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**Vendor:**Test Prep

**Exam Code:**CBEST-SECTION-2

**Exam Name:**California Basic Educational Skills Test -  
Reading

**Version:**Demo

## QUESTION 1

A government report addressing concerns about the many implications of prenatal and newborn genetic testing outlined policy guidelines and legislative recommendations intended to avoid involuntary and ineffective testing and to protect confidentiality. The report recommended that all such screening be voluntary. Citing results of two different voluntary newborn screening programs, the report said these programs can achieve compliance rates equal to or better than those of mandatory programs. State health departments might be wise to eventually mandate the offering of tests for diagnosing treatable conditions in newborns; however, careful pilot studies for conditions diagnosable at birth need to be done first. Although the report asserted that it would prefer that all screening be voluntary, it did note that if a state elects to mandate newborn screening for a particular condition, the state should do so only if there is strong evidence that a newborn would benefit from effective treatment at the earliest possible age. Newborn screening is the most common type of genetic screening today. More than four million newborns are tested annually so that effective treatment can be started in a few hundred infants. Obtaining informed consent a process that would include educating participants, not just processing documents would enhance voluntary participation. When offered testing, parents should receive comprehensive counseling, which should be nondirective. Relevant medical advice, however, is recommended for treatable or preventable conditions. On the basis of above passage please answer the following question One intention of the policy guidelines was to

- A. implement compulsory testing.
- B. minimize patient concerns about quality control.
- C. endorse the expansion of screening programs.
- D. rule out testing for minor genetic disorders.
- E. preserve privacy in testing.

Correct Answer: E

The first paragraph says that the report addressed concerns about protecting confidentiality.

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## QUESTION 2

A healthy diet with proper nutrition is essential for maintaining good overall health. Since vitamins were discovered earlier in this century, people have routinely been taking vitamin supplements for this purpose. The Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) is a frequently used nutritional standard for maintaining optimal health. The RDA specifies the recommended amount of a number of nutrients for people of both sexes and in many different age groups. The National Research Councils Committee on Diet and Health has proposed a definition of the RDA to be that amount of a nutrient which meets the needs of 98 percent of the population. The RDA approach \_\_\_\_\_. First, it is based on the assumption that it is possible to accurately define nutritional requirements for a given group. However, individual nutritional requirements can vary widely within each group. The efficiency with which a person converts food intake into nutrients can also vary widely. Certain foods when eaten in combination actually prevent the absorption of nutrients. For example, spinach combined with milk reduces the amount of calcium available to the body from the milk. Also, the RDA approach specifies a different dietary requirement for each age and sex; however, it is clearly unrealistic to expect a homemaker to prepare a different menu for each family member. Still, although we cannot rely solely upon RDA to ensure our overall long-term health, it can be a useful guide so long as its limitations are recognized. On the basis of above passage please answer the following question Which of the following would best fit in the blank in the first sentence of paragraph two?

- A. is based on studies by respected nutritionists
- B. has a number of shortcomings

- C. has been debunked in the last few years
- D. is full of holes
- E. is constantly being refined

Correct Answer: B

The blank is followed by a discussion of the shortcomings of the RDA approach. Choice a is incorrect because it does not lead into the discussion that follows regarding the RDA approach's shortcomings. Choice c is incorrect because it is contradicted by the final sentence of the passage, which states that the RDA approach remains a useful guide. Choice d is incorrect because its slangy style is inconsistent with the style used in the rest of the passage. Choice e is incorrect because it does not lead into the discussion which follows, and there is nothing in the passage to indicate the RDA is changing.

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### QUESTION 3

The Eagle He clasps the crag with crooked hands;

Close to the sun in lonely lands,

Ringed with the azure world he stands.

The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;

He watches from his mountain walls,

And like a thunderbolt he falls.

On the basis of above poem please answer the following question

To which of the following do the words "azure world" most likely refer?

- A. a forest
- B. the sky
- C. the cliff
- D. nature
- E. God

Correct Answer: B

The word azure means blue and is often used to describe the sky. Neither a forest nor cliffs are azure (choices a and c), and neither God nor nature is mentioned as an entity in the poem (choices d and e).

