

Practice Test G - Reading

Questions 1 – 11

The United States Constitution makes no provision for the nomination of candidates for the presidency. As the framers of the Constitution set up the system, the electors would, out of their own knowledge, select the "wisest and best" as President. But the rise of political parties altered that system drastically —and with the change came the need for nominations.

The first method that the parties developed to nominate presidential candidates was the congressional caucus, a small group of members of Congress. That method was regularly used in the elections of 1800 to 1824. But its closed character led to its downfall in the mid-1820's. For the election of 1832, both major parties turned to the national convention as their nominating device. It has continued to serve them ever since.

With the convention process, the final selection of the President is, for all practical purposes, narrowed to one of two persons: the Republican or the Democratic party nominee. Yet there is almost no legal control of that vital process.

The Constitution is silent on the subject of presidential nominations. There is, as well, almost no statutory law on the matter. The only provisions in federal law have to do with the financing of conventions. And in each state there is only a small body of laws that deal with issues related to the convention, such as the choosing of delegates and the manner in which they may cast their votes. In short, the convention is very largely a creation and a responsibility of the political parties themselves.

In both the Republican and Democratic parties, the national committee is charged with making the plans and arrangements for the national convention. As much as a year before it is held, the committee meets (usually in Washington, D.C.) to set the time and place for the convention. July has been the favored month; but each party has met in convention as early as mid-June and also as late as the latter part of August.

Where the convention is held is a matter of prime importance. There must be an adequate convention hall, sufficient hotel accommodations, plentiful entertainment outlets, and efficient transportation facilities.

1. Which of the following motivated a change in the original method of selecting a President of the United States?
 - (A) The framers of the Constitution
 - (B) The rise of the congressional caucus
 - (C) The emergence of the party system
 - (D) The establishment of national conventions
2. When was the congressional caucus used?
 - (A) In the early 1800's
 - (B) During the election of 1832
 - (C) Throughout the nineteenth century
 - (D) In several recent elections

3. What can be inferred about why the congressional caucus system was terminated?
- (A) It was too expensive.
 - (B) It took too much time.
 - (C) It did not conform to the Constitution.
 - (D) It did not include enough citizens.
4. The word "them" in line 10 refers to
- (A) conventions
 - (B) parties
 - (C) elections
 - (D) candidates
5. The word "Yet" in line 13 indicates that what follows is
- (A) an unexpected fact
 - (B) a personal observation
 - (C) a list
 - (D) an example
6. The word "vital" in line 13 is closest in meaning to
- (A) extremely important
 - (B) always accessible
 - (C) political
 - (D) optional
7. According to the passage, the only aspect of political conventions addressed by federal law involves
- (A) organization
 - (B) choosing delegates
 - (C) voting procedures
 - (D) funding
8. In paragraph 4, the author compares
- (A) nominations and conventions
 - (B) finances and the Constitution
 - (C) delegates and candidates
 - (D) federal and state laws
9. The words "charged with" in lines 20-21 are closest in meaning to
- (A) responsible for
 - (B) excited about
 - (C) blamed for
 - (D) in favor of
10. The passage refers to all of the following as necessary in the city where the convention is held EXCEPT
- (A) an acceptable meeting place
 - (B) politically aware citizens
 - (C) an easy way of traveling around the city
 - (D) sufficient amusement opportunities
11. Where in the passage does the author refer to the original method of selecting a president?
- (A) Lines 2-3
 - (B) Lines 11-13
 - (C) Lines 18-19
 - (D) Lines 20-21

Questions 12 – 17

Several hundred million years ago, plants similar to modern ferns covered vast stretches of the land. Some were as large as trees, with giant fronds bunched at the top of trunks as straight as pillars. Others were the size of bushes and formed thickets of me undergrowth. Still others lived in the shade of giant club mosses and horsetails along the edges of swampy lagoons where giant amphibians swam.

A great number of these plants were true ferns, reproducing themselves without fruits or seeds. Others had only the appearance of ferns. Their leaves had organs of sexual reproduction and produced seeds. Although their "flowers" did not have corollas these false ferns (today completely extinct) ushered in the era of flowering plants.

Traces of these flora of the earliest times have been preserved in the form of fossils. Such traces are most commonly found in shale and sandstone rocks wedged between coal beds.

Today only tropical forests bear living proof of the ancient greatness of ferns. The species that grow there are no longer those of the Carboniferous period, but their variety and vast numbers, and the great size of some, remind us of the time when ferns ruled the plant kingdom.

