SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR THE PROFICIENCY TEST (2nd Stage)
(Retrieved from Longman Preparation Course for the TOEFL Test by Deborah Phillips)

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SECTION 1
LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Time—approximately 35 minutes
(including the reading of the directions for each part)

Part A

Directions: In Part A you will hear short conversations between two people. After each conversation, you will hear a question about the conversation. The conversations and questions will not be repeated. After you hear a question, read the four possible answers in your test book and choose the best answer. Then, on your answer sheet, find the number of the question and fill in the space that corresponds to the letter of the answer you have chosen.

Listen to an example.

Sample Answer

On the recording, you will hear:

(man) That exam was just awful.
(woman) Oh, it could have been worse.
(narrator) What does the woman mean?

In your test book, you will read:

(A) The exam was really awful.
(B) It was the worst exam she had ever seen.
(C) It couldn’t have been more difficult.
(D) It wasn’t that hard.

You learn from the conversation that the man thought the exam was very difficult and that the woman disagreed with the man. The best answer to the question, “What does the woman mean?” is (D), “It wasn’t that hard.” Therefore, the correct choice is (D).
1.  
(A) Carla does not live very far away.  
(B) What Carla said was unjust  
(C) He does not fear what anyone says  
(D) Carla is fairly rude to others.  

2.  
(A) She thinks it’s an improvement.  
(B) The fir trees in it are better.  
(C) It resembles the last one.  
(D) It is the best the man has ever done.  

3.  
(A) He graduated last in his class.  
(B) He is the last person in his family to graduate.  
(C) He doesn’t believe he can improve gradually.  
(D) He has finally finished his studies.  

4.  
(A) He thought the dress was so chic.  
(B) He was surprised the dress was not expensive.  
(C) He would like to know what color dress it was.  
(D) The dress was not cheap.  

5.  
(A) Leave the car somewhere else.  
(B) Ignore the parking tickets.  
(C) Add more money to the meter.  
(D) Pay the parking attendant.  

6.  
(A) He does not like to hold too many books at one time.  
(B) There is no bookstore in his neighborhood.  
(C) It’s not possible to obtain the book yet.  
(D) He needs to talk to someone at the bookstore.  

7.  
(A) It was incomplete.  
(B) It finished on time.  
(C) It was about honor.  
(D) It was too long.  

8.  
(A) She needs to use the man’s notes.  
(B) Yesterday’s physics class was quite boring.  
(C) She took some very good notes in physics class.  
(D) She would like to lend the man her notes.  

9.  
(A) It’s her birthday today.  
(B) She’s looking for a birthday gift.  
(C) She wants to go shopping with her dad.  
(D) She wants a new wallet for herself.  

10.  
(A) He took a quick trip.  
(B) The big boat was towed through the water.  
(C) There was coal in the water.  
(D) He didn’t go for a swim.  

11.  
(A) She just left her sister’s house.  
(B) Her sister left the sweater behind.  
(C) She believes her sweater was left at her sister’s house.  
(D) She doesn’t know where her sister lives.  

12.  
(A) She doesn’t have time to complete additional reports.  
(B) She cannot finish the reports that she is already working on.  
(C) She is scared of having responsibility for the reports.  
(D) It is not time for the accounting reports to be compiled.  

13.  
(A) He’s had enough exercise.  
(B) He’s going to give himself a reward for the hard work.  
(C) He’s going to stay on for quite some time.  
(D) He would like to give the woman an exercise machine as a gift.
14.  
(A) He cannot see the huge waves.  
(B) The waves are not coming in.  
(C) He would like the woman to repeat what she said.  
(D) He agrees with the woman.  

15.  
(A) The exam was postponed.  
(B) The man should have studied harder.  
(C) Night is the best time to study for exams.  
(D) She is completely prepared for the exam.  

16.  
(A) Students who want to change schedules  
(B) It is only possible to make four changes in the schedule.  
(C) It is necessary to submit the form quickly.  
(D) Problems occur when people don’t wait their turn.  

