

## ACT Reading Homework Reading 1, Set 1

*35 Minutes — 40 Questions*

**DIRECTIONS:** There are four passages in this test. Each passage is followed by several questions. After reading a passage, choose the best answer to each question and fill in the corresponding oval on your answer document. You may refer to the passages as often as necessary.

### Passage I

**Prose Fiction:** This passage is from the novel Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen. Passage can be found at <http://www.gutenberg.org/dirs/etext98/pandp12.txt>.

Not all that Mrs. Bennet, however, with the assistance of her five daughters, could ask on the subject, was sufficient to draw from her husband any satisfactory description of Mr.

- 5 Bingley. They attacked him in various ways--with barefaced questions, ingenious suppositions, and distant surmises; but he eluded the skill of them all, and they were at last obliged to accept the second-hand intelligence of their neighbour, Lady  
10 Lucas. Her report was highly favourable. Sir William had been delighted with him. He was quite young, wonderfully handsome, extremely agreeable, and, to crown the whole, he meant to be at the next assembly with a large party. Nothing  
15 could be more delightful! To be fond of dancing was a certain step towards falling in love; and very lively hopes of Mr. Bingley's heart were entertained.

- “If I can but see one of my daughters  
20 happily settled at Netherfield,” said Mrs. Bennet to her husband, “and all the others equally well married, I shall have nothing to wish for.”

- In a few days Mr. Bingley returned Mr. Bennet's visit, and sat about ten minutes with him  
25 in his library. He had entertained hopes of being admitted to a sight of the young ladies, of whose beauty he had heard much; but he saw only the father. The ladies were somewhat more fortunate, for they had the advantage of ascertaining from  
30 an upper window that he wore a blue coat and rode a black horse.

- An invitation to dinner was soon afterwards dispatched; and already had Mrs. Bennet planned the courses that were to do credit to her  
35 housekeeping, when an answer arrived which

deferred it all. Mr. Bingley was obliged to be in town the following day, and, consequently, unable to accept the honour of their invitation, etc. Mrs. Bennet was quite disconcerted. She  
40 could not imagine what business he could have in town so soon after his arrival in Hertfordshire; and she began to fear that he might be always flying about from one place to another, and never settled at Netherfield as he ought to be. Lady  
45 Lucas quieted her fears a little by starting the idea of his being gone to London only to get a large party for the ball; and a report soon followed that Mr. Bingley was to bring twelve ladies and seven gentlemen with him to the assembly. The girls  
50 grieved over such a number of ladies, but were comforted the day before the ball by hearing, that instead of twelve he brought only six with him from London--his five sisters and a cousin.  
55 And when the party entered the assembly room it consisted of only five altogether--Mr. Bingley, his two sisters, the husband of the eldest, and another young man.

- Mr. Bingley was good-looking and gentlemanlike; he had a pleasant countenance, and easy,  
60 unaffected manners. His sisters were fine women, with an air of decided fashion. His brother-in-law, Mr. Hurst, merely looked the gentleman; but his friend Mr. Darcy soon drew the attention of the room by his fine, tall person, handsome  
65 features, noble mien, and the report which was in general circulation within five minutes after his entrance, of his having ten thousand a year. The gentlemen pronounced him to be a fine figure of a man, the ladies declared he was much hand-  
70 somer than Mr. Bingley, and he was looked at with great admiration for about half the evening, till his manners gave a disgust which turned the tide of his popularity; for he was discovered to be proud; to be above his company, and above being

75 pleased; and not all his large estate in Derbyshire could then save him from having a most forbidding, disagreeable countenance, and being unworthy to be compared with his friend.

80 Mr. Bingley had soon made himself acquainted with all the principal people in the room; he was lively and unreserved, danced every dance, was angry that the ball closed so early, and talked of giving one himself at Netherfield. Such amiable qualities must speak for  
85 themselves. What a contrast between him and his friend! Mr. Darcy danced only once with Mrs. Hurst and once with Miss Bingley, declined being introduced to any other lady, and spent the rest of the evening in walking about the room, speaking  
90 occasionally to one of his own party. His character was decided. He was the proudest, most disagreeable man in the world, and everybody hoped that he would never come there again. Amongst the most violent against him was Mrs.  
95 Bennet, whose dislike of his general behaviour was sharpened into particular resentment by his having slighted one of her daughters.

