

Multiple Choice Reading Form P-4

Directions: *You will have 45 minutes to read three passages and answer 30 comprehension and vocabulary questions. Some words are underlined in each passage. You will be asked about the underlined words in the questions for each passage. Answer all the questions based on the information presented in the passage. Mark all your answers on your answer card, not in your test booklet. Use only a #2 pencil.*

Do not open this booklet until you are told to do so.

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Passage 1 is taken from a magazine essay.

1 When Richard Nixon resigned the office of the presidency in 1974, I
2 thought it possible that in his own peculiar and crooked way he might have done
3 his countrymen an honest service. It wasn't the one that he had in mind, and
4 honesty was never a trait for which he had much liking or use, but by so
5 conspicuously attempting to suborn the Constitution and betray every known
6 principle of representative government, he had allowed the American people to see
7 what could become of their democracy in the hands of a thoroughly corrupt
8 politician bent upon seizing the prize of absolute power. The civics lesson was
9 conducted in plain sight over a period of eighteen months on network television
10 and memorably illustrated by the singular ugliness of Nixon's character. The more
11 obvious aspects of that character (its hypocrisy and self-pitying rage) had been
12 made, as he so often said, "perfectly clear" during his prior years in public office,
13 but the congressional hearings preliminary to his certain impeachment showed that
14 he was also vindictive, foulmouthed, and determined to replace the rule of law
15 with corporate despotism. Nixon's distrust of any and all forms of free speech was
16 consistent with his ambition to shape the government of the United States in his
17 own resentful image, and when he left for the beach at San Clemente, as
18 grudgingly as a dog giving up its bone, I remember watching his helicopter rise for
19 the last time from the White House lawn and thinking that his fellow citizens
20 wouldn't soon forget the constitutional moral of the tale.

21 The assumption was mistaken. When Nixon died on April 22, 1994, in New
22 York City, at the age of eighty-one, the national news media pronounced him a
23 great American and told the story of his life as sentimental melodrama. The
24 assembled dignitaries on the weekend television shows solemnly mourned the
25 passing of a benevolent sage, a figure of "historic proportions" and "towering
26 size," who had weathered the storms of obloquy and defeat and so proved the
27 theorem of an American success. The Sunday newspaper sermons reiterated the
28 theme of redemption, and William Safire, the *New York Times* columnist who had
29 once served as Nixon's speechwriter, provided the middle A to which the rest of
30 the media orchestra tuned their instruments: "Richard Nixon ... proved there is no
31 political wrongdoing so scandalous that it cannot be expiated by years of useful
32 service; no humiliation so painful that it cannot be overcome by decades of
33 selfless sagacity..."

Comprehension questions on Passage 1

1. The main purpose of the text is to _____
 - a. Explain how William Safire changed Nixon's image.
 - b. Define the role of the media in creating politicians' images.
 - c. Examine how Nixon's failings appeared to become less severe over time.
 - d. Provide an example of a common occurrence in 20th century American politics.

2. The writer's opinion of Nixon could best be described as _____
 - a. positive
 - b. negative
 - c. neutral
 - d. adoring

3. When Nixon resigned the presidency, he went to _____
 - a. New York
 - b. Washington
 - c. the White House
 - d. San Clemente

4. The national media's view of Nixon, upon his death, could best be described as _____
 - a. abusive
 - b. indifferent
 - c. reverential
 - d. hostile

5. What best describes the 'constitutional moral' on line 20?
 - a. The dangers of one corrupt politician trying to seize too much power
 - b. The risks involved when speech writers become journalists
 - c. The involvement of corporations in government
 - d. The laziness of the American people in the face of corruption

6. The word suborn on line 5 in the text is closest in meaning to _____
- a. subvert
 - b. read
 - c. manipulate
 - d. invent
7. The word vindictive on line 14 in the text is closest in meaning to _____
- a. even-handed
 - b. honest
 - c. respectful
 - d. spiteful
8. The word grudgingly on line 18 in the text is closest in meaning to _____
- a. reluctantly
 - b. effortlessly
 - c. gracefully
 - d. shyly
9. The word obloquy on line 26 in the text is closest in meaning to _____
- a. boredom
 - b. honor
 - c. corruption
 - d. humiliation
10. The word expiated on line 31 in the text is closest in meaning to _____
- a. amplified
 - b. embellished
 - c. avoided
 - d. forgiven

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Passage 2 is taken from a magazine article.