12. What does the passage mainly discuss?

- (A) Plant reproduction
- (B) How to locate fossils
- (C) An ancient form of plant life
- (D) Tropical plant life

13. The word "others" in line 3 refers to

- (A) plants
- (B) pillars
- (C) trees
- (D) fronds

14. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a characteristic of the plants described in the passage?

- (A) They once spread over large areas of land.
- (B) They varied greatly in size.
- (C) They coexisted with amphibians, mosses, and horsetails.
- (D) They clung to tree trunks and bushes for support

15. The word "true" in line 6 is closest in meaning to which of the following?

- (A) accurate
- (B) genuine
- (C) straight
- (D) dependable

17. The word "bear" in line 13 could best be replaced by which of the following?

- (A) call for
- (B) provide
- (C) tolerate
- (D) suffer

16. The author states that fossils of early plant life are usually found in rocks located between deposits of

- (A) coal
- (B) shale
- (C) sandstone
- (D) corollas

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Questions 18 – 28

The economic expansion prompted by the Second World War triggered a spectacular population boom in the West. Of course, the region was no stranger to population booms. Throughout much of its history, western settlement had been characterized by spurts, rather than by a pattern of gradual and steady population growth, beginning with the gold and silver rushes of the 1850's and 1860's. The decade after the First World War —the 1920's —witnessed another major surge of people pouring into the West, particularly into urban areas. But the economic depression of the 1930's brought this expansion to a halt; some of the more sparsely settled parts of the region actually lost population as migrants sought work in more heavily industrialized areas. By 1941, when the United States entered the Second World War and began to mobilize, new job opportunities were created in the western part of the nation.

If the expansion of industries, such as shipbuilding and aircraft manufacturing, was most striking on the Pacific coast, it also affected interior cities like Denver, Phoenix, and Salt Lake City. Equally dramatic were the effects of the establishment of aluminum plants in Oregon and Washington and the burgeoning steel industry in Utah and California. The flow of people into these areas provided an enormous impetus to the expansion of the service industries —banks, health care services, and schools. Although strained to the limit by the influx of newcomers, western communities welcomed the vast reservoir of new job opportunities. At the same time, the unprecedented expansion of government installations in the West, such as military bases, created thousands of new civilian openings. As land had served as a magnet for western migrants in the late nineteenth century, so wartime mobilization set in motion another major expansion of population. Indeed, it could be said that the entire western United States became a giant boomtown during the Second World War. This was especially true of California. Of the more than eight million people who moved into the West in the decade after 1940, almost one-half went to the Pacific coast. In fact, between 1940 and 1950, California's population surged by more than three million people.

18. What is the main point of the passage?
- (A) California dominated the economic growth of the West during the Second World War.
 - (B) Industrial growth during the 1940's attracted large numbers of people to the West.
 - (C) The military drew people away from civilian jobs during the 1940's.
 - (D) The West experienced gradual and steady economic growth from 1900 to 1940.

19. The word "triggered" in line 1 is closest in meaning to
- (A) was connected to
 - (B) generated
 - (C) interfered with
 - (D) illuminated

20. Why does the author mention "the gold and silver rushes of the 1850's and 1860's" in the first paragraph?
- (A) As causes of gradual population growth
 - (B) As contrasts to later patterns of population growth
 - (C) As illustrations of a market economy
 - (D) As examples of western population booms
21. Which of the following occurred in the West during the 1920's?
- (A) Gold and silver deposits were discovered.
 - (B) The population density gradually increased.
 - (C) The population of the cities increased significantly.
 - (D) Many military bases were established.
22. According to the passage, the depression of the 1930's caused which of the following?
- (A) A lack of population growth in the West
 - (B) The building of new suburbs
 - (C) A creation of more job opportunities
 - (D) A growth in immigration from abroad
23. Which of the following statements about the shipbuilding industry is suggested by the passage?
- (A) It came into being during the First World War.
 - (B) Many new shipbuilding yards were established on the Pacific coast during the 1940's.
 - (C) Denver was considered to be a poor location for shipbuilding factories.
 - (D) Shipbuilding was the dominant industry in Oregon and Washington.

