

Evidence-Based Reading and Writing

* Reading Test Overview

The Reading Test gives you a chance to show how well you understand what you read.

- » Total questions: 47 questions with multiple-choice responses
- » Time allotted: 60 minutes
- » Calculators may not be used or be on your desk.

Tips for the Reading Test

- » The test is comprised of a series of passages, sometimes accompanied by supplementary material (such as graphs) and associated multiple-choice questions. To answer each question, consider what the passage(s) say directly and use careful reasoning to draw supportable inferences and conclusions from the passage(s). The best answer to each question is derived from what is stated or implied in the passage(s) rather than from prior knowledge of the topics covered.
- » Reading carefully is the key to finding the best answer to each question. The information you need to answer each Reading question is always in the passage(s). Don't be misled by an answer that looks correct but is not supported by the actual text of the passage(s).
- » The questions do not increase in difficulty from easy to hard. Instead, they are presented as logically as possible, with general questions about central ideas, themes, point of view, overall text structure, and the like coming early in the sequence. After that come more specific questions about such matters as facts, details, and words in context.
- » Stay with a passage until you have answered as many questions as you can before you proceed to the next passage. Do not jump from passage to passage.
- » The questions often include line numbers to help direct you to the relevant part(s) of the passage(s). You may have to look elsewhere in the passage, however, in order to find the best answer to the question.
- » In your test booklet, mark each question you skip so that you can easily go back to it later if you have time.

- » Remember that all questions are worth one point regardless of the type or difficulty. You are not penalized for guessing wrong, so it's to your advantage to answer each question as best you can.

About the Passages

The passages range in length from about 500 to 750 words, and they are taken from a variety of fields, including U.S. and world literature, history/social studies, and science. Some passages are accompanied by informational graphics such as tables, graphs, or charts; questions ask you to interpret the data presented and to synthesize information and ideas presented with those in the associated passage. (Mathematical computation is, however, not required to answer these questions.)

Other questions ask you to interpret the meaning of words and phrases in context and to analyze how word choice influences meaning, mood, tone, or point of view. Passages that have similar subject matter are sometimes paired and accompanied by questions that require you to make important connections between the passages as well as to understand each passage on its own.

Answering Reading Questions

Following are samples of the kinds of Reading passages and questions that may appear on your test. For each set of sample materials:

- » Read the passage carefully.
- » Decide on the best answer to each question.
- » Read the explanation for the best answer.

The directions provided match what you will see on the actual test.

DIRECTIONS

Each passage or pair of passages below is followed by a number of questions. After reading each passage or pair, choose the best answer to each question based on what is stated or implied in the passage or passages and in any accompanying graphics (such as a table or graph).

Questions 1-4 are based on the following passage.

This passage is adapted from Edith Wharton, *Ethan Frome*, originally published in 1911. Mattie Silver is Ethan's household employee.

Mattie Silver had lived under Ethan's roof for a year, and from early morning till they met at supper he had frequent chances of seeing her; but no moments in her company were comparable to those when, her arm in his, and her light step flying to keep time with his long stride, they walked back through the night to the farm. He had taken to the girl from the first day, when he had driven over to the Flats to meet her, and she had smiled and waved to him from the train, crying out, "You must be Ethan!" as she jumped down with her bundles, while he reflected, looking over her slight person: "She don't look much on housework, but she ain't a fretter, anyhow." But it was not only that the coming to his house of a bit of hopeful young life was like the lighting of a fire on a cold hearth. The girl was more than the bright serviceable creature he had thought her. She had an eye to see and an ear to hear: he could show her things and tell her things, and taste the bliss of feeling that all he imparted left long reverberations and echoes he could wake at will.

