

Opportunity Class Placement Test

Reading

Explained answers for Practice Test 3

Janison.

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[Task 1]

- 1 The correct answer is **'unsure how to occupy themselves'**. The children are unsure how to spend their time, as shown by their sad conversation about trying to do magic to make something interesting happen, and by the fact that as Robert looks around the room, he gets 'no ideas' or suggestions from any of the objects there about what to do.
- 2 The correct answer is **'using everyday objects they have at home.'** The children use everyday things they find at home, like chalk, pencil ends, eucalyptus oil and tea cloths, to try and create magic. Anthea says 'I'm sure...', but doesn't explain why she thinks this, but it's not described as a remembered set of instructions or a tradition, and no one is described as reading from the book.
- 3 The correct answer is **'he is unable to keep hold of it.'** We're told that Robert 'picked up the egg' but then 'dropped it with a cry' because it was too hot, meaning he couldn't keep hold of it.
- 4 The correct answer is **'the reference to a worm'**. The Phoenix is annoyed by the mention of a worm in the encyclopaedia, calling it 'a vulgar insult'. This shows that this detail bothers it the most, as it does not describe any of the other inaccuracies as insulting.
- 5 The correct answer is **'is a mixture of formal and less formal styles.'** We're told that the Phoenix uses a mix of styles, as it speaks with a 'high-bred air' but also casually dismisses parts of the encyclopaedia as 'inaccurate', while using informal expressions like 'never mind' and 'I simply ask you'.
- 6 The correct answer is **'It has a high opinion of itself.'** The Phoenix shows it has a high opinion of itself when it criticises the encyclopaedia, saying, 'That book ought to be destroyed'. It corrects the book's description of its appearance, and is critical of the portrait in the book, which it says is 'unflattering', meaning it feels it looks better than the picture. It also acts very sure of itself throughout the passage.

[Task 2]

- 7 The correct answer is **'birds'**. The line 'like the wings of sea-birds, flash the white caps of the sea', draws a comparison between the movement of the waves and the wings of birds. The word 'caps' in this instance is referring to the tops of the waves. It is the weather that is described in terms of wind and clouds.
- 8 The correct answer is **'wonders what the child is thinking about the storm.'** The poet asks, 'What tale do the roaring ocean...Tell to that little child?' This question shows that the poet is wondering what the child might be thinking or imagining as they watch the storm.
- 9 The correct answer is **'fearful for the return of the fisherman.'** The poem suggests that the woman is fearful for the fisherman's return. This is shown in the sixth verse where the 'roaring ocean' and 'night-wind' cause the colour to leave the mother's cheek, indicating her fear and worry, likely for the fisherman.
- 10 The correct answer is **'the twilight (Verse 1)'** In the first verse, the twilight is described as 'sad', which is an emotion typically associated with humans.
- 11 The correct answer is **'between the sea and the cottage.'** The descriptions of the child and the woman indicate a viewpoint outside the cottage, but still quite close, and on land. The

child is described as having their face pressed close to the window, peering ‘out into the night’, while the woman can only be seen as a shadow pacing in the lamplight. Meanwhile, the poem also vividly describes how the ocean looks in the storm, indicating that the scene is being observed from a point that could also look out to sea.

[Task 3/ Q12]

Gap A The correct answer is **‘The machinery was designed to benefit those who could not climb stairs in their homes.’** The sentence before the gap explains that Ames envisioned his invention for private residences. The sentence which fits the gap expands on this idea, clarifying that the escalator was intended to help those unable to climb stairs. The following sentence highlights that, like his other inventions, Ames never built this version of the escalator.

Gap B The correct answer is **‘The design might not have worked anyway.’** This sentence introduces the idea that even if Ames had tried to build his escalator, the design likely would not have worked. In the sentence immediately following this, Professor Lee Gray expands on why this would be the case – the lack of a motor in the design. The next sentence introduces a new attempt at a moving staircase.

Gap C The correct answer is **‘Yet this was an innovation that was more sophisticated in its engineering.’** This paragraph contrasts Souder’s design with earlier attempts. This sentence fits here as it explains that Souder’s invention was more advanced in its engineering than those that came before it. The next sentence continues this thought by mentioning how Souder’s description made his idea feasible with modern technology.

Gap D The correct answer is **‘Many people’s first exposure to modern inventions happened here.’** The paragraph describes Coney Island as a site of technological innovation. This sentence supports this idea, explaining that many people (i.e. the general public) were exposed to modern inventions “here”, a reference to the place, Coney Island. The following sentences provide examples of inventions that were showcased at this place, including the roller-coaster, large-scale electric lighting, and the ‘Inclined Elevator’.

Gap E The correct answer is **‘In just over a week as a test project, the invention garnered more than 75,000 riders.’** The sentence before the gap explains that Reno’s invention was a slow-moving conveyor belt. The sentence which fits the gap provides information about the test of the invention, and specifically about how the escalator attracted over 75,000 riders in just over a week. The next sentence comments on the inefficiency of the invention despite this popularity.

Gap F The correct answer is **‘Not only did it display the technology, it alleviated foot traffic.’** The previous sentence refers to Professor Gray saying that the demonstration had two purposes. The sentence which fits follows logically here, stating that the escalator not only demonstrated its technology but also helped manage foot traffic.

[Task 4 /Q13]

Which extract explains how people perceive different colours?

The correct answer is **C**. Extract C explains how humans perceive different colours through the concept of visible light within the electromagnetic spectrum. It details how our eyes detect a specific range of wavelengths as colours.

Which extract describes someone becoming newly aware of colour?

The correct answer is **B**. Extract B describes a person's experience of seeing painting techniques for the first time. The narrator initially misunderstood how colours should be applied but then became aware of the process of layering colours to achieve the final effect.

Which extract refers to various meanings that one colour may convey?

The correct answer is **C**. Extract C refers to the various meanings that different colours can convey. It outlines how the perception of colours is culturally and contextually interpreted, such as 'red' being associated with power, love or danger.

Which extract explains why a change occurred in the composition of colouring materials?

The correct answer is **A**. Extract A explains why there was a shift in the composition of colouring materials. It describes how early artists used animal and vegetable sources that were short-lived and later switched to more durable mineral-based pigments, indicating a change in materials.

Which extract mentions someone who was eager to use colour in an unconventional way?

The correct answer is **D**. Extract D talks about how Lorna Fencer Napurrula, an artist, chose to use a broader palette of colours, differing from traditional practices. This demonstrates a person eager to explore unconventional, or non-traditional, uses of colour in art.

Which extract describes how our mental processes are involved in interpreting colour?

The correct answer is **C**. Extract C describes how our mental processes are involved in interpreting colour. It explains how our brain processes different wavelengths of visible light and assigns cultural and contextual meanings to them, highlighting the cognitive aspect of colour perception.

Which extract says that the use of colour in one painting initially appeared to be wrong?

The correct answer is **B**. Extract B shows that the narrator initially thought the application of colours in painting was incorrect. For example, the narrator originally thought the artist was making a mistake when they used black in the skirt of the girl in the painting, thinking the artist should have started with blue. The narrator's perception changed as they observed the layering technique and understood how the final colours came together.

Which extract gives evidence of the early use of coloured paints for a particular purpose?

The correct answer is **A**. Extract A provides evidence of early use of coloured paints, specifically for body and face painting in prehistoric times. It mentions a 100,000-year-old paint workshop and the use of pigments for personal decoration.