

# DUMPS ARENA

## Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST) - Reading Section

Test Prep PRAXIS-Reading-Section

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**QUESTION NO: 1**

Read the following passage and answer the question.

Their home was a little hut on the edge of a little village – a Flemish village a league from Antwerp, set amidst flat breadths of pasture and corn-lands, with long lines of poplars and of alders bending in the breeze on the edge of the great canal that ran through it. It had about a score of houses and homesteads, with shutters of bright green or sky-blue, and roofs rose-red or black and white, and walls white-washed until they shone in the sun like snow. In the center of the village stood a windmill, placed on a little moss-grown slope: it was a landmark to all the level country round. It had once been painted scarlet, sails and all, but that had been in its infancy, half a century or more earlier, when it had ground wheat for the soldiers of Napoleon; and it was now a ruddy brown, tanned by wind and weather. It went oddly by fits and starts, as though rheumatic and stiff in the joints from age, but it served the whole neighborhood, which would have thought it almost as impious to carry grain elsewhere as to attend any other religious service than the mass that was performed at the altar of the little old gray church, with its conical steeple, which stood opposite to it, and whose single bell rang morning, noon, and night with that strange, subdued, hollow sadness which every bell that hangs in the Low Countries seems to gain as an integral part of its melody.

This passage probably comes from:

- A. the beginning of a story.
- B. a brochure for Antwerp.
- C. an editorial.
- D. the end of a long story.
- E. an encyclopedia.

**ANSWER: A****Explanation:**

The passage is most likely introducing the location in which the story will take place.

**QUESTION NO: 2**

Read the following passage and answer the question.

Equal Opportunity is the expressed policy of SmithCo. Our policy is to select the best-qualified person for each position in the organization and to conduct all business relationships without prejudice. SmithCo is committed to the principles of equal employment opportunity for all employees and applicants for employment. Advancement opportunities and employment decisions will be made without regard to race, creed, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, physical or mental handicap, veteran or military status, or any other characteristic protected under federal, state, or local law. Managers are expected to seek out a diverse pool of candidates for consideration when making hiring decisions. SmithCo also develops an annual Affirmative Action program, which is a federal requirement due to our status as a government contractor. The leadership team plays an active role in demonstrating SmithCo's commitment by providing equal employment opportunities at all levels of employment. Managers and employees are advised to meet with the HR manager for assistance in meeting the standards set in this policy. Equal Employment Opportunity applies throughout the employment process to advance the principles of equal employment opportunity. SmithCo also extends this policy to every phase of the employment process including, but not limited to, recruitment, selection, placement, transfer, training and development, promotion, compensation,

benefits, layoffs, termination, and all other conditions or benefits of employment. All employees are expected to abide by and promote this policy of equal employment opportunity within the organization, as well as with those who have a business relationship with SmithCo. Equal Employment Opportunity requires the participation of all associates. While overall authority for implementing an Equal Employment Opportunity policy is assigned to the Vice President of Human Resources, an effective equal employment opportunity program cannot be achieved without the support of all associates. Any associate who feels they have been denied equal opportunity or subjected to discrimination should consult with their manager or HR representative. SmithCo's Employee Assistance Program also provides assistance with these matters.

What is the main purpose of SmithCo's equal employment opportunity policy?

- A. to lessen the chance of lawsuits against SmithCo for discrimination
- B. to prevent sexual harassment
- C. to document out the rules for termination
- D. to create and maintain a workplace free from discrimination
- E. to ensure qualified employees are hired

**ANSWER: D**

### QUESTION NO: 3

Read the following passage and answer the question.

Daniel Boone will always occupy a unique place in our history as the archetype of the hunter and wilderness wanderer. He was a true pioneer, and stood at the head of that class of Indianfighters, game-hunters, forest-fellers, and backwoods farmers who, generation after generation, pushed westward the border of civilization from the Alleghenies to the Pacific. As he himself said, he was "an instrument ordained of God to settle the wilderness." Born in Pennsylvania, he drifted south into western North Carolina, and settled on what was then the extreme frontier. There he married, built a log cabin, and hunted, chopped trees, and tilled the ground like any other frontiersman. The Alleghany Mountains still marked a boundary beyond which the settlers dared not go; for west of them lay immense reaches of frowning forest, uninhabited save by bands of warlike Indians. Occasionally some venturesome hunter or trapper penetrated this immense wilderness, and returned with strange stories of what he had seen and done.

