English Test Grades 10-12

Directions: This English test is used for students in Grades 10-12. This 30-question test, with the overall score of 100, includes the following:

- Reading: 15 questions **(3 points each except some with 4 points)**
- Writing: 15 questions **(3 points each except some with 4 points)**

You will be given 90 minutes to complete the test.

There are four choices in each question. Read the passages and questions carefully before marking your answers on the answer sheet. Make sure you understand the text, the questions, the choices given and base your answer on the conventions of Standard English.

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Reading (15 questions)

Directions: Read each of the passages below, and then answer the questions that follow the passage. The correct response may be stated outright or merely suggested in the passage. Questions following a pair of related passages may also be based on the relationship between the paired passages. Answer the questions on the basis of what is stated or implied in the passages and in any introductory material that may be provided. Make sure that the best answer also conforms to the conventions of Standard English.

Questions 1–8 are based on the following passage.

The following selection explains the origins and development of the modern shopping mall.

Today's shopping mall has as its **antecedents** historical marketplaces, such as Greek agoras, European piazzas, and Asian bazaars. The purpose of these sites, as with the shopping mall, is both economic and social. People go not only to buy and sell wares, but also to be seen, catch up on news, and **be part of the human drama**. Both the marketplace and its descendant the mall might also contain restaurants, banks, theaters, and professional offices.

The mall is also the product of the creation of suburbs. Although villages outside of cities have existed since antiquity, it was the technological and transportation advances of the 19th century that gave rise to a conscious exodus of the population away from crowded, industrialized cities toward quieter, more rural towns. Since the suburbs typically have no centralized marketplace, shopping centers or malls were designed to fill the needs of the changing community, providing retail stores and services to an increasing suburban population.

The shopping mall differs from its ancient counterparts in a number of important ways. While piazzas and bazaars were open-air venues, the modern mall is usually enclosed. Since the suburbs are spread out geographically, shoppers drive to the mall, which means that parking areas must be an integral part of a mall's design. Ancient

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marketplaces were often set up in public spaces, but shopping malls are designed, built, and maintained by a separate management firm as a unit. The first shopping mall was built by J. C. Nichols in 1922 near Kansas City, Missouri. The Country Club Plaza was designed to be an automobile-centered plaza, as its patrons drove their own cars to it, rather than take mass transportation as was often the case for city shoppers. It was constructed according to a unified plan, rather than as a random group of stores. Nichols' company owned and operated the mall, leasing space to a variety of tenants.

The first enclosed mall was the Galleria Vittoria Emanuele in Milan, Italy in 1865–77. Inspired by its design, Victor Gruen took the shopping and dining experience of the Galleria to a new level when he created the Southdale Center Mall in 1956. Located in a suburb of Minneapolis, it was intended to be a substitute for the traditional city center. The 95-acre, two-level structure had a constant climate-controlled temperature of 72 degrees, and included shops, restaurants, a school, a post office, and a skating rink. Works of art, decorative lighting, fountains, tropical plants, and flowers were placed throughout the mall. **Southdale afforded people the opportunity to experience the pleasures of urban life** while protected from the harsh Minnesota weather.

In the 1980s, giant megamalls were developed. While Canada has had the distinction of being home to the largest of the megamalls for over twenty years, that honor will soon go to Dubai, where the Mall of Arabia is being completed at a cost of over five billion U.S. dollars. The 5.3 million square foot West Edmonton Mall in Alberta, Canada, opened in 1981, with over 800 stores, 110 eating establishments, a hotel, an amusement park, a miniature-golf course, a church, a zoo, and a 438-foot-long lake. Often referred to as the "eighth wonder of the world," the West Edmonton Mall is the number-one tourist attraction in the area, and will soon be expanded to include more retail space, including a facility for sports, trade shows, and conventions.

The largest enclosed megamall in the United States is Bloomington, Minneapolis's Mall of America, which employs over 12,000 people. It has over five hundred retail stores,

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an amusement park which includes an indoor roller coaster, a walk-through aquarium, a college, and a wedding chapel. The mall contributes over one billion dollars each year to the economy of the state of Minnesota. Its owners have proposed numerous expansion projects, but have been hampered by safety concerns due to the mall's proximity to an airport.

1. The statement that people went to marketplaces to **be part of the human drama** suggests that people _____ [4 points]

   A. prefer to shop anonymously.
   B. like to act on stage rather than shop.
   C. seem to be more emotional in groups.
   D. like to be in community, interacting with one another.

