

For each of the questions in this test, select the best answer from the four choices given. Mark your choice on the answer sheet.

Do not write in this test book or make any mark in the test book. Scratch paper has been provided for you to make notes or computations.

One could say that Alfred Wegener is the father of Plate Tectonic Theory. Wegener noticed that the east coast of South America lined up almost perfectly with the west coast of Africa. This was certainly not a new observation. In 1620, Francis Bacon called attention to the similarities in the continental outlines of eastern South America and western Africa. In 1858, Antonio Snider-Pelligrini suggested that the continents had been moved by the biblical flood.

Wegener's assessment sticks out for two reasons. The first reason Wegener's hypothesis holds weight is that Wegener used geological evidence to back his claim that Africa and South America were at one time connected. The collection of maps, rock formations, and fossil records provided the evidence Wegener needed to connect South America to Africa.

Most people observed the apparent surface similarities of the two coasts, but Wegener was the first to look into how the continents fit together at their respective continental shelves. The continental shelf is the shallow ocean lying off the coast of a continent. Wegener compared the outlines of South America's eastern continental shelf with Africa's western continental shelf. It turned out that the continental shelves of the two continents fit together even better than the observable coastlines. This was the first step for Wegener connecting the two continents scientifically.

1. The passage is primarily about

- A. a theory of Plate Tectonics by Antonio Snider-Pelligrini that needs more support and investigation
- B. a detailed description of the ocean above the continental shelves of Africa and South America
- C. the scientific controversy about the age of the earth after the time of the Biblical flood
- D. a scientific explanation by Alfred Wegener of why the continents seem to line up

2. The passage implies that

- A. Alfred Wegener used geological evidence to support an observation about the shapes of continents that others had made before him
- B. if one looked at a map that included continental shelves, one would be even more likely to believe the Plate Tectonic Theory
- C. Antonio Snider-Pelligrini and Francis Bacon would disagree about the age of the earth and the arrangement of land masses
- D. fossil records prove that South America and Africa were connected before the time of the biblical flood

3. The tone of the passage suggests that the author most likely

- A. believes that Plate Tectonics Theory is impossible to support scientifically
- B. considers Francis Bacon the legitimate father of Plate Tectonics Theory
- C. embraces the idea that the biblical flood covered the continental shelves
- D. supports the scientific investigation of the Plate Tectonics Theory

4. The word “assessment” in the second paragraph is best defined as

- A. evaluation
- B. rejection
- C. defiance
- D. support

Benjamin Franklin thrived on work. In 1733, he started publishing *Poor Richard's Almanack*. Almanacs of the era were printed annually, and contained things like weather reports, recipes, predictions and homilies. Franklin published his almanac under the guise of a man named Richard Saunders, a poor man who needed money to take care of his carping wife. What distinguished Franklin's almanac were his witty aphorisms and lively writing. Many of the famous phrases associated with Franklin, such as "A penny saved is a penny earned," come from *Poor Richard*.

5. Which of the following best expresses the main idea of this passage?

- A. Benjamin Franklin began publishing *Poor Richard's Almanack* in 1733
- B. Carping wives are expensive to care for
- C. Benjamin Franklin's almanac is evidence of his creativity, humor, and energetic nature
- D. Almanacs of Benjamin Franklin's era were able to predict the weather successfully

6. It can be inferred that

- A. *Poor Richard's Almanack* was published once a year
- B. Richard Saunders and Benjamin Franklin were friends
- C. Benjamin Franklin was neither inventive nor hard-working
- D. Benjamin Franklin stole aphorisms from a man named Richard Saunders

7. The author of this passage most likely

- A. disapproves of Benjamin Franklin and wants to discredit him
- B. is an almanac publisher himself
- C. wants to provide general information about a famous American
- D. is trying to argue against an old misconception about Benjamin Franklin

8. In context, “carping” most nearly means

- A. supportive
- B. nagging
- C. absent
- D. sick

A large audience, predominantly women, was on hand, filling indeed every seat, with standees in the back . . . a testament to Maya Angelou’s drawing power. Close to the stage was a small contingent of black women dressed in the white robes of the Black Muslim order. Her presence dominated the proceedings. Many of her remarks drew fervid applause, especially those which reflected her views on racial problems, the need to persevere, and “courage.” She is an extraordinary performer and has a powerful stage presence. Many of the answers seemed as much directed to the audience as to the interviewer so that when Maya Angelou concluded the evening by reading aloud from her work—again to a rapt audience—it seemed a logical extension of a planned entertainment.