1. Based on the first and second paragraphs (lines 1-22), it can be inferred that Mrs. Bennet is:
  - A. Actively involved in her daughters' quests for marriage.
  - B. Intrigued by the prospect of meeting Mr. Bingley.
  - C. More reliant on Lady Lucas than on her husband.
  - D. Entertained by Sir William's opinions of Mr. Bingley.
2. In line 14, "party" refers to:
  - F. A social gathering.
  - G. Festivities.
  - H. A gathering for a specific task.
  - J. A group of persons.
3. According to the passage, Mr. Bingley was disappointed by his visit to the Bennet's because:
  - A. He was unable to accept their dinner invitation.
  - B. His visit was cut short, due to a trip to town.
  - C. He was unable to see Mr. Bennet's daughters.
  - D. His visit was cut short, due to the arrival of his family and friends.
4. Based on the passage, it can be inferred that the role of Lady Lucas is to:
  - F. Placate Mrs. Bennet's fears of Mr. Bingley.
  - G. Excite Mrs. Bennet and her daughters with second-hand news regarding Mr. Bingley.
  - H. Mollify Mrs. Bennet's emotions toward Mr. Bingley.
  - J. Incite anger in Mrs. Bennet regarding Mr. Bingley's behaviors.
5. According to the passage, Mr. Bingley's party was comprised of:
  - A. Two ladies and seven gentlemen.
  - B. Two ladies and three gentlemen.
  - C. Six ladies and seven gentlemen.
  - D. Twelve ladies and seven gentlemen.
6. According to the passage, the descriptions of Mr. Bingley's sisters and brother-in-law (lines 60-62) suggest:
  - F. That Mr. Bingley is a fine man with an excellent background.
  - G. That Mr. Bingley and his family are common people.
  - H. That Mr. Bingley and his family may be proud and above the other company.
  - J. That Mr. Bingley and his family are lacking manners.
7. According to the passage, opinions of Mr. Darcy rapidly changed due to his:
  - A. Lack of real estate.
  - B. Appearance.
  - C. His yearly income.
  - D. Manners.
8. In line 77, the word "countenance" refers to:
  - F. Attitude
  - G. Mannerisms
  - H. Facial expression
  - J. Demeanor
9. According to the last paragraph (lines 79-97), one specific difference between the actions of Mr. Bingley and Mr. Darcy is:
  - A. Mr. Bingley was unreserved, while Mr. Darcy was reserved.
  - B. Mr. Bingley was lively, while Mr. Darcy was proud.
  - C. Mr. Bingley was angry that the ball ended, while Mr. Darcy was pleased to leave.
  - D. Mr. Bingley danced every dance, while Mr. Darcy only danced twice.
10. Based on the passage, the author's tone is:
  - F. Ironic
  - G. Formal
  - H. Dense
  - J. Witty

## Passage II

**Humanities:** This passage is adapted from *A Textbook of the History of Painting* by John C. Van Dyke. Passage can be found at <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/18900/18900-8.txt>.

The Impressionists: The name is a misnomer. Every painter is an impressionist in so far as he records his impressions, and all art is impressionistic. What Manet (1833-1883), the leader of the original movement, meant to say was that nature should not be painted as it actually is, but as it “impresses” the painter. He and his few followers tried to change the name to Independents, but the original name has clung to them and been mistakenly fastened to a present band of landscape painters who are seeking effects of light and air and should be called luminists if it is necessary for them to be named at all. Manet was extravagant in method and disposed toward low life for a subject, which has always militated against his popularity; but he was a very important man for his technical discoveries regarding the relations of light and shadow, the flat appearance of nature, the exact value of color tones. Some of his works, like *The Boy with a Sword* and *The Toreador Dead*, are excellent pieces of painting. The higher imaginative qualities of art Manet made no great effort at attaining.

