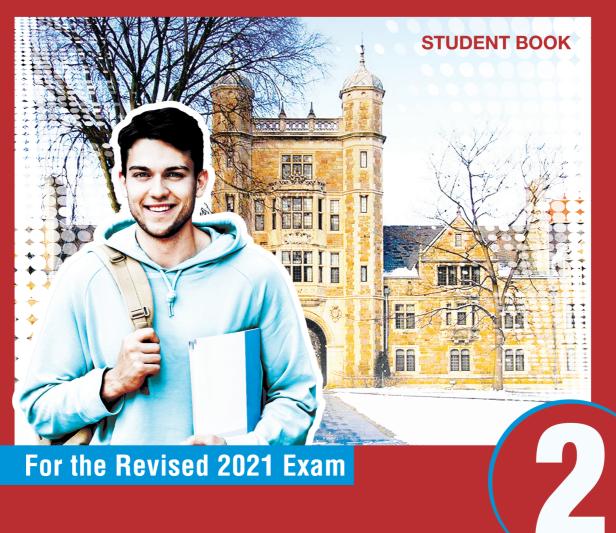
PRACTICE TESTSMichigan ECPE

Jenny Dooley





Express Publishing

Practice Test 1

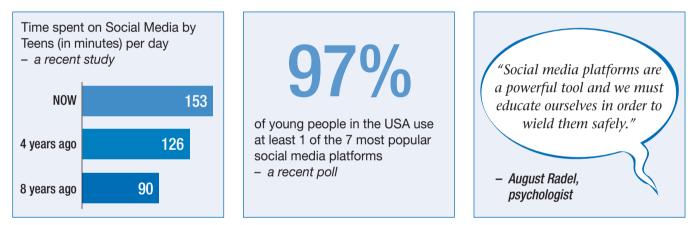
WRITING

Writing Instructions

- Choose either Task 1 (Article/Proposal) or Task 2 (Essay). Write on only ONE of these tasks.
- Once you have chosen your task, darken the circle for "Article/Proposal" or "Essay" on your writing answer document.
- You will have 45 minutes to write your answer.
- Use #2 (soft) pencil only.

- Use only the lines provided on the writing answer document to complete this section. You should write about two pages.
- Do not write your answer in this booklet.
- You will not be graded on the appearance of your paper, but your handwriting must be readable.

Writing Prompt

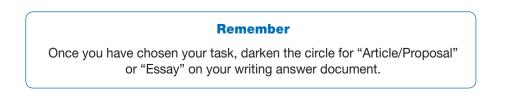


Task 1: Proposal

The company you work for wants to pay a teenage social media influencer to promote its products to teens. Some members of the marketing department are supportive of this idea, but others are not. Write a **proposal** to the president of the company evaluating the different options, and explain what you think should be done. Include at least one piece of information given above to support your response.

Task 2: Essay

With their scaring popularity, many young people sign up to social media platforms without being aware of the implications of their use. This can lead to health, social and privacy concerns. Write an **essay** addressing this problem, and what you think are some possible solutions. Include at least one piece of information given above to support your response.



LISTENING

Listening Section Instructions

This section of the test has three parts. Mark all your answers on the separate answer sheet. Do not make any stray marks on the answer sheet. If you change your mind about an answer, erase your first answer completely. If you do not know the answer, you may guess. Try to answer as many questions as possible.

Listening Test, Part 1

In this part, you will hear 20 short conversations. After each conversation, you will hear a question about it. You will hear each conversation and question once. The answer choices are printed in the test booklet. Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet, not in the test booklet. You should mark A, B, C, or D.

Do you have any questions?