Which of the following would be the best title for the passage?

- A. "The Birth of Daniel Boone"
- B. "The Great American Pioneers"
- C. "The Life of Daniel Boone"
- D. "Daniel Boone's Parents"
- E. "Westward to the Pacific"

**ANSWER: C**

**Explanation:**

Boone's life is the subject of the passage.

**QUESTION NO: 4**

Read the following passage and answer the question.

The following passage is from a discussion of various ways that living creatures have been classified over the years.

The world can be classified in different ways, depending on one's interests and principles of classification. The classifications (also known as taxonomies) in turn determine which comparisons seem natural or unnatural, which literal or analogical. For example, it has been common to classify living creatures into three distinct groups — plants, animals, and humans. According to this classification, human beings are not a special kind of animal, nor animals a special kind of plant. Thus, any comparisons between the three groups are strictly analogical. Reasoning from inheritance in garden peas to inheritance in fruit flies, and from these two species to inheritance in human beings, is sheer poetic metaphor. Another mode of classifying living creatures is commonly attributed to Aristotle. Instead of treating plants, animals, and humans as distinct groups, they are nested. All living creatures possess a vegetative soul that enables them to grow and metabolize. Of these, some also have a sensory soul that enables them to sense their environments and move. One species also has a rational soul that is capable of true understanding. Thus, human beings are a special sort of animal, and animals are a special sort of plant. Given this classification, reasoning from human beings to all other species with respect to the attributes of the vegetative soul is legitimate, reasoning from human beings to other animals with respect to the attributes of the sensory soul is also legitimate, but reasoning from the rational characteristics of the human species to any other species is merely analogical. According to both classifications, the human species is unique. In the first, it has a kingdom all to itself; in the second, it stands at the pinnacle of the taxonomic hierarchy. Homo sapiens is unique. All species are. But this sort of uniqueness is not enough for many (probably most) people, philosophers included. For some reason, it is very important that the species to which we belong be uniquely unique. It is of utmost importance that the human species be insulated from all other species with respect to how we explain certain qualities. Human beings clearly are capable of developing and learning languages. For some reason, it is very important that the waggle dance performed by bees not count as a genuine language. I have never been able to understand why. I happen to think that the waggle dance differs from human languages to such a degree that little is gained by terming them both

"languages", but even if "language" is so defined that the waggle dance slips in, bees still remain bees. It is equally important to some that no other species use tools. No matter how ingenious other species get in the manipulation of objects in their environment, it is absolutely essential that nothing they do count as "tool use." I, however, fail to see what difference it makes whether any of these devices such as probes and anvils, etc. are really tools. All the species involved remain distinct biological species no matter what decisions are made. Similar observations hold for rationality and anything a computer might do.

According to the author, what is most responsible for influencing our perception of a comparison between species?

- A. The behavior of the organisms in their natural environment
- B. The organizational scheme imposed on the living world by researchers and philosophers
- C. The style of language used by scientists in presenting their research
- D. The sophistication of the communication between organisms
- E. The magnitude of hierarchical distance between a species and Homo sapiens

**ANSWER: B****Explanation:**

The author opens by explaining how “the world can be classified in different ways” and states that “the classifications ... determine which comparisons seem natural or unnatural, which literal or analogical”. The passage then shows how comparisons differ according to which system of classification is used.

**QUESTION NO: 5**

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"insulated from" means:

- A. warmed by
- B. covered with
- C. barred from
- D. segregated from
- E. protected from

**ANSWER: D**

**Explanation:**

"Segregated from" means separated from or kept distinct from. The surrounding text discusses how human beings want to distinguish their species on grounds outside of the classification systems by which every species is considered unique. Examples are used to illustrate how people try to characterize certain abilities of Homo sapiens as not shared by any other species and thus, "uniquely unique": "For some reason, it is very important that the waggle dance performed by bees not count as a genuine language". The example of the definition of tools to exclude use by other species is offered in the same light. Thus, the author emphasizes people's need to be "segregated from" other species.

**QUESTION NO: 6**

Read the following passage and answer the question.

