

Computerized Pre-Professional Skills Test: Reading (5710)

Test at a Glance

Test Name	Computerized Pre-Professional Skills Test: Reading		
Test Code	5710		
Time	75 minutes		
Number of Questions	46		
Format	Multiple-choice questions based on reading passages and statements		
	Content Categories	Approximate Number of Questions	Approximate Percentage of Examination
	I. Literal Comprehension	26	56%
	II. Critical and Inferential Comprehension	20	44%

About this test

The Computerized Pre-Professional Skills Test in Reading measures the ability to understand and to analyze and evaluate written messages. It contains long passages of approximately 200 words, shorter passages of approximately 100 words, and short statements of one or more sentences. The reading material, which varies in difficulty, is drawn from a variety of subject areas and real-life situations.

Each passage or statement is followed by questions based on its content. Some questions may deal with the information presented in the passage or statement and the way in which it is presented. Such questions may ask about:

- the main idea or the primary purpose of the passage or statement
- supporting ideas or specific details
- the organization of the passage or statement and its language

Other questions are about the implied message of a passage or statement, its arguments, and its logic. Such questions may ask about:

- the author’s assumptions
- the author’s attitude toward the subject of the passage or statement
- inferences from the passage or statement
- the strengths or weaknesses of the author’s argument
- the relevance or appropriateness of supporting evidence in the passage or statement
- applications of ideas presented in the passage or statement to other situations

The questions vary in difficulty. However, all questions can be answered on the basis of what is stated or implied in the passage or statement.

Topics Covered

Representative descriptions of topics covered in each category are provided below.

I. Literal Comprehension

Literal comprehension content measures the ability to understand accurately and completely the explicit content of a written message. There are four types of questions:

- main idea questions involve identifying summaries or paraphrases of the main idea or primary purpose of a reading selection
- supporting idea questions involve identifying summaries or paraphrases of supporting ideas
- organization questions involve recognizing how a reading selection is organized, how it uses language, how the ideas in a selection are related to one another, or how key phrases and transition words are used in a reading selection
- vocabulary questions involve identifying the meanings of words as they are used in the context of a reading selection

II. Critical and Inferential Comprehension

Critical and inferential comprehension content measures the ability to evaluate a reading selection and its messages. There are three types of questions:

- argument evaluation questions involve determining the strengths and weaknesses of arguments in a reading selection, determining the relevance of evidence presented in the reading selection to the assertions made in the selection, or judging if material presented is fact or opinion
- inferential reasoning questions involve drawing inferences and implications from the directly stated content of a reading selection, determining the logical assumptions underlying a selection, or determining the author’s attitude toward the material discussed
- generalization questions involve recognizing situations that are similar to the material in a reading selection, drawing conclusions about the material in a selection, or applying ideas from the selection to new situations

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The sample questions that follow illustrate the kinds of questions in the test. They are not, however, representative of the entire scope of the test in either content or difficulty. Answers with explanations follow the questions. There are additional sample questions for this test on pages 37-41.

Directions: Each statement or passage in this test is followed by a question or questions based on its content. After reading a statement or passage, choose the best answer to each question from among the five choices given. Answer all questions following a statement or passage on the basis of what is *stated* or *implied* in that statement or passage; you are not expected to have any previous knowledge of the topics treated in the statements and passages.

Remember, try to answer every question.

Questions 1-2

- Lyndon Johnson's father once told him that he did not belong in politics unless he could walk into a roomful of people and tell immediately who was for him (5) and who was against him. In fact, even the shrewd Johnson had not quite such occult power, but his liking for this story tells us something useful about him: he set much store by instinct. No (10) wonder, then, that it would be to his instincts — honed in the Texas hill country, sharpened in a life of politics, confirmed in a long and respected congressional career — that he would (15) often turn while in the White House.