Of recent years there has been a disposition to change the key of light in landscape painting, to get nearer the truth of nature in the height of light and in the height of shadows. In doing this Claude Monet, the present leader of the movement, has done away with the dark brown or black shadow and substituted the light-colored shadow, which is nearer the actual truth of nature. In trying to raise the pitch of light he has not been quite so successful, though accomplishing something. His method is to use pure prismatic colors on the principle that color is light in a decomposed form, and that its proper juxtaposition on canvas will recompose into pure light again. Hence, the use of light shadows and bright colors. The aim of these modern men is chiefly to gain the effect of light and air. They do not apparently care for subject, detail, or composition.

At present their work is in the experimental stage, but from the way in which it is being

accepted and followed by the painters of today we may be sure the movement is of considerable importance. There will probably be a reaction in favor of more form and solidity than the present men give, but the high key of light will be retained. There are so many painters following these modern methods, not only in France but all over the world, that a list of their names would be impossible. In France Sisley with Monet are the two important landscapists. In marines Boudin and Montenard should be mentioned.

11. In lines 1-2, “misnomer” most nearly means:
- A misapplied name.
  - A false label.
  - An inaccurate term.
  - A mistake.
12. According to the passage, it can be assumed that the author’s attitude toward the naming of the Impressionist painters is one of:
- Displeasure
  - Confusion
  - Ambiguity
  - Apathy
13. According to the passage, Manet’s technical discoveries included all of the following EXCEPT:
- The flat appearance of nature.
  - The exact value of color tones.
  - The relations of light and shadow.
  - The use of light shadow and bright colors.
14. According to the passage, one difference between Manet and Monet was:
- A change in the color tones in landscape painting.
  - A change in the key of light in landscape painting.
  - A change in the appearance of nature.
  - A change in the air of landscape painting.
15. According to the second paragraph (lines 24-41), Monet uses light shadows and bright colors in his landscape paintings in order to:
- Change pure light into color light on canvas.
  - Rearrange prismatic colors on canvas.
  - Recompose color into pure light on canvas.
  - Change the form and solidity of the canvas.
16. In line 36, the word “juxtaposition” refers to:
- Side-by-side placement of prismatic colors.
  - Blending of prismatic colors.
  - Blending of prismatic colors with light.
  - Side-by-side placement of color light and pure light.
17. Based on the passage, the main point of the second paragraph (lines 24-41) is:
- To highlight Monet’s methods as an Impressionist painter.
  - To discuss the change in the key of light in landscape painting.
  - To get nearer the truth of nature in the height of light and shadows.
  - To contrast Monet’s methods of painting to Manet’s methods.
18. According to the passage, the Impressionist painters do not care for the following features of painting:
- Detail, color, and composition.
  - Detail, composition, and light.
  - Color, light, and subject.
  - Composition, subject, and detail.
19. According to the passage, paintings following the Impressionist period will most likely:
- Raise the pitch of light.
  - Merge the height of light and the height of shadows.
  - Relate light and shadow with the importance of color tone.
  - Have more form and solidity, but retain the high key of light.
20. According to the passage, additional painters who used the methods of the Impressionists included all of the following EXCEPT:
- Montenard
  - Sisley
  - Rembrandt
  - Boudin

### Passage III

**Social Science:** This passage is from *A Smaller History of Rome* by William Smith and Eugene Lawrence. Passage can be found at <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/19694/19694-8.txt>.

The history of Rome is that of a city which originally had only a few miles of territory, and gradually extended its dominions at first over Italy and then over the civilized world. The city  
5 lay in the central part of the peninsula, on the left bank of the Tiber, and about fifteen miles from its mouth. Its situation was upon the borders of three  
10 of the most powerful races in Italy, the Latins, Sabines, and Etruscans. Though originally a Latin town, it received at an early period a considerable Sabine population, which left a permanent  
15 impression upon the sacred rites and religious institutions of the people. The Etruscans exercised less influence upon Rome, though it appears nearly certain that a part of its population was of  
20 Etruscan origin, and that the two Tarquins represent the establishment of an Etruscan dynasty at Rome. The population of the city may therefore be regarded as one of mixed origin, consisting of  
25 the three elements of Latins, Sabines, and Etruscans, but the last in much smaller proportion than the other two. That the Latin element predominated over the Sabine is also evident from the fact that the language of the Romans was a Latin and  
not a Sabellian dialect.