- 1 What does the woman say about the article?
 - A. She agrees with its point of view.
 - B. It has completely changed her opinion.
 - C. It presents a coherent argument.
 - D. She has read it more than once.
- 2 How does the man feel?
 - A. indifferent about the outcome
 - B. completely self-assured
 - C. barely able to contain his anticipation
 - D. dubious about his chances
- 3 What does the woman suggest the man do?
 - A. stop chopping immediately
 - B. buy a brand-new knife
 - C. inquire about a sharpener
 - D. change his chopping technique
- 4 What does the woman think of the room?
 - A. The quality of the decorating isn't good.
 - B. It's not comfortably furnished.
 - C. The colors make her claustrophobic.
 - D. It would affect her mood.
- 5 What does the man imply about Thomas?
 - A. He was annoyed by the woman.
 - B. He always brings unusual things.
 - C. He was sure the tent would be useful.
 - D. He regrets arguing with the woman.
- 6 What will the man probably do later?
 - A. try on a different color sweater
 - B. drop off a package at the post office
 - C. take the sweater back to the store
 - D. clean out his closet and get rid of things

- 7 Why is the woman upset?
 - A. She didn't follow her intuition.
 - B. She lost a lot of money.
 - C. She will not be able to travel.
 - D. She had her heart set on a specific resort.
- 8 Why is the man talking to the woman?
 - A. to make a demand
 - B. to propose a solution
 - C. to raise an issue
 - D. to seek retribution
- 9 Why does the woman apologize to the man?
 - A. She forgot his name.
 - B. She mistook him for someone else.
 - C. She confused him with his twin.
 - D. She didn't remember meeting him.
- 10 What are the speakers mainly discussing?
 - A. satisfying their children
 - B. new developments in science
 - C. being caught off guard by a child
 - D. having problems communicating with children
- 11 Why is the boy asking the girl to be quiet?
 - A. He is attempting to study.
 - B. He doesn't want to talk to her.
 - C. He is concerned about bothering people.
 - D. He has already had a warning.
- 12 What does the woman say she wants to happen?
 - A. She wants restaurants to offer more options.
 - B. She wants the restaurant to serve a dish that she can eat.
 - C. She wants to go to a different restaurant in the future.
 - D. She wants everyone to stop eating meat.

LISTENING TEST, PART 1

- **13** What does the man say about his children?
 - A. They rarely get angry at each other.
 - B. He is glad they're argumentative.
 - C. They will learn to handle disagreements.
 - D. It's obvious that they're very close.
- 14 How will the man help the woman?
 - A. by carrying the bags
 - B. by giving her the keys
 - C. by locking up the car
 - D. by opening the door
- 15 Why is the man meeting the professor?
 - A. to propose a topic for his dissertation
 - B. to go over the contents of each chapter
 - C. to ask if an extension is possible
 - D. to get help with his thesis statement
- 16 What does the woman think about the man's idea?
 - A. She wonders where it came from.
 - B. She thinks the man must be dreaming.
 - C. She doubts if it would solve anything.
 - D. She wants to evaluate it.

- 17 What is the woman relieved about?
 - A. That the man likes her singing.
 - B. That the man is very relaxed.
 - C. That the man's problem isn't so serious.
 - D. That the man is in a good mood after all.
- 18 Why does the man mention his social security card?
 - A. to reassure the woman
 - B. to suggest a place to look
 - C. to express his concern
 - D. to hint that the woman's mistaken
- **19** What does the woman want to know?
 - A. the exact date of arrival
 - B. how she can change her schedule
 - C. the cost of expedited shipping
 - D. how to arrange a delivery
- 20 What will the boy probably do?
 - A. confront Melinda about the issue
 - B. bring the two girls together to resolve things
 - C. suggest the girl make a peace offering
 - D. take the girl's side in the disagreement

LISTENING

Listening Test, Part 2

In this part, you will hear three short talks. After each talk, you will hear six questions about it. Before each talk begins, you will have time to preview the questions that are printed in the test booklet.

You will hear each talk and the questions once. If you want to, you may take notes in your booklet as you listen. Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet, not in the test booklet. You should mark A, B, C, or D.

Do you have any questions?

Now you will hear the first talk. Look at the questions.

Listen to a speaker at a conference.