17.  
(A) In a mine.  
(B) In a jewelry store.  
(C) In a clothing store.  
(D) In a bank.  

18.  
(A) A visit to the woman’s family.  
(B) The telephone bill.  
(C) The cost of a new telephone.  
(D) How far away the woman’s family lives.  

19.  
(A) She hasn’t met her new boss yet.  
(B) She has a good opinion of her boss.  
(C) Her boss has asked her about her impressions of the company.  
(D) Her boss has been putting a lot of pressure on her.  

20.  
(A) The recital starts in three years.  
(B) He intends to recite three different poems.  
(C) He received a citation on the third of the month.  
(D) He thinks the performance begins at three.  

21.  
(A) Choose a new dentist.  
(B) Cure the pain himself.  
(C) Make an appointment with his dentist.  
(D) Ask his dentist about the right way to brush.  

22.  
(A) It is almost five o’clock.  
(B) The man doesn’t really need the stamps.  
(C) It is a long way to the post office.  
(D) It would be better to go after five o’clock.  

23.  
(A) The article was placed on reserve.  
(B) The woman must ask the professor for a copy.  
(C) The woman should look through a number of journals in the library.  
(D) He has reservations about the information in the article.  

24.  
(A) He needs to take a nap.  
(B) He hopes the woman will help him to calm down.  
(C) The woman just woke him up.  
(D) He is extremely relaxed.  

25.  
(A) She doesn’t think the news report is false.  
(B) She has never before reported on the news.  
(C) She never watches the news on television.  
(D) She shares the man’s opinion about the report.  

26.  
(A) Management will offer pay raises on Friday.  
(B) The policy has not yet been decided.  
(C) The manager is full of hot air.  
(D) The plane has not yet landed.  

27.  
(A) He doesn’t believe that it is really snowing.  
(B) The snow had been predicted.  
(C) The exact amount of snow is unclear.  
(D) He expected the woman to go out in the snow.
28.  (A) She’s going to take the test over again.  
(B) She thinks she did a good job on the exam.  
(C) She has not yet taken the literature exam.  
(D) She’s unhappy with how she did.

29.  (A) The door was unlocked.  
(B) It was better to wait outside.  
(C) He could not open the door.  
(D) He needed to take a walk.

30.  (A) He nailed the door shut.  
(B) He is heading home.  
(C) He hit himself in the head.  
(D) He is absolutely correct.

Part B

Directions: In this part of the test, you will hear longer conversations. After each conversation, you will hear several questions. The conversations and questions will not be repeated.

After you hear a question, read the four possible answers in your test book and choose the best answer. Then, on your answer sheet, find the number of the question and fill in the space that corresponds to the letter of the answer you have chosen.

Remember, you are not allowed to take notes or write in your test book.

31.  (A) The haircut is unusually short.  
(B) This is Bob’s first haircut.  
(C) Bob doesn’t know who gave him the haircut.  
(D) After the haircut, Bob’s hair still touches the floor.

32.  (A) It is just what he wanted.  
(B) He enjoys having the latest style.  
(C) He dislikes it immensely.  
(D) He thinks it will be cool in the summer.

33.  (A) A broken mirror.  
(B) The hairstylist.  
(C) The scissors used to cut his hair.  
(D) Piles of his hair.

34.  (A) You should become a hairstylist.”  
(B) Please put it back on.”  
(C) It’ll grow back.”  
(D) It won’t grow fast enough.”

35.  (A) Every evening.  
(B) Every week.  
(C) Every Sunday.  
(D) Every month.

36.  (A) That she was eighty-five years old.  
(B) That a storm was coming.  
(C) That she was under a great deal of pressure.  
(D) That she wanted to become a weather forecaster.

37.  (A) In her bones.  
(B) In her ears.  
(C) In her legs.  
(D) In her head.

