

SAT Reading Sample Paper 1

Reading Passage 1

The evils of the employment of pauper nurses is dwelt upon by all who have considered the subject of workhouse management. When we consider the persons to whom such extensive power and responsibility are entrusted, in the care of 50,000 sick persons in the London workhouses alone, we can hardly wonder at what is told of the results of the system. The only way in which an employment of the inmates could be successfully carried out, would be under the constant supervision of superior persons; but in the present system that is an impossibility. Efficient nurses, who could gain a living in any of our hospitals, would not be likely to offer themselves for a post in which it is nearly all work of the hardest kind, and no pay. One of these pauper nurses boldly stated that she had been sixteen times in the House of Correction, and she was not ashamed of it. Of course such labor is cheap, and it is desirable, if possible, to employ those who must be maintained at the cost of the parish; but in no case should they be left with the sole charge and responsibility of sick wards, as they continually are at present, without any other control than the occasional visit of the matron, bestowed at the utmost once a day, in some cases only once a week.

Seeing how careful boards of guardians are in all matters of expense, it would have been well if the recommendation of the poor law with regard to the employment of at least one paid nurse had been a law; as it is, many workhouses are without one. That such a person would always be all we could desire for so important a post we could hardly hope, from what we know of the paid nurses in hospitals, but at any rate there would be a better chance of efficiency and character than in the present plan.

But on the 18th of May, 1865, a Lady Superintendent who had received a thorough training at Kaiserswerth and St. Thomas's, twelve Nightingale nurses from St. Thomas's, eighteen probationers, and fifty-two of the old pauper nurses were placed in charge of the patients in the 45 male wards of the Workhouse Infirmary. With the exception of the failure of the nurses taken from the pauper class, the first year's trial was sufficiently successful to induce a continuance of the experiment. It was impossible, however, to judge the result by statistics. None that were available could be considered as an evidence of success or failure, for several reasons. The season was very unhealthy, and to relieve the pressure on the space and resources of the hospital, steps were taken to treat slight cases outside. The endeavor to limit the admissions to serious cases would of course affect the returns, both as regards the time taken in curing, and the proportion of deaths. Even had there been no exceptional disturbing element, there is a defect in the statistics of workhouse hospitals which affects all inferences from them, in the absence of any careful classified list of cases kept by the medical officers, such as might fairly enable one to form a judgment from mere statistical tables. These, then, are not reliable as means of judgment, unless extending over a long period. The character of seasons, and nature of cases admitted, varies so much from year to year as to invalidate any deductions, unless founded on minutely kept medical records. The following extracts, however, from the reports of the Governor, and the surgical and medical officers of the Workhouse, bear decisive witness to the value of the "new system, especially as contrasted with the "old system," which in 1865-66 still prevailed in the female wards. All these reports bear emphatic testimony to the merits and devotion of the Lady Superintendent and her staff. The medical men, it is noteworthy, speak strongly of the better discipline and far greater obedience to their orders observable where the trained nurses are

employed-a point the more important 85 because it is that on which, before experience has reassured them, medical and other authorities have often been most doubtful.

1. The primary purpose of Passage 1 is to

- A. praise an effective structure.
- B. criticize a social group.
- C. examine the finances of a system.
- D. advocate for a necessary change.

2. Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A. Lines 13-16 ("Efficient nurses...pay")
- B. Lines 16-19 ("One of...it")
- C. Lines 22-27 ("but in...week")
- D. Lines 28-32 ("Seeing how...law")

3. As used in lines 21, "maintained" most nearly means

- A. provided for.
- B. affirmed.
- C. healed.
- D. fixed.

4. The phrase in lines 34-35 ("we could hardly hope") most directly suggests that

- A. an ideal candidate should be found for a position.
- B. people who go to hospitals should be critical of nurses.
- C. allowances should be made, since no person is perfect.
- D. an improvement is still likely to have some flaws.

5. Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A. Lines 13-16 ("Efficient nurses...pay")
- B. Lines 19-22 ("Of course...parish")
- C. Lines 29-32 ("it would...law")
- D. Lines 35-38 ("from what...plan")

6. The final sentence of Passage 1 has which effect?

- A. It emphasizes that the current situation is unpleasant.
- B. It shares the author's despair over the circumstances.
- C. It casts an entirely optimistic light on a proposal.
- D. It evokes the generally low opinion held for a certain group.

