



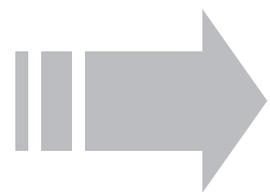
Level E

Reading

GOALS 2

Sample Items





Turn the page.

DIRECTIONS

1. Mark your answers on the answer sheet. Use a number 2 pencil only.
 2. Please do **not** write in the test booklet.
 3. Try to answer every question. Choose the **one** best answer. If you want to change an answer, be sure to erase the first mark completely.
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Practice

Travel Times



Preserving More Than Memories

By Lori Hughes

It can be great fun to come across a beautiful shell on the beach. Most people don't think twice about taking a souvenir while enjoying a sandy coastline stroll. Unfortunately, this habit can adversely affect the very places people are trying to preserve in their memories. This is because seashells play an important part in coastal ecosystems.

Seashells are not just pretty castaways waiting to be discovered. They are used as homes for organisms, nests for birds, and places for small fish to take refuge from predators. Their removal can play a role in beach erosion as well. Shell surfaces give a place for algae to grow, and they help to anchor sea grass.

Practice 1

The writer claims that seashells are important to coastal ecosystems. What evidence does the writer provide to support this claim?

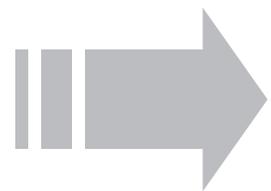
- A. She compares coastal ecosystems to other natural environments.
- B. She presents examples of the important roles shells have.
- C. She gives specific examples of beaches that have no more seashells.
- D. She writes about the impact of tourism on beach plants and wildlife.

Practice 2

What does adversely mean?

- A. imperfectly
- B. inadequately
- C. unreliably
- D. unfavorably





Turn the page to begin the test.

Megastore Company
Employee Performance Record

Employee Name: Sebastian Reynolds

Supervisor Conducting Review: Manuel

Date:

Performance Review

July 12

Observations: Sebastian's precision with order fulfillment continues to surpass expectations. He takes pride in his work and responds well to feedback, although he does seem to hesitate at times to ask for guidance. In addition, Sebastian works as a team player, is always polite, friendly, and willing to assist both coworkers and customers, often offering viable solutions to problems at hand. He is never absent from work without the necessary documentation.

Recommendations: Sebastian has demonstrated qualities that show a potential for leadership. Assessment for management capabilities and possible leadership training should be considered.

December 4

Observations: Sebastian always asks questions when he does not understand something. His work accuracy and positive customer reviews have increased in the last six months. Records show that Sebastian had the most orders filled of all employees in the previous two months.

Recommendations: Since overcoming personal challenges, Sebastian's work has improved tremendously. Continue to make Sebastian aware of his work achievements.

1. What does Manuel's recommendation in the July 12 review suggest about Sebastian?

- A. Sebastian might make a good supervisor with proper training.
- B. Sebastian has some personal issues that he needs to address.
- C. Sebastian does not readily offer to help others when needed.
- D. Sebastian and other employees need to meet with management.

2. What does Manuel suggest about Sebastian in *both* reviews?

- A. Sebastian actively looks for feedback and support as needed.
- B. Sebastian needs to notify others when orders are overwhelming.
- C. Sebastian gets along well with people in various situations.
- D. Sebastian has had perfect attendance for the past two months.

3. What does accuracy mean?

- A. attitude
- B. exactness
- C. speed
- D. performance

4. What is the *best* summary of this blog entry?

- A. The writer discovered that the reason her garden produced poorly was because of where it was located.
- B. The writer was disappointed with her garden year after year and began to worry that she lacked natural talent.
- C. The writer learned that understanding the conditions of a garden is the most important element of successful gardening.
- D. The writer hoped her garden would produce as many fruits and vegetables as promised in gardening articles.

5. How does the writer support her claims about gardening practices?

- A. by comparing her own garden to that of her neighbors
- B. by explaining the science of planting and growing vegetables
- C. by describing her personal experience growing her own garden
- D. by analyzing her first crop of strawberries and cucumbers

6. Which word *best* matches the meaning of fundamental?

- A. apparent
- B. essential
- C. independent
- D. universal

Hilldale News

Speak Out! Hilldale Opinion Page

The City Center of Hilldale suffers from poor air quality caused by traffic congestion. Should the City Council mandate a “car-free zone” downtown to encourage the use of public transportation?

