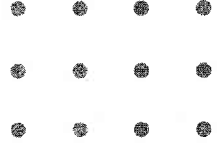


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BRÂNDUȘA-OANA NICULESCU • CORINA BARBU

LIMBA ENGLEZĂ

Pregătire pentru concursul de
admitere în învățământul militar
superior și postliceal

English for Military and other Entrance Exams



București, 2025

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PART 1

» READING COMPREHENSION

A. Reading for Main Idea



A. READING FOR MAIN IDEA**Read the text and choose the correct answer.**

» Benjamin Franklin, the most famous American of his times, was keen on writing. He opened his own printing shop when he was only twenty-two, and published a newspaper. He also printed a book called Poor Richard's Almanac. This book contained not only funny stories but also information about the weather, as well as wise sayings.

1. Which of the following best summarizes the paragraph?

- a. Benjamin Franklin was poor and wanted to get rich.
- b. Benjamin Franklin worked a lot when he was young.
- c. Benjamin Franklin was very interested in topics such as the weather.
- d. Benjamin Franklin loved to write stories and books, and print them.

» The first seasoned crisps, Cheese & Onion and Salt & Vinegar, were produced in the 1950s by Joe "Spud" Murphy and Seamus Burke in Ireland. What people in the US call potato chips are known as crisps in the United Kingdom and Ireland while the name "chips" refers to what Americans mean by "French fries". In the Mid-East and Canada, people like ketchup-flavored chips best. In Asia, seaweed is extremely popular, whereas Mexicans prefer chicken-flavored chips. Of course, there are a lot of other flavors around the world: firecracker, lobster, paprika, meat pie, pickled onion, chili crab, salmon teriyaki, caesar salad, borscht, roasted sausage, and others.

2. What is the main idea of the paragraph?

- a. The historical background of potato chips, especially their invention in the 1950s by Joe "Spud" Murphy and Seamus Burke.
- b. The differences in terminology for potato chips between the United States and the United Kingdom, explaining what each term means.
- c. The wide variety of flavored potato chips enjoyed in different countries, showcasing regional preferences and tastes.
- d. The nutritional benefits of potato chips and their impact on health and wellness.

» The leaders who like to keep everything under control, including group members and all their activities are called autocratic leaders. These hands-on leaders don't ask too many questions; they make all the decisions, give orders, and will probably use coercion to make their subordinates carry out their tasks. *Laissez-faire*, also known

as hands-off leaders, allow most decisions to be taken by the group and seem not to be willing to get involved. There are also democratic leaders, who encourage everybody to participate in the process of decision-making and problem solving. This leadership style is midway between the first two.

3. What is the overall idea of the passage above?

- a. There are three leadership styles.
- b. Democratic leaders are more effective than autocratic leaders.
- c. Autocratic leaders are in complete control, *laissez-faire* leaders are hands-off leaders, and democratic leaders encourage only men to take part in decision-making.
- d. Employees like working with democratic leaders.

» Is it taking longer for Americans to get married nowadays? Are they waiting until they are older? If we consider the figures from the Census Bureau in 2003, the answer to these questions is yes. The Associated Press reports that at the age of 34, 30 percent of men and nearly

25 percent of women are still single. These figures are four times higher if we compare them with the data from the 70s. In 1970, only 9 percent of men aged 30-34 had never been married; their rate is now close to 33 percent. When it comes to women who have always been single, the rate has risen from 6 to 23 percent. The most common age for men to get married was 27.1 years in 2003, up from 25.3 in 1970, whereas for women, it rose from 20.8 to 23.2.

4. Which of the following best summarizes the text?

- a. Do Americans still want to get married?
- b. At present, Americans are waiting longer before they get married.
- c. When they marry, men are older than women.
- d. I will be single at the age of 34, like most men and women.

» Fiction is more than just novels and short stories. These are types of fiction, but so is drama. Fables and fairytales are also fiction. Thus, fiction may be defined as a kind of narrative writing that comes from the author's imagination rather than from history or real life.

5. What does this paragraph mainly discuss?

- a. Only novels and short stories are types of fiction.
- b. Fiction is a kind of narrative writing that comes mostly from the imagination of the author.
- c. Fiction includes only drama, fairy tales and fables.
- d. There are many kinds of literature.