7. It can be most directly inferred from the second paragraph of Passage 2 (lines 46-56) that the first year of the experiment described in the passage was unusual in

- A. having weather that caused an uncharacteristic amount of illness.
- B. the overall number of people who required medical treatment.
- C. that effective medical treatment exceeded statistical expectations.
- D. the number of people who died from disease.

8. The author of Passage 2 references a "careful classified list of cases" (line 64) in order to

- A. specify what will be required of all workhouses in the future, if the experiment continues.
 - B. explain a missing element that would have ensured an outcome.
 - C. reveal an inconsistency which made more accurate analysis impossible.
 - D. detail the extent to which records can be kept over a long period.
9. As used in line 69, the phrase "character of seasons" most nearly means

- A. changes in morality.
- B. weather patterns.
- C. the overall health during a period.
- D. the unpredictable nature of human behavior.

10. The author of Passage 1 would most likely respond to the phrase in lines 46-47 ("With the exception...class") of Passage 2 by

- A. expressing surprise at an unexpected result that is inconsistent with prior observations.
- B. acknowledging that an ideal situation may not be practical to attain.
- C. noting that intervention earlier in life may have changed an outcome.
- D. suggesting that the data may not be entirely representative.

11. Which choice best describes the relationship between the two passages?

- A. Passage 2 describes a scenario that addresses some elements of the situation shown in Passage 1.
- B. Passage 2 discusses potential results of the overall problem reviewed in Passage 1.
- C. Passage 2 underscores the futility of attempts to resolve the concerns of Passage 1.
- D. Passage 2 resolves the issues brought to light in Passage 1

Reading Passage 2

5 Tin is a metal often found in nature in its oxidized form, as the mineral called cassiterite. Cassiterite has been the primary source of tin Line throughout history, and remains the primary source of tin today. Small amounts of tin are also recovered from sulphide minerals such as stannite. Cassiterite is found in alluvial deposits and can also be found in lode deposits in association with other metallic minerals. 10 Cassiterite is mined by the dredging of alluvial deposits, where the ore is broken up by either high-pressure water or an excavator, or hard-rock mining methods, usually from underground mines. Crushed ore is concentrated, usually 15 in co-location with the mine, through a combination of flotation, gravity, and magnetic processes to produce a cassiterite concentrate containing 70-77 percent tin. Tin concentrate is then smelted by heating it in the presence of 20 carbon to 1,200-1,300 degrees Celsius, reducing the cassiterite to tin metal, and releasing carbon dioxide. Following the smelting process to produce tin metal, the remaining impurities are removed through a refining process, usually at a 25 facility co-located with the smelter. Refining tin involves heating it to temperatures just past the tin melting point, allowing impurities to drop out as solids, and then skimming off the pure liquid tin. Refining is done by either heat treatment 30 or electrolytic processes. Heat treatment uses carbon-based fuel as a main heat source, usually in a reverberatory furnace. Heat treatment is more widely used than electrolytic processes, but produces only 99.85 percent tin. Electrolytic 35 processing involves inserting

the smelted tin in an ionic solution and running an electrical current through it. The smelted tin is the anode, and the cathode collects the pure tin metal. Electrolytic processing is more expensive, but provides up to 40 99.9999 percent tin. Tin is often found in everyday life. It is the primary component of solder. Solder is used to combine two pieces of metal, allowing an electrical charge to flow across the connection. 45 Solder is used on every electronic circuit board, and it is difficult or expensive to replace. There are some substitutes available for tin, with lead being the most viable alternative. Solder has been made from lead and tin, but since the Safe 50 Drinking Water Act, tin has become the primary metal in solder. Tin is also a primary component in food grade tin cans manufactured from tinplate. Tinplate is made by annealing molten tin onto a steel sheet. The resulting metal, formed 55 into cans, is then used in canning food, where the tin prevents corrosion and leaching of steel into the food product. Tinplate accounts for about 25 percent of domestic tin consumption. Because tin is not harmful to humans, it is a preferred 60 method of canning and preserving food for long-term storage. Substitutes for tinplate include aluminum, plastic, and organic-coated steel. Tin is also used in chemicals and accounts for 35 percent of domestic consumption. The tin supply chain is complex and, often, opaque. Companies usually report products that they supply to the market place; however, they may not describe which of their plants use which 65 The tin supply chain is complex and, often, opaque. Companies usually report products that they supply to the market place; however, they may not describe which of their plants use which starting materials or processes. As a result, plants 70 reported for some multi-plant corporations may or may not consume or produce all of the tin materials reported. Some large companies have multiple plants, which may or may not have been described in sufficient detail to identify their 75 location or the tin material that was processed. For example, information was not available on all tin producing companies, and many companies that were reported to have been tin suppliers could not be confirmed as such. Companies 80 changed names, were referred to imprecisely, changed ownership, or went out of business.