My opinion: Mayor Simon Rigby

While I support public transportation, hate to be stuck in traffic, and have promised to reduce pollution, I also firmly believe in individual freedom and choice.

You can't just make people less dependent on their cars. Forcing people to use public transportation will only make them resentful and they'll stop coming downtown. This would be a huge financial loss to businesses in the city. Let's think of other ways to encourage the use of public transportation.

My opinion: Lois Dibbs, Director of Citizens for Clean Cities

A “car-free zone” is a fantastic way to encourage people to try using public transportation.

People will love the many advantages of our subway and bus system, including the inexpensive fare and air-conditioned ride. They'll appreciate being able to read or rest instead of having to focus on driving in traffic. What's more, using public transportation instead of cars will lower air pollution, which is a critical problem. Let's at least try it and if it doesn't work, there may be another way!

7. *Both* the mayor and Lois Dibbs have the idea that _____.

- A. the issue of air pollution must be addressed
- B. public transportation will benefit the economy
- C. few people from the suburbs visit downtown anyway
- D. the way to decrease car dependence is through education

8. Which statement would the mayor and Lois Dibbs *most likely* agree about?

- A. The cost of public transportation is too high.
- B. Getting around town is more convenient with a car.
- C. Finding the best solution may require trying different approaches.
- D. Getting people to accept change will be challenging.

9. The mayor claims that a no-car zone would hurt businesses. What evidence does he provide to support his claim?

- A. People would feel resentful and stop coming downtown.
- B. People don't visit downtown businesses because of traffic.
- C. People aren't used to taking public transportation to go shopping.
- D. People want to visit businesses that are within walking distance.

10. What does dependent mean?

- A. content
- B. practical
- C. reliant
- D. specific



August Edition: Workplace Topics and You

By Megan Sherman

Since the 1920s, when Henry Ford closely observed the productivity of his employees in relation to their amount of time on the clock, research studies have upheld Ford's findings that employees do their best work when well-rested. Despite this, some employers, and even employees, don't always adopt implement best practices, which is what led to labor laws mandating breaks. However, even those laws do not adequately address the implications of the productivity data from a recent study. This research showed the best way to increase productivity is not to put in more hours, but rather to routinely take breaks. The author of this study concluded that the perfect ratio of work time to break time is 52 minutes of non-stop focused work to 17 minutes of activity away from all work tasks.

It turns out that workplaces that offer both workplace protections and education about taking breaks result in employees feeling satisfied with their work environment. However, some workers don't always have the option to take the time they need to rest at work. More labor laws and enforcement of existing laws related to breaks would help ensure that all workers can be their most productive selves at work.

11. What is the writer's main point?

- A. Workers need to develop more self-discipline and awareness to make sure they are optimally productive.
- B. Current labor laws and common practices do not align with the findings of research on worker productivity.
- C. Taking frequent breaks is good in theory, but it is logistically difficult to coordinate in most modern workplaces.
- D. Measures of worker productivity have changed dramatically since early research into the topic.

12. The writer would *most likely* agree that _____.

- A. workers experience higher productivity after taking longer breaks as opposed to shorter ones
- B. a person's ability to focus while working can only be sustained for a limited amount of time
- C. workers know when it becomes hard to focus, so they should take breaks as needed
- D. motivated workers are more productive because they can focus for longer periods of time

13. The writer supports her claim about worker productivity by _____.

- A. presenting legal cases about employment law
- B. quoting Henry Ford's observations of his workers
- C. giving a detailed explanation of her theory
- D. referencing data from a research study

14. What does implications mean?

- A. obligations
- B. probabilities
- C. indications
- D. liabilities

San Pico News

Attracting Workers in San Pico

As cities around the state become more expensive and congested, residents are looking for new places to work and live. Jack Sherman, director at the San Pico Workforce Board shared the chart below during a public informational session earlier this week seeking to attract people to the city. He stated, "If you're looking for a career, San Pico is a great place for you. In the chart you'll see the prominent job sectors here."

San Pico County Data

Major Job Sector	Number Of People Employed
Advanced Manufacturing	9,229
Education & Human Development	209,017
Construction & Utilities	14,899
Health Care	15,775
Communication Technology	3,831
Life Sciences & Biotechnology	6,471
Public Administration	11,878

"The employment numbers in these job sectors have held steady over time. If they dip, they only do so marginally, and they always bounce back. For that reason, even if the country enters a recession, San Pico is a great place to be. You'll find work here; I guarantee it."