- 21 What is the speaker's main purpose?
 - A. to provide the history of the venue
 - B. to open the conference
 - C. to present the schedule of events
 - D. to introduce a speaker
- 22 What does the speaker imply about the audience? A. They had requested a later start.
 - B. They are all businesspeople.
 - C. They didn't expect any refreshments.
 - D. They were up late the night before.
- 23 What does the speaker say about the location?
 - A. It's the first time they've held the conference there.
 - B. It's the best campus in the country.
 - C. The grounds were designed very recently.
 - D. They are fortunate to be able to hold the conference there.
- 24 What does the speaker suggest about the library?
 - A. The general public cannot enter.
 - B. A conference pass will open the main gates.
 - C. Visitors have to inform security before arriving.
 - D. It is strictly for students.
- 25 What past problem are they hoping to avoid this year?
 - A. not having enough time for lunch
 - B. latecomers interrupting the speakers
 - C. scheduling more talks than there's time for
 - D. participants getting locked out of the auditorium
- 26 What will the audience probably do next?
 - A. take a coffee break
 - B. listen to the keynote speaker
 - C. explore the library
 - D. have lunch

Now you will hear the second talk. Look at the questions.

Listen to a student giving a presentation about a place she visited.

- 27 Why does the speaker mention her summer vacation?
 - A. because it influenced her selection of topic
 - B. because her teacher asked her to
 - C. because she just returned to class
 - D. because it was an inspiring experience
- 28 What is probably true about the speaker?
 - A. She didn't really enjoy her vacation.
 - B. She didn't know the site's history when she was there.
 - C. She researched the site before she visited it.
 - D. She regrets visiting the site now.
- 29 What does the speaker say about the Black Hills?
 - A. It was the original name of Mount Rushmore.
 - B. It was an area used only for cougar hunting.
 - C. It was home to indigenous people.
 - D. Its history was respected by Charles Rushmore.
- **30** What does the speaker say about the inspiration for the site?
 - A. It arose from an impulse to honor presidents.
 - B. It was conceived by Gutzon Borglum.
 - C. It was developed to provide jobs.
 - D. It came about from a need to boost tourism.
- 31 What will the speaker probably do next?
 - A. go back to her seat
 - B. continue her presentation
 - C. show a video of her trip
 - D. ask Mr. Miller to answer questions
- 32 What does the speaker mean when she says:
 - A. She's not sure who Mr. Rushmore was.
 - B. She doesn't understand why Mr. Rushmore changed the name.
 - C. She doesn't know how it was possible to change the name.
 - D. She doubts Mount Rushmore is an official name.

LISTENING TEST, PART 2

Now you will hear the third talk. Look at the questions.

Listen to a podcast about new technology.

- **33** What does the speaker say about the subject matter he chooses?
 - A. It is always something transformative.
 - B. He worries a lot about what to feature.
 - C. It is usually controversial for some reason.
 - D. It might be notable for a variety of reasons.
- 34 Why does the speaker mention a playing card?
 - A. to emphasize the camera's lightness
 - B. to describe the appearance of the device
 - C. to suggest that the idea was playful
 - D. to illustrate where the idea for the design came from
- 35 What does the speaker say about the sensor?
 - A. It increased efficiency.
 - B. It improved film quality.
 - C. It was located in a smartphone.
 - D. It measured the location of the beetle.
- **36** What does the speaker imply about the impacts of the technology?
 - A. They are not widely relevant.
 - B. They are invariably sinister.
 - C. They are merely fantasy.
 - D. They are not especially useful.
- 37 What is the main purpose of the talk?
 - A. to inspire researchers to create useful things
 - B. to discuss the risks of video surveillance
 - C. to inform listeners of a new development
 - D. to argue for the conservation of insect species
- 38 What does the speaker mean when he says:
 - A. Our ability to do something justifies the ends.
 - B. We have a duty to consider the outcomes before we act.
 - C. The benefits aren't worth the expense.
 - D. Science obliges us to do anything we can.

LISTENING

Listening Test, Part 3

In this part, you will hear two segments from a radio program. After each segment, you will hear six questions about it. Before each segment begins, you will have time to preview the questions that are printed in the test booklet.

You will hear each segment twice. Then you will hear the questions once. If you want to, you may take notes in your booklet as you listen. Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet, not in the test booklet. You should mark A, B, or C.

Do you have any questions?

Look at the questions. Then listen to the first segment.