1. Based on the passage, the author would most likely consider tin to be

- A. expensive.
- B. practical.
- C. complicated.
- D. synthetic.

2. Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A. Lines 14-18 ("Crushed...tin")
- B. Lines 38-40 ("Electrolytic...tin")
- C. Lines 58-61 ("Because tin...storage")
- D. Lines 65-66 ("The tin...opaque")

3. The overall structure of the passage could best be described as

- A. a complete analysis of a naturally occurring element.
- B. an overview of the steps and results of a process.
- C. an introduction written for a geology course.
- D. an explanation of the solution to a problem.

4. The most likely application of tin produced by means of electrolytic processing would be

- A. plating for commonly produced canned goods, to be widely distributed.
 - B. miniature figurines designed to be painted and displayed.
 - C. small amounts of material intended for scientific analysis.
 - D. solder sold worldwide as part of a campaign to market lead-free products.
5. Between the first and second paragraphs, the focus shifts from
- A. meticulous attention to detail to broad, assumptive generalizations.
 - B. scientific analysis of the properties and uses of a material to industrial processes.
 - C. detailed description of a series of steps to implementation of a result.
 - D. overview of a specific cycle to its role in the mining industry.
6. What can most reasonably be inferred about the Safe Water Drinking Act from the passage?
- A. It specified the nature and percentage of the components of solder.
 - B. It may have impacted what elements a company chose to use in making solder.
 - C. It promoted tin over lead for all applications.
 - D. It prompted shifts in the manufacture and distribution of canned goods.
7. The author indicates that the demand for tin in part exists because
- A. tin can be found in nature.
 - B. tin of nearly 100% purity can be produced.
 - C. tin is the best conductor of electricity.
 - D. of tin's impact on an individual's health.
8. Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?
- A. Lines 1-2 ("Tin is...cassiterite")
 - B. Lines 38-40 ("Electrolytic...tin")
 - C. Lines 42-44 ("Solder...connection")
 - D. Lines 58-61 ("Because tin...storage")
9. As used in line 66, "opaque" most nearly means
- A. dark.
 - B. wide.
 - C. impenetrable
 - D. dense.
10. The sentence in lines 79-81 ("Companies changed...business") primarily serves to
- A. indicate a continuation of an existing chain.
 - B. describe the many uses for a product.
 - C. show the sole difficulty in answering a question.
 - D. support an earlier statement through an example.

Reading Passage 3

I think that I love society as much as most, and am ready enough to fasten myself like a bloodsucker for the time to any full-blooded man Line that comes in my way. I am naturally

