

TOEFL Junior : Reading Comprehension Test 12

Read the passage . 60 - 100 minutes

Questions 18-28

Cities develop as a result of functions that they can perform. Some functions result directly from the ingenuity of the citizenry, but most functions result from the needs of the local area and of the surrounding hinterland (the region that supplies goods to the city and to which the city furnishes services and other goods). Geographers often make a distinction between the situation and the site of a city. Situation refers to the general position in relation to the surrounding region, whereas site involves physical characteristics of the specific location. Situation is normally much more important to the continuing prosperity of a city. If a city is well situated in regard to its hinterland, its development is much more likely to continue. Chicago, for example, possesses an almost unparalleled situation: it is located at the southern end of a lake that forces east-west transportation lines to be compressed into its vicinity, and at a meeting of significant land and water transport routes. It also overlooks what is one of the world's finest large farming regions.

These factors ensured that Chicago would become a great city regardless of the disadvantageous characteristics of the available site, such as being prone to flooding during thunderstorm activity. Similarly, it can be argued that much of New York City's importance stems from its early and continuing advantage of situation. Philadelphia and Boston both originated at about the same time as New York and shared New York's location at the western end of one of the world's most important oceanic trade routes, but only New York possesses an easy-access functional connection (the Hudson-Mohawk lowland) to the vast Midwestern hinterland. This account does not alone explain New York's primacy, but it does include several important factors. Among the many aspects of situation that help to explain why some cities grow and others do not, original location on a navigable waterway seems particularly applicable. Of course, such characteristic as slope, drainage, power resources, river crossings, coastal shapes, and other physical characteristics help to determine city location, but such factors are normally more significant in early stages of city development than later.

INSTRUCTION:

Read the questions carefully and refer to the text above then choose the best answer:

18. What does the passage mainly discuss?

- (A) The development of trade routes through United States cities
- (B) Contrasts in settlement patterns in United States
- (C) Historical differences among three large United States cities
- (D) The importance of geographical situation in the growth of United States cities

19. The word “ingenuity” in line 2. is closest in meaning to

- (A) wealth
- (B) resourcefulness
- (C) traditions
- (D) organization

20. The passage suggests that a geographer would consider a city’s soil type part of its

- (A) hinterland
- (B) situation
- (C) site
- (D) function

21. According to the passage, a city’s situation is more important than its site in regard to the city’s

- (A) long-term growth and prosperity
- (B) ability to protect its citizenry
- (C) possession of favorable weather conditions
- (D) need to import food supplies

22. The author mentions each of the following as an advantage of Chicago’s location EXCEPT its

- (A) hinterland
- (B) nearness to a large lake
- (C) position in regard to transport routes
- (D) flat terrain

INSTRUCTION:

Read the questions carefully and refer to the text above then choose the best answer:

23. The word “characteristics” in line 14 is closest in meaning to

- (A) choices
- (B) attitudes
- (C) qualities
- (D) inhabitants

24. The primary purpose of paragraph 1 is to

- (A) summarize past research and introduce a new study
- (B) describe a historical period
- (C) emphasize the advantages of one theory over another
- (D) define a term and illustrate it with an example

25. According to the passage, Philadelphia and Boston are similar to New York City in

- (A) size of population
- (B) age
- (C) site
- (D) availability of rail transportation

26. The word “functional” in line 20 is closest in meaning to

- (A) alternate
- (B) unknown
- (C) original
- (D) usable

27. The word “it” in line 21 refers to

- (A) account
- (B) primacy
- (C) connection
- (D) hinterland

28. The word “significant” in line 26 is closest in meaning to

- (A) threatening
- (B) meaningful
- (C) obvious
- (D) available

Answers Key

- 18 D
- 19 B
- 20 C
- 21 A
- 22 D
- 23 C
- 24 D
- 25 B
- 26 D
- 27 A
- 28 B