- **39** What reason does the reporter give for being curious about the subject?
 - A. He recalls a past experience.
 - B. Sleepwalking runs in his family.
 - C. There are anecdotes from his childhood.
- 40 What characteristic is shared by REM and non-REM sleep?
 - A. Waking someone at that time is difficult.
 - B. They occur repeatedly throughout the night.
 - C. Sleepers are usually immobilized.
- 41 According to Dr. Wilson, what is true of people who move around during REM sleep?
 - A. A mechanism to immobilize them has failed.
 - B. They dream more at the beginning of the night.
 - C. They are usually very difficult to rouse from their dreams.
- 42 What does Dr. Wilson say about the legal implications of sleepwalking?
 - A. It doesn't always prevent people from being held accountable.
 - B. It's a guaranteed way to escape punishment.
 - C. It often leads to unfair verdicts.
- 43 What does Dr. Donahue suggest about the cause of sleepwalking?
 - A. It is different depending on age.
 - B. Genes are responsible not environment.
 - C. It can involve several factors.
- 44 What is the main purpose of this report?
 - A. to explain the effects of atypical sleep cycles
 - B. to educate people about a sleep disorder
 - C. to help sleepwalkers cope with their condition

Look at the questions. Then listen to the second segment.

- **45** What does Ed Markunson say about the first geocache?
 - A. It was planned long in advance.
 - B. It was announced by word of mouth.
 - C. It caught on right away.
- **46** What does the reporter imply about geocachers? A. They don't take themselves too seriously.
 - B. They have a strange sense of humor.
 - C. They are not completely honest.
- 47 Which items does Ed Markunson say should not be included in a cache?
 - A. traditional logbooks
 - B. items which are edible
 - C. anything over a specific size
- **48** According to Ed Markunson, what distinguishes extreme cachers?
 - A. They search without the help of a GPS.
 - B. They bury caches to increase the difficulty.
 - C. They utilize specialized equipment.
- 49 What does Ed Markunson say geocaching inspires him to do?
 - A. travel to unusual places
 - B. spend time with his family
 - C. imagine he is an explorer
- 50 What is the main purpose of this report?
 - A. to promote geocaching websites
 - B. to generate interest in geocaching
 - C. to explain geocaching's historical significance

READING: GRAMMAR

Choose the word or phrase that best completes the conversation or sentence.

51 I didn't enjoy my vacation to the South of France _____ my trip to Italy last year; Rome was exceptional.

A. half much as I did

- B. half as much as
- C much as half as
- D. half times as I had
- 52 "International sales have really picked up this quarter."

"Yes, but they're still lower than last year's numbers. ?

- A. would you think
- B. what would you think
- C. don't you think
- D. or you think not
- 53 When Jason told me about his volunteering project in Botswana, I was sure to ask him if he had had that he needed for his trip.
 - A. all the vaccinations
 - B. plenty of the vaccinations
 - C. all of the plenty vaccinations
 - D. the vaccinations of all
- 54 I'm taking part in a national talent contest next week and _____; it's going to be an amazing experience for the both of us.
 - A. Laura is too
 - B. also is Laura
 - C. Laura does too
 - D. so Laura is
- 55 I ordered a new fridge recently and was going to put it in the kitchen, but _____ empty, I decided to install it there instead.
 - A. because of the spare room being
 - B. because the spare room being that
 - C. with the spare room being
 - D. being the spare room too

- 56 The new cover that the designer created for our client's latest novel suits the concept of their work
 - A. perfectly in a manner
 - B. perfectly
 - C. in a perfect way
 - D. to a perfect degree
- 57 The management board's meeting has been brought forward as _____ an important development that we must discuss before Friday.
 A. there seems it is
 - B. seems there to be
 - C. it seems there's
 - D. seems there is
- 58 Fred was excused from work this week as _____ for jury duty by the district court.
 - A. a summon was made to him
 - B. they had him summoned
 - C. he was being summoned
 - D. he has been summoned
- 59 Although Belinda received lots of university offers, I'm sure that she'll be very happy ______.
 - A. no matter what one she takes
 - B. with whichever one she takes
 - C. even if she takes one
 - D. whatever one she takes
- 60 It has been some years since I last read that academic's work, however, _____, his ideas mirrored those of Professor Richards quite closely.
 - A. if I am not mistaken
 - B. mistaken though I am
 - C. mistaken or not
 - D. whether I am mistaken or not