It was during their night walks back to the farm that he felt most intensely the sweetness of this communion. He had always been more sensitive than the people about him to the appeal of natural beauty. His unfinished studies had given form to this sensibility and even in his unhappiest moments field and sky spoke to him with a deep and powerful persuasion. But hitherto the emotion had remained in him as a silent ache, veiling with sadness the beauty that evoked it. He did not even know whether any one else in the world felt as he did, or whether he was the sole victim of this mournful privilege. Then he learned that one other spirit had trembled with the same touch of wonder: that at his side, living under his roof and eating his bread, was a creature to whom he could say: "That's Orion down yonder; the big fellow to the right is Aldebaran, and the bunch of little ones—like bees swarming—they're the Pleiades . . ." or whom he could hold entranced before a ledge of granite thrusting up through the fern

while he unrolled the huge panorama of the ice age, and the long dim stretches of succeeding time. The fact that admiration for his learning mingled with Mattie's wonder at what he taught was not the least part of his pleasure. And there were other sensations, less definable but more exquisite, which drew them together with a shock of silent joy: the cold red of sunset behind winter hills, the flight of cloud-flocks over slopes of golden stubble, or the intensely blue shadows of hemlocks on sunlit snow. When she said to him once: "It looks just as if it was painted!" it seemed to Ethan that the art of definition could go no farther, and that words had at last been found to utter his secret soul. . . .

As he stood in the darkness outside the church these memories came back with the poignancy of vanished things. Watching Mattie whirl down the floor from hand to hand he wondered how he could ever have thought that his dull talk interested her. To him, who was never gay but in her presence, her gaiety seemed plain proof of indifference. The face she lifted to her dancers was the same which, when she saw him, always looked like a window that has caught the sunset. He even noticed two or three gestures which, in his fatuity, he had thought she kept for him: a way of throwing her head back when she was amused, as if to taste her laugh before she let it out, and a trick of sinking her lids slowly when anything charmed or moved her.

Over the course of the passage, the main focus of the narrative shifts from the

- A) reservations a character has about a person he has just met to a growing appreciation that character has of the person's worth.
- B) ambivalence a character feels about his sensitive nature to the character's recognition of the advantages of having profound emotions.
- C) intensity of feeling a character has for another person to the character's concern that that intensity is not reciprocated.
- D) value a character attaches to the wonders of the natural world to a rejection of that sort of beauty in favor of human artistry.

In the context of the passage, the author's use of the phrase "her light step flying to keep time with his long stride" (lines 5-6) is primarily meant to convey the idea that

- A) Ethan and Mattie share a powerful enthusiasm.
- B) Mattie strives to match the speed at which Ethan works.
- C) Mattie and Ethan playfully compete with each other.
- D) Ethan walks at a pace that frustrates Mattie.

The description in the first paragraph indicates that what Ethan values most about Mattie is her

- A) fitness for farm labor.
- B) vivacious youth.
- C) receptive nature.
- D) freedom from worry.

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

- A) Lines 1-7 ("Mattie . . . farm")
- B) Lines 7-13 ("He had . . . anyhow")
- C) Lines 13-16 ("But it . . . hearth")
- D) Lines 17-21 ("She had . . . will")

Questions 5-9 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

This passage is adapted from Ed Yong, "Turtles Use the Earth's Magnetic Field as Global GPS." ©2011 by Kalmbach Publishing Co.

In 1996, a loggerhead turtle called Adelita swam across 9,000 miles from Mexico to Japan, crossing the entire Pacific on her way. Wallace J. Nichols tracked this epic journey with a satellite tag. But Adelita herself had no such technology at her disposal. How did she steer a route across two oceans to find her destination?

Nathan Putman has the answer. By testing hatchling turtles in a special tank, he has found that they can use the Earth's magnetic field as their own Global Positioning System (GPS). By sensing the field, they can work out both their latitude and longitude and head in the right direction.

Putman works in the lab of Ken Lohmann, who has been studying the magnetic abilities of loggerheads for over 20 years. In his lab at the University of North Carolina, Lohmann places hatchlings in a large water tank surrounded by a large grid of electromagnetic coils. In 1991, he found that the babies started swimming in the opposite direction if he used the coils to reverse the direction of the magnetic field around them. They could use the field as a compass to get their bearing.

Later, Lohmann showed that they can also use the magnetic field to work out their position. For them, this is literally a matter of life or death. Hatchlings born off the sea coast of Florida spend their early lives in the North Atlantic gyre, a warm current that circles between North America and Africa. If they're swept towards the cold waters outside the gyre, they die. Their magnetic sense keeps them safe.