38.  (A) Call his great-grandmother less often.  
(B) Watch the weather forecasts with his great-grandmother.  
(C) Help his great-grandmother relieve some of her pressures.  
(D) Believe his great-grandmother’s predictions about the weather.
Part C

Directions: In this part of the test, you will hear several talks. After each talk, you will hear some questions. The talks and questions will not be repeated.

After you hear a question, you will read the four possible answers in your test book and choose the best answer. Then, on your answer sheet, find the number of the question and fill in the space that corresponds to the letter of the answer you have chosen.

Here is an example.

On the recording, you will hear:

(narrator) Listen to an instructor talk to his class about painting.

(man) Artist Grant Wood was a guiding force in the school of painting known as American regionalist, a style reflecting the distinctive characteristics of art from rural areas of the United States. Wood began drawing animals on the family farm at the age of three, and when he was thirty-eight one of his paintings received a remarkable amount of public notice and acclaim. This painting, called “American Gothic”, is a starkly simple depiction of a serious couple staring directly out at the viewer.

Now listen to a sample question.

Sample Answer

(narrator) What style of painting is known as American regionalist? (A)

In your test book, you will read: (A) Art from America’s inner cities. (B)

(B) Art from the central region of the United States. (C)

(C) Art from various urban areas in the United States. ●

(D) Art from rural sections of America.

The best answer to the question, “What style of painting is known as American regionalist?” is (D), “Art from rural sections of America.” Therefore, the correct choice is (D).

Now listen to another sample question.

Sample Answer

(narrator) What is the name of Wood’s most successful painting? (A)

In your test book, you will read: (A) “American Regionalist.” (B)

(B) “The Family Farm in Iowa.” ●

(C) “American Gothic.” (D)

(D) “A Serious Couple.”

The best answer to this question, “What is the name of Wood’s most successful painting?” is (C), “American Gothic.” Therefore, the correct choice is (C).

Remember, you are not allowed to take notes or write in your test book.
39.  
(A) In a car.  
(B) On a hike.  
(C) On a tram.  
(D) In a lecture hall.  

40.  
(A) It means they have big tears.  
(B) It means they like to swim.  
(C) It means they look like crocodiles.  
(D) It means they are pretending to be sad.  

41.  
(A) They are sad.  
(B) They are warming themselves.  
(C) They are getting rid of salt.  
(D) They regret their actions.  

42.  
(A) Taking photographs.  
(B) Getting closer to the crocodiles.  
(C) Exploring the water’s edge.  
(D) Getting off the tram.  

43.  
(A) Water Sports.  
(B) Physics.  
(C) American History.  
(D) Psychology.  

44.  
(A) To cut.  
(B) To move fast.  
(C) To steer a boat.  
(D) To build a ship.  

45.  
(A) To bring tea from China.  
(B) To transport gold to California.  
(C) To trade with the British.  
(D) To sail the American river system.  

46.  
(A) A reading assignment.  
(B) A quiz on Friday.  
(C) A research paper for the end of the semester.  
(D) Some written homework.  

47.  
(A) Writers.  
(B) Actors.  
(C) Athletes.  
(D) Musicians.  

48.  
(A) He or she would see butterflies.  
(B) He or she would break a leg.  
(C) He or she would have shaky knees.  
(D) He or she would stop breathing.  

49.  
(A) By staring at the audience.  
(B) By breathing shallowly.  
(C) By thinking about possible negative outcomes.  
(D) By focusing on what needs to be done.  

50.  
(A) At two o’clock.  
(B) At four o’clock.  
(C) At six o’clock.  
(D) At eight o’clock.
SECTION 2
STRUCTURE AND WRITTEN EXPRESSION

Time-25 minutes
(including the reading of the directions)

Now set your clock for 25 minutes

This section is designed to measure your ability to recognize language that is appropriate for standard written English. There are two types of questions in this section, with special directions for each type.