Practice Test 1

READING: GRAMMAR

- 61 Given the hostile nature of Eric's reaction to my proposal, it will be ______ I share my ideas for a project with him again.
 - A. too much time before
 - B. a long time since
 - C. a long time before
 - D. too much time since
- 62 Unfortunately, I have an appointment with the managing director later this afternoon, so _____ three o'clock.
 - A. I'll wrap things up to
 - B. I'll have to wrap things up by
 - C. I should have wrapped up the things until
 - D. I could have wrapped things up at
- 63 Angela is extremely vain; _____ in her make-up mirror in-between meetings and presentations.
 - A. she always looks at her own self
 - B. she is always looking at herself
 - C. always she looks at her own
 - D. she looks at her always

64 "Doctor, my eyes are very irritated and the skin around them has become very swollen.""Yes, I suspect that an allergic reaction is what

_____ so inflamed. I'd like to run some tests to be sure."

- A. the cause is becoming of them
- B. was the cause of them to become
- C. caused them to become
- D. caused them to becoming
- 65 I wish I could take credit for this outstanding research paper, however it's not mine; _____
 - A. it's of my colleague's
 - B. it's belonging to my colleague
 - C. it's of my colleague
 - D. it's my colleague's
- 66 She _____, as it was becoming quite scruffy and the split ends were very problematic to deal with.
 - A. had the hairdresser trim her hair
 - B. trimmed the hairdresser
 - C. had her hair to be trimmed by the hairdresser
 - D. had the hairdresser to trim her hair

READING: CLOZE

Read the passage, then select the word or phrase that fills the blank in both meaning and grammar.

This passage is about the concept of truth.

Truth is an abstract idea which philosophers have been concerned with since ancient times. It has been ____(67)___ defined.

One approach to truth is to regard it as knowledge and ideas that accord with facts. So seen, truth is a statement ___(68)___ objective reality which corresponds with that reality. The difficulty with this definition is that objective reality is itself ___(69)___ . Another approach to the problem of the ___(70)___ of truth is to evaluate any statement in relationship to other statements. Truth is then considered a network of consistent statements ___(71)___ reality, so that any statement is to be considered true if it is compatible with the system of true statements. ___(72)___, there are different kinds of truth and different systems of coherent statements which may not be in ___(73)___ with one another.

The third main approach is that of pragmatism, which ____(74)___ truth as "what works." For example, a doctor's knowledge ____(75)___ to be true if it enables him or her to cure a disease: the theory of gravitation is considered true to the ____(76)___ that it allows the checkable calculation of the movement of bodies. The difficulty here is that what works in one situation may not work in another.

67	A. varyingly B. irregularly	C. unevenly D. unequally
68	A. above B. about	C. around D. among
69	A. elusive B. deceptive	C. evasive D. fugitive
70	A. feature B. trait	C. aspect D. nature
71	A. depicting B. delineating	C. outlining D. underlining
72	A. Notwithstanding B. Withal	C. Nonetheless D. Vice versa
73	A. assent B. affirmation	C. accordance D. consensus
74	A. defies B. derides	C. delays D. defines
75	A. is believedB. was believed	C. has been believed D. had believed
76	A. scope B. extent	C. range D. breadth

READING: CLOZE

This passage is about a prehistoric snake.

The ___(77)___ of the remains of a giant prehistoric snake has amazed naturalists. Named Titanoboa cerrejonensis, the creature was the world's largest predator following the disappearance of the dinosaurs – and actually ___(78)___ them in length. Thirty meters long - twice as long as today's biggest snakes - and as tall as a small child, *Titanoboa* would have been an ___(79)___ predator that could swallow a crocodile whole with ease. It was not a venomous snake; instead it killed its (80) by using its immense bulk to (81) it.

According to scientists it is thought ___(82)_ mainly in water. The ecosystem it inhabited, in present-day Columbia, is considered to be the first example of modern tropical rainforest, comprised of many species still extant today.

The discovery of bones from Titanoboa is remarkable on two (83). Not only had no one imagined that such enormous snakes had ever existed, or (84) were even biologically (85), but also no one had any idea that the equatorial region of Latin America was warm enough to sustain such a large reptile at that time. Since reptiles cannot modify their body temperature for survival and, as such, ___(86)___, the size of Titanoboa is strong evidence that the tropics were hotter 60 million years ago than they are today.