Daniel Boone will always occupy a unique place in our history as the archetype of the hunter and wilderness wanderer. He was a true pioneer, and stood at the head of that class of Indianfighters, game-hunters, forest-fellers, and backwoods farmers who, generation after generation, pushed westward the border of civilization from the Alleghenies to the Pacific. As he himself said, he was "an instrument ordained of God to settle the wilderness." Born in Pennsylvania, he drifted south into western North Carolina, and settled on what was then the extreme frontier. There he married, built a log cabin, and hunted, chopped trees, and tilled the ground like any other frontiersman. The Alleghany Mountains still marked a boundary beyond which the settlers dared not go; for west of them lay immense reaches of frowning forest, uninhabited save by bands of warlike Indians. Occasionally some venturesome hunter or trapper penetrated this immense wilderness, and returned with strange stories of what he had seen and done.

What does the word "game-hunter" mean about Boone?

- A. He loved to play in the woods.
- B. He hunted animals.
- C. He was an excellent chess player.
- D. He was always ready for action.
- E. He struggled to feed his family.

**ANSWER: B****Explanation:**

The word "game" can mean animals that are hunted by humans.

**QUESTION NO: 7**

Read the following passage and answer the question.

Greek mythology is a vehicle that uses mythological characters and creatures to teach people about the dangers, beauties and possible outcomes of life. In many myths, characters face moral dilemmas involving honor and practicality. The protagonists of epics face creatures that represent values and challenges such as respect, temptation and redemption. How has Greek mythology inevitably evolved with time and new storytellers? Scholars that have interpreted Greek mythology seek to maintain the universal values conveyed in these stories, while ensuring the validity of adapting these stories to their own distinct cultures. It is up to each reader to seek their own truths and learn from epic Greek mythology as best they can. According to the author's description, which of the following is most likely to be a message from Greek mythology? Love is

difficult, but it will last if the lovers are meant to be together. Resisting temptation and immediate gratification will lead to ultimate success. It is important to keep track of your personal history. Passing down Greek mythology has taken on a new form since oral records faded. It is not the fastest, but the longest lasting that wins the race.

Which word best describes the author's account of Greek mythology?

- A. idealistic
- B. pessimistic
- C. dubious
- D. critical
- E. mysterious

**ANSWER: A**

**Explanation:**

The author describes the high moral lessons learned from Greek mythology and how epics can instill key values in readers. Greek mythology was also rife with sexual encounters and dirty human actions. The author conveys strictly positive characteristics about epics and their utility. Clearly, the author's account is idealistic. Choice "idealistic" is the best. Because the author is neither pessimistic (choice "pessimistic") nor doubtful, or dubious (choice "dubious"), one can then look at choice "idealistic", "critical" and "mysterious". The author does not really criticize Greek mythology; in fact, the author praises it. Also, the author's account, or description, of Greek mythology is not mysterious; although, the actual mythology may very well be mysterious. Only choice "idealistic", idealistic, captures the sentiment attached to the author's account of Greek mythology.

**QUESTION NO: 8**

Read the following passage and answer the question.

The houses in Peking are built in a very rambling fashion, covering a large amount of ground, and our former house was no exception to the rule. It had sixteen small houses, one story high, containing about 175 rooms, arranged in quadrangles facing the courtyard, which went to make up the whole; and so placed, that without having to actually go out of doors, you could go from one to the other by verandas built along the front and enclosed in glass. My reader will wonder what possible use we could make of all of these rooms; but what with our large family, numerous secretaries, Chinese writers, messengers, servants, mafoos (coachmen), and chair coolies, it was not a difficult task to use them. The gardens surrounding the houses were arranged in the Chinese way, with small lakes, stocked with gold fish, and in which the beautiful lotus flower grew; crossed by bridges; large weeping willows along the banks; and many different varieties of flowers in prettily arranged flower beds, running along winding paths, which wound in and out between the lakes. At the time we left for Paris, in the month of June, 1899, the gardens were a solid mass of flowers and foliage, and much admired by all who saw them.

Which of the following words probably describes the author?

- A. greedy
- B. foolish
- C. Chinese
- D. poor

E. wealthy

**ANSWER: E**

**Explanation:**

The author would need to be wealthy to have so many servants and such a large home.

**QUESTION NO: 9**

Read the following passage and answer the question.

