

## Blizzard Bags – ACT Practice

### Blizzard Bag Day #2

### Sample English Test Questions: Passage I

Click on the letter choices to determine if you have the correct answer and for question explanations. An actual ACT English Test contains 75 questions to be answered in 45 minutes.

**DIRECTIONS:** In the passage that follows, certain words and phrases are underlined and numbered. In the right-hand column, you will find alternatives for the underlined part. In most cases, you are to choose the one that best expresses the idea, makes the statement appropriate for standard written English, or is worded most consistently with the style and tone of the passage as a whole. If you think the original version is best, choose "NO CHANGE." In some cases, you will find in the right-hand column a question about the underlined part. You are to choose the best answer to the question.

You will also find questions about a section of the passage, or about the passage as a whole. These questions do not refer to an underlined portion of the passage, but rather are identified by a number or numbers in a box.

For each question, choose the alternative you consider best and fill in the corresponding oval on your answer document. Read the passage through once before you begin to answer the questions that accompany it. For many of the questions, you must read several sentences beyond the question to determine the answer. Be sure that you have read far enough ahead each time you choose an alternative.

### Passage I

#### A Microscope in the Kitchen

I grew up with buckets, shovels, and nets waiting by the back door; hip-waders hanging in the closet; tide table charts covering the refrigerator door; and a microscope was sitting on the kitchen table. Having studied, my mother is a marine biologist. Our household might have been described as uncooperative. Our meals weren't always served in the expected order of breakfast, lunch, and supper. Everything was subservient to the disposal of the tides. When the tide was low, Mom could be found down on the mudflats. When the tide was high, she would be standing on the inlet bridge with her plankton net.

I have great respect for my mother. I learned early that the moon affected the tides. Mom was always waiting for a full moon, when low tide would be much lower than usual and high tide much higher. The moon being closer to the earth when full, so its gravitational pull is stronger. I knew that it took about eight hours for the tides to change from high to low, sixteen hours for a complete cycle of tides. **9** I didn't have to wait to learn these things in school. In our house they were everyday knowledge.

[1] Often, my brother and I, joined our mother on her adventures into tidal lands. [2] At the very low tides of the full moon, when almost all the water was sucked away, we found the hideaways where crabs, snails, starfish, and sea urchins hid in order not to be seen. [3] Sometimes we would dig with shovels in the mud, where yellow and white worms lived in their leathery tunnels. **13**

For plankton tows, we would stand on the bridge while Mom lowered a cone-shaped net that is often used by marine biologists. Then we would patiently wait. After a while, she would pull up the net, and we would go home. Later, we would see her sitting at the kitchen table, peering at a drop of water through the lenses of her microscope from the bottle- watching the thousands of tiny swimming organisms.

1.

1. **A.** NO CHANGE
2. **B.** waiting, by the back door,
3. **C.** waiting by the back door,
4. **D.** waiting by the back door

2.

1. **F.** NO CHANGE
  2. **G.** would sit
  3. **H.** sitting
  4. **J.** sat
- 3.
1. **A.** NO CHANGE
  2. **B.** As my mother's interest is science, she is
  3. **C.** My mother's occupation is that of
  4. **D.** My mother is
4. Which choice would most effectively introduce the rest of this paragraph?
1. **F.** NO CHANGE
  2. **G.** There seemed to be no explanation for why Mom ran our household the way she did.
  3. **H.** Our household didn't run according to a typical schedule.
  4. **J.** Mom ran our household in a most spectacular manner.
- 5.
1. **A.** NO CHANGE
  2. **B.** was defenseless in the face of
  3. **C.** depended on
  4. **D.** trusted in
6. Which choice most effectively signals the shift from the preceding paragraph to this paragraph?
1. **F.** NO CHANGE
  2. **G.** Our lives were likewise affected by the phases of the moon.
  3. **H.** A relationship exists between the moon and the tides.
  4. **J.** The moon is a mysterious orb afloat in the sky.
- 7.
1. **A.** NO CHANGE
  2. **B.** Since the moon is
  3. **C.** The moon is
  4. **D.** The moon,
- 8.
1. **F.** NO CHANGE
  2. **G.** one's
  3. **H.** it's
  4. **J.** its
9. If the writer were to delete the phrase "sixteen hours for a complete cycle of tides" from the preceding sentence (ending the sentence with a period), the essay would primarily lose a detail that:
1. **A.** shows how the narrator's interests are different from the mother's interests.
  2. **B.** contradicts a point made earlier in the paragraph.
  3. **C.** helps establish the setting for the essay.
  4. **D.** displays the narrator's knowledge of tides.
- 10.
1. **F.** NO CHANGE
  2. **G.** brother, and I,
  3. **H.** brother, and I
  4. **J.** brother and I
- 11.
1. **A.** NO CHANGE
  2. **B.** away. Then we

3. **C.** away. We
  4. **D.** away; we
- 12.
1. **F.** NO CHANGE
  2. **G.** hideouts where crabs, snails, starfish, and sea urchins concealed and hid themselves.
  3. **H.** places where crabs, snails, starfish, and sea urchins were stashed away.
  4. **J.** hiding places of crabs, snails, starfish, and sea urchins.
13. Which of the following sequences of sentences makes this paragraph most logical?
1. **A.** NO CHANGE
  2. **B.** 2, 1, 3
  3. **C.** 2, 3, 1
  4. **D.** 3, 1, 2
14. Given that all of the choices are true, which one provides information that is relevant and that makes the rest of this paragraph understandable?
1. **F.** NO CHANGE
  2. **G.** had a specimen bottle attached to its smaller end.
  3. **H.** was woven from cotton and nylon material.
  4. **J.** was shaped like a geometric figure.
15. The best placement for the underlined portion would be:
1. **A.** where it is now.
  2. **B.** after the word *lenses*.
  3. **C.** after the word *microscope*.
  4. **D.** after the word *bottle* (but before the dash).

