

CRITICAL READING SECTION

SENTENCE COMPLETIONS

- ⦿ The first questions you see (but you don't have to do them first)
- ⦿ In sequence from Easy to Medium to Hard
 - Each section is split roughly into thirds

The Worst Thing You Can *EVER* Do...

- ⦿ ...is put the words into the blanks
- ⦿ They **KNOW** that you will do that, so they give you wrong answer choices that will 'sound good' in the blank
- ⦿ What is the first word that comes to mind?
 - Peanut Butter
 - Dog
 - Pick a number

The Process

1. Cover the answers
2. Put your own word in the blank
3. Compare your word to the answer choices and select the one that is the closest match
4. If you eliminate every answer choice, go back to step 1 and simply choose another word

Sample Question

Much interpersonal communication is implicit in _____, expressive movements.

- A) exposes
- B) verbalizations
- C) gestures
- D) cognitions
- E) intuitions

How Do I Choose A Word?

- ◎ Use context clues to help you figure out what the blank is talking about
 - What is the sentence about?
 - What is the sentence saying about that thing?
- ◎ The 'clue' is a word or phrase that relates to the blank
 - When you find it, underline it
 - Some of the time you can recycle the clue

Triggers

- ◎ Words or punctuation that either maintain or change the direction of the sentence
 - *Maintain*: And, Because, Since, “.” “.”
 - *Change*: But, However, Although, In contrast to, Rather, Despite, Yet

Two Blanks: Twice As Easy

- If you have two blanks, just pick the blank you think is easier
- Eliminate all the answer choices you can for that blank
- If you still have answer choices left, go to the second blank

If You're Stuck...

- The more difficult questions are only more difficult because of the vocabulary
- Remember, it's okay to skip questions
- Use roots to get a sense of the meaning
- Look for anything in the word that looks or sounds familiar
- If you can eliminate answers and get down to two answers and you feel comfortable guessing, be aggressive

Sample Question

Castillo's poetry has generated only enthusiastic response: praise from the general public and _____ from the major critics.

Clue: "enthusiastic"

- A) condemnation
- B) sarcasm
- C) plaudits
- D) irony
- E) pathos

CRITICAL READING SECTION

- There are two types: Long Reading and Short Reading
- You'll see 6-8 Short Reading questions (around 4 per section)
- You'll see one or two Long Reading passages per section; each passage can have anywhere from 5 to 15 questions

Long Reading Passages

- ① Always read the 'blurb' first; it tells you what the whole passage is about
- ① Read the entire passage before reading the questions (but don't read too specifically; just get the GIST)
- ① The questions aren't in any specific order of difficulty
- ① Some question types are easier than others; do those first

The GIST

- **General Idea:** the **subject** of the passage
- **Structure:** how the writer **organizes** and develops the subject of the passage
- **Tone:** what the writer's **attitude** is

The Process

1. Cover the answers
2. Read the question and translate it into your own words
3. Find the answer in the passage
4. Uncover the answers and compare your answer from the passage to the answer choices

Line Reference Questions

- The easiest type of question; do these **FIRST**
- They tell you the line that you can find the answer in
- Read about 5 lines up and 5 lines down so that you get the whole context

Vocab In Context

- The second-easiest type of question
- They ask you for the definition of a specific word “as it is used in the passage”
- Find the word in the passage and draw a line through it
- Now you’ve got a blank; do it like it is a Sentence Completion

Key Words

- ⦿ Sometimes they will ask you specific questions about the passage but they won't give you a specific line number
- ⦿ Do these after you've done all of the Line Reference and Vocab In Context
- ⦿ Two ways to find the answer:
 - Key Words: identify a specific word in the question that you can look for in the passage
 - Chronology: the questions all appear in the order that they are found in the passage; #17 will be found between #16 and #18

Main Idea Questions

- Do these LAST
- You've already answered a whole bunch of questions about the passage and thought through it
- The Main Idea will be easier to identify after you've done all the re-reading

Dual Passages: One At A Time

- If you're given two passages, they will relate to each other
- Read the first passage and do all the questions for that passage
- Then read the second passage and do all the questions for that passage
- Some of the questions will ask you to compare the two; do those last