Using his coil-surrounded tank, Lohmann could mimic the magnetic field at different parts of the

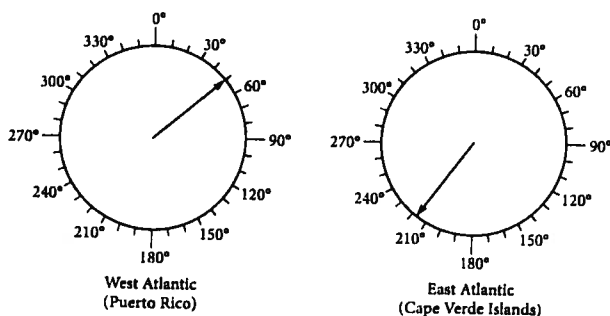
Earth's surface. If he simulated the field at the northern edge of the gyre, the hatchlings swam southwards. If he simulated the field at the gyre's southern edge, the turtles swam west-northwest. These experiments showed that the turtles can use their magnetic sense to work out their latitude—their position on a north-south axis. Now, Putman has shown that they can also determine their longitude—their position on an east-west axis.

He tweaked his magnetic tanks to simulate the fields in two positions with the same latitude at opposite ends of the Atlantic. If the field simulated the west Atlantic near Puerto Rico, the turtles swam northeast. If the field matched that on the east Atlantic near the Cape Verde Islands, the turtles swam southwest. In the wild, both headings would keep them within the safe, warm embrace of the North Atlantic gyre.

Before now, we knew that several animal migrants, from loggerheads to reed warblers to sparrows, had some way of working out longitude, but no one knew how. By keeping the turtles in the same conditions, with only the magnetic fields around them changing, Putman clearly showed that they can use these fields to find their way. In the wild, they might well also use other landmarks like the position of the sea, sun and stars.

Putman thinks that the turtles work out their position using two features of the Earth's magnetic field that change over its surface. They can sense the field's inclination, or the angle at which it dips towards the surface. At the poles, this angle is roughly 90 degrees and at the equator, it's roughly zero degrees. They can also sense its intensity, which is strongest near the poles and weakest near the Equator. Different parts of the world have unique combinations of these two variables. Neither corresponds directly to either latitude or longitude, but together, they provide a "magnetic signature" that tells the turtle where it is.

Orientation of Hatchling Loggerheads Tested in Magnetic Fields



Adapted from Nathan Putman, Courtney Endres, Catherine Lohmann, and Kenneth Lohmann, "Longitude Perception and Bicoordinate Magnetic Maps in Sea Turtles." ©2011 by Elsevier Inc.

Orientation of hatchling loggerheads tested in a magnetic field that simulates a position at the west side of the Atlantic near Puerto Rico (left) and a position at the east side of the Atlantic near the Cape Verde Islands (right). The arrow in each circle indicates the mean direction that the group of hatchlings swam. Data are plotted relative to geographic north ($N = 0^\circ$).

5

The passage most strongly suggests that Adelita used which of the following to navigate her 9,000-mile journey?

- A) The current of the North Atlantic gyre
- B) Cues from electromagnetic coils designed by Putman and Lohmann
- C) The inclination and intensity of Earth's magnetic field
- D) A simulated "magnetic signature" configured by Lohmann

6

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

- A) Lines 1-3 ("In 1996 . . . way")
- B) Lines 32-34 ("Using . . . surface")
- C) Lines 58-60 ("In the wild . . . stars")
- D) Lines 70-73 ("Neither . . . it is")

7

As used in line 3, "tracked" most nearly means

- A) searched for.
- B) traveled over.
- C) followed.
- D) hunted.

8

The author refers to reed warblers and sparrows (line 53) primarily to

- A) contrast the loggerhead turtle's migration patterns with those of other species.
- B) provide examples of species that share one of the loggerhead turtle's abilities.
- C) suggest that most animal species possess some ability to navigate long distances.
- D) illustrate some ways in which the ability to navigate long distances can help a species.

It can reasonably be inferred from the passage and graphic that if scientists adjusted the coils to reverse the magnetic field simulating that in the East Atlantic (Cape Verde Islands), the hatchlings would most likely swim in which direction?