Structure

Directions: These questions are incomplete sentences. Beneath each sentence you will see four words or phrases, marked (A), (B), (C), and (D). Choose the one word or phrase that best completes the sentence. Then, on your answer sheet, find the number of the question and fill in the space that corresponds to the letter of the answer you have chosen.

Look at the following examples.

Example 1

The president _______ the election by a landslide.

(A) won  
(B) he won  
(C) yesterday  
(D) fortunately

The sentence should read, “The president won the election by a landslide.” Therefore, you should choose answer (A).

Example 2

When _______ the conference?

(A) the doctor attended  
(B) did the doctor attend  
(C) the doctor will attend  
(D) the doctor’s attendance

The sentence should read, “When did the doctor attend the conference?” Therefore, you should choose answer (B).
1. _____ range in color from pale yellow to bright orange.
   (A) Canaries which
   (B) Canaries
   (C) That canaries
   (D) Canaries that are

2. _____ of precious gems is determined by their hardness, color, and brilliance.
   (A) The valuable
   (B) It is the value
   (C) It is valuable
   (D) The value

3. _____ a tornado spins in a counterclockwise direction in the northern hemisphere, it spins in the opposite direction in the southern hemisphere.
   (A) However
   (B) Because of
   (C) Although
   (D) That

   (A) a prize
   (B) which prize
   (C) is a prize which
   (D) is a prize

5. The horn of the rhinoceros consists of a cone of tight bundles of keratin _____ from the epidermis.
   (A) grow
   (B) grows
   (C) growing
   (D) they grow

6. Most species of heliotropes are weeds, _____ of them are cultivated.
   (A) some
   (B) but some
   (C) for some species
   (D) some species

7. Thunder occurs as _____ through air, causing the heated air to expand and collide with layers of cooler air.
   (A) an electrical charge
   (B) passes and electrical charge
   (C) the passing of an electrical charge
   (D) an electrical charge passes

8. Researchers have long debated _____ Saturn’s moon Titan contains hydrocarbon oceans and lakes.
   (A) over it
   (B) whether it
   (C) whether
   (D) whether over

9. Nimbostratus clouds are thick, dark grey clouds _____ forebode rain.
   (A) what
   (B) which
   (C) what they
   (D) which they

10. _____ in several early civilizations, a cubit was based on the length of the forearm from the tip of the middle finger to the elbow.
    (A) It was used as a measurement
    (B) A measurement was used
    (C) The use of a measurement
    (D) Used as a measurement

11. Only when air and water seep through its outer coat _____
    (A) does a seed germinate
    (B) to the germination of a seed
    (C) a seed germinates
    (D) for a seed to germinate

12. _____ seasonal rainfall, especially in regions near the tropics, is winds that blow in an opposite direction in winter than in summer.
    (A) Causing
    (B) That cause
    (C) To cause
    (D) What causes
13. The extinct Martian volcano Olympus Mons is approximately three times as _______ Mount Everest.
(A) high  
(B) high as is  
(C) higher than  
(D) the highest of

14. The flight instructor, _______ at the air base, said that orders not to fight had been given.
(A) when interviewed  
(B) when he interviewed  
(C) when his interview  
(D) when interviewing

15. In the northern and central parts of the state of Idaho _______ and churning rivers.
(A) majestic mountains are found  
(B) found majestic mountains  
(C) are found majestic mountains  
(D) finding majestic mountains

Written Expression

Directions: In these questions, each sentence has four underlined words or phrases. The four underlined parts of the sentence are marked (A), (B), (C) and (D). Identify the one underlined word or phrase that must be changed in order for the sentence to be correct. Then, on your answer sheet, find the number of the question and fill in the space that corresponds to the letter of the answer you have chosen.

Look at the following examples.

Example 1

The four string on a violin are tuned.

A   B   C   D

Sample Answer

(A)

(C)

(D)

The sentence should read, “The four strings on a violin are tuned in fifths.” Therefore, you should choose answer (B).