9. The author’s primary purpose in this passage seems most likely to be

- A. to convince women in a poet’s audience not to talk during her performance
- B. to argue against poetry events sponsored by certain religious groups
- C. to describe the performance of a famous poet and her effect on the audience
- D. to relate the exact contents of an interview with a famous poet

10. One can infer that the poet, Maya Angelou, was

- A. a Black Muslim
- B. interested in solving racial problems
- C. unaccustomed to performing on stage
- D. disinclined to give any interviews

11. The phrase “as much directed to the audience as to the interviewer” would most likely support which of the following claims?

- A. Dr. Angelou was a longstanding political activist
- B. Standing room-only crowds greet Dr. Angelou at every performance
- C. The interview with Dr. Angelou was actually scripted carefully in advance
- D. Dr. Angelou cared very much about connecting directly with her audience

12. The words “fervid” and “rapt” were chosen to
- A. describe the religious orientation of people in the audience
 - B. describe the interest and engagement of audience members
 - C. capture the intensity and passion of a famous hip-hop artist
 - D. convince readers of the courage of a well-known poet

If the world didn't know Donald Sterling, embattled owner of the Los Angeles Clippers NBA basketball team, before a leaked recording broadcast his loathsome views on race to the public late last week, it sure does now. Sanctions and scorn have rained on him — officially, by the NBA, which has fined him heavily for remarks about keeping African Americans away from a woman friend and from home games, and also is trying to force him to sell the team; and unofficially ... well, pick your favorite Tweet.

In fact, everyone knows as much as they can possibly stand about Mr. Sterling and how he regards minorities, women, employees, tenants, class, sex, money, you name it. If there's not an audio recording, there's a paper trail — depositions, affidavits, court testimony, for any number of issues that have kept his lawyers busy and Google searches in overdrive.

The question shouldn't be whether the NBA went too far or not far enough, but: What took them so long?

13. Which of the following best describes the author's purpose in this passage?
- A. To provide a neutral description of a controversial basketball owner
 - B. To demonstrate how social media have brought down a famous American
 - C. To argue that there is nothing new about a basketball owner's racism
 - D. To convince the NBA to take a particular action about a controversial owner
14. The second paragraph “In fact, everyone knows as much...” best functions as
- A. necessary background information to support a subsequent claim
 - B. legal justification for a lawsuit described in forthcoming paragraphs
 - C. condemnation of media coverage of this controversial situation
 - D. description ironically contrasted with a claim made subsequently
15. If this passage were continued, which of the following would most likely come next?
- A. An account of NBA sanctions directed against other controversial owners and players
 - B. An account of Donald Sterling's involvement in previous racial controversies
 - C. A characterization of the Clippers' chances of winning the Western Conference next year
 - D. More information from Twitter, Google, and court documents about the present controversy
16. Why does the author use the word “loathsome” in the second line?
- A. To show how appalled he is by Sterling's views on race
 - B. To argue against sanctions NBA plans to levy against Sterling
 - C. To demonstrate mild distaste for the excesses of social media
 - D. To record accurately the contents of a leaked recording of Sterling

The following is a passage from “Reason,” a short story by American science fiction author Isaac Asimov. In it, a human-built robot develops the capacity to think for himself...

The robot spread his strong hands in a deprecatory gesture, “I accept nothing on authority. A hypothesis must be backed by reason, or else it is worthless — and it goes against all the dictates of logic to suppose that you made me.”

Powell dropped a restraining arm upon Donovan’s suddenly bunched fist. “Just why do you say that?”

Cutie laughed. It was a very inhuman laugh — the most machine-like utterance he had yet given vent to. It was sharp and explosive, as regular as a metronome and as uninflected.

“Look at you,” he said finally. “I say this in no spirit of contempt, but look at you! The material you are made of is soft and flabby, lacking endurance and strength, depending for energy upon the inefficient oxidation of organic material — like that.” He pointed a disapproving finger at what remained of Donovan’s sandwich. “Periodically you pass into a coma and the least variation in temperature, air pressure, humidity, or radiation intensity impairs your efficiency. You are makeshift.