24. The word "it" in line 13 refers to
- (A) expansion
 - (B) Denver
 - (C) manufacturing
 - (D) the Pacific coast
25. The word "enormous" in line 16 is closest in meaning to
- (A) unexpected
 - (B) immense
 - (C) adequate
 - (D) important
26. The passage suggests that industrialization in the West led to all of the following EXCEPT
- (A) A reduction in the price of land
 - (B) An increase in school construction
 - (C) Improved access to doctors
 - (D) An increase in the number of banks
27. According to the passage, what was one result of the building of new military bases in the West in the 1940's?
- (A) Military bases in other parts of the United States were closed.
 - (B) Many settlers were forced off their land.
 - (C) Many civilian jobs were created.
 - (D) The cost of living rose sharply in California and other western states.
28. It can be inferred from the passage that the principal cause of California's population surge between 1940 and 1950 was
- (A) the increased availability of land
 - (B) people's desire to live in a warm, coastal climate
 - (C) the industrial mobilization necessitated by the Second World War
 - (D) overcrowding in urban areas in other regions of the United States

Questions 29 – 39

Line For 150 years scientists have tried to determine the solar constant, the amount of
(5) solar energy that reaches the Earth. Yet, even in the most cloud-free regions of the planet, the solar constant cannot be measured precisely. Gas molecules and dust particles in the atmosphere absorb and scatter sunlight and prevent some wavelengths of the light from ever reaching the ground.

(10) With the advent of satellites, however, scientists have finally been able to measure the Sun's output without being impeded by the Earth's atmosphere. Solar Max, a satellite from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), has been measuring the Sun's output since February 1980. Although a malfunction in the satellite's control system limited its observation for a few years, the satellite was repaired in orbit by astronauts from the space shuttle in 1984. Max's observations indicate that the solar constant is not really constant after all.

(15) The satellite's instruments have detected frequent, small variations in the Sun's energy output, generally amounting to no more than 0.05 percent of the Sun's mean energy output and lasting from a few days to a few weeks. Scientists believe these fluctuations coincide with the appearance and disappearance of large groups of sunspots on the Sun's disk. Sunspots are relatively dark regions on the Sun's surface that have strong magnetic fields and a temperature about 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit cooler than the rest of the Sun's surface. Particularly large fluctuations in the solar constant have coincided
(20) with sightings of large sunspot groups. In 1980, for example, Solar Max's instruments registered a 0.3 percent drop in the solar energy reaching the Earth. At that time a sunspot group covered about 0.6 percent of the solar disk, an area 20 times larger than the Earth's surface.

(25) Long-term variations in the solar constant are more difficult to determine. Although Solar Max's data have indicated a slow and steady decline in the Sun's output, some scientists have thought that the satellite's aging detectors might have become less sensitive over the years, thus falsely indicating a drop in the solar constant. This possibility was dismissed, however, by comparing Solar Max's observations with data from a similar instrument operating on NASA's Nimbus 7 weather satellite since 1978.

29. What does this passage mainly discuss?

- (A) The launching of a weather satellite
- (B) The components of the Earth's atmosphere
- (C) The measurement of variations in the solar constant
- (D) The interaction of sunlight and air pollution

30. Why does the author mention "gas" and "dust" in line 3?

- (A) They magnify the solar constant.
- (B) They are found in varying concentrations.
- (C) Scientific equipment is ruined by gas and dust.
- (D) They interfere with accurate measurement of the solar constant.

31. Why is it not possible to measure the solar constant accurately without a satellite?
- (A) The Earth is too far from the Sun.
 - (B) Some areas on Earth receive more solar energy than others.
 - (C) There is not enough sunlight during the day.
 - (D) The Earth's atmosphere interferes with the sunlight.
32. The word "scatter" in line 4 is closest in meaning to
- (A) emit
 - (B) capture
 - (C) transform
 - (D) disperse
33. The word "its" in line 10 refers to the
- (A) orbit
 - (B) atmosphere
 - (C) satellite
 - (D) malfunction
34. The word "detected" in line 13 is closest in meaning to
- (A) estimated
 - (B) disregarded
 - (C) registered
 - (D) predicted
35. According to the passage, scientists believe variations in the solar constant are related to
- (A) sunspot activity
 - (B) unusual weather patterns
 - (C) increased levels of dust
 - (D) fluctuations in the Earth's temperature
36. The word "decline" in line 25 is closest in meaning to
- (A) fall
 - (B) reversal
 - (C) release
 - (D) fluctuation
37. Why did scientists think that Solar Max might be giving unreliable information?
- (A) Solar Max did not work for the first few years.
 - (B) The space shuttle could not fix Solar Max's instruments.
 - (C) Solar Max's instruments were getting old.
 - (D) Nimbus 7 interfered with Solar Max's detectors.
38. The phrase "This possibility" in line 27 refers to the likelihood that the
- (A) solar constant has declined
 - (B) Nimbus 7 satellite is older than Solar Max
 - (C) solar constant cannot be measured
 - (D) instruments are providing inaccurate data
39. The attempt to describe the solar constant can best be described as
- (A) an ongoing research effort
 - (B) an issue that has been resolved
 - (C) a question that can never be answered
 - (D) historically interesting, but irrelevant to contemporary concerns