1 Mustafa Kemal Atatürk founded the Republic of Turkey in 1923. It was his
2 dream to accelerate the reforms of the last Ottoman leaders and to banish from his
3 country all traces of Islamic authority. "I have no religion, and at times I wish all
4 religions at the bottom of the sea," Atatürk once said. He was so determined to
5 minimize the Islamic presence in Turkey that many of his opponents believed that
6 he was a Jew. A military man born to Muslim parents in Salonika, Atatürk spent
7 many years abroad and was deeply influenced not by the mild, Anglo-Saxon
8 notion of a separation of church and state but, rather, by a far more severe version
9 of secularism, the *laïcisme* of revolutionary France.

10 Atatürk's goal was to establish liberty and a Turkish identity—although
11 certainly not by democratic means. Employing authoritarian politics (and, when
12 necessary, the gallows), Atatürk foisted modernity on his countrymen. His mission
13 of social engineering was predicated, too, on historical forgetting; any but the
14 mildest and most private form of Islamic influence, he insisted, would keep his
15 people in a dark age of poverty and isolation. "I flatly refuse to believe that today,
16 in the luminous presence of science, knowledge, and civilization in all its aspects,
17 there exist, in the civilized community of Turkey, men so primitive as to seek their
18 material and moral well-being from the guidance of one or another sheikh," he
19 said in 1925. "The Republic of Turkey cannot be the land of sheikhs, dervishes,
20 disciples, and lay brothers." And so, just as the French Third Republic banned
21 crosses from the schools, Atatürk abolished the Islamic caliphate and the religious
22 courts, changed the calendar from the Islamic to the Gregorian, and, by fiat,
23 replaced Arabic script with Latin and "purified" the language of all Arabic words,
24 lest Turkish continue to be linked to an Islamic heritage. Even appearances
25 mattered. "The civilized, international dress is worthy and appropriate for our
26 nation and we will wear it," Atatürk declared. "Boots or shoes on our feet, trousers
27 on our legs, shirt and tie, jacket and waistcoat—and, of course, to complete these,
28 a cover with a brim on our heads. I want to make this clear. This head-covering is
29 called a 'hat.' " Atatürk banned the fez and endorsed the fedora. To this day—and
30 it has been a central issue for the devout—female students are not permitted to
31 wear a headscarf to classes; even women elected to parliament may not wear a
32 headscarf into government buildings.

Comprehension questions on Passage 2

11. The main purpose of the text is to _____

- a. Explain Atatürk's vision of Turkey as a secular state
- b. Define the issues dividing Muslims and Jews
- c. Contrast Atatürk and the sheiks
- d. Exemplify colonialism in the 20th century

12. One of the careers that Ataturk had was as a _____

- a. doctor
- b. priest
- c. soldier
- d. sheikh

13. The goals that Attaturk had for the new republic of Turkey did not include _____

- a. Liberty
- b. A new Turkish identity
- c. A secular state
- d. Greater Islamic influence

14. Some of Ataturk's opponents believed he was Jew because _____

- a. He founded the republic of Turkey
- b. Because he was not interested in democracy
- c. He spent many years abroad
- d. He wanted to minimize Islamic influence in his country

15. As a sign of Turkish modernity, men were not allowed to wear _____

- a. Hats
- b. Fedoras
- c. Fezes
- d. Waistcoats

16. The word banish on line 2 in the text is closest in meaning to _____

- a. Fight
- b. Remove
- c. Deceive
- d. Forget

17. The word secularism on line 9 in the text is closest in meaning to _____

- a. Separation of church and state
- b. Democracy
- c. Dictatorship
- d. Philosophy

18. The word foisted on line 12 in the text is closest in meaning to _____

- a. Argued with
- b. Forced upon
- c. Debated with
- d. Stayed away from

19. The word abolished on line 21 in the text is closest in meaning to _____

- a. Eliminated
- b. Compromised
- c. Corrupted
- d. Added

20. The word banned on line 29 in the text is closest in meaning to _____

- a. encouraged
- b. enjoyed
- c. prohibited
- d. hated

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Passage 3 is taken from a book on interpersonal communication.