Example 2

The research for the book Roots taking Alex Haley twelve years.

A   B   C   D

Sample Answer

(A)

(B)

(D)

The sentence should read, “The research for the book Roots took Alex Haley twelve years.” Therefore, you should choose answer (C).
16. Light can travel from the Sun to the Earth in eight minutes and twenty seconds.

A  B  C  D

17. Every human typically have twenty-three pairs of chromosomes in most cells.

A  B  C  D

18. Most sedimentary rocks start forming when grains of clay, silt, or sandy settle in river valleys or on the bottoms of lakes and oceans.

A  B  C  D

19. The total thickness of the ventricular walls of the heart are about three times that of the atria.

A  B  C  D

20. The type of jazz known as “swing” was introduced by Duke Ellington when he wrote and recorded “It Don’t Mean A Things If It Ain’t Got That Swing”.

A  B  C  D

21. The bones of mammals, not alike those of other vertebrates, show a high degree of differentiation.

A  B  C  D

22. The neocortex has evolved more recently than other layers of the brain.

A  B  C  D

23. The United States receives a large amount of revenue from taxation of a tobacco product.

A  B  C  D

24. Much fats are composed of one molecule of glycerin combined with three molecules of fatty acids.

A  B  C  D

25. The capital of the Confederacy was originally in Mobile, but they were moved to Richmond.

A  B  C  D

26. A pearl develops when a tiny grain of sand or stone or some another irritant accidentally enters into the shell of a pearl oyster.

A  B  C  D

27. The English horn is an alto oboe with a pitch one-fifth lower than the soprano oboe.

A  B  C  D

28. In the Milky Way galaxy, the most recent observed supernova appeared in 1604.

A  B  C  D

29. Never in the history of humanity has there been more people living on this relatively small planet.

A  B  C  D

30. Because of the mobility of Americans today, it is difficult for them to put down real roots.

A  B  C  D

31. For five years after the Civil War, Robert E. Lee served to president of Washington College, which was later called Washington and Lee.
32. The **number** of wild horses on Assateague is increasing lately, resulting in overgrazed marsh and **dune grasses**.

33. **Hypnoses** was successfully used during World War II to treat battle fatigue.

34. The lobster, like **many** crustaceans, can cast off a **damaging** appendage and regenerate a new appendage to nearly **normal** size.

35. Humans **develop normally** twenty primary, or deciduous, teeth and thirty-two **permanent** ones.

36. The curricula of American Public schools are set in individual states; they **do not determine** by the **federal** government.

37. The fact that the sophisticated technology **has become** part of revolution in travel delivery **systems** has not made travel schedules **less** hectic.

38. Balanchine's **plotless** ballets, such as **Jewels and The Four Temperaments**, **present** dance purely as a **celebration** of the movement of the human body.

39. In a **solar battery**, a photosensitive **semiconducting** substance such as silicon crystal is the source of **electrician**.

40. In **early days**, hydrochloric acid was **done** by heating a mixture of sodium chloride with iron **sulphate**.
SECTION 3
READING COMPREHENSION
Time- 55 minutes
(including the reading of the directions)
Now set your clock for 55 minutes.

This section is designed to measure your ability to read and understand short passages similar in topic and style to those that students are likely to encounter in North American universities and colleges. This section contains reading passages and questions about the passages.

Directions: In this section you will read several passages. Each one is followed by a number of questions about it. You are to choose the one best answer, (A), (B), (C), or (D), to each question. Then, on your answer sheet, find the number of the question and fill in the space that corresponds to the letter of the answer you have chosen.

Answer all questions about the information in a passage on the basis of what is stated or implied in that passage.

Read the following passage:

John Quincy Adams, who served as the sixth president of the United States from 1825 to 1829, is today recognized for his masterful statesmanship and diplomacy. He dedicated his life to public service, both in the presidency and in the various other political offices that he held. Throughout his political career he demonstrated his unswerving belief in freedom of speech, the antislavery cause, and the right of Americans to be free from European and Asian domination.