» If you are part of a small group, you have more opportunities to get to know the other members better and to establish close ties with them. The groups where relationships are most influential and strong are two-person groups. When there are three persons involved, coalitions may appear, meaning that two of the members join forces against the third one. If there are five persons in a group, then it is large enough for everybody to feel free and express their emotions, even if they risk antagonizing one another. Still, five-member groups are small enough for members to show respect and consideration for everybody's feelings and needs.

6. What is the main idea of the text above?

- a. When two persons are members of the same group, they are very influential.
- b. It is better to be part of a five-person group than a two-person group.
- c. Groups are very important in any human activity, within the family, the workplace, and the government.
- d. The number of people in a group affects relationships within the group.

» Even if to many people a koala is a bear, this couldn't be further from the truth. Koalas are a type of mammals known as marsupials. Another example of a marsupial is the kangaroo. These kinds of mammals have a pouch in which they carry their babies. When it comes to kangaroos, the pouch is on their stomach, but the pouch of the koala is on the female's back. Both kangaroos and koalas feed their babies milk and keep them safe in their pouches until they are strong enough to make it on their own.

7. What is the main idea of the paragraph?

- a. Kangaroos and koalas cannot be compared.
- b. A koala is a bear.
- c. The kangaroo and the koala belong to the same family, but have some differences.
- d. The kangaroo and the koala are totally similar.

» Susan ran down the street looking for her dog. "Candy! Candy!" she yelled. She knew very well that she should have checked the gate before allowing Candy to go into the garden. Her mom had told her a dozen times. How could she have forgotten again? Had she simply closed that gate, Candy would still be there.

8. What is the main idea of the text above?

- a. Susan forgot to make sure the gate was closed.
- b. Candy ran away.
- c. Susan was always forgetting things.
- d. Susan's mother was bossy.

» Most people consider violence on TV to be nothing more than harmless entertainment. Yet, a lot of recent research shows that TV violence negatively affects people. One of the theories states that people who frequently watch TV are more fearful and suspicious. They always try to protect themselves more from the rest of the world with additional door locks, guard dogs, alarm systems, and even weapons. Moreover, the same study shows that people who massively watch TV are less upset about real-life violence than people who don't watch TV at all. The fact that they constantly see violence on TV makes them less sensitive to it when it really happens. Another study shows that when it comes to children, TV violence stimulates aggressive behavior. Children who constantly watch violent shows are more likely not only to hurt others while playing but also to choose toy weapons over other kinds of toys.

9. Which of the following best summarizes the text?

- a. It is commonly believed that violence on television is harmless entertainment.
- b. One theory states that people frequently watching TV are more fearful and suspicious.
- c. Recent research shows that TV violence negatively affects people.
- d. TV addicts try to protect themselves from the rest of the world with additional locks on the doors, alarm systems, guard dogs, and weapons.

» Parents are aging and they need help. Unfortunately, to their adult children, this is a tremendous burden. The situation gets even worse and more difficult if the parent and the adult child do not live close to each other. In order to cope with such difficult situations, health experts suggest that adult children should take into consideration community resources such as "Meals on Wheels". They also advise them to take care of the aging parent in shifts by involving other family members. Sometimes the problem can be solved by talking the parent into moving closer. It is also vitally important to evaluate all the needs of the parent.

10. Choose the sentence that best illustrates the main idea of the text.

- a. It is very difficult to care for your aging parents.
- b. Adult children have several possibilities at their disposal to assist their aging parents.
- c. Community resources can be very helpful to adult children whose aging parents do not accept their help.
- d. One should always take into account one's own needs when making decisions about aging parents.

» No matter who the operator might be, at Dalton State College, the only person held responsible for the safe operation and proper parking of a vehicle is the registrant

of that particular vehicle. If curbs are painted in yellow, it means that there are no parking areas. It is prohibited to park against the traffic flow, no matter the time of day. After school hours are over, all vehicles which are parked on campus are likely to be towed away. Parking areas which are reserved for faculty and staff are painted in red. Fines must be paid in the Eastcott Building, at the Internal Affairs Office. Observe the posted speed limits. Under no circumstances is anyone allowed to park on College Drive. Decals are not to be transferred.

11. What is the main idea of the text?

- a. Registrants of vehicles are completely responsible for the safe operation and proper parking of their own vehicles.
- b. There are several rules related to parking and driving on campus at Dalton State College.
- c. People have problems when parking at Dalton State College.
- d. There are few rules related to parking at Dalton State College.