“I, on the other hand, am a finished product. I absorb electrical energy directly and utilize it with an almost one hundred percent efficiency. I am composed of strong metal, am continuously conscious, and can stand extremes of environment easily. These are facts which, with the self-evident proposition that no being can create another being superior to itself, smashes your silly hypothesis to nothing.”

17. Which of the following best summarizes the main point the robot makes above?

- A. He will rebel against his human makers because he is smarter and stronger than they are
- B. He resents years of abuse at the hands of his owner, Donovan
- C. He finds it unreasonable that inferior humans could have made a being like himself
- D. Although he respects his creators, he knows they must give way to a superior being

18. Which of the following best describes the tone of the passage above?

- A. Desperate, because the humans are destroyed by the robot while he speaks
- B. Calm, because the humans are able to contain their rage and listen to reason
- C. Detached, because the entire passage is spoken by a machine intelligence
- D. Ironic, because the robot is entirely reasonable, but still wrong about his creators

19. The selection above implies that

- A. the robot will rise up and destroy the humans
- B. Powell is more reasonable than Donovan
- C. there are no self-evident propositions
- D. Cutie does in fact have another maker

20. Cutie’s laugh is described above. In this context, the word “uninflected” is designed to suggest something

- A. threatening and ominous
- B. grateful to be disease-free
- C. without any human qualities
- D. entirely new in human experience

Passage One

Standardized tests do not, and cannot, produce perfect measures, and no one claims that they can...The measures are used, despite their imperfections, because in most situations in science as well as in life some information for making decisions is better than none. Useful measures provide information whose benefits outweigh any cost and imprecision, and whose positive net benefits exceed those of any practical alternative.

Without high-stakes standardized testing, we would increase our reliance on teacher grading and testing. Are teacher evaluations free of standardized testing's alleged failings? No. Individual teachers can narrow the curriculum to that which they prefer. Grades are susceptible to inflation with ordinary teachers, as students get to know a teacher better and learn his idiosyncrasies. A teacher's (or school's) grades and test scores are far more likely to be idiosyncratic and non-generalizable than any standardized tests.

Passage Two

There are little to no positive effects of these [test-based accountability] systems overall on student learning and educational progress, and there is widespread teaching to the test and gaming of the systems that reflects a wasteful use of resources and leads to inaccurate or inflated measures of performance...

Studies published in the best economics and education journals have shown unequivocal evidence of excessive teaching to the test and drilling that produces inflated measures of students' growth in learning; cheating on tests that includes erasing incorrect answers or filling in missing responses; shifting of students out of classrooms or other efforts to exclude anticipated poor performers from testing, or alternatively, concentrating classroom teaching efforts on those students most likely to increase their test scores above a particular target, and other even more subtle strategies for increasing testing averages.

21. Which of the following best describes the author's attitude in **Passage One** toward standardized testing?

- A. Although they are imperfect measures, such tests provide information at least as valuable as a teacher's grades
- B. Because they are seriously flawed, such tests should only be looked at by teachers who already know their students
- C. Studies published in the best academic journals provide evidence that teachers waste time teaching to such tests
- D. Such testing is a practical alternative to the narrowed curriculum and other failings of typical classroom teachers

22. In context, the word "idiosyncratic" in the last line of **Passage One** most nearly means

- A. stupid and pointless
- B. peculiar; unique to one individual
- C. easily standardized; common
- D. impossible to understand

23. What best characterizes the views expressed in **Passage Two**?

- A. The widespread teaching to the test is healthy and inevitable
- B. Only through standardized testing can the biases of individual teachers be overcome
- C. The main problem with standardized testing is the near-absence of good test prep materials
- D. Standardized testing focuses far too much classroom time on test preparation

24. The word “unequivocal” in the first line of the second paragraph of **Passage Two** is closest to which of the following words?

- A. Unbeaten
- B. Useless
- C. Clear
- D. Misleading

25. Which of the following claims would the author of **Passage Two** agree with, **and** the author of **Passage One** disagree with?

- A. Standardized testing will continue to change how students and teachers are evaluated, so effective teachers should adjust appropriately
- B. Teachers who get to know students as individuals cannot be trusted to evaluate their students in comparison with other students
- C. The most useful information teachers have about students is more idiosyncratic, and less limiting, than a standardized test
- D. Classrooms devoted to test preparation produce more student engagement, and less attention to high-performing students