The early history of Rome is given in an unbroken narrative by the Roman writers, and was received by the Romans themselves as a faithful record of facts. But it can no longer  
30 be regarded in that light. Not only is it full of marvelous tales and poetical embellishments, of contradictions and impossibilities, but it wants the very foundation upon which all history must be based. The reader, therefore, must not receive  
35 the history of the first four centuries of the city as a statement of undoubted facts, though it has unquestionably preserved many circumstances, which did actually occur. It is not until we come to the war with Pyrrhus that we can place full  
40 reliance upon the narrative as a trustworthy statement of facts. With this caution we now proceed to relate the celebrated legends of the foundation

and early history of Rome.

Æneas fled after the fall of Troy to seek a  
45 new home in a foreign land. He carried with him his son Ascanius, the Penates or household gods, and the Palladium of Troy. Upon reaching the coast of Latium he was kindly received by Latinus, the king of the country, who gave him his  
50 daughter Lavinia in marriage. Æneas now built a city, which he named Lavinium, in honor of his wife.

Ascanius removed from Lavinium thirty years after its foundation, and built Alba Longa, or the “Long White City,” on a ridge of the Alban Mount about fifteen miles southeast of Rome. It became the most powerful city in Latium. Twelve kings of the family of Æneas succeeded Ascanius. The last of these, named Procas, left  
55 two sons, Numitor and Amulius. Amulius, the younger, seized the kingdom; and Numitor, who was of a peaceful disposition, made no resistance to his brother. Amulius, fearing lest the children of Numitor might not submit so quietly to his  
60 usurpation, caused his only son to be murdered, and made his daughter one of the vestal virgins, who were compelled to live and die unmarried. But the maiden became, by the god Mars, the mother of twins. She was, in consequence, put to  
65 death, because she had broken her vow, and her babes were doomed to be drowned in the river. The Tiber had overflowed its banks far and wide; and the cradle in which the babes were placed was stranded at the foot of the Palatine, and over-  
75 turned on the root of a wild fig-tree. A she-wolf, which had come to drink of the stream, carried them into her den hard by, and suckled them; and when they wanted other food, the woodpecker, a bird sacred to Mars, brought it to them. At length,  
80 this marvelous spectacle was seen by Faustulus, the king’s shepherd, who took the children home to his wife, Acca Larentia. They were called Romulus and Remus, and grew up along with the sons of their foster-parents on the Palatine Hill.

A quarrel arose between them and the herdsmen of Numitor, who stalled their cattle on the neighboring hill of the Aventine. Remus was taken by a stratagem, and carried off to Numitor. His age and noble bearing made Numitor think of  
90 his grandsons; and his suspicions were confirmed

by the tale of the marvelous nurture of the twin brothers. Soon afterward Romulus hastened with his foster-father to Numitor; suspicion was changed into certainty, and the old man

95 recognized them as his grandsons. They now resolved to avenge the wrongs that their family had suffered. With the help of their faithful comrades they slew Amulius, and placed Numitor on the throne.