The Gilded Age and Rutherford

B. Hayes – the period in American history between the Reconstruction and the Progressive Era is commonly known as the Gilded Age. In this period, the US seemed to be simultaneously abandoning the ideals of the past and failing to anticipate the future; this was in large part due to the confusion of a horrendous Civil War and massive immigration, industrialization, and urbanization. During this period, many Americans sought refuge in community organizations like the Moose Lodge, the Elks Club, and the Masonic Lodge. The politicians of the Gilded Age tended to avoid the major issues of social injustice and inequality, instead focusing on minor issues like public and parochial schools, and the blue laws (laws restricting commercial activity on Sunday). Foolishly, Rutherford

B. Hayes made himself a lame-duck president by announcing soon after taking office that he would not seek a second term. Hayes' wife was nicknamed "Lemonade Lucy," because she would not allow any alcohol in the White House. Hayes tried to restore the power of the presidency after the debacle of Grant, but he was weakened by intense struggles over his Cabinet confirmations. One thing Hayes can be credited with is making a gallant attempt to destroy the spoils system. He replaced the Collector of the Customs House after discovering the corruption of that body, and he appointed Carl Schurz Secretary of the Interior on the basis of merit. In turn, Schurz established a merit system in his department, creating an entrance exam for potential employees. One of the failures of the Hayes administration was its handling of the Great Rail Strike of 1877. When over two-thirds of the rail lines were shut down by strikes, Hayes sent in federal troops, and there was considerable bloodshed. This set a bad precedent for how strikes would be handled in the future. Hayes also vetoed an attempt by western labor unions to restrict Chinese immigration, saying that this would be a violation of the Burlingame Treaty. One of the main issues in the Hayes years was monetary policy. Farmers, who were often in debt, wanted a soft currency not backed by anything; they were willing to settle for a silver standard. In *Hepburn v. Griswold* (1869), the Supreme Court had ruled that there could not be paper money without a gold standard; in the *Legal Tender* cases of 1871, however, the Court reversed itself. The bickering over these conflicting rulings plagued the Hayes administration. After the Specie Resumption Act of 1875, Hayes worked to minimize the effects of the oncoming "day of redemption," in which paper money could be exchanged for gold coins. He began a policy of contraction, wherein the government gradually took in paper money and issued gold, and he funded attempts to mine more gold. The Greenbackers were those who wanted Hayes to postpone the day of redemption; he did not, and it ultimately proved anticlimactic, as people assumed their paper money was "good as gold" and didn't bother to redeem it. Hayes also had to deal with the Silverites. In 1873, the government had enraged silver prospectors by announcing that it would no longer make coins out of silver. In answer to their fury, Hayes pushed through the Bland-Allison Act, which established that a minimum of \$2 million of silver had to be purchased and coined by the government every month.

What is one thing you could assume about the years after the Hayes presidency?

A. the Supreme Court would assume new powers

B. Hayes – the period in American history between the Reconstruction and the Progressive Era is commonly known as the Gilded Age. In this period, the US seemed to be simultaneously abandoning the ideals of the past and failing to anticipate the future; this was in large part due to the confusion of a horrendous Civil War and massive immigration, industrialization, and urbanization. During this period, many Americans sought refuge in community organizations like the Moose Lodge, the

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What is one thing you could assume about the years after the Hayes presidency?

there would be bloody conflicts as a result of strikes

- C. Congress would control economic policy
- D. there would never be another lame-duck president
- E. the people would reconsider their opinion of Hayes.

**ANSWER: B**

**Explanation:**

The author indicates that Hayes' mismanagement of the Great Rail Strike of 1877 set a bad precedent for the handling of future strikes.

**QUESTION NO: 10**

Read the following passage and answer the question.

People loved to come to the Grogrande Bakery. When one opened the door, an exquisite fragrance of newly baked bread and cakes greeted the nostrils; and, if you were not hungry when you entered, you were sure to become so when you examined and smelled the delicious pies and doughnuts and gingerbread and buns with which the shelves and show-cases were stocked. There were trays of French candies, too; and because all the goods were fresh and wholesome the bakery was well patronized and did a thriving business.

Which word best defines the function of the passage?

- A. interrogative
- B. exclamatory
- C. descriptive
- D. persuasive
- E. exculpatory

**ANSWER: C**

**Explanation:**

The passage consists of a list of details about the bakery.