77	A. mining B. excavation	C. exhumation D. removal
78	A. surpassed B. is surpassing	C. was surpassing D. has surpassed
79	A. qualified B. able	C. proficient D. savvy
80	A. loot B. game	C. prey D. casualty
81	A. crush B. break	C. compress D. crumble
82	A. to hunt B. to hunting	C. to had hunted D. to have hunted
83	A. grounds B. factors	C. causes D. reasons
84	A. verily B. positively	C. possibly D. indeed
85	A. feasible B. attainable	C. workable D. achievable
86	themselves in	C. need to follow dinosaurs
	groups B. take energy from food	D. depend on environmental warmth

18

READING: VOCABULARY

Choose the word or phrase that most appropriately completes the sentence.

- 87 Students with learning difficulties have specific impairments in _____ and processing information.
 A. rebuking
 - B. retaining
 - C. reconciling

 - D. reflecting
- 88 Government reforms are currently _____ to improve health and social services for low income families.
 - A. operational
 - B. underway
 - C. afoot
 - D. fully-functioning
- 89 In the past few years, the community center has extensive renovation and expansion.
 - A. executed
 - B. sustained
 - C. endured
 - D. undergone
- **90** The federal government is preparing to mobilize the national guard and _____ them across the country during the floods.
 - A. dispatch
 - B. dispense
 - C. disperse
 - D. dispel
- 91 The news agency embarrassed themselves by _____ and announcing a category 5 hurricane before it was confirmed.
 - A. jumping in
 - B. jumping the gun
 - C. jumping on the bandwagon
 - D. jumping through hoops
- **92** Immigration officials may ______ foreign nationals who violate immigration laws with forged documents.
 - A. banish
 - B. deport
 - C. evict
 - D. exile
- **93** Every business reaches a _____ at some point and then prices drop in an effort to attract customers and increase sales.
 - A. summit
 - B. climax
 - C. crest
 - D. plateau
- 94 After the raging forest fire, the surrounding mountains were _____ of vegetation.
 - A. devoid
 - B. destitute
 - C. defective
 - D. desolate

- 95 The employee's angry outburst was not ______ with his normally placid nature.
 - A. consistent
 - B. constant
 - C. concise
 - D. conclusive
- **96** The military's new fighter jets will _____ a number of improvements such as enhanced electronic systems.
 - A. amalgamate
 - B. assimilate
 - C. incorporate
 - D. consolidate
- 97 Cardio kickboxing is a good way to _____ steam, lose weight and tone your body.
 - A. blow down
 - B. let off
 - C. empty out
 - D. push through
- 98 Mortgage rates have only decreased _____ due to the inflation.
 - A. sparsely
 - B. narrowly
 - C. lightly
 - D. minimally
- 99 Charles was _____ from attending the training seminar because he had recently completed a similar course.
 - A. immune
 - B. exempt
 - C. unbidden
 - D. void
- **100** The investigating officers _____ the robbery suspect to hours of questioning.
 - A. subdued
 - B. subscribed
 - C. subjected
 - D. submitted
- **101** Airport security was on high alert in the _____ of a recent attempt to hijack an international airliner.
 - A. stream
 - B. trail
 - C. blast
 - D. wake
- 102 In the closing few minutes of the game, the team had _____ but continued to fight hard.
 - A. each other's back
 - B. their back to the wall
 - C. a monkey on their back
 - D. gotten their backs up

READING

Read the passage, then answer the questions following it according to the information given in the passage.

This passage is about the early cinema industry.

At the end of the 19th century, cinematographers were beginning to explore the commercial possibilities of this new art form. In 1894, Thomas Edison launched his Kinetoscope in New York City, the first moving picture apparatus on the market. Crowds lined up to peer into a box containing a mechanism which ran a loop of film over an electric lamp. Although Kinetoscope parlors charged a relatively steep 25 cents per customer, the novelty drew crowds to them, wanting to see vaudeville dancers and short dramas filmed by Edison's company.