21. According to the passage, the culture that had the greatest influence on Roman civilization was:
- Italian
  - Latin
  - Etruscan
  - Sabine
22. The main function of the first paragraph (lines 1-25) in relation to the passage as a whole is to:
- Provide a factual introduction of Rome prior to the descriptions of the legends of the foundation of the city.
  - Describe the geography, population, and language of Rome prior to detailing the rulers of the city.
  - Describe the population of Rome prior to the account of Aeneas' and his descendants.
  - Provide a factual history of Rome prior to describing the trials of the initial rulers of the city.
23. In saying, "Not only is it full of marvelous tales and poetical embellishments, of contradictions and impossibilities, but it wants the very foundation upon which all history must be based" (lines 30-34), the author implies that Roman writers:
- Expected history to be based upon their fictionalized accounts of Rome.
  - Incorporated creativity into their writing in order to make historical accounts more interesting.
  - Were solely focused on affecting the written history of Rome.
  - Carefully constructed the history of Rome for future generations.
24. According to the passage, when Aeneas fled Troy, he brought all of the following items with him EXCEPT:
- Penates
  - the Palladium of Troy
  - Lavinia
  - Ascanius
25. The term "removed," as used in line 53, refers to which of the following?
- Detached
  - Traveled
  - Relocated
  - Disconnected
26. According to the fourth paragraph (lines 53-84), the father of Numitor and Amulius is:
- Pyrrhus
  - Latinus
  - Procas
  - Palatine
27. The term "usurpation," as used in line 65, refers to:
- Plans
  - Actions
  - Appropriation
  - Invasion
28. Based on the passage, the twins depended on the following things for survival after their near drowning in the Tiber River:
- The God of Mars, their mother, and mother's brother.
  - A she-wolf, a woodpecker, Faustulus, and Acca Larentia.
  - A wild fig tree and a stream.
  - Amulius and Numitor.
29. In the passage as a whole, the legend told in paragraphs three through five (lines 44-99) serves to:

- A. Celebrate the foundation and history of Rome.
  - B. Provide an example of a legend that celebrates the foundation and history of Rome.
  - C. Provide an example of a legend that details the scandals of the leaders of Rome.
  - D. Detail the early leaders of Rome and their struggles.
30. Based on the passage, the author's purpose is to:
- F. Educate the reader on the early history of Rome, including its legends.
  - G. Provide a factual account of the history of Rome.
  - H. Analyze the influences on Rome, including its early leaders.
  - J. Entertain readers with a dramatic story of an early Roman leader.



**Passage IV**

**Natural Science:** This passage is from The People's Common Sense Medical Adviser in Plain English or, Medicine Simplified, 54th ed. by R. V. Pierce. Passage can be found at <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/18467/18467-8.txt>.

All living bodies are made up of tissues. There is no part, no organ, however soft and yielding, or hard and resisting, which has not this peculiarity of structure. The bones of animals, as well as their flesh and fat, are composed of tissues, and all alike made up of cells. When viewed under a microscope, each cell is seen to consist of three distinct parts, a nucleolus, or dark spot, in the center of the cell, around which lies a mass of granules, called the nucleus; and this, in turn, is surrounded with a delicate, transparent membrane, termed the envelope. Each of the granules composing the nucleus assimilates nourishment, thereby growing into an independent cell, which possesses a triple organization similar to that of its parent, and in like manner reproduces other cells.

A variety of tissues enters into the composition of an animal structure, yet their differences are not always distinctly marked, since the characteristics of some are not unlike those of others. We shall notice, however, only the more important of the tissues.

The Areolar, or Connective Tissue, is a complete network of delicate fibers, spread over the body, and serves to bind the various organs and parts together. The fibrous and serous tissues are modifications of the areolar. The Nervous Tissue is of two kinds: The gray, which is pulpy and granulated, and the white fibrous tissue. The Adipose Tissue is an extremely thin membrane, composed of closed cells that contain fat. It is found principally just beneath the skin, giving it a smooth, plump appearance. The Cartilaginous Tissue consists of nucleated cells, and, with the exception of bone, is the hardest part of the animal frame. The Osseous Tissue, or bone, is more compact and solid than the cartilaginous, for it contains a greater quantity of lime. The Muscular Tissue is composed of bundles of fibers, which are enclosed in a cellular membrane.

Various opinions have been entertained in

regard to the formation, or growth, of bone. Some anatomists have supposed that all bone is formed in cartilage. But this is not true, for there is an intra-membranous, as well as an intra-cartilaginous, formation of bone, as may be seen in the development of the cranial bones, where the gradual calcification takes place upon the inner layers of the fibrous coverings.