1 Experts and non-experts alike tend to see anything women do as evidence of
2 powerlessness, and nowhere is the conflict between femininity and authority more
3 crucial than with women in politics. The characteristics of a good man and a good
4 candidate are the same, but a woman has to choose between coming across as a
5 strong leader or a good woman. If a man appears forceful, logical, direct,
6 masterful, or powerful, he enhances his value as a man. If a woman appears
7 forceful, logical, direct, masterful, or powerful she risks undercutting her value as
8 a woman.

9 As Robin Lakoff shows in *Language and Woman's Place*, language comes
10 at a woman from two angles: The words they speak, and the words spoken about
11 them. If I wrote: "After delivering the acceptance speech, the candidate fainted,
12 "you would know I was talking about a woman. Men do not faint; they pass out.
13 And these terms have vastly different connotations that both reflect and affect our
14 image of men and women. Fainting conjures up a frail figure crumpling into a
15 man's rescuing arms, maybe just for dramatic effect. Passing out suggests a
16 straightforward fall to the floor.

17 An article in Newsweek during the 1984 vice presidential campaign quoted
18 a Reagan aide who called Ferraro [Geraldine Ferraro- a 1984 vice presidential
19 candidate] "a nasty woman" who would "claw Ronald Reagan's eyes out." Never
20 mind the nastiness of the remark and of the newsmagazine's using it to open its
21 article. Applied to a man, nasty would be so tame as to seem harmless.
22 Furthermore, men don't claw; they punch and sock, with correspondingly more
23 forceful results. The verb claw both reflects and reinforces the stereotypical
24 metaphor of women as cats. Each time someone uses an expression associated
25 with this metaphor, it reinforces it, suggesting a general "cattiness" in women's
26 character.

27 In his book *The Language of Politics*, Michael Geis gives several examples
28 of words used to describe that undercut her. One headline called her "spunky" and
29 "feisty." As Geis observes, spunky and feisty are used only for creatures that are
30 small and lacking in real power; they could be said of a Pekingese but not a Great
31 Dane, perhaps of Mickey Rooney but not of an average-size man.

32 It's not that journalists, other writers, or everyday speakers are deliberately,
33 or even unintentionally, "sexist" in their use of language. The important point is
34 that gender distinctions are built into language. The words available to us to
35 describe women and men are not the same words. And, most damaging of all,
36 through language, our images and attitudes are buttressed and shaped. Simply by
37 understanding and using the words of our language, we all absorb and pass on
38 different, asymmetrical assumptions about men and women.

Comprehension questions on Passage 3

21. The main purpose of the text is to _____
- a. Show how Ronald Reagan attacked women in the media
 - b. Discuss the ways in which people are compared to animals
 - c. Contrast political language with entertainment language
 - d. Explain how language is used in subtle ways to reinforce stereotypes about women
22. Examples in the text of language used mostly about women do **not** include _____
- a. to faint
 - b. spunky
 - c. to pass out
 - d. claw
23. According to the author, if a woman appears powerful, she risks _____
- a. Diminishing her value as a woman
 - b. becoming President
 - c. Being mistaken for a man
 - d. Losing the love of her family
24. This author would most likely agree that _____
- a. language is more powerful than most people realize
 - b. men and women are described in similar terms
 - c. sexist language is usually intentionally used
 - d. Geraldine Ferraro is small and cat-like
25. Based on this passage, one man who is probably smaller than most other men might be _____
- a. Ronald Reagan
 - b. Mickey Rooney
 - c. Michael Geis
 - d. Robin Lakoff

26. The word fainted in line 11 is closest in meaning to _____

- a. yelled angrily
- b. had a nightmare
- c. lost consciousness
- d. jumped suddenly

27. The word crumpling in line 14 is closest in meaning to _____

- a. Moving
- b. Running
- c. Collapsing
- d. Dancing

28. The word correspondingly in line 22 is closest in meaning to _____

- a. Amazingly
- b. Proportionally
- c. Angrily
- d. Laughably

29. The word undercut in line 28 is closest in meaning to _____

- a. Flatter
- b. Admire
- c. Offend
- d. Surprise

30. The word buttressed in line 36 is closest in meaning to _____

- a. Reinforced
- b. Forgotten
- c. Made weaker
- d. Changed

THIS IS THE END OF THIS SECTION OF THE TEST.