no hermit, 5 but might possibly sit out the sturdiest frequenter of the bar-room, if my business called me thither. I had three chairs in my house; one for solitude, two for friendship, three for society. When visitors came in larger and unexpected 10 numbers there was but the third chair for them all, but they generally economized the room by standing up. It is surprising how many great men and women a small house will contain. I have had twenty-five or thirty souls, with their bodies, 15 at once under my roof, and yet we often parted without being aware that we had come very near to one another. One inconvenience I sometimes experienced in so small a house, the difficulty of getting to 20 a sufficient distance from my guest when we began to utter the big thoughts in big words. You want room for your thoughts to get into sailing trim and run a course or two before they make their port. The bullet of your thought must have 25 overcome its lateral and ricochet motion and fallen into its last and steady course before it reaches the ear of the hearer, else it may plow out again through the side of his head. Also, our sentences wanted room to unfold and form 30 their columns in the interval. Individuals, like nations, must have suitable broad and natural boundaries, even a considerable neutral ground, between them. I have found it a singular luxury to talk across the pond to a companion on the 35 opposite side. In my house we were so near that we could not begin to hear-we could not speak low enough to be heard; as when you throw two stones into calm water so near that they break each other's undulations. As the conversation 40 began to assume a loftier and grander tone, we gradually shoved our chairs farther apart till they touched the wall in opposite corners, and then commonly there was not room enough. My "best" room, however, my withdrawing 45 room, always ready for company, on whose carpet the sun rarely fell, was the pine wood behind my house. Thither in summer days, when distinguished guests came, I took them, and a priceless domestic swept the floor and dusted the 50 furniture and kept the things in order. If one guest came he sometimes partook of my frugal meal, and it was no interruption to conversation to be stirring a hasty-pudding, or watching the rising and maturing of a loaf 55 of bread in the ashes, in the meanwhile. But if twenty came and sat in my house there was nothing said about dinner, though there might be bread enough for two, more than if eating were a forsaken habit; but we naturally practised 60 abstinence; and this was never felt to be an offence against hospitality, but the most proper and considerate course. The waste and decay of physical life, which so often needs repair, seemed miraculously retarded in such a case, and the vital 65 vigor stood its ground. I could entertain thus a thousand as well as twenty; and if any ever went away disappointed or hungry from my house when they found me at home, they may depend upon it that I sympathized with them at least. So 70 easy is it, though many housekeepers doubt it, to establish new and better customs in the place of the old. You need not rest your reputation on the dinners you give. As for men, they will hardly fail one 75 anywhere. I had more visitors while I lived in the woods than at any other period in my life; I mean that I had some. I met several there under more favorable circumstances than I could anywhere else. But fewer came to see me on trivial business. 80 In this respect, my company was winnowed by my mere distance from town. I had withdrawn so far within the great ocean of solitude, into which the rivers of society empty, that for the most part, so far as my needs were concerned, only the finest 85 sediment was deposited around me.

1. The main narrative point of view of the passage is of

A. a man adjusting to life in a big city after growing up on a farm.

- B. a discussion of visitors to a small house away from city life.
- C. a sailor discussing the pond on which he grew up and how it affected his friendships.
- D. a man discussing the potential of big thoughts and their need to be expressed.

2. The passage suggested which of the following about the author?

- A. He enjoyed living in the country near a pond.
- B. He had more visitors to his home in the country than at any other time in his life.
- C. He felt that having more than three people in his house was too many.
- D. He needed to throw dinner parties to entice guests to come from town to his home.

3. Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous answer?

- A. Lines 7-11 ("I had three...for them all")
- B. Lines 33-35 ("I have found...opposite side")
- C. Lines 72-73 ("You need...you give")
- D. Lines 75-76 ("I had more...in my life")

4. As used in line 11, "economized" most nearly means

- A. wasted.
- B. used efficiently.
- C. squandered.
- D. purchased.

5. It can be inferred from the passage that "big thoughts" (line 21) must

- A. become violent before settling down.
- B. bounce around and break out of one's head.
- C. be mulled over and formulated before being heard.
- D. have time to move around before being heard.

6. In the context of the passage, the phrase "as when you throw two stones into calm water so near that they break each other's undulations" (lines 37-39) is best described as

- A. a reference to the author's childhood days when he threw stones into a lake.
- B. an analogy used to elaborate on a previous statement.
- C. a way to expand on the reasons national boundaries are always changing.
- D. a reason that the author and his companion had to continually move their chairs to be heard.

7. As used in line 27, "plow" most nearly means

- A. push.
- B. furrow.
- C. cultivate.
- D. walk.

8. What happens when the author does not have enough food for his guests?

- A. He shares.
- B. He turns them away.
- C. He buys more food.

D. They refrain from eating.

9. The passage suggests that housekeepers most likely

A. are stuck in their ways and unable to change.

B. feel that traditions should not change.

C. believe there is a certain protocol that must be followed when hosting guests.

D. feel that pudding and bread are not a suitable meal.

10. What does the author mean when he said that "only the finest sediment was deposited" (lines 84-85) on him?

A. He was living far from town and his visitors were of a higher caliber.

B. He was covered in a fine dust while living in the woods.

C. The pond near his home frequently flooded, leaving sediment in his "best" room.

D. Many people came to see him about the dirty business of trivial matters.

11. What choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

A. Lines 48–50 ("a priceless...order")

B. Lines 75-77 ("I had more...some")

C. Lines 70–72 ("though many...old")

D. Line 79 ("But fewer...business")