



TSI

Reading/Writing

TEST PREP



Texas Success Initiative: Reading and Writing

The TSI Assessment is a program designed to help Lone Star College determine if students are ready for college-level coursework in the general areas of reading, writing and mathematics. This program will also help determine what type of course or intervention will best meet student needs to help them become better prepared for college-level course work if they are not ready.

The TSI Reading test contains questions that measure proficiency in four content areas. The four content areas are as follows:

Literary Analysis

- Identifying and analyzing ideas and elements of literary texts

Main Idea and Supporting Details

- Identifying the main idea of a passage
- Comprehending explicit textual information in a passage

Inferences in a Text or Texts

- Synthesizing ideas by making a connection or comparison between two passages
- Making an appropriate inference about single passages

Author's Use of Language

- Identifying an author's purpose, tone and organization or rhetorical strategies and use of evidence
- Determining the meaning of words in context

Turn to next page to begin Reading test.....

Directions for questions 1-10

Read the following passages and then choose the best answer to the question or the best completion of the statement.

1. It is said that a smile is universally understood. Nothing triggers a smile more universally than the taste of sugar. Nearly everyone loves sugar. Infant studies indicate that humans are born with an innate love of sweets. Based on statistics, a lot of people in Great Britain must be smiling because on average, every man, woman and child in that country consumes 95 pounds of sugar each year.

This passage implies that the writer thinks that 95 pounds of sugar per person per year is:

- A. a surprisingly large amount
 - B. a surprisingly small amount
 - C. about what one would expect
 - D. an unhealthy amount
2. Studies show that the prevalence of fast-food restaurants corresponds with the rates of obesity in both children and adults. Obesity is now on the rise in countries outside the U.S., where fast food restaurants are becoming more common.

How do the two sentences relate?

- A. They express roughly the same idea.
- B. They contradict each other.
- C. They present problems and solutions.
- D. They establish a contrast.

Turn to next page to continue.....

3. In 2010, talk show host Oprah Winfrey and novelist Jonathan Franzen kissed and made up after a nine-year feud. In 2001, Franzen was disinvited from appearing on Winfrey's TV show to pitch his novel *The Corrections* after he made it clear that he was unhappy about the book's being chosen for the Oprah Book Club. Describing his work as "in the high-art literary tradition," Franzen said he didn't want to be associated with the Club, which he accused of occasionally choosing "schmaltzy, one-dimensional" novels. But Winfrey is apparently able to forgive and forget: she chose Franzen's next novel, *Freedom*, for her book club and said of it, "Now you haven't heard me say this word often, but this book is a masterpiece."

The passage implies that Franzen's criticism of the Oprah Book Club was motivated primarily by:

- A. Pride
 - B. Anger
 - C. Insensitivity
 - D. Ignorance
4. American copyright laws, laws that prohibit the use, distribution, or adaptation of another's product without permission, first applied only to the copying of books, but now cover such diverse products as sound recordings, motion pictures, and computer programs. The federal Copyright Act of 1790 allowed copyright protection for 14 years with one 14-year extension allowed (if the author survived the first 14-year term). The Copyright Act of 1909 extended copyright protection to 28 years with a 28-year renewal, and the Copyright Act of 1976 extended it further, to 75 years.

What is the main purpose of this passage?

- A. To explain the need for copyright laws
- B. To show how copyright laws have been applied
- C. To indicate how copyright laws have changed
- D. To argue that copyright laws need to be expanded

Turn to next page to continue.....

5. Some historians attribute the origins of the front porches so common in American houses to the covered porticos of classical Rome. Indeed, our word “porch” derives from the Latin portico. However, these colonnaded spaces were almost always connected to public or religious structures rather than to private homes. The loggias of Renaissance Venice, recessed front entryways built into the ground floor of Venetian canal houses, perhaps provide a better starting point for the evolution of the American-style porch. This architectural feature later became popularized throughout Europe by the 17th-century Venetian architect Andrea Palladio. Eventually, English colonists would spread the loggia to the American colonies.

Why does the author mention Venetian architect Andrea Palladio?