2. In paragraph 1, the word **antecedents** most nearly means _____.

   A. designers B. planners
   C. predecessors D. role models

3. All of the following questions can be explicitly answered on the basis of the passage **EXCEPT** _____

   A. Who designed the Southdale Center Mall in Minnesota?
   B. Why was the Country Club Plaza automobile-centered?
   C. What are three examples of historical marketplaces?
   D. Where is the Galleria Vittoria Emanuele?

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4. How was the Country Club Plaza different from an urban shopping district?

   A. It consisted of many more stores.
   B. It was built by one company that leased space and oversaw operations.
   C. It was enclosed.
   D. It had both retail stores and restaurants, and offered areas for community programs.

5. According to the passage, how did Southdale expand the notion of the shopping mall?

   A. It was unheated.
   B. It was the first to rise above two stories.
   C. It was designed with more parking spaces than any previous shopping mall.
   D. It was intended to be a substitute for the traditional city center.

6. According to paragraph 5, which is the only activity visitors to the West Edmonton Mall cannot enjoy?

   A. staying in a hotel
   B. gambling in a casino
   C. visiting animals in a zoo
   D. playing miniature golf

7. When the author states that **Southdale afforded people the opportunity to experience the pleasures of urban life** she means that _____ [4 points]

   A. they could perform necessary and leisurely activities in one location.
   B. they could have a greater variety of retailers to choose from.
   C. they could see more artwork and botanicals than they would in a city.
   D. they could be entertained as they would be in a city.

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8. What is **NOT** a probable reason for the proposed expansion of the Mall of America?

A. so it can contribute more to the economy of its state
B. to keep it closer in size to the other megamalls
C. so it can employ more people
D. to compete for visitors with the Mall of Arabia

Questions 9-15 are based on the following passage.

The following passage describes the medium of political cartoons as a graphic means of commenting on contemporary social or political issues.

A mainstay of American newspapers since the early nineteenth century, political cartoons use graphic art to comment on current events in a way that will inform, amuse, provoke, poke, and persuade readers. Cartoons take on the principal issues and leaders of the day, **skewering** hypocritical or corrupt politicians and depicting the ridiculous, the ironic, or the serious nature of a major event in a single, deftly drawn image. Cartoons use few words, if any, to convey their message. Some use caricature, a technique in which a cartoonist exaggerates the features of well-known people to make fun of them. **(Think of renderings of Bill Clinton with a nose redder than Rudolph's and swollen out of proportion, or cartoons of George W. Bush's exaggerated pointy visage sporting a ten-gallon cowboy hat.)**

Because they have the ability to evoke an emotional response in readers, political cartoons can serve as a **vehicle** for swaying public opinion and can contribute to reform. Thomas Nast (1840–1902), the preeminent political cartoonist of the second half of the nineteenth century, demonstrated the power of his medium when he used his art to end the corrupt Boss Tweed Ring in New York City. His images, first drawn for Harper's Weekly, are still in currency today: Nast created the tiger as the symbol of Tammany Hall, **the elephant for the Republican Party**, and the donkey for the Democratic Party. Created

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under tight deadlines for ephemeral, commercial formats like newspapers and magazines, cartoons still manage to have lasting influence. Although they tackle the principal issues and leaders of their day, they often provide a vivid historical picture for generations to come.

9. The author would most likely agree with which statement?

A. Political cartoons are a powerful means of influencing the public.
B. The more mean-spirited a political cartoon is, the more effective.
C. Political cartoonists must maintain their objectivity on controversial subjects.
D. Political cartoons cater to an elite class of intellectuals.

10. In describing the art of political cartooning in the first paragraph, the author's tone can be best described as _____.

A. sober

B. earnest

C. impartial

D. playful

11. The word **vehicle** most nearly means _____.

A. automobile

B. carrier

C. outlet

D. means

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12. The author cites Thomas Nast's depiction of **an elephant for the Republican Party** as an example of _____

A. an image that is no longer recognized by the public.
B. the saying "the pen is mightier than the sword."
C. art contributing to political reform.
D. a graphic image that became an enduring symbol.

13. What does the phrase **A mainstay of American newspapers since the early nineteenth century** in first line refer to? [4 points]

A. graphic art

B. cartoons

C. current events

D. political cartoons

14. The word **skewering** most nearly means _____. [4 points]

A. to criticize someone very strongly
B. to keep the suspects under surveillance
C. to ascertain something from someone
D. to condone corruption and hypocrisy

15. What is the best function of the sentence in the parentheses of paragraph 1 as shown below? [4 points]

(Think of renderings of Bill Clinton with a nose redder than Rudolph's and swollen out of proportion, or cartoons of George W. Bush's exaggerated pointy visage sporting a ten-gallon cowboy hat.)