- This reliance on instinct enabled Johnson to put on the presidency like a suit of comfortable old clothes. John (20) Kennedy, on the other hand, came to it with a historical, nearly theoretical view of what was required of a strong President — he knew exactly what Woodrow Wilson had said about the (25) office and he had read Corwin and Neustadt. With eager confidence, Kennedy acquired a presidential suit off the rack and put on a little weight to make himself fit it.

1. On the computer screen you will see the following:

The screenshot shows a computer interface for a test. On the left, there is a text passage about Lyndon Johnson's father. The passage is divided into two paragraphs. The first paragraph starts with "Lyndon Johnson's father once told him that he did not belong in politics unless he could walk into a roomful of people and tell immediately who was for him (5) and who was against him. In fact, even the shrewd Johnson had not quite such occult power, but his liking for this story tells us something useful about him; he set much store by instinct. No (10) wonder, then, that it would be to his instincts — honed in the Texas hill country, sharpened in a life of politics, confirmed in a long and respected congressional career — that he would (15) often turn while in the White House." The second paragraph starts with "This reliance on instinct enabled Johnson to put on the presidency like a suit of comfortable old clothes. John (20) Kennedy, on the other hand, came to it with a historical, nearly theoretical view of what was required of a strong President — he knew exactly what Woodrow Wilson had said about the..." On the right side of the screen, there is a question: "Which of the following words, if substituted for the word 'occult' in line 7, would introduce the LEAST change in the meaning of the sentence?" Below the question are four radio button options: "legendary", "subtle", "invisible", and "supernatural".

The “occult” power described in the first sentence is clearly not a power that people ordinarily have. It could, therefore, best be described as “supernatural.” The last option is the best answer.

This screenshot is identical to the one above, showing the same text passage and question. However, in the multiple-choice options on the right, the radio button next to "supernatural" is now filled with a black dot, indicating it has been selected as the correct answer.

Go on to the next page.

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2. On the computer screen you will see the following:

The screenshot shows a computerized reading test interface. On the left, a passage is displayed with line numbers (17, 25, 28, 29, 35) and a vertical scrollbar. The passage text is: "(17) wonder, then, that it would be to his instincts — honed in the Texas hill country, sharpened in a life of politics, confirmed in a long and respected congressional career — that he would (25) often turn while in the White House. This reliance on instinct enabled Johnson to put on the presidency like a suit of comfortable old clothes. John (28) Kennedy, on the other hand, came to it with a historical, nearly theoretical view of what was required of a strong President — he knew exactly what Woodrow Wilson had said about the (35) office and he had read Corwin and Neustadt. With eager confidence, Kennedy acquired a presidential suit off the rack and put on a little weight to make himself fit it." On the right, a question is posed: "In the passage, the author is primarily concerned with" followed by five radio button options: "explaining an event", "making a comparison", "listing facts", "retelling a story", and "refuting an argument".

The passage is about the different approaches of Johnson and Kennedy to the presidency. In explaining how each approached the office and how they differed in this respect, the author is necessarily making a comparison. The correct answer is the second option, “making a comparison.”

This screenshot is identical to the one above, showing the same passage and question. However, the radio button for the second option, "making a comparison", is now selected, indicated by a solid black dot in the center of the circle.

3. On the computer screen you will see the following

Alice Fletcher, the Margaret Mead of her day, assisted several American Indian nations that were threatened with removal from their land to the Indian Territory. She helped them in petitioning Congress for legal titles to their farms. When no response came from Washington, she went there herself to present their case.

According to the statement above, Alice Fletcher attempted to

- imitate the studies of Margaret Mead
- obtain property rights for American Indians
- protect the integrity of the Indian Territory
- become a member of the United States Congress
- persuade Washington to expand the Indian Territory

Click on your choice.

This passage states that Alice Fletcher helped American Indians secure legal title to their land so they would not be forced to abandon it. This idea is expressed in the second choice, “obtain property rights for American Indians,” which is, therefore, the correct answer.

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