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### QUESTION 4

Emperor Charlemagne of the Franks was crowned in 800 A.D. The Frankish Empire at that time extended over what is now Germany, Italy, and France.

Charlemagne died in 814, but his brief reign marked the dawn of a distinctly European culture. The artists and thinkers that helped create this European civilization drew on the ancient texts of the Germanic, Celtic, Greek, Roman, Hebrew, and Christian worlds. \_\_\_\_\_ . These mores in turn laid the groundwork for the laws, customs, and even attitudes of today's Europeans.

On the basis of above passage please answer the following question

According to the passage, for how many years was Charlemagne Emperor of the Franks?

- A. fourteen years
- B. fifteen years
- C. thirteen years
- D. sixteen years
- E. twelve years

Correct Answer: A

Choices a, c, and e are possible definitions of ushered, but do not fit in the context of the passage. Choice b is an incorrect definition. Heralded, choice d, is the best definition in the context.

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#### QUESTION 5

A healthy diet with proper nutrition is essential for maintaining good overall health. Since vitamins were discovered earlier in this century, people have routinely been taking vitamin supplements for this purpose. The Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) is a frequently used nutritional standard for maintaining optimal health. The RDA specifies the recommended amount of a number of nutrients for people of both sexes and in many different age groups. The National Research Councils Committee on Diet and Health has proposed a definition of the RDA to be that amount of a nutrient which meets the needs of 98 percent of the population. The RDA approach \_\_\_\_\_. First, it is based on the assumption that it is possible to accurately define nutritional requirements for a given group. However, individual nutritional requirements can vary widely within each group. The efficiency with which a person converts food intake into nutrients can also vary widely. Certain foods when eaten in combination actually prevent the absorption of nutrients. For example, spinach combined with milk reduces the amount of calcium available to the body from the milk. Also, the RDA approach specifies a different dietary requirement for each age and sex; however, it is clearly unrealistic to expect a homemaker to prepare a different menu for each family member. Still, although we cannot rely solely upon RDA to ensure our overall long-term health, it can be a useful guide so long as its limitations are recognized. On the basis of above passage please answer the following question With which of the following would the author most likely agree?

- A. The RDA approach should be replaced by a more realistic nutritional guide.
- B. The RDA approach should be supplemented with more specific nutritional guides.
- C. In spite of its flaws, the RDA approach is definitely the best guide to good nutrition.
- D. The RDA approach is most suitable for a large family.
- E. The RDA approach is too complicated for most consumers.

Correct Answer: B

Choice b is indicated by the final sentence, which indicates that the RDA approach is useful, but has limitations, implying that a supplemental guide would be a good thing. Choice a is contra-dicted by the final sentence of the

passage. Choice c is incorrect because the passage says the RDA approach is a useful guide, but does NOT say it is the best guide to good nutrition. Choice d is contradicted by the next-to-last sentence of the passage. The passage states that the RDA approach is frequently used, which indicates it is not too complicated, as stated in choice e.

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### QUESTION 6

OConnell Street is the main thoroughfare of Dublin City. Although it is not a particularly long street, Dubliners will tell the visitor proudly that it is the widest street in all of Europe. This claim usually meets with protests, especially from French tourists, claiming the Champs Elysees of Paris as Europes widest street. But the witty Dubliner will not relinquish bragging rights easily and will trump the French visitor with a fine distinction: the Champs Elysees is a boulevard; OConnell is a street. Divided by several important monuments running the length of its center, the street is named for Daniel OConnell, an Irish patriot. \_\_\_\_\_ .OConnell stands high above the unhurried crowds of shoppers, business people, and students on a sturdy column, surrounded by four serene angels seated at each corner of the monuments base. Further up the street is the famous General Post Office that the locals affectionately call "the GPO." During the 1916 rebellion, the GPO was taken over and occupied by the Irish rebels to British rule, sparking weeks of armed combat in the citys center. To this day, the angels of OConnells monument bear the marks of the fighting: one sits reading calmly, apparently unaware of the bullet hole dimpling her upper arm; another, reaching out to stroke the ears of a huge bronze Irish wolfhound, has survived what should be a mortal wound to her heart. On the basis of above passage please answer the following question Which of the following would be the best title for this passage?