- A) Northwest
- B) Northeast
- C) Southeast
- D) Southwest

Estimated Difficulty: Medium

Key: C

1

Choice C is the best answer. The first paragraph traces the inception of Ethan's feelings for Mattie: Ethan "had taken to the girl from the first day" (lines 7-8) and saw her as "like the lighting of a fire on a cold hearth" (lines 15-16). The second paragraph (lines 22-55) focuses on "their night walks back to the farm" and

Ethan's elation in perceiving that "one other spirit . . . trembled with the same touch of wonder" that characterized his own (lines 34-35). In other words, the main focus of the first two paragraphs is the intensity of feeling one character, Ethan, has for another, Mattie. The last paragraph shifts the focus of the passage to Ethan's change in perception; he sees Mattie in a social setting interacting with other men, wonders "how he could ever have thought that his dull talk interested her" (lines 59-60), interprets her seeming happiness as "plain proof of indifference" toward him (line 62), and sees betrayal in the "two or three gestures which, in his fatuity, he had thought she kept for him" (lines 65-67).

Choice A is incorrect because while Ethan acknowledges that Mattie "don't look much on housework" (lines 12-13), the first paragraph also notes that Ethan "had taken to the girl from the first day" (lines 7-8); therefore there is no support for the notion that Ethan's "reservations" about Mattie lasted for any length of time or ever constituted the main focus of the narrative.

Choice B is incorrect because while Ethan does exhibit ambivalence about his sensitive nature, seeing it as a "mournful privilege" (line 33), the main focus of the narrative does not shift to his recognition of the advantages of having profound emotions. Indeed, in the last paragraph Ethan's profound emotions give him only grief, as he sees Mattie seemingly rejecting him.

Choice D is incorrect because while the second paragraph (lines 22-55) does discuss in depth the value Ethan attaches to natural beauty, nothing in the passage signifies that he has rejected natural beauty in favor of human artistry. The closest the passage comes to this is in line 52, in which Mattie is said to have likened a natural scene to a painting.

Estimated Difficulty: Easy

Key: A

2

Choice A is the best answer. The author uses the phrase mainly to introduce a topic discussed at length in the second paragraph (lines 22-55) — namely, the growing connection Ethan sees himself forming with Mattie over the course of many evening walks during which they share similar feelings for the wonders of the natural world. In the context of the passage, the phrase evokes an image of two people walking eagerly and in harmony.

Choice B is incorrect because while the phrase literally conveys Mattie's attempts to keep up with Ethan's pace, the phrase relates to times of leisure during which Ethan and Mattie walked arm-in-arm (see lines 1-7) rather than times of work. Moreover, the phrase is used primarily in a figurative way to suggest shared enthusiasm (see explanation for choice A).

Choice C is incorrect because while the phrase literally describes Mattie's attempts to keep up with Ethan's pace, the context makes clear that Mattie and Ethan are not in competition with each other; instead, they are enjoying times of leisure during which the two walk arm-in-arm (see lines 1-7). The phrase is used primarily in a figurative way to suggest shared enthusiasm (see explanation for choice A).

Choice D is incorrect because while the phrase in isolation could be read as conveying some frustration on the part of Mattie, who had to expend extra effort to keep up with Ethan's pace, the context makes clear that Mattie is not annoyed with Ethan but is instead enjoying times of leisure during which the two walk arm-in-arm (see lines 1-7). The phrase is used to suggest shared enthusiasm (see explanation for choice A).

Estimated Difficulty: Easy

Key: C

3

Choice C is the best answer. Lines 9-16 mention many of Mattie's traits: she is friendly ("smiled and waved"), eager ("jumped down with her bundles"), easygoing ("she ain't a fretter"), and energetic ("like the lighting of a fire on a cold hearth"). However, the trait that appeals the most to Ethan, as suggested by it being mentioned last in the paragraph, is her openness

to the world around her: "She had an eye to see and an ear to hear: he could show her things and tell her things, and taste the bliss of feeling that all he imparted left long reverberations and echoes he could wake at will" (lines 17-21).

