

AHSGE Reading Blitz Review

Test Taking Tips:

1. Always double-check all of the possible answers.
2. Answers that have obvious similarities should be focused on more. Example:
What is the order of events?
A. 3-2-4-1
B. 3-4-2-1
C. 3-1-4-2
D. 1-2-4-3
It is obvious that A, B and C all start with action #3. One of these is usually the answer.
3. Always eliminate possible responses to your best choices. Always recheck the responses you eliminate. You might see something you missed. Once you are certain one is NOT the right response, focus on the other possibilities.
4. If you are uncertain of an answer, mark “B” or “C” if it is one you have not eliminated. Stick with either “B” or “C” the entire time and your chances will go up. Do not pick “B” one time and “C” another. Do this only with questions you cannot make a good guess on.
5. If a question is frustrating you, leave it and come back to it later. The next time you approach it, you will probably find something you were missing before.
6. Write in your test booklet. Yes, it is ok to write in the booklet as long as you put your answers on the answer document.
7. Use your scratch paper or answer document to help guide your reading. Sometimes we focus on the whole passage we have to read and it makes our mind wander. Focus on one line at a time by using your scratch paper.

Supporting Details TEST TIP – Authors help develop the main idea by providing supporting details. Supporting details provide a clearer picture of what the author is saying.

1. Read the following passage and answer the question that follows:

Slave owners around the South distributed reward posters because of one woman’s efforts to help slaves escape to freedom. Her name was Harriet Tubman. Between 1844 and 1865, she rescued between 300-400 slaves from farms and plantations.

Using the Underground Railroad, Tubman guided them on the perilous journey to freedom. The Underground Railroad was a secret organization of Whites and Blacks that provided refuge and escape routes to the Northern states where slavery was abolished.

What was the Underground Railroad? _____

Sequence of Events TEST TIP – Look in the passage for clue words that indicate an order of the events. Underline the clue words. Then read the passage entirely. Read the answers and then scan to find the right sequence. Check your work several times on sequence of events. Know order words: First, second, third..., next, last, then, later, finally, before, after, when, until, between, now, most importantly, least importantly, most of all, least of all.

2. Number the statements in the correct order by order of importance.

_____ In conclusion, the people of our city would very much appreciate this necessity for our city and our health.

_____ Third, property values will rise as the stench in the land surrounding the river will disappear.

_____ In addition, the city will gain back its federal funding when the plant is built.

_____ This is primarily needed because untreated sewage currently entering our river is a serious health risk to humans and wildlife.

_____ The new sewage treatment plant is a much needed project for our city.

Follow Directions TEST TIP – This is the recipe idea. There is an order to the process. It is basically the same as sequence of events. Imagine if you had to give directions to someone. What words would you use to get them to the new gym? Next, then, before, after, when, until?

3. Directions for a Science Experiment.

1. Place a small amount of water in a glass dish.
2. Make a two-inch diameter circle of sewing thread.
3. Float the thread on the water.
4. Sprinkle pepper on the water inside the circle.
5. Put one drop of a dishwashing detergent in the circle.

According to the science experiment above, when should you sprinkle the pepper? _____

Main Idea TEST TIP - The main idea is the total idea of the passage. The main idea can be directly stated or implied. Read the title and passage. Make sure your answer deals with all aspects of the passage. Usually all of the choices will have accurate information in them, but you need to choose the response that fits the ENTIRE passage. The main idea will be a broader response (less specific).

4. Read the following passage and identify the main idea:

This was the first week of middle school. The classes were so different—we had to change classes and rooms every time the bell rang. The lockers were little cubicles, and unfortunately, mine was on the bottom by the floor. The books for the classes were heavy and ripped my backpack. School was exciting, though, because there were so many new kids to meet and make friends with. The seating was assigned in all my classes, which forced me to talk to kids that were not already my friends. Everyone seemed to laugh and talk the whole class. It was hard for the teachers to keep us under control in the beginning. But somehow, they always knew how to make us behave ourselves and learn something important.

