

ACT Assessment 9954D

Answers and Explanations

READING TEST

Passage I – “Prose Fiction”

1. C. The answer is found at the end of line 70: “because she was not really herself”.
2. F. Rendered refers to what had happened to the sweater that it was “made” shapeless.
3. A. Refer to line 30: “But often luck was not good, and they came back to stay, again and again...”.
4. J. The theme of the passage is living between two cultures. Refer to line 74: “unconscious jumble of two tongues that was the two generations’ compromise for the sake of communication”.
5. D. Read the four descriptions and determine that III (unappreciative borders) is inconsistent with the description of the borders, eliminating answer C. The smell of fish cooking (I) is cited in line 14. People coming and going (II) is cited in line 16: “people who padded in and out of her world”. Fruit stacked in the corridor (IV) is cited in lines 25 and 26.
6. H. The character’s speech was not conversational, eliminating answers G and J. This can be deduced by line 81 on: “rigorously edited out Japanese words and mannerisms when she spoke”. Refer to line 82 on: “Her words became formal, carefully chosen and artificial.” This sentence describes speech that is both restricted and unnatural.
7. B. In line 42: “Moriwaki-san will take care of you.” It can be inferred that Moriwaki-san is one of the narrator’s parents.
8. J. “Speaking her mind” is the only description not mentioned. Answers F and G can be found in lines 90 and 91. Imitating a Hollywood star is referenced in line 88.
9. C. *Hakujin* world, mentioned in line 80, is the opposite of the world of the Victorian flat. The borders were always welcomed, made to feel at home.
10. G. Line 44 states: “It was a short walk down the Buchanan Street **hill** from Pine”

Passage II – “Social Science

11. C. Lines 38 – 41 state that sheep eat a lot in one week and the earliest herdsmen “must have been constantly on the move in search of new grazing lands”.
12. F. You must first determine if the author’s view is opinion or fact. Line 21 states: “remains an open question” which means it must be the author’s opinion, eliminating H and J.

Passage III – “Humanities”

21. A. The last paragraph sums up the entire passage, specifically the passion of the dancer, Anna Pavlova.
22. H. Dionysus is the Greek god of wine and the word Dionysian is used as an adjective in line 83. Baranova and Toumanova are referenced in lines 21 and 22 in terms of their strenuous durability of dancing. Margot Fonteyn is mentioned in line 78 as a great dancer.
23. C. The passion and excitement of the dancer is cited many times throughout the passage. Answers A and B can be eliminated because aren’t descriptive of the passage.
24. J. The key word “never” static and the explanation that “some part of her trembled, vibrated, beat like a heart” (lines 37-38) clearly identifies the meaning as motionless.
25. A. Passion is a common theme throughout the passage. Physical appearance is not talked about very much, nor is classical dance training.
26. F. Line 17 states: “her technique was limited”, and the paragraph states that her scenery, music, company and choreography were all substandard. Therefore, one can conclude that the writer believes restaurant orchestras are generally of a lesser quality.
27. B. The first paragraph defines that the writer was exposed to and become familiar with the theatre at any early age; therefore, I: Becoming acquainted with theatre life, must come first, eliminating answers C and D. II: Seeing Markova and Fonteyn dance, must come after seeing Pavlova dance for the first time because line 77 states: “I have seen two dancers as great or greater since”.
28. H. The writer states that Pavlova’s technique was limited, eliminating answer F. There was no interest in comparing her to other dancers, eliminating answer G. Line 20 states: “her turns not to be compared in strength”, eliminating answer J.
29. B. Choreography is criticized in line 26: “mostly hack”, sets and scenery in line 22: “designed by second-rate artists, and technique in line 17: “her technique was limited”.
30. J. Throughout paragraph five, Pavlova’s feet are described. Line 51: “large in proportion to her height”. Line 64: “never been a foot like hers, slender, delicate”. Lines 65 and 66: “astonishing aggressiveness when arched as to suggest the ultimate in human vitality”.

Passage IV – “Natural Science”

31. D. Lines 37 – 40 state: “Almost everyone agrees ...firm measures should be taken to control it.”
32. G. Lines 43 – 45, specifically the phrase “naturally triggered catastrophe.”
33. B. The last sentence of the paragraph, lines 88 – 89 confirms the irony of the starfish “literally collapsing its own ecosystem”.
34. F. The eighth paragraph begins with the definition of coral as an animal.
35. A. The introductory paragraph states in line 3 that “the stability of an ecosystem is directly related to its complexity”.
36. J. The key word in this question is “NOT”. The sixth paragraph suggests that if the plague has not been caused by human intervention, rather by natural occurrences, then humans should not interfere with nature and let it follow its natural course.
37. A. It is clear that *derelict* must be the opposite of “still contain living coral” (line 65).
38. J. The answer can be found in lines 64 thru 69.
39. C. Line 84 states: “normal wave action reduced the whole edifice to rubble”. Students often fall the trick answer of D, because they don’t read far enough through the paragraph!
40. H. Starting with line 79, the ordered process of coral reef destruction is detailed.