That year, a French camera manufacturer named Claude-Antoine Lumière saw a demonstration of Edison's device in Paris and encouraged his sons, Louis and Auguste, to improve on it. In December 1895, they demonstrated the Cinematograph, an apparatus capable of projecting motion pictures in a theater. For the first time, an audience enjoyed cinema as a shared experience and at a fraction of the ticket price.

Impressed by the Lumières' invention, a phonograph manufacturer named Charles Pathé decided to launch a business venture with his brothers to manufacture Cinematograph equipment. Realizing that audiences had an insatiable appetite for movies, Pathé soon began mass production of not only cameras and projectors, but of movies as well. By 1912, the company was realizing vast profits and producing nearly 800 films per year. The company carefully managed distribution to ensure theaters would have a continuous supply of fresh material. Within a decade, Pathé Brothers Company controlled a worldwide empire that comprised every aspect of the movie business.

Pathé devised many cinematic techniques that were to become standard in the industry and also pioneered the newsreel, the ancestor of modern film journalism. Changing audience tastes after World War I led the company to abandon film production, but Charles Pathé's business practices were to be imitated by other companies as the movie industry matured.

- 103 What is the main purpose of this passage?
 - A. to discuss the commercial benefits of motion pictures
 - B. to justify the scale of early motion picture technology
 - C. to highlight the contributions of numerous people to cinema
 - D. to explain the impact of World War I on film production
- 104 In the last sentence of paragraph 1, what does them refer to?
 - A. electric lamps
 - B. vaudeville dancers
 - C. short dramas
 - D. Kinetoscope parlors
- **105** What prompted the Lumière Brothers to develop the Cinematograph?
 - A. They were encouraged by Edison's demonstration.
 - B. They were convinced by their father.
 - C. They hoped to make a profit selling it.
 - D. They considered it an amusing novelty.
- **106** According to the passage, what resulted from Lumière's improvements on the Kinetoscope?
 - A. Movies became affordable for a mass audience.
 - B. New techniques were demonstrated on the Kinetoscope.
 - C. Audiences in Europe first became aware of the cinema.
 - D. Audiences worldwide enjoyed viewing the apparatus.
- **107** In the second sentence of paragraph 3, which word could best replace **insatiable**?
 - A. unquenchable
 - B. unreasonable
 - C. immoderate
 - D. inessential
- **108** How did Pathé's company change the movie industry?
 - A. by pioneering the movie theater experience
 - B. by developing methods that became an industry benchmark
 - C. by proving that movies could be profitable
 - D. by showing how to change public taste

This passage is about the eruption of Mount Tambora.

In April 1815, Mount Tambora, an active volcano on the island of Sumbawa in present-day Indonesia, exploded, producing a column of fire more than 140,000 feet high. It was the largest volcanic eruption in recorded history. The island's population was decimated, and the destruction of vegetation on nearby islands led to further loss of life. Pitch darkness covered a wide area for four days, while an estimated 150 million tons of ash spewed into the atmosphere.

In the aftermath of the explosion, atmospheric conditions carried the fine particles of volcanic dust around the globe. That winter, brilliantly colored sunsets could be seen in many parts of the Northern Hemisphere. The following spring, much of North America was blanketed in fog. Unseasonably cold nights, late snows, and sudden, unpredictable drops in temperature killed crops. During the summer of 1816, much of the United States suffered a drought. In Europe, incessant rainfall devastated the wheat, potato, and oat harvests. The resulting famine was the worst Europe was to suffer in the 19th century.

These extreme conditions, that included a drop in global temperatures, led to 1816 being known as the "year without a summer".

Climatologists now believe that a combination of factors were responsible for this. Unusual sunspot activity observed at the time is thought to have reduced the amount of sunlight reaching the earth. Starting in 1812, a series of volcanic explosions around the world had released huge amounts of dust into the atmosphere. The dust obscured the sunlight, which led to the lower temperatures and disrupted rainfall patterns. Furthermore, the massive eruption of Mount Tambora exacerbated the situation.

Another effect of the disaster was that the high price of horse feed severely disrupted the transportation of food supplies. In fact, the situation was said to have inspired a German inventor named Karl Drais to come up with an alternative to the horse and wagon – the bicycle.