What is the main idea of this section? _____

Draw Conclusions TEST TIP – This skill requires you to find an answer that is not visible in the passage. You have to infer, or judge for yourself, what the answer might be. Use all the facts that you can find to best make your judgment. For instance, if you saw a car pulled over on the side of the road with a police car with its lights flashing behind it, you could infer that the car was speeding.

5. Based on the following passage, we can conclude that the writer’s philosophy is _____:
_____:

An honest man has hardly need to count more than his ten fingers, or in extreme cases he may add his ten toes, and lump the rest. Simplicity, Simplicity, Simplicity! I say, let your affairs be as two or three, and not a hundred or a thousand; instead of a million count half a dozen, and keep your accounts on your thumbnail...Simplify, Simplify. Instead of three meals a day, if it be necessary, eat but one; instead of a hundred dishes, five; and reduce other things in proportion.

Cause and Effect TEST TIP – The cause is the contributing factor(s) or the reason. The effect is simply what happened or the result. Think of a storm cloud. What caused this cloud? Causes could include heat, moisture, a front, a hurricane, etc. The effect or result of these factors would be the storm cloud.

6. What caused the four men to be together in the following sentence? _____
_____:

Four men in an open lifeboat caught glimpses of the steamer sinking into the sea...

Fact and Opinion/Propaganda TEST TIP – A fact is something that can be proven or disproved. “Ryan is wearing a black shirt today” is a fact. You can look at Ryan to prove it. An opinion would be something based solely on one’s thoughts. “Quinn has beautiful hair” is an opinion. Someone else may think it is too dark or light, or too straight or curly.

Propaganda is writing that is meant to influence others. It is usually filled with opinions that are meant to make you believe a certain idea or person is best. Commercials and other advertisements are major sources of propaganda. If the passage uses facts and statistics, it will usually be fair. If it uses a bunch of opinions, it is usually propaganda.

Identify the following as FACT or OPINION.

7. I think that is the best movie that came out last year. _____

8. George Washington was the first president of the United States. _____

Types of Propaganda

Testimonials – a frequently used technique in which famous persons endorse a product even though they are not qualified as experts. Example: Michael Jordan endorses cereal.

Transfer – a technique in which the public’s feelings on one thing are somehow connected to another unrelated thing. Example: “If federal employees are hired based on their political membership, then this nation is not truly a democracy.” Democracy, rule by popular consent of the governed, is not related to one employer’s hiring policy.

In-Crowd Appeal – a kind of flattery which encourages viewers to identify with an admired, envied group. Example: A supermodel stands in front of a new sports car. The viewers are supposed to connect the desirability of the woman to the desirability of the new car.

Bandwagon – a technique in which the reader is made to feel that great movement is beginning. The reader would be an idiot or an enemy if he/she does not join the movement. Example: “Millions of people sign on to the Internet every day and receive the latest information. If you don’t get online, you will be left behind.” Do you have to jump on this bandwagon?

Summary Statements TEST TIP – Like main idea, summary statements must address all main parts of a passage. Many possible answers will have correct information, but that is not what a summary question is asking you. Don’t be fooled by information you match to the passage. Remember, it must address the entire passage. These answers are broader so they can meet all of the passage. Specific responses are likely wrong.

Example: Which set of statements BEST summarizes the article?

- A. The Globe is the most famous theater in history because Shakespeare’s plays were performed there. It burned down and then was rebuilt a year later.
- B. The Globe’s design made it the ideal theater for Shakespeare’s plays. For this reason, it was reconstructed after many years and despite difficult problems.
- C. The Globe was originally constructed by the Burbage brothers on the site of an earlier playhouse. After year as the site of Shakespeare’s plays, it was razed and then rebuilt.
- D. The Globe, where Shakespeare’s plays were first performed, is possibly the most famous theater in history. A rebuilt version of it was opened in London after a period of reconstruction.