Choice A is incorrect because the passage suggests that Ethan does not actually view Mattie as particularly well suited to farm labor. When first seeing Mattie, Ethan thinks to himself, after "looking over her slight person," that "she don't look much on housework" (lines 12-13).

Choice B is incorrect because the passage suggests that Mattie's youth is not what Ethan values most about Mattie. Although the passage does note that "the coming to his house of a bit of hopeful young life was like the lighting of a fire on a cold hearth" (lines 14-16), the narrator goes on to note that "the girl was more than the bright serviceable creature [Ethan] had thought her" (lines 16-17), indicating that Ethan values something more in Mattie than simply her vivacity.

Choice D is incorrect because, although Ethan acknowledges that Mattie "ain't a fretter" (line 13), there is no evidence that Mattie's freedom from worry is what Ethan values most about Mattie. The first paragraph lists several positive traits that Mattie has, with the most emphasis being placed on her openness to the world around her (see explanation for choice C).

Estimated Difficulty: Easy

Key: D

4

Choice D is the best answer. Lines 17-21 explain that Mattie "had an eye to see and an ear to hear: [Ethan] could show her things and tell her things, and taste the bliss of feeling that all he imparted left long reverberations and echoes he could wake at will." In other words, Mattie is open, or receptive, to ideas and experiences. Therefore, these lines serve as the best evidence for the answer to the previous question.

Choice A is incorrect because lines 1-7 only describe Ethan and Mattie's living situation and indicate that Ethan enjoys walking with her in the evenings. They do not indicate which quality

of Mattie's Ethan values the most. Therefore, these lines do not serve as the best evidence for the answer to the previous question.

Choice B is incorrect because lines 7-13 only indicate Ethan's first impression of Mattie. Mattie comes across as generally friendly and enthusiastic in their first encounter, but it is not these qualities that Ethan values the most. Therefore, these lines do not serve as the best evidence for the answer to the previous question.

Choice C is incorrect because lines 13-16 only convey that there was something special about Mattie beyond her friendliness and enthusiasm. They do not indicate what Ethan values the most about Mattie. Therefore, these lines do not serve as the best evidence for the answer to the previous question.

Estimated Difficulty: Easy

Key: C

5

Choice C is the best answer. The first paragraph describes the 9,000-mile journey that Adelita made and raises the question, which the rest of the passage tries to answer, of how this loggerhead turtle was able to "steer a route across two oceans to find her destination" (lines 6-7). The answer comes most directly in the last paragraph, which presents Putman's belief that loggerhead turtles "work out their position using two features of the Earth's magnetic field that change over its surface" (lines 61-63): its inclination and its intensity. It is reasonable, therefore, to infer from the passage that this was the method that Adelita used.

Choice A is incorrect because there is no evidence in the passage that Adelita used the current of the North Atlantic gyre to navigate her 9,000-mile journey. The passage does discuss the North Atlantic gyre but only as the place where loggerhead turtle hatchlings "born off the sea coast of Florida spend their early lives" (lines 27-28).

Choice B is incorrect because there is no evidence in the passage that Adelita navigated her 9,000-mile journey with the aid of cues from electromagnetic coils designed by Putman and Lohmann. The passage does say that Putman and Lohmann use electromagnetic coils as part of their research on loggerhead turtles, but the coils are part of tanks used in a laboratory to study loggerhead hatchlings (see lines 16-19).

Choice D is incorrect because there is no evidence in the passage that Adelita navigated her 9,000-mile journey with the aid of a simulated "magnetic signature" configured by Lohmann. The passage does describe how Lohmann and Putman manipulate magnetic fields as part of their research on loggerhead turtle hatchlings (see, for example, lines 16-23), but there is no indication that the two scientists used (or even could use) the kind of equipment necessary for this project outside of laboratory tanks or with Adelita in the wild.

Estimated Difficulty: Medium

Key: D

6

Choice D is the best answer because in lines 70-73 the author indicates that "together, [inclination and intensity] provide a 'magnetic signature' that tells the turtle where it is." Therefore, these lines serve as the best evidence for the answer to the previous question.

Choice A is incorrect because in lines 1-3 the author establishes that Adelita made a 9,000-mile journey but does not explain how she navigated it. These lines, thus, do not serve as the best evidence for the answer to the previous question.

