

Paper 1: Reading

Exercise four

Total: 6 marks

Description of the exercise

- You will read a text then answer 6 multiple choice questions.
- There are three options to choose between.
- Each question is worth one mark.
- The text is maybe taken form a blog, website or an article.

You will be assessed on your ability to:

1. Identify main ideas in the text
2. Understand attitudes and opinions expressed
3. Demonstrate understanding of implied meaning

Skimming and Scanning

- Skim the text to get the main idea.
- Read the opening carefully and analyze the options.
- Underline key points and focus on the most important parts!
- Look for paraphrased wording! Exact wording is usually incorrect.
- Read through the text and scan for key words in the text.

Students might struggle choosing the right answer on a multiple choice test because:

- The right answer could be expressed in different ways.
- Quality multiple choice questions are written in a way that requires higher order thinking, synthesizing information and inferencing.

The design of some multiple choice questions

- Some multiple choice questions are constructed in a manner that all choices will seem plausible since they are meant to test your critical thinking skills and your reasoning.
- This is why multiple choice questions will usually ask you to find the best answer instead of the right or the correct answer.

Multiple choice questions consist of:

1. The opening, problem to be solved, a question asked or an incomplete statement to be completed.
- The options which are the possible answers that you are supposed to choose from.

According to the passage, which of these makes the best pet?

a. goldfish

b. dog

c. snake

d. hamster

KEY

DISTRACTORS

STEM

How distractors are designed in multiple choice tests...

5 MOST COMMON DISTRACTORS

1. HALF RIGHT/HALF WRONG
2. MISUSED DETAILS
3. OUT OF SCOPE
4. OPPOSITE
5. EXTREME

HALF RIGHT/HALF WRONG = ALL WRONG



Details from the passage are twisted or distorted.

There may be some element of truth or fact.

A portion of the answer may be correct but something else may be incorrect.

HALF RIGHT/HALF WRONG = ALL WRONG

Woolf characterizes the moment of transition as both

- a. ~~controversial~~ and ~~threatening~~
- b. ~~weighty~~ and ~~unanswerable~~
- c. ~~momentous~~ and ~~pressing~~
- d. ~~provocative~~ and ~~mysterious~~



Remember that this type of distractor will "distort" the answer.

If any part of the choice is wrong, it's ALL wrong!

MISUSED DETAIL



Words, statements, or details that are lifted straight from the passage will usually be incorrect.

word-for-word format

All the wrong options are in the passage. They are mentioned word by word. Usually the correct answer is paraphrased.

MISUSED DETAIL

The passage directly compares the Milky Way's disk as it is affected by its warp to:

F. a pasta maker churning out spaghetti. ❌

G. pizza dough being spun in the air by a chef.

H. a thin-crust pizza balanced on top of a plum. ❌

J. two figure skaters coming together for a combination spin. ❌

Answers that are not stated in the passage implicitly or explicitly are incorrect.

OUT OF SCOPE

OUTSIDE OR BEYOND THE PASSAGE




Mostly found in fiction passages but can also be found in non-fiction texts

Plays on your background knowledge and biases

Makes sense but not supported by the passage

Your thinking is out of scope!

Which describes how the old woman feels about living as a recluse?

 A. The old woman is lonely and depressed. Plausible but not supported by the passage. Out of scope.

B. The old woman lives according to her own rules.

 C. The old woman longs for human contact. Plausible but not supported by the passage. Out of scope.

D. The old woman enjoys the routine of social community.


OPPOSITE



Contradicts the information in
the passage

OPPOSITE

Which describes how the old woman feels about living as a recluse?

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-  D. The old woman enjoys the routine of social community.



OPPOSITE/
CONTRADICTS
THE PASSAGE

EXTREME



Based on **ABSOLUTE POSITIONS**

Watch out for words such as
ALWAYS, NEVER, ALL, NONE,
BEST, WORST...

The circled words are examples of extreme distractors!

*The only way one of these choices would be correct if it was supported by the passage.

*Be careful when you find extreme distractors and test them out because, most likely, they are incorrect.

EXTREME

The author would most likely agree with the claim made in lines 27-31 by asserting that

- A. children do not grow up in a single-gender culture.
- B. children may become skilled at deceiving adults.
- C. gender differences are impossible to assess scientifically.
- D. children's behaviors have changed dramatically in recent years.