- A. Dublin\\s Famous Monuments
- B. The Irish Take Pride in Their Capital City
- C. The Widest Street in Europe
- D. Sights and History on Dublin\\s O'Connell Street
- E. Tourism in Dublin

Correct Answer: D

The title Sights and History on Dublins OConnell Street touches on all the specific subjects of the passage the sights to see on this particular street and the history connected to them. Answers a and e are too general about the place described, which is a particular street in Dublin, not the whole city. Answers b and c are too specific in that they cover only the material in the first paragraph.

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### QUESTION 7

(1)

Milton Hershey was born near the small village of Derry Church, Pennsylvania, in 1857. It was a modest beginning that did not foretell his later popularity. Milton only attended school through the fourth grade; at that point, he was apprenticed to a printer in a nearby town. Fortunately for all chocolate lovers,Milton did not excel as a printer. After a while, he left the printing business and was apprenticed to a Lancaster, Pennsylvania, candy maker. It was apparent he had found his calling in life and, at the age of eighteen, he opened his own candy store in Philadelphia. In spite of his talents as a candy maker, the shop failed after six years. (2)Milton Hersheys fans today may be surprised to learn that his first candy success came with the manufacture of caramel. After the failure of his Philadelphia store, Milton headed for Denver, where he learned the art of caramel making. There he took a job with a local manufacturer who insisted on using fresh milk in making his caramels; Milton saw that this made the caramels especially tasty. After a time in Denver, he once again attempted to open his own candy-making businesses, in Chicago, New Orleans, and New York City. Finally, in 1886, he went to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where he raised the money necessary to try again. This

companythe Lancaster Caramel Companymade Miltons reputation as a master candy maker. (3) In 1893, Milton attended the Chicago International Exposition, where he saw a display of German chocolate-making implements. Captivated by the equipment, he purchased it for his Lancaster candy factory and began producing chocolate, which he used for coating his caramels. By the next year, production had grown to include cocoa, sweet chocolate, and baking chocolate. The Hershey Chocolate company was born in 1894 as a subsidiary of the Lancaster Caramel Company. Six years later, Milton sold the caramel company, but retained the rights, and the equipment, to make chocolate. He believed that a large market of chocolate consumers was waiting for someone to produce reasonably priced candy. He was right. (4)Milton Hershey returned to the village where he had been born, in the heart of dairy country, and opened his chocolate-manufacturing plant. With access to all the fresh milk he needed, he began producing the finest milk chocolate. The plant that opened in a small Pennsylvania village in 1905 is today the largest chocolate factory in the world. The confections created at this facility are favorites in the U.S. and internationally. (5) The area where the factory is located is now known as Hershey, Pennsylvania. Within the first decades of its existence, the town thrived, as did the chocolate business. A bank, a school, churches, a department store, even a park and a trolley system all appeared in short order. Soon, the town even had a zoo. Today, a visit to the area reveals the Hershey Medical Center, Milton Hershey School, and Hersheys Chocolate World, a theme park where visitors are greeted by a giant Reeses Peanut Butter Cup. All of these thingsand a huge number of happy chocolate loverswere made possible because a caramel maker visited the Chicago Exposition of 1893! On the basis of above passage please answer the following question Which of the following statements is supported by information in the passage?

A.

Chocolate is popular in every country in the world.

B.

The Hershey Chocolate Company's factory is near Derry Church, Pennsylvania.

C.

Chocolate had never been manufactured in the United States before Milton Hershey did it.

D.

The Hershey Chocolate Company is run by Milton Hershey's children.

E.

The Hershey Chocolate Company has branches in Chicago, New Orleans, and New York City.

Correct Answer: B

Because the passage states that Hershey returned to the village where he had been born to open his plant, and the passage also states that he was born near Derry Church, this statement must be accurate. The other choices cannot be supported. Although the writer mentions the popularity of chocolate internationally, you cannot assume that it is popular in every country (choice a), nor is there any indication that Milton Hershey was the first person to manufacture chocolate in the U.S. (choice c). Choice d is not discussed in the passage at all. The passage states that Hershey did not succeed in his candy-making ventures in other cities (choice e).