Questions 40 – 50

Even before the turn of the century, movies began to develop in two major directions: the realistic and the formalistic. Realism and formalism are merely general, rather than absolute, terms. When used to suggest a tendency toward either polarity, such labels can be helpful, but in the end they are still just labels. Few films are exclusively formalist in style, and fewer yet are completely realist. There is also an important difference between realism and reality, although this distinction is often forgotten. Realism is a particular style, whereas physical reality is the source of all the raw materials of film, both realistic and formalistic. Virtually all movie directors go to the photographable world for their subject matter, but what they do with this material —how they shape and manipulate it — determines their stylistic emphasis.

Generally speaking, realistic films attempt to reproduce the surface of concrete reality with a minimum of distortion. In photographing objects and events, the filmmaker tries to suggest the copiousness of life itself. Both realist and formalist film directors must select (and hence emphasize) certain details from the chaotic sprawl of reality. But the element of selectivity in realistic films is less obvious. Realists, in short, try to preserve the illusion that their film world is unmanipulated, an objective mirror of the actual world. Formalists, on the other hand, make no such pretense. They deliberately stylize and distort their raw materials so that only the very naive would mistake a manipulated image of an object or event for the real thing.

We rarely notice the style in a realistic movie; the artist tends to be self-effacing. Some filmmakers are more concerned with what is being shown than how it is manipulated. The camera is used conservatively. It is essentially a recording mechanism that reproduces the surface of tangible objects with as little commentary as possible. A high premium is placed on simplicity, spontaneity, and directness. This is not to suggest that these movies lack artistry, however, for at its best the realistic cinema specializes in art that conceals art.

40. What does the passage mainly discuss?

- (A) Acting styles
- (B) Film plots
- (C) Styles of filmmaking
- (D) Filmmaking 100 years ago

41. With which of the following statements would the author be most likely to agree?

- (A) Realism and formalism are outdated terms.
- (B) Most films are neither exclusively realistic nor formalistic.
- (C) Realistic films are more popular than formalistic ones.
- (D) Formalistic films are less artistic than realistic ones.

42. The phrase "this distinction" in line 6 refers to the difference between
(A) formalists and realists
(B) realism and reality
(C) general and absolute
(D) physical reality and raw materials
43. Whom does the author say is primarily responsible for the style of a film?
(A) The director
(B) The actors
(C) The producer
(D) The camera operator
44. The word "shape" in line 9 is closest in meaning to
(A) specify
(B) form
(C) understand
(D) achieve
45. The word "preserve" in line 15 is closest in meaning to
(A) encourage
(B) maintain
(C) reflect
(D) attain
46. The word "They" in line 17 refers to
(A) films
(B) realists
(C) formalists
(D) raw materials
47. How can one recognize the formalist style?
(A) It uses familiar images.
(B) It is very impersonal.
(C) It obviously manipulates images.
(D) It mirrors the actual world.
48. The word "tangible" in line 23 is closest in meaning to
(A) concrete
(B) complex
(C) various
(D) comprehensible
49. Which of the following terms is NOT used to describe realism in filmmaking?
(A) Simple
(B) Spontaneous
(C) Self-effacing
(D) Exaggerated
50. Which of the following films would most likely use a realist style?
(A) A travel documentary
(B) A science fiction film
(C) A musical drama
(D) An animated cartoon

Practice Test G- Answers

Number	Answers
1	C
2	A
3	D
4	B
5	A
6	A
7	D
8	D
9	A
10	B
11	A
12	C
13	A
14	D
15	B
16	A
17	B
18	B
19	B
20	D
21	C
22	A
23	B
24	A
25	B
26	A
27	C
28	C
29	C
30	D
31	D
32	D
33	C
34	C
35	A
36	A
37	C
38	D
39	A
40	C

41	B
42	B
43	A
44	B
45	B
46	C
47	C
48	A
49	D
50	A

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