15. What is the purpose of the table?

- A. to show the growing employment trends over the years in San Pico
- B. to provide evidence for the need to bring in new workers to San Pico
- C. to explain difficulties many people are having finding work in San Pico
- D. to show which job sectors people should consider joining in San Pico

16. Jack Sherman says that residents should pursue a career in San Pico even during a recession. What evidence does he provide to support his opinion?

- A. He explains multiple benefits of life in San Pico, such as education and healthcare.
- B. He provides data from certain job sectors that did well during past recessions.
- C. He states that long-term data shows that jobs in many sectors are reliable over time.
- D. He shows that San Pico pays higher wages than even some bigger cities in the state.

17. What is Jack Sherman's tone in his quote about pursuing a career in San Pico?

- A. arrogant
- B. confident
- C. neutral
- D. worried

18. What does marginally mean?

- A. considerably
- B. equally
- C. slightly
- D. substantially



"Our City Matters"

Should our city be considered for an Olympics Games host city?

Commenter 1

If our city is selected as a candidate city, it is required to pay an astronomical fee just to be further considered. This "further consideration" includes an estimate on how many more millions of dollars the city would have to spend to become an approved Olympics Games host city. Without even knowing if the city will get a return on its investment, paying out this fee is imprudent and risky. And where was the chance for residents to voice their opinions on the matter? The city will argue that this decision is in the economic best interest of all residents due to millions of dollars of revenue from tourism and would spotlight the city as a destination for future property ownership and business investments. If given the opportunity, I would rebut that with a simple fact: residents and taxpayers are left holding the bag right now.

Commenter 2

Were we to become an Olympics host city, there would be numerous positive opportunities for residents given adequate long-term planning. There are reports of residents in previous host cities being displaced to make room for sporting venues and additional accommodations for athletes, tourists, and journalists. In the absence of strategic planning, I do wonder what things would look like after all the hubbub and media frenzy has faded away and everyone has gone home. Infrastructure developed for a one-time event could later fall into disrepair and abandonment. If the city is considering becoming a host city, it should also be weighing how an international event of this magnitude will undoubtedly affect the residents' quality of life during the event, and most especially, after the event concludes.

19. What is the main point of Commenter 1?
- A. The investment in new infrastructure that would be required to become a host city candidate is a flawed one.
 - B. Putting in a bid to become a host city without allowing residents to vote on a proposition about it first demonstrates bad governance.
 - C. Making taxpayers pay an exorbitant fee to be considered as a host city is irresponsible because the city may not even receive approval.
 - D. The immediate and future revenue that would be gained from being a host city does not factor in the initial fee required for a bid.

20. Commenter 2 would *most likely* agree that _____.
- A. the city does not have the money or space to build additional infrastructure for a one-time event
 - B. media scrutiny of the city during the event will create additional problems for residents in the future
 - C. tourists and journalists will not treat the venues with the same care and respect as city residents
 - D. any new development should have an explicit benefit for local city residents for years to come

21. Commenter 2 claims that preparing to host the Olympics would significantly affect residents. How does she support this claim?
- A. She suggests ways that new infrastructure can be developed after the Olympics is over.
 - B. She mentions impacts on residents of other cities that have hosted the Olympics in the past.
 - C. She describes the potential fiscal impact of hosting an event for thousands of people over a short period of time.
 - D. She provides a counterargument from the city promoting potential revenue to be gained from outside investors.

22. What does left holding the bag mean?
- A. left with little warning of possible effects
 - B. left with an unwelcome responsibility
 - C. left with unanswered questions
 - D. left with little money remaining



On Procrastination

Procrastination is a strange beast. The meaning of the word “procrastination” in Latin is to “put something off until tomorrow,” but the Greek etymology reveals procrastination’s illogical nature — “to do something against our better judgment.” We avoid a difficult task that might initiate feelings of self-doubt or worry, ironically, to experience sweet relief as a reward for putting off the unpleasant, thus propelling an irrational cycle.

