

# Reading Test

65 MINUTES, 52 QUESTIONS

Turn to Section 1 of your answer sheet to answer the questions in this section.

## 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 1–10 are based on the following passage.

This passage is adapted from Jane Austen, *Northanger Abbey*. Originally published in 1817.

No one who had ever seen Catherine Morland in her infancy would have supposed her born to be an heroine. Her situation in life, the character of her father and mother, her own person and disposition, were all equally against  
 5 her. Her father was a clergyman, without being neglected, or poor, and a very respectable man, though his name was Richard—and he had never been handsome. He had a considerable independence besides two good livings—and he was not in the least addicted to locking up his  
 10 daughters. Her mother was a woman of useful plain sense, with a good temper, and, what is more remarkable, with a good constitution. . . .

[Catherine] had a thin awkward figure, a sallow skin without color, dark lank hair, and strong features—so  
 15 much for her person; and not less unpropitious for heroism seemed her mind. She was fond of all boy's plays, and greatly preferred cricket not merely to dolls, but to the more heroic enjoyments of infancy, nursing a dormouse, feeding a canary-bird, or watering a rose-bush. Indeed she  
 20 had no taste for a garden; and if she gathered flowers at all, it was chiefly for the pleasure of mischief—at least so it was conjectured from her always preferring those which she was forbidden to take.

Such were her propensities—her abilities were quite  
 25 as extraordinary. She never could learn or understand anything before she was taught; and sometimes not even then, for she was often inattentive, and occasionally stupid. Her mother was three months in teaching her only to repeat the "Beggar's Petition"; and after all, her next sister,  
 30 Sally, could say it better than she did. Not that Catherine was always stupid—by no means; she learnt the fable of

"The Hare and Many Friends" as quickly as any girl in England. Her mother wished her to learn music; and Catherine was sure she should like it, for she was very  
 35 fond of tinkling the keys of the old forlorn spinet; so, at eight years old she began. She learnt a year, and could not bear it; and Mrs. Morland, who did not insist on her daughters being accomplished in spite of incapacity or distaste, allowed her to leave off. The day which  
 40 dismissed the music-master was one of the happiest of Catherine's life. Her taste for drawing was not superior; though whenever she could obtain the outside of a letter from her mother or seize upon any other odd piece of paper, she did what she could in that way, by drawing  
 45 houses and trees, hens and chickens, all very much like one another. Writing and accounts she was taught by her father; French by her mother: her proficiency in either was not remarkable, and she shirked her lessons in both whenever she could. What a strange, unaccountable  
 50 character!—for with all these symptoms of profligacy at ten years old, she had neither a bad heart nor a bad temper, was seldom stubborn, scarcely ever quarrelsome, and very kind to the little ones, with few interruptions of tyranny; she was moreover noisy and wild, hated confinement and  
 55 cleanliness, and loved nothing so well in the world as rolling down the green slope at the back of the house.

Such was Catherine Morland at ten. At fifteen, appearances were mending; she began to curl her hair and long for balls; her complexion improved, her features were  
 60 softened by plumpness and color, her eyes gained more animation, and her figure more consequence. Her love of dirt gave way to an inclination for finery, and she grew clean as she grew smart; she had now the pleasure of sometimes hearing her father and mother remark on her  
 65 personal improvement. "Catherine grows quite a good-looking girl—she is almost pretty today," were words

which caught her ears now and then; and how welcome were the sounds! To look almost pretty is an acquisition of higher delight to a girl who has been looking plain the first fifteen years of her life than a beauty from her cradle can ever receive.

1

The main purpose of the passage is to

- A) describe personality and character traits of a young character.
- B) provide an overview of the typical life of the family of members of the clergy.
- C) discuss character flaws in a girl and the problems they cause.
- D) explain why a young girl frequently rebelled against her parents' wishes.

2

The passage indicates that when Catherine gathered flowers, she was usually acting

- A) impishly.
- B) perfunctorily.
- C) impulsively.
- D) charitably.

3

Which choice best summarizes the third paragraph of the passage (lines 24–56)?

- A) Despite initial difficulties, a character ultimately discovers a passion and excels at it through extensive practice.
- B) A character's willful disregard of her parents' wishes upsets her mother but ultimately leads to the discovery of a significant talent.
- C) Primarily because of her father's religious belief, a character begins to reform her behavior as she ages and accepts greater responsibility.
- D) A character demonstrates both talent and lack of talent in a variety of activities and is characterized largely by unpredictability.

4

The narrator indicates that Catherine's mother responded to her children's lack of interest in a pursuit by

- A) asking their father to teach them.
- B) making them practice more.
- C) scolding or punishing them.
- D) allowing them to stop the activity.

5

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

- A) Lines 10–12 ("Her mother . . . constitution")
- B) Lines 28–29 ("Her mother . . . Petition")
- C) Lines 37–39 ("who did not . . . distaste")
- D) Lines 46–47 ("Writing . . . mother")

6

As used in line 39, "leave off" most nearly means

- A) depart.
- B) quit.
- C) omit.
- D) forget.

7

As used in line 59, "long for" most nearly means

- A) travel to.
- B) desire.
- C) attend frequently.
- D) resent.

8

It can most reasonably be inferred that as Catherine aged, she

- A) discovered both a passion and a talent for music.
- B) strayed more from the behavior expected of her.
- C) became interested in wearing nicer clothing.
- D) grew closer to her father and grew apart from her mother.

9

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

- A) Lines 39–41 (“The day . . . life”)
- B) Lines 48–49 (“she shirked . . . could”)
- C) Lines 61–62 (“Her love . . . finery”)
- D) Lines 68–71 (“To look . . . receive”)

10

Which situation is most similar to the one described in lines 28–33 (“Her mother . . . England”)?

- A) A young painter sometimes creates paintings that show little evidence of talent but at other times produces exquisite paintings that demonstrate great skill.
- B) An actor forgets her lines during the first performance of a play, but her embarrassment from that incident leads her never to forget her lines again.
- C) A boy at first is cut from the school basketball team, but with his father’s help, he practices and makes the team the next year.
- D) A swimmer is good at the backstroke but learns the butterfly stroke and wins the state championship in that stroke.