Choice B is incorrect because in lines 32-34 the author indicates that Lohmann is able to "mimic the magnetic field at different parts of the Earth's surface" in his laboratory but does not explain how Adelita navigated her 9,000-mile journey or suggest that Lohmann had any influence over Adelita's trip. Therefore, these lines do not serve as the best evidence for the answer to the previous question.

Choice C is incorrect because in lines 58-60 the author notes that loggerhead turtles "in the wild" may make use of "landmarks like the position of the sea, sun and stars" but does not indicate that Adelita used such landmarks to navigate her 9,000-mile journey. Therefore, these lines do not serve as the best evidence for the answer to the previous question.

Estimated Difficulty: Easy

Key: C

7

Choice C is the best answer because the context makes clear that Nichols followed Adelita's "epic journey with a satellite tag" (line 4).

Choice A is incorrect because while "tracked" sometimes means "searched for," it would make little sense in context to say that Nichols searched for Adelita's "epic journey with a satellite tag" (line 4). It is more reasonable to conclude from the passage that Nichols knew about Adelita and her journey and used a satellite tag to help follow it.

Choice B is incorrect because while "tracked" sometimes means "traveled over," it would make no sense in context to say that Nichols traveled over Adelita's "epic journey with a satellite tag" (line 4).

Choice D is incorrect because while "tracked" sometimes means "hunted," it would make no sense in context to say that Nichols hunted Adelita's "epic journey with a satellite tag" (line 4).

Estimated Difficulty: Easy

Key: B

8

Choice B is the best answer because the author indicates that reed warblers and sparrows, like loggerhead turtles, had previously been known to have "some way of working out longitude" (line 54).

Choice A is incorrect because, although the author notes that loggerhead turtles, reed warblers, and sparrows are all "animal migrants" (line 52), he offers no specifics about the migration patterns of reed warblers and sparrows, and the only connection he draws among the three animals is their recognized ability of somehow "working out longitude" (line 54).

Choice C is incorrect because the author only mentions three "animal migrants" by name (loggerhead turtles, reed warblers, and sparrows) and indicates that "several" such migrants had previously been known to have "some way of

working out longitude" (line 54). He makes no claim in the passage that most animal species have some long-distance navigation ability.

Choice D is incorrect because although the author indicates that reed warblers and sparrows, like loggerhead turtles, are "animal migrants" (line 52), he offers no specifics about how the ability to navigate long distances might help reed warblers and sparrows (nor, for that matter, much information about how this ability might help loggerhead turtles).

Choice B is the best answer. The passage notes that Lohmann, who studied loggerhead turtle hatchlings "in a large water tank surrounded by a large grid of electromagnetic coils" (lines 17-19) capable of manipulating the magnetic field around the turtles, discovered that the hatchlings would start "swimming in the opposite direction" when he "reverse[d] the direction of the magnetic field around them" (lines 20-22). The graphic (whose caption establishes that geographic north is represented by 0 degrees) indicates that loggerhead hatchlings tested in a magnetic field that simulates a position at the east side of the Atlantic near the Cape Verde Islands would normally travel in a southwesterly direction (around 218 degrees). Given the above information, it is reasonable to infer that if the magnetic field were reversed, the turtles would travel in a northeasterly direction.

Choice A is incorrect because information in the passage and graphic suggests that the loggerhead turtle hatchlings would travel in a northeasterly, and not a northwesterly, direction if scientists reversed the magnetic field simulating a position at the east side of the Atlantic near the Cape Verde Islands.

Choice C is incorrect because information in the passage and graphic suggests that the loggerhead turtle hatchlings would travel in a

northeasterly, and not a southeasterly, direction if scientists reversed the magnetic field simulating a position at the east side of the Atlantic near the Cape Verde Islands.

Choice D is incorrect because information in the passage and graphic suggests that the loggerhead turtle hatchlings would travel in a northeasterly, and not a southwesterly, direction if scientists reversed the magnetic field simulating a position at the east side of the Atlantic near the Cape Verde Islands. The graphic indicates that the hatchlings travel southwesterly under the normal (nonreversed) simulated conditions.