- A. Palladio added porticos to many of his building designs.
- B. Palladio designed numerous houses with front porches in America.
- C. Palladio was the first architect to design a building with a loggia.
- D. Palladio inspired other builders to include loggias in their designs.

6. Plywood, while not the most pleasing wood to look at, has become an incredibly important building material in house construction. It is flexible, inexpensive, and strong. Its strength is due to layers of thin wood glued on top of each other with the grain of each layer making a right angle with the grain of the layer below it. This way of layering the sheets of wood makes plywood difficult to break.

Which word best describes the author’s attitude towards plywood’s qualities?

- A. Impressed
- B. Ecstatic
- C. Dismissive
- D. Skeptical

Turn to next page to continue.....

7. Our bones grow continuously throughout our lives, with old bone cells dying and being discarded. However, for astronauts who are in space for a prolonged period, a lack of gravitational pull—which has a number of beneficial effects on the body, including supporting new bone growth—results in their bones adding less bone tissue to replace dying tissue. In fact, for every month in space, a person will lose 1.5 to 2% of his or her bone mass, with the hip bone and the lower leg bones most affected.

It can be inferred from the passage that:

- A. astronauts rarely regain their lost bone mass
- B. bone loss is not a problem for non-astronauts
- C. the lower body typically experiences more bone growth than the upper body
- D. astronauts seldom stay in space for more than a month

8. Our bones grow continuously throughout our lives, with old bone cells dying and being discarded. However, for astronauts who are in space for a prolonged period, a lack of gravitational pull—which has a number of beneficial effects on the body, including supporting new bone growth—results in their bones adding less bone tissue to replace dying tissue. In fact, for every month in space, a person will lose 1.5 to 2% of his or her bone mass, with the hip bone and the lower leg bones most affected.

The human body adds bone mass in order to:

- A. replace dead bone tissue
- B. make up for a lack of exercise
- C. relieve stress on non-weight-bearing bones
- D. keep bone tissue from being discarded

Turn to next page to continue.....

9. If you are committed to healthy, green living and want to reduce your environmental footprint, you might consider expanding your daily diet to include bugs. Supporters of the edible insect initiative rightfully argue that farming insects has a much lower environmental impact than does raising livestock since bugs are easier to harvest and require a fraction of the water and land space that cattle need. Indeed, the high-protein, low-fat health benefits of bug-eating have long been known. For hundreds of years, crickets, silkworms and even tarantulas have been served roasted, stewed and fried at the dinner tables of many cultures.

In the first sentence, “expanding” most nearly means:

- A. intensifying
- B. broadening
- C. developing
- D. exaggerating

10. Polyvinyl chloride, or PVC, is used in most water-carrying pipes in the United States. Known for their resistance to the corrosion that can be caused by water, PVC pipes are more durable than the metal pipes of old. As useful as PVC is, it may be surprising that it was accidentally discovered in 1835 by Henri Victor Regnault, who observed a mysterious white solid plastic forming inside some test tubes that were left exposed to sunlight in his lab.

It can be inferred from the passage that metal pipes:

- A. are used more than PVC pipes outside of the United States
- B. are more expensive than PVC pipes
- C. are more likely to corrode than PVC pipes
- D. are no longer used in the United States

Turn to next page to continue....

The TSI Writing Test contains questions that measure proficiency in four content areas. The four content areas are as follows:

Essay Revision

- Coherence, organization and word choice
- Rhetorical effectiveness and use of evidence

Agreement

- Subject-verb agreement
- Pronoun agreement
- Verb tense

Sentence Structure

- Comma splices and run-on sentences
- Improper punctuation
- Fragments and parallelism
- Subordination and coordination

Sentence Logic

- Correct placement of modifying phrase and clauses
- The use of logical transitions

Turn to next page to begin Writing test....

Directions for questions 1-10

Choose the best answer to the question or the best edit of the underlined statement.

1. Select the best edit for the underlined part.

These books, which was published in the late eighteenth century, are very valuable.