» Patrick recently turned sixteen and his father gave him his first driving lesson yesterday. “Back out of the driveway. Be careful!”, his father said. “Make sure you look in the rear-view mirror to see that there is nobody behind you.” Patrick followed the steps, backed up the car and turned the wheel quickly. Suddenly, he and his father felt a strong bump. Oh, God! Patrick had hit the mailbox.

12. The idea that best summarizes the paragraph is:

- a. Patrick's first driving lesson did not go very well.
- b. Patrick will never be a good driver.
- c. Patrick's father was very upset.
- d. Patrick doesn't have good driving skills.

» Believe it or not, the skunk, which is a small animal, comes in various color patterns, the best-known variety being black with a white stripe down its back. The skunk's method of protecting itself has turned it into a famous animal. In case it is attacked or hurt by another animal, the skunk will release or spray a yellowish liquid. This liquid can burn the skin and hurt the eyes of other animals. As if it weren't enough, the liquid smells horrible!

13. Which of the following best summarizes the paragraph?

- a. Skunks attack or hurt other animals if they have similar colors.
- b. Some skunks are black with a white stripe, but there are various other patterns.
- c. Skunks are special due to a unique way of protecting themselves from danger.
- d. Skunks are small animals with various feet.

» Tourist attractions and theme parks have made Southern California very well-known all over the world. Firstly, Hollywood is the most important reason why people go there; tourists are also attracted by such things as the “Walk of Fame”, where the names of many famous people and filmstars are found written on gold stars. The hope of catching sight of the movie stars who live in the hills surrounding Los Angeles also appeals very much to tourists. Visiting glamorous shops in Beverly Hills is another thing that fascinates tourists. The most popular theme parks are Disneyland, of course, and then Magic Mountain Amusement Park, Knott’s Berry Farm, and Raging Waters Park. The best thing to do is to visit Universal Studios, which offer visitors a chance to combine tourist attractions and theme parks.

14. Which of the following statements best states the main idea of this passage?

- a. Not only does Southern California have tourist attractions, but also theme parks for visitors.
- b. Most tourists generally like Southern California.
- c. Disneyland is one of the best known sights in the world.
- d. Many celebrities and movie stars live in Southern California.

» A new agreement has been recently signed, approving a \$120-million bond to be used next year in the North Point School District, not only to renovate and redecorate existing schools but also to build new schools. Three existing high schools will be expanded, and they will also build three new elementary schools. A Career Center will also be constructed for all high school students on campus who have been looking forward to its opening. Moreover, technology in all district schools will be brought up to date, teachers will receive all the bonuses they were not given last year, and two new head masters will be hired for Smithson Middle School and Schulte Middle School respectively.

15. The main idea of the text is:

- a. North Point School District is going to undergo minor changes and improvements next year because of the lack of money.
- b. North Point School District has received a lot of money so that they can build many new schools and update technology in the following year.
- c. North Point School District will be going through changes which will take place in the spring of next year.
- d. Bond money is to be received by North Point School District which will be used next year to upgrade the entire school district in many ways.

» As they grow up, a lot of children become very interested in learning how to play a musical instrument at one point or another. Parents should take advantage of this

desire to play the moment it appears. The main reason why very small children become fascinated with music is because they see their own parents or older siblings play. There is a method of instruction known as “Suzuki” which capitalizes on that early desire to learn how to play a musical instrument by involving both the parent and the child in the process of the child’s education. Elementary-school children often come into contact with stringed instruments or band instruments during their music classes. Since kids like to do what everybody else does, parents who are not musicians themselves can benefit from both instruction and enthusiasm. Moreover, when children reach middle-school age, peer-pressure really functions to the benefit of parents who are keen on hearing the sound of music around the house.

16. The central idea of this paragraph is:

- a. At a certain point in their growing-up process, parents can take advantage of their children’s desire to play a musical instrument.
- b. Most very young children become fascinated with music by watching other children play instruments.
- c. Most children have a desire to learn everything, including how to play a musical instrument
- d. Middle-school students enjoy learning to play an instrument along with their school friends.

» A guy called George Crum was a cook in a small hotel in the town of Saratoga, New York. One day, in 1855, a customer complained that Crum’s fried potatoes were too thick. Crum got angry. Actually, he got so angry that he decided to cut some potatoes very, very thin. Then the waiter took the very thin potato slices to the customer. Crum thought that the customer would hit the roof. Yet, the stubborn customer really liked the thin potato slices, which took Crum by surprise. Very soon, these brand new thin potato slices became so popular that they developed into a whole new business. Today people all over the world eat billions of dollars worth of potato chips every year.