Upon realizing the consequence of our behavior, we admonish ourselves for our lack of time management skills or for our laziness. Yet, far from being a character flaw, the heart of the matter as to why people procrastinate lies instead in the poor regulation of feelings. Negative thoughts, often rooted in insecurity, start as tiny seeds that develop into strong branches leading us away from the task at hand. The emotions underlying these thoughts deserve our attention if we wish to manage procrastination. The advice in the ubiquitous articles on the internet proclaiming “How to Stop Procrastinating” will only serve as successful formulas if we reckon first with the true crux of the issue.

23. What is the writer's main point?

- A. People who judge themselves for having negative emotions tend to procrastinate.
- B. Procrastination can be difficult to tackle because its root cause is unknown.
- C. The first step in overcoming procrastination is to attempt to boost willpower.
- D. Procrastination stems from negative moods rather than an inherent weakness.

24. The writer claims that procrastination is an irrational cycle. What evidence does she provide to support this claim?

- A. the origins of the word
- B. her personal experiences at work
- C. a relevant example from the internet
- D. her findings based on scientific research

25. What does the heart of the matter mean?

- A. the least flexible element
- B. the least understood part
- C. the most vital element
- D. the most emotional part



Gardening Corner: On Lawns

The prevalence of a perfect lawn surrounding the American home has its origins as experimental landscaping by the wealthy who had visited Europe and witnessed the landscape transformations there in the 18th century. Little by little, the coveted lawn became a symbol of one's success and the norm for even the middle class across the country. In addition, a movement to create public parks with communal lawn areas proliferated in the United States, which explains how lawns became the most grown crop in the United States.

However, maintaining neatly kept lawns at the standards set in part by the lawn care industry demands not only the energy required to mow regularly, but also vast amounts of water and resources. Unbeknownst to many people is the level of toxicity of fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides essential to keep lawns green, which then disperse into our air, soil, and waterways. As a result, lawns have pushed out the natural biodiversity of wild grasslands, affecting pollinators, among other negative consequences. Although the lawn is entrenched in the American landscape, what started as a benign expression of social status has grown into something quite the opposite.

- Patricia López

Recently, lawns have gotten a bad reputation, with a one-sided view painting a picture that hides what made them so popular in the first place. Lawns not only boast attractive landscaping, but also function as places to gather and entertain. Playing games, either with one's kids or dog, works much more easily with a flat open expanse, whether in the backyard or at a city park.

What is more, many people remain unaware that lawns are advantageous to the environment in various ways. The extensive root systems of lawns capture storm runoff which prevents flooding, and they soak up carbon and airborne particulates, which as a result, cleans the air. Thus, entities such as government and water companies should educate and offer incentives to change America's lawncare approach at its core. By aiding homeowners and landscaping companies in identifying grasses better suited to local ecosystems, treating lawns with natural ingredients for weed and pest management, and steering clear of harsh chemicals, these entities can return the ubiquitous lawn to a more natural state. Needless to say, where there's a will, there's a way.

- Samuel Sorenson

26. What is Patricia López's point of view about lawn maintenance?

- A. It is an expensive practice that wastes time and energy.
- B. It is a complex issue that got its humble start in the United States.
- C. It is understandable that so many homeowners attempt to do it.
- D. It is impressive that it boosts the crop industry in the United States.

27. Patricia López would *most likely* agree that _____.

- A. lawns have their place in parks and other common meeting areas
- B. lawns should be used to signify an American's level of success
- C. lawns have become a detriment despite their prevalence in the United States
- D. the lawncare industry should be held accountable for its environmental impact

28. What is the *best* summary of Samuel Sorenson's article?

- A. People have come to view lawns negatively because of the great expense of maintaining them.
- B. Lawns have earned their reputation as harmful to the environment and they have become outdated.
- C. People who maintain a lawn for purely nostalgic reasons are not considering the issue carefully.
- D. Lawns have the potential to be eco-friendly despite the unfair negative attention they have received.

29. What does incentives mean?

- A. regulation
- B. productivity
- C. evidence
- D. motivation

CASAS Reading GOALS 2 – Sample Test Items

Answer Keys

Level E

Practice 1.	B	15.	D
Practice 2.	D	16.	C
1.	A	17.	B
2.	C	18.	C
3.	B	19.	C
4.	C	20.	D
5.	C	21.	B
6.	B	22.	B
7.	A	23.	D
8.	C	24.	A
9.	A	25.	C
10.	C	26.	A
11.	B	27.	C
12.	B	28.	D
13.	D	29.	D
14.	C		