

Part VII: Reading Comprehension

In Part VII you will read passages in the form of letters, ads, memos, faxes, schedules, etc. The reading section has a number of single passages and 4 double passages. You will be asked 2-4 questions about each single passage, and 5 questions for each double passage. Sometimes you will be asked for specific details. Other times you will be asked about what the passage implies. In the paired passages you will also be asked to make connections between the two related texts. On the real test you will not have time to read every word. You need to practice scanning and reading quickly for details.

Questions 1- 4 are based on the following article

Although the idea of using flat bread as a plate dates back thousands of years, modern pizza can be attributed to baker Ralph Esposito of Napoli, Italy. In 1889, he created a pizza in honor of the visit of the king and queen of Italy, Umberto 1 and Margherita. This pizza, called the Margherita pizza, resembled the Italian flag with its colors of red (tomato sauce), white (mozzarella cheese), and green (basil). Italian immigrants brought pizza to the United States. The first U.S. pizza parlor, Lomardi's, opened in New York City in 1905. It was not until the mid 1940's, however, when returning U.S. soldiers created a nation-wide demand for the pizza they had eaten and loved in Italy that a mass market for pizza was developed. Since then, has been re-exported to the world and reinvented many times. In Greece, the most popular toppings are feta cheese and olives. In Guatemala, black bean sauce is the most popular. Indonesians enjoy pizza with shrimp and bean curd and Indonesian spices. Gourmets top pizza with smoked duck and wild mushrooms while children use bananaa and peanut butter as toppings.

1. Where was the modern pizza developed?

- A. Greece
- B. Italy
- C. The United States
- D. Indonesia

2. Which of the following is NOT true about the Margherita Pizza?

- A. It was made with tomatoes, cheese, and basil
- B. It was the first use of bread as a "plate."
- C. It was named for the Queen of Italy
- D. Its color scheme resembled that of the Italian flag

3. When did the first pizza parlor in the United States open?

- A. In the mid 1940's
- B. In the late 1950's
- C. In the early 1900's
- D. In the late 1890's

4. According to the passage, who likes to put bananas on pizza?

- A. Guatemalans
- B. U.S. soldiers
- C. Children
- D. Gourmets

Questions 5 - 8 are based on the following article

Aluminum can packaging is inexpensive. The cans themselves are cheap, and they are easy to ship, durable and airtight. Most importantly, they can be filled very rapidly.

The aluminum industry produces at least one hundred million cans a year, but there has not been an increase in production for three years. Despite the advantages of aluminum cans, manufacturers are facing increased competition from the glass and plastic industries. The primary reason for this change is the consumers' positive response to packaging with innovative shapes and features.

Manufacturers of some well-known beverages are featuring plastic bottles with interesting shapes that attract the attention of the buyer. Some smaller drink manufacturers switched to glass packaging because its more exclusive look and feel appeals to their upscale customers. In response to the growing competition, aluminum can manufacturers are working on new features and shapes as well as investigating international markets.

5. Why are aluminum can manufacturers concerned about competition from the glass and plastic industries?

- A. The volume of cans needed has not changed for three years
- B. International firms are moving into the market
- C. Most large companies prefer glass containers
- D. Glass manufacturers have begun making cans

6. Why did some manufacturers change from aluminum packaging to glass packaging?

- A. Glass containers are cheaper than aluminum ones
- B. The image of glass containers appeals to wealthier buyers
- C. Beverages taste better in glass containers
- D. There was a shortage of aluminum cans

7. What are aluminum can manufacturers doing in response to the competition?

- A. Learning how to recycle aluminum more cheaply
- B. Investing in international companies and factories
- C. Working on new features and investigating new markets
- D. Planning to make cans that are easier to open

8. Which is not one of the characteristics of aluminum packaging?

- A. Packaging is inexpensive.
- B. It is readily available anywhere.
- C. Durable and airtight
- D. They are easy to ship.

Questions 9 - 11 are based on the following advertisement

MALAYSIAN TRADING COMPANY WITH BRANCH OFFICES AND WAREHOUSES IN NEW YORK AND MIAMI INTERESTED IN CONTACTING DISTRIBUTORS TO REPRESENT US IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA AREA. HAVE IMPORT LICENSES AND QUOTA PERMIT FOR FURNITURE PRODUCTS PERMITTED TO BE IMPORTED UNDER U.S. LAWS

9. What market is being discussed?

- A. New York
- B. Malaysia
- C. Atlanta
- D. Miami

10. What type of merchandise does the firm handle?

- A. Furniture
- B. Lumber
- C. Building supplies
- D. Contact lenses

11. The advertisement mentions the company having all of the following EXCEPT

- A. storage facilities
- B. import permits
- C. American factories
- D. regional offices

Questions 12 - 13 are based on the following letter

Dear Subscriber:

The enclosed monthly statement shows the charge for your World Report subscription that started up nine issues ago. We've sent magazines each week since your order arrived, but have received no reply to the bills we've mailed to you. Now, post office and auditing rules require that we stop sending copies unless and until payment is made.

Please forgive this notice if you already have mailed your payment. If you have, it has reached us too late to be reflected on this statement. If not, we would appreciate hearing from you today or tomorrow.

Sincerely yours,
Madeline Harris Customer Relations Office

12. What is the purpose of this letter?

- A. To announce a discount
- B. To renew the subscription
- C. To settle an account
- D. To apologize for poor service

13. How often is World Report issued?

- A. Daily
- B. Weekly
- C. Monthly
- D. Semiannually

Questions 14 - 15 are based on the following advertisement

ESTATE AUCTION

An auction for The estate of Martina Jovanovich has been set for Saturday, July 19, at 12:00 noon. (Preview starts at 10:00a.m.)

Location: The Jovanovich residence at 433 Walnut Drive
Some of the Items to be auctioned:

- 1997 Sports Car
- Horns Queen Appliances
- Oriental Carpets
- Stamp Collection
- Hand-Carved wooden Boxes. Dolls and Utensils
- China Teacups from Colonial America
- Antique Furnishings

Parking three blocks south. In the Municipal Building lot at 119 Walnut Drive

Questions? Please call Estate Planners Associates 546-7000. The Jovanovich request that you do not phone their home.

14. What event is being advertised?

- A. A party for the Jovanovich family
- B. A fund raising event at the Municipal Building
- C. A sale of the possessions of Manina Jovanovich
- D. A private viewing of museum pieces

15. Where will the event be held?

- A. At the Municipal Building
- B. At 433 Walnut Drive
- C. At the Estate Planners Associates office
- D. In the city parking lot

HOMEWORK

Vocabulary - "X" Word

1. What trade name now means to photocopy?
2. This musical instrument is made up of different lengths of wood and struck by small hammers. It's a ____
3. A common abbreviation for Christmas is _____
4. A photograph taken using special short wave rays to see through or into things is an __
5. Someone who has no real reason to, but hates all foreigners or strangers is _____