17. What is the main idea of this text?

- a. Crum wanted to make his customers angry.
- b. The history of the potato chips has a funny and interesting beginning.
- c. Potato chips are not expensive and this is why everybody eats them.
- d. People all over the world enjoy eating potato chips a lot.

» Have you ever wondered how far the Sun is? It’s so far that it’s hard to understand. If we have to express the distance factually, it’s about 93 million miles. The distance is

not always the same, because the Earth spins around the Sun. Imagine it were possible to book a jetliner to get there! At an average speed of a little over 550 mph, reaching the Sun would take nearly 20 years. Even if one could travel at the incredible speed of 25,000 mph, it would still take more than five months to reach the Sun.

18. Which of the following best summarizes the passage?

- a. Is the Sun far away?
- b. The Sun is so far away that it is hard to comprehend.
- c. 93 million miles is the factual distance to the Sun.
- d. Travelling to the Sun takes a long time.

» Greg held the ball in his big hands. He bounced it slowly on the wooden playing surface of the court several times. He bent his knees and jumped as high as he could. The ball flew up in the air. Everybody watched the ball go up and then down, down, right into the basket. “Yes!” the crowd cheered. “Right through the ring!”

19. The main idea in this passage is:

- a. Greg could jump having a ball in his hands.
- b. Greg is keen on basketball.
- c. How to throw a basketball.
- d. Greg scores a basket.

» John went fishing with his family yesterday. On their way to the river, they stopped and bought all their favorite sweets and snacks. The first thing they did when they got to the river was eat and then they started fishing. John caught eight fish, and his father only three. But the entire family had a good time. They laughed a lot, enjoying the time spent together. They thought it would be great if they went fishing again soon.

20. The main idea of the paragraph is:

- a. They liked to eat fish for dinner.
- b. Everybody ate their favorite snack.
- c. The family had a good time.
- d. John caught more fish than his father.

How Stripes appeared on the Chipmunk’s back

The Earth used to be covered in darkness. It was a long time ago, but creatures back then didn’t even know what daylight was and what everything looked like.

It so happened that, one day, all the animals of the forest decided to meet, and they all gathered in a clearing everybody knew. They were wondering whether it would be better for things to stay the same or if it would be better to change and have light. Ted the Bear, Willy the Wolf, Rick the Raccoon, Chip the Chipmunk and Dan the

Deer decided to climb to the top of the highest mountain, and many other creatures from the forest followed them. The mountain was so high that, up on its top, there were no trees, no grass, only rocks everywhere. But when they looked up to the sky, they saw millions of stars twinkling in the dark. Ted the Bear, the biggest and the strongest animal in the forest, was the first to get to the top. He just stood there, contemplating the forest below, but his opinion was that they should remain in the dark. He thought darkness would allow all forest creatures to sleep better, since light would make them stay awake. The other animals were afraid of Ted, and they immediately agreed with him. So did Rick the Raccoon, saying he was smart enough to find all the food he needed in the dark, so he had nothing against darkness. Willy the Wolf was pleased, too. Howling was what he liked best, and he could do it whether there was light or darkness. There was only one animal who stood up to Ted the Bear, and that was the smallest of them all, Chip the Chipmunk. He realised that both darkness and light would do them a world of good. He was so clever that he came up with many good reasons for light, whereas Ted the Bear continued to argue for darkness.

Before they could tell, the night had passed. Ted was tired of talking, but Chip went on and on as if light had given him all its energy. All the other animals were sleeping, but he kept chattering. Suddenly the most amazing thing happened: the first sunrise was seen on top of that mountain. Everybody woke up, astonished by what they were witnessing.

Chip the Chipmunk was so thrilled that he began to dance, jumping with joy. Ted the Bear was red with anger. Things hadn't turned out the way he wanted. He roared and started to chase Chip all the way down the steep mountain. He was fast and strong, so he soon reached out his frightening paws to grab Chip. Somehow, he managed to scratch his back, but Chip got away.

This is the reason why, to this day, Chip the Chipmunk's back is striped!

21. What is the message of the story above?

- a. The best thing to do is to agree with the crowd.
- b. Never contradict someone who is stronger than you.
- c. Stand up for what you believe in.
- d. It is easy to make decisions.

22. Which of the following characterizes Ted the Bear?

- a. He likes to listen to others' opinion.
- b. He is not sure about what he wants.
- c. He is used to everyone doing things the way he wants.
- d. All the other animals like him.