The bony plates form the boundaries of the Haversian, or nutritive canals of the bones. In the second stage of ossification, the cartilage corpuscles are converted into bone. Becoming flattened against the osseous lamellæ already formed, they crowd upon one another so as to entirely obliterate the lines that distinguish them; and, simultaneously with these changes, a calcareous deposit takes place upon their interior. Bones grow by additions to their ends and surfaces. In the child, their extremities are separated from the body of the bone by layer of cartilage, and the cancellated, or cellular structure, which remains for a time in the interior, represents the early condition of the ossifying substances.

The bones contain more earthy matter in their composition than any other part of the human body, being firm, hard, and of a lime color. They compose the skeleton or frame work, and, when united by natural ligaments, form what is known as the natural skeleton; when they are wired together, they are called an artificial skeleton. The number of bones in the human body is variously estimated; for those regarded as single by some anatomists are considered by others to consist of several distinct pieces. There are two hundred distinct bones in the human skeleton besides the teeth. These may be divided into those of the Head, Trunk, Upper Extremities, and Lower Extremities.

31. A cell contains all of the following parts EXCEPT:
- A. Nucleolus
  - B. Envelope
  - C. Nucleus
  - D. Areolar
32. In line 16, “parent” most nearly refers to:
- F. A close relative.
  - G. A creator.
  - H. A provider of genetic information.
  - J. A blood relation.
33. When the author says, “yet their differences are not always distinctively marked, since the characteristics of some are not unlike those of others” (lines 19-22), he implies that:
- A. Many types of tissues have very similar characteristics.
  - B. Many important tissues have both similarities and differences.
  - C. Many tissues compose an animal’s structure.
  - D. Each type of tissue has its own distinctive characteristics.
34. The main point of the third paragraph (lines 24-41) is to:
- F. Compare and contrast Adipose Tissue, Cartilaginous Tissue, and Osseous Tissue.
  - G. Compare Aerolar (Connective Tissues) with Muscular Tissue.
  - H. Describe the characteristics of Aerolar or Connective Tissue.
  - J. Describe the important types of tissues that compose animals.
35. It can be assumed that the following tissue is the hardest in the body:
- A. Adipose Tissue
  - B. Muscular Tissue
  - C. Osseous Tissue
  - D. Nervous Tissue
36. The author’s opinion on bone development:
- F. Is that the formation of bone is intra-membranous and intra-cartilaginous.
  - G. Is that there are too many opinions from various anatomists.
  - H. Is that bone is formed in cartilage.
  - J. Is that bones contain more earthy matter in their composition than any other part of the body.
37. Paragraph 4 (lines 42-50) and Paragraph 5 (lines 51-65) relate to each other in the following manner:
- A. Paragraph 4 describes the intra-membranous and intra-cartilaginous growth of bone, while Paragraph 5 describes the general process of bone growth.
  - B. Paragraph 4 describes the development of cranial growth, while Paragraph 5 describes the process of bone growth.
  - C. Paragraph 4 describes the process of bone growth, while Paragraph 5 describes anatomists’ opinions of bone growth.
  - D. Paragraph 4 describes anatomists’ opinions of bone growth, while Paragraph 5 describes the process of bone growth.
38. According to the passage, which of the following correctly describes the stages of ossification?
- F. The gradual calcification takes place upon the inner layers of the fibrous coverings.
  - G. The bony plates form the boundaries of the Haversian and the cartilage corpuscles are converted into bone.
  - H. The cellular structure remains in the interior.
  - J. The greater quantity of lime causes the bones to be compact and solid.
39. The primary difference between a natural skeleton and an artificial skeleton is:
- A. Natural skeletons are connected by ligaments, while artificial skeletons are wired together.
  - B. Natural skeletons contain lime, while artificial skeletons contain other vitamins and

minerals.

- C. Natural skeletons contain all natural bones, while artificial skeletons contain bones that have been replaced through surgery.
  - D. Natural skeletons have been formed by ossification, while artificial skeletons have been formed by cartilaginous tissue.
40. The bones in the body may be divided into all of the following categories EXCEPT:
- F. Head
  - G. Spine
  - H. Trunk
  - J. Upper and lower extremities