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A. To remind readers of what the ex-presidents did in the past
B. To elaborate what caricature is with supporting examples
C. To ridicule both presidents in the past with funny descriptions
D. To show how effective caricature is when applied to public figures

Writing (15 questions)

Directions: In the passage below, certain phrases are underlined and numbered [x]. The question will present alternatives for the underlined part. In most cases, you are to choose the one that best expresses the idea, makes the statement appropriate for standard written English, or is worded most consistently with the style and tone of the passage as a whole. If you think the original version is the best, choose "**NO CHANGE**."

Haiti

Although my friends and family were **skeptical of whether** **[16]** I would be safe, I boarded the plane in New York **boldly** **[17]** and flew to Haiti. My college roommate had agreed to take medical supplies to a rural clinic where his brother was a physician, and I agreed to go and help.

When **me and my roommate** **[18]** landed at the airport in the capital Port au Prince, the chaos inside the airport was frightening. Dozens of men approached us while gesturing to our luggage, and yelling at us in Creole. They wanted us to select their taxis. I was **thrilled** **[19]** when my roommate smiled at someone who called our names through the crowd.

Papi, our designated transporter, was a Haitian man in his early twenties who **works** **[20]** for the physician. He warmly welcomed us to his country, and seemed to have **a great sense of humor** **[21]**. He laughed nonstop during our ride through the capital city. Once

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we were on the open highway, Papi taught us basic Creole greetings to **pass the time during our excessively long four-hour commute [22]**.

The mountainous town where we would spend the week was beautiful, and I immediately fell in love with the place and its people. **The views rocked! [23]** Even though I could not fluently speak Creole, I made the most of my time with the land and its inhabitants. Several daily tasks kept me busy that week. The medical clinic was a modest two-room building, and **their [24]** staff needed help reorganizing the supply pantry. I removed, counted, **sorted, and restocked supplies [25]**, before adding the additional resources we brought from the United States. After I cleaned and organized the supply pantry, I assisted a visiting nutritionist with distributing vitamins to the locals. **[26]**

Each evening, two dozen young children would sit on the porch where my roommate and I stayed. They laughed **constantly, they [27]** always found joy in the simplest of things. They **did teach [28]** us to count in Creole and read children's stories to us in French. They invited us to kick balls with them and chase yard chickens. Even though they did not have many toys, the children entertained one another with conversation, laughter and storytelling.

When it was time to leave Haiti and return to New York, I was sad to say goodbye. Although my roommate and I delivered medical supplies to their community, the people **gave us memories that will last the rest of our lives [29]**.

16. A. NO CHANGE

B. convinced that

C. doubting the very likelihood

D. not worried at all that

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17. [4 points]

A. NO CHANGE

B. (place before **I**)

C. (place before **boarded**)

D. (place before **in**)

18. [4 points]

A. NO CHANGE

B. I and my roommate

C. my roommate and me

D. my roommate and I

19. A. NO CHANGE

B. satisfied

C. concerned

D. uncertain

20. A. NO CHANGE

B. worked

C. will work

D. work

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21. A. NO CHANGE

B. great sense about humor

C. great sense of humor

D. great sense in humor

22. [4 points]

A. NO CHANGE
B. pass the time during our excessively long commute
C. pass the time during our excessive four-hour commute
D. pass the time during our commute

23. [4 points]

A. NO CHANGE
B. I wish my girlfriend could have seen the views!
C. Pictures don’t do it justice, man!
D. OMIT the underlined portion

24. A. NO CHANGE

B. it’s

C. its

D. ones

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25. A. NO CHANGE

B. sorted, and restocked, supplies

C. sorted and restocked supplies

D. sorted and restocked, supplies

26. Which choice most effectively concludes the sentence and the essay?

A. Provide details about the nutritionist.
B. Contain information about appropriate vitamin intake for adults.
C. Include another task that was performed during that week.
D. Mention the physician's gratitude at the help that the writer provided.

27. A. NO CHANGE

B. constantly; they

C. constantly: they

D. constantly they

28. A. NO CHANGE

B. taught

C. teached

D. had been teaching

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29. Which choice most effectively concludes the sentence and the essay? [4 points]

A. NO CHANGE
B. were glad to see us leave.
C. were thankful that we came.
D. gave us money to help offset costs from the trip.

30. Which choice most strongly suggests that the experience in Haiti was a positive one for the writer?

A. thrilled when my roommate smiled
B. they laughed constantly
C. I was sad
D. memories that will last

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Grades 10 - 12 Answer Key

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

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