Fallacies of Logic and Strength of Argument – Fallacies of logic are statements that cannot be proved by evidence. The author has argued for his/her point with weak evidence.

9. Which of the following ideas is an example of faulty logic?

- A. To let people know what is for sale, sellers have to advertise.
- B. Without amusing commercials on TV, television stations would go bankrupt.
- C. You cannot take a company to court for selling something a buyer doesn’t need.
- D. Manufacturers often contribute to pollution and hasten the depletion of our raw materials.

Literary Elements TEST TIP – These include main character (protagonist/antagonist), motives, character feelings, personality traits (brave, foolish, kind, determined, serious, cowardly, etc.). These are all techniques the author uses to develop a picture of the character for the reader.

Sympathy by Paul Laurence Dunbar

I know what the caged bird feels, alas!
When the sun is bright on the upland slopes;
When the wind stirs soft through the springing grass
And the river flows like a stream of glass;
When the first bird sings and the first bird opes,
And the faint perfume from its chalice steals—
I know what the caged bird feels!

10. Which point of view is used in this stanza? _____
11. In your own words, state the theme or message of this poem. _____
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12. Write the line in this poem that is a simile. Then explain why it is a simile.
-
13. List two examples of alliteration in this poem. _____
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Figurative Language and Analogy TEST TIP – These include the following:

- Foreshadowing – clues of events that are to come
- Flashback – reflecting back on previous events
- Dialogue – written conversation
- Dialect – the way the words are inflected; accent (y'all)
- Alliteration – the repetition of sounds
- Onomatopoeia – words that sound like what they are describing (a bee buzzes)
- Simile - comparing unlike things using the words “like” or “as”
- Metaphor- comparing unlike things without using “like” or “as”
- Personification – giving human characteristics to things or nature
- Imagery - the use of descriptions that appeal to the five senses
- Hyperbole- exaggerating for effect
- Allusion- the technique of referring to another event, historical, or literary
- Symbolism- an object that represents an idea
- Tone – the mood of the passage/author

Solve the following analogy:

14. Bee is to hive as bird is to _____.

Context Clues TEST TIP – There are many words that we are all unfamiliar with. But there are usually clues around those words that help us understand the meaning of the unfamiliar word. The words and/or sentences that surround the unfamiliar word are called context clues.

15. Select the word that matches the meaning of the underlined word in the following sentence:
Her whispers were inaudible in the crowded mall.
A) heard B) spoken C) unheard D) loud

Preview and Predict TEST TIP – You again must infer based on the clues given in the passage. You must make a judgment on what you believe is going to happen or what would have happened based on what the passage leads us to believe. When the music intensifies at a scary movie, what is about to happen?

Organizational Patterns TEST TIP – Includes: chronological order, spatial order, order of importance, comparison and contrast, cause and effect, and main idea with examples or anecdotes

Ability to Locate Information in Reference Material TEST TIP – Includes the following: dictionary, encyclopedia, almanac, thesaurus, atlas, table of contents, index, title page, bibliography, glossary, appendix, reader’s guide to periodical literature, card catalogue, newspaper sections, alphabetizing, telephone directory

Read each question. Then choose the appropriate source for finding the information.

16. Diane is writing a paper and needs another word to use for the word “trip”. Which reference should she use?

A) appendix B) bibliography C) thesaurus D) encyclopedia

17. Aaron wants to find out which page in his history book tells about the causes of World War I. What part of the book should he look in?

A) bibliography B) appendix C) index D) title page

18. Where would you find alphabetized definitions of terms describing the body in a biology book?

A) table of contents B) index C) bibliography D) glossary

19. Josh found a gold watch in the woods with no identification. Where would he find the owner?

A) newspaper ad B) encyclopedia C) telephone directory D) thesaurus

20. If the guide words lance – late were at the top of a page in the dictionary, which word could be included on that page?

A) laundry B) laser C) lamp D) lake