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## QUESTION 8

(1)

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while, he left the printing business and was apprenticed to a Lancaster, Pennsylvania, candy maker. It was apparent he had found his calling in life and, at the age of eighteen, he opened his own candy store in Philadelphia. In spite of his talents as a candy maker, the shop failed after six years. (2)Milton Hersheys fans today may be surprised to learn that his first candy success came with the manufacture of caramel. After the failure of his Philadelphia store, Milton headed for Denver, where he learned the art of caramel making. There he took a job with a local manufacturer who insisted on using fresh milk in making his caramels; Milton saw that this made the caramels especially tasty. After a time in Denver, he once again attempted to open his own candy-making businesses, in Chicago, New Orleans, and New York City. Finally, in 1886, he went to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where he raised the money necessary to try again. This companythe Lancaster Caramel Companymade Miltons reputation as a master candy maker. (3) In 1893, Milton attended the Chicago International Exposition, where he saw a display of German chocolate-making implements. Captivated by the equipment, he purchased it for his Lancaster candy factory and began producing chocolate, which he used for coating his caramels. By the next year, production had grown to include cocoa, sweet chocolate, and baking chocolate. The Hershey Chocolate company was born in 1894 as a subsidiary of the Lancaster Caramel Company. Six years later, Milton sold the caramel company, but retained the rights, and the equipment, to make chocolate. He believed that a large market of chocolate consumers was waiting for someone to produce reasonably priced candy. He was right. (4)Milton Hershey returned to the village where he had been born, in the heart of dairy country, and opened his chocolate-manufacturing plant. With access to all the fresh milk he needed, he began producing the finest milk chocolate. The plant that opened in a small Pennsylvania village in 1905 is today the largest chocolate factory in the world. The confections created at this facility are favorites in the U.S. and internationally. (5) The area where the factory is located is now known as Hershey, Pennsylvania. Within the first decades of its existence, the town thrived, as did the chocolate business. A bank, a school, churches, a department store, even a park and a trolley system all appeared in short order. Soon, the town even had a zoo. Today, a visit to the area reveals the Hershey Medical Center, Milton Hershey School, and Hersheys Chocolate World, a theme park where visitors are greeted by a giant Reeses Peanut Butter Cup. All of these thingsand a huge number of happy chocolate loverswere made possible because a caramel maker visited the Chicago Exposition of 1893! On the basis of above passage please answer the following question The passage implies that Hershey opened his first chocolate company in

- A.  
Chicago.
- B.  
Denver.
- C.  
Philadelphia.
- D.  
Lancaster.
- E.  
Derry Church.

Correct Answer: D

This is an inference taken from paragraphs 3 and 4. Paragraph 3 indicates that Hersheys caramel company was in Lancaster and the chocolate company was a subsidiary. Paragraph 4 states that Hershey moved his plant in 1905, eleven years after he first got into the chocolate business. From these two facts, it is reasonable to conclude that the first chocolate business was in Lancaster.

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## QUESTION 9

Ratatouille is a dish that has grown in popularity worldwide over the last few years. Essentially, ratatouille is a vegetable stew, which usually features eggplant, zucchini, tomato, peppers, and garlic, chopped, mixed together, sauteed briefly, and finally, cooked slowly over low heat. As the vegetables cook slowly, they make their own broth, which may be extended with a little tomato paste. The name ratatouille comes from the French word *touiller*, meaning to stir or mix together.

On the basis of above passage please answer the following question

According to the information presented in the passage, what should one do immediately after chopping the vegetables?

- A. saute them
- B. mix them together
- C. cook them slowly over low heat
- D. add tomato paste
- E. add garlic

Correct Answer: B

The actions in choices a, c, and d, come after chopping the vegetables, but not immediately. Choice e is actually mentioned before the direction to chop the vegetables.