Example I
To what did John Quincy Adams devote his life?

Sample Answer

(A) Improving his personal life (A)
(B) Serving the public (B)
(C) Increasing his fortune (C)
(D) Working on his private business (D)

According to the passage, John Quincy Adams “dedicated his life to public service.” Therefore, you should choose answer (B).

Example II
In line 4, the word “unswerving” is closest in meaning to

Sample Answer

(A) moveable (A)
(B) insignificant (B)
(C) unchanging (C)
(D) diplomatic (D)

The passage states that John Quincy Adams demonstrated his unswerving belief “throughout his career.” This implies that the belief did not change. Therefore, you should choose answer (C).
John James Audubon, nineteenth-century artist and naturalist, is known as one of the foremost authorities on North American birds. Born in Les Cayes, Haiti, in 1785, Audubon was raised in France and studied art under French artist Jacques-Louis David. After settling on his father’s Pennsylvania estate at the age of eighteen, he first began to study and paint birds.

In his young adulthood, Audubon undertook numerous enterprises, generally without a tremendous amount of success; at various times during his life he was involved in a mercantile business, a lumber and grist mill, a taxidermy business, and a school. His general mode of operating a business was to leave it either unattended or in the hands of a partner and take off on excursions through the wilds to paint the natural life that he saw. His business career came to an end in 1819 when he was jailed for debt and forced to file for bankruptcy.

It was at that time that Audubon began to seriously pursue the dream of publishing a collection of his paintings of birds. For the next six years he painted birds in their natural habitats while his wife worked as a teacher to support the family. His *Birds of America*, which included engravings of 435 of his colorful and lifelike watercolors, was published in parts during the period from 1826 to 1838 in England. After the success of the English editions, American editions of his work were published in 1839, and his fame and fortune were ensured.

1. This passage is mainly about
   (A) North American birds
   (B) Audubon’s route to success as a painter of birds
   (C) the works that Audubon published
   (D) Audubon’s preference for travel in natural habitats

2. The word “foremost” in line 1 is closest in meaning to
   (A) prior
   (B) leading
   (C) first
   (D) largest

3. In the second paragraph, the author mainly discusses
   (A) how Audubon developed his painting style
   (B) Audubon’s involvement in a mercantile business
   (C) where Audubon went on his excursions
   (D) Audubon’s unsuccessful business

4. The word “mode in line 7 could best be replaced by
   (A) method
   (B) vogue
   (C) average
   (D) trend

5. Audubon decided not to continue to pursue business when
   (A) he was injured in an accident at a grist mill
   (B) he decided to study art in France
   (C) he was put in prison because he owed money
   (D) he made enough money from his painting
6. The word “pursue” in line 11 is closest in meaning to
   (A) imagine
   (B) share
   (C) follow
   (D) deny

7. According to the passage, Audubon’s paintings
   (A) were realistic portrayals
   (B) used only black, white and gray
   (C) were done in oils
   (D) depicted birds in cages

8. The word “support” in line 13 could best be replaced by
   (A) tolerate
   (B) provide for
   (C) side with
   (D) fight for

9. It can be inferred from the passage that after 1839 Audubon
   (A) unsuccessfully tried to develop new businesses
   (B) continued to be supported by his wife
   (C) traveled to Europe
   (D) became wealthy...
ANSWER KEY

SECTION I: Listening


SECTION II: Structure and Written Expression


18. C sand 25. C it was 32. B has been a
20. D recorded 27. D that of the 34. C damaged 38. B such as
22. C than 29. B have 30. C them developed 40. B made

SECTION III: Reading Comprehension

5. C 22.A 39.A
7. A 24.D 41.A
10.B 27.C 44.A
15.A 32.C 49.B
16.B 33.A 50.D
17.D 34.D