- **109** What is the main purpose of this passage?
 - A. to relate a cause of the Great Famine
 - B. to describe a significant climatological event
 - C. to explain the invention of the bicycle
 - D. to give exposure to Indonesian topography
- **110** In the third sentence of paragraph 1, which word could best replace **decimated**?
 - A. annihilated
 - B. damaged
 - C. sacrificed
 - D. crushed
- 111 What impact did the eruption of Mount Tambora have on the rest of the world?
 - A. It destroyed the Northern Hemisphere's vegetation.
 - B. It plunged the entire world into darkness.
 - C. It was the first volcanic eruption to be recorded.
 - D. It released huge amounts of volcanic material.
- **112** What caused the massive loss of life in Europe in the years following the eruption?
 - A. extremely low temperatures
 - B. unseasonable periods of fog
 - C. unusual amounts of rainfall
 - D. excessively dry weather
- **113** What is implied about the cause of the "year without a summer"?
 - A. it was down to a single factor
 - B. it was previously misunderstood
 - C. it has been appropriately explained
 - D. it wasn't unusual for that period
- 114 Why does the article mention surges in the cost of horse feed?
 - A. to excuse disruptions to world food supplies
 - B. to show the need to protect markets and prices
 - C. to question the efficiency of transportation methods
 - D. to suggest the catalyst for a new innovation

Practice Test 1

READING

This passage is about early Greek tragedy.

Tragedy is a type of drama that was unique to ancient Greece. In his Poetics, the philosopher Aristotle relates that the first tragedians were performers who improvised songs at rural festivals. The word tragedy, literally "goat-songs," may refer to the animals sacrificed at such feasts. How these eventually developed into the dramatic art form familiar to us as tragedy is not entirely clear. However, the decisive factor seems to have been the establishment, sometime in the 6th century BC, of a competition in Athens as part of the annual festival known as the City Dionysia.

The City Dionysia was held in the early spring, and included street processions, music performances, and feasts. By the early 5th century BC, the drama competition had become the centerpiece of the festival. Plays composed by three tragedians were performed on separate days, with a fourth day devoted to comedy. The winner of the competition was chosen by ten judges and awarded a crown of ivy.

As an element of the festival, tragedy was intended to provide spectators with something more than entertainment. As a result, its drama increased both in complexity and in the seriousness of its themes. The first winner of the competition is said to have been Thespis. As the first tragedian to act out the roles of characters, he is considered to be history's first actor and is the namesake of the modern term Thespian used to describe actors in general Little is known of another dramatist, Phrynichus (c. 500 BC), beyond the information that his tragedies narrated historical events and that audiences were moved to tears. By the time of Aeschylus, the earliest writer whose tragedies have been preserved, most tragedies were based on Greek mythology. Like earlier tragedies, his consisted of odes, or songs sung by a chorus, but were now interspersed with dialogues between two actors. This innovation meant that spectators were not only told a story but could witness it dramatized before their eyes.

- 115 What is the main purpose of this passage?
 - A. to discuss schools of ancient Greek philosophy
 - B. to examine the rituals of ancient Greek festivals
 - C. to explain the origins of a type of dramatic performance
 - D. to argue the most successful ancient Greek tragedian
- **116** In the fourth sentence of paragraph 1, what does **these** refer to?
 - A. sacrifices
 - B. feasts
 - C. songs
 - D. festivals
- **117** According to the author, by the 5th century what had changed during the festival of the City Dionysia?
 - A. performing arts took center stage at the event
 - B. comedies were performed for four days
 - C. tragedies became less popular with audiences
 - D. street processions became larger and more extravagant
- **118** What effect did the City Dionysia festival have on the development of tragedy?
 - A. Poets began to write tragedies that were entertaining.
 - B. The topics of tragedies became more sophisticated.
 - C. The number of actors on stage were reduced.
 - D Music and dance became a part of performances.
- 119 According to the passage, how has Thespis influenced modern performing arts?
 - A. he is celebrated as the greatest actor in history
 - B. he has a drama competition named after him
 - C. his tragedies are studied in drama schools
 - D. his name has become synonymous with the art of acting
- 120 In the seventh sentence of paragraph 3, which word could best replace interspersed?
 - A. intermingled
 - B. interbred
 - C. interlapped
 - D. intercalated

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