- A. books which was published in the late eighteenth century
- B. books in the late eighteenth century
- C. books, which were published in the late eighteenth century
- D. books, which is published, in the eighteenth century

2. Select the best edit for the underlined part.

Working as a receptionist for my uncle's business taught me to handle customer complaints, answering the telephone, and how to maintain a Rolodex.

- A. to handle customer complaints, answering the telephone, and how to maintain a Rolodex.
- B. how to handle customer complaints, answering the telephone, and maintaining a Rolodex.
- C. how to handle customer complaints, how to answer the telephone, and how to maintain a Rolodex.
- D. handling customer complaints, answering the telephone, and maintenance of a Rolodex.

3. Select the best edit.

In a large city, you may have massive traffic jams on your daily commute to work.

- A. In a large city, a person may have massive traffic jams on your daily commute to work.
- B. In a large city, a resident may have massive traffic jams on his daily commute to work.
- C. In a large city, massive traffic jams may be part of the daily commute to work.
- D. In a large city, massive traffic jams may be part of the everyday commute on the way to work.

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4. Select the best edit.

We could watch the stars sitting on the balcony.

- A. We could watch the stars sitting on the balcony.
- B. Sitting on the balcony, the stars we could watch.
- C. On the balcony, we watched the stars sitting.
- D. Sitting on the balcony, we could watch the stars.

5. Rewrite, beginning with: *The drama club had to ...*

The next words should be:

- A. cancel and reschedule a new date for the event.
- B. reschedule the picnic because of rain.
- C. cancel the picnic and reschedule it because of rain
- D. reschedule a new date for the picnic because it was canceled due to rain.

6. Select the sentence with correct punctuation and correct use of the word: *however*

The best choice will be:

- A. However the other generals understood it and leaving aside the question of Moscow, spoke of the direction the army should take in its retreat.
- B. The other generals, however, understood it and, leaving aside the question of Moscow, spoke of the direction the army should take in its retreat.
- C. The other generals understood it, and leaving aside the question of Moscow, however, spoke of the direction the army should take in its retreat.
- D. Leaving aside the question of Moscow, the other generals however understood it and spoke of the direction the army should take in its retreat.

Turn to next page to continue....

7. Select the best edit for the underlined part.

If a person wants to succeed in school, they have to study.

- A. they have to study.
- B. he or she has to study.
- C. they has to study.
- D. he or she have to study.

8. Select the best edit for the underlined part.

Coming in from Fourth Street, the Student Union is seen by students who are arriving on campus.

- A. Student Union is seen by students who are arriving on campus.
- B. students who are arriving on campus see the Student Union.
- C. the students having seen the Student Union arrive on campus.
- D. the Student Union is being seen by students who arrive on campus.

9. Select the best edit for the underlined part.

Judy is dating a man that has a seven hundred-acre ranch near the foothills outside of town.

- A. a man that has a seven hundred-acre ranch near the foothills outside of town.
- B. a man, that has a seven hundred-acre ranch near the foothills outside of town.
- C. a man, who has a seven hundred-acre ranch near the foothills outside of town.
- D. a man who has a seven hundred-acre ranch near the foothills outside of town.

Turn to next page to continue....

10. Rewrite the following sentence:

In his kitchen, Chef Thomas Keller applies classical French cooking techniques to create a unique American dining experience.

Rewrite the sentence, beginning with: “Classical French cooking...”

The new sentence will be:

- A. Classical French cooking techniques make American dining offered by Chef Thomas Keller.
- B. Classical French cooking and American dining are combined in the Chef Thomas Keller kitchen.
- C. Classical French cooking techniques are applied in the kitchen by Chef Thomas Keller to create a unique American dining experience.
- D. Classical French cooking applications are made by Chef Thomas Keller in his kitchen.

CONCLUSION of TSI Reading and Writing Test Prep

TSI SAMPLE READING ANSWER KEY

- 1. A
- 2. A
- 3. A
- 4. C
- 5. D
- 6. A
- 7. C
- 8. A
- 9. B
- 10. C

TSI SAMPLE WRITING ANSWER KEY

- 1. C
- 2. C
- 3. C
- 4. D
- 5. B
- 6. B
- 7. B
- 8. B
- 9. D
- 10. B