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#### QUESTION 10

1) The Woodstock Music and Art Fair—better known to its participants and to history simply as "Woodstock"—should have been a colossal failure. 2) Just a month prior to its August 15, 1969 opening, the fair's organizers were informed by the council of Wallkill, New York, that permission to hold the festival was withdrawn. 3) Amazingly, not only was a new site found, but word got out to the public of the fair's new location. 4) At the new site, fences that were supposed to facilitate ticket collection never materialized, and all attempts at gathering tickets were abandoned. 5) Crowd estimates of 30,000 kept rising; by the end of the three days, some estimated the crowd at 500,000. 6) And then, on opening night, it began to rain. 7) Off and on, throughout all three days, huge summer storms rolled over the gathering. 8) In spite of these problems, most people think of Woodstock not only as a fond memory but as the defining moment for an entire generation. On the basis of above passage please answer the following question Which of the following would be the most appropriate title for this passage?

- A. Woodstock as Metaphor
- B. Backstage at Woodstock
- C. Woodstock: From The Band to The Who
- D. Remembering Woodstock
- E. Woodstock: The Untold Story

Correct Answer: D

The titles in choices b, c, and e all imply that the passage will provide information which it does not. Choice a is not logical given the content of the passage; choice d is the most accurate choice because the passage deals mainly with remembering the fair.

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## QUESTION 11

Cuttlefish are intriguing little animals. The cuttlefish resembles a rather large squid and is, like the octopus, a member of the order of cephalopods. Although they are not considered the most highly evolved of the cephalopods, they are extremely intelligent. While observing them, it is hard to tell who is doing the observing, you or the cuttlefish, especially since the eye of the cuttlefish is very similar in structure to the human eye. Cuttlefish are also highly mobile and fast creatures.

They come equipped with a small jet located just below the tentacles that can expel water to help them move. Ribbons of flexible fin on each side of the body allow cuttlefish to hover, move, stop, and start.

\_\_\_\_\_. The cuttlefish is sometimes referred to as the "chameleon of the sea" because it can change its skin color and pattern instantaneously. Masters of camouflage, they can blend into any environment for protection, but they are also capable of the most imaginative displays of iridescent, brilliant color and intricate designs, which scientists believe they use to communicate with each other and for mating displays. However, judging from the riot of ornaments and hues cuttlefish produce, it is hard not to believe they paint themselves so beautifully just for the sheer joy of it. At the very least, cuttlefish conversation must be the most sparkling in all the sea.

On the basis of above passage please answer the following question

Which of the following is correct according to the information given in the passage?

- A. Cuttlefish are a type of squid.
- B. Cuttlefish use jet propulsion as one form of locomotion.
- C. The cuttlefish does not have an exoskeleton.
- D. Cuttlefish are the most intelligent cephalopods.
- E. Cuttlefish always imitate the patterns and colors of their environment.

Correct Answer: B

The passage describes the cuttlefish's use of a water jet to move. Choice a is incorrect because the passage only describes cuttlefish as resembling squid. Choice c is a true characteristic, but is not mentioned in the passage. Choice d is incorrect because the passage never describes cuttlefish as the most intelligent cephalopod. Choice e is not true, based on the information in the passage.

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## QUESTION 12

The Sami are an indigenous people living in the northern parts of Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Russia's Kola peninsula. Originally, the Sami religion was animistic; that is, for them, nature and natural objects had a conscious life, a spirit.

One was expected to move quietly in the wilderness and avoid making a disturbance out of courtesy to these spirits. Ghengis Khan is said to have declared that the Sami were one people he would never try to fight again. Since the

Sami were not warriors and did not believe in war, they simply disappeared in times of conflict. They were known as "peaceful retreaters."

On the basis of above passage please answer the following question

Based on the tone of the passage, which of the following words best describes the authors attitude toward the Sami people?

- A. admiring
- B. pitying
- C. contemptuous
- D. patronizing
- E. perplexed

Correct Answer: A

To depict the Sami, the author uses words that point to their gentleness, which is an admirable quality: They move quietly, display courtesy to the spirits of the wilderness, and were known as peaceful retreaters. There is nothing pitying, contemptuous, or patronizing in the language, and nothing in the passage indicates that the author is perplexed the description of the Sami is clear and to the point.