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Given name(s)

Family name

Opportunity Class Placement Test

Reading Question Paper

Test 01

30 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Please read this page carefully.

DO NOT OPEN THIS QUESTION PAPER UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.

A separate answer sheet is provided for this test. Please fill in the following information on your answer sheet:

- Student application number
- First name(s)
- Family name

There are **25** multiple-choice questions in this paper. For each question, choose the **one** correct answer and record your choice on the separate answer sheet. If you make a mistake, erase thoroughly and try again.

You will **not** lose marks for incorrect answers, so you should attempt **all 25** questions.

You must complete the answer sheet within the time limit. There will **not** be any extra time at the end of the exam to record your answers on the answer sheet.

You can use the question paper for notes, but no extra paper is allowed.

Please note that some words and phrases are **shaded** in the texts as they are referred to in some questions.

Dictionaries and calculators may **NOT** be used.



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Read the extracts below then answer the questions.

From The Fault in our Stars by John Green

Peter Van Houten's white row house was just around the corner from the hotel, on the Vondelstraat, facing the park. Number 158. Augustus took me by one arm and grabbed the oxygen cart with the other, and we walked up the three steps to the lacquered blue-black front door.

My heart pounded. One closed door away from the answers I'd dreamed of ever since I first read that last unfinished page.

Inside, I could hear a bass beat thumping loud enough to rattle the windowsills. I wondered whether Peter Van Houten had a kid who liked rap music.

I grabbed the lion's-head door knocker and knocked tentatively. The beat continued. "Maybe he can't hear over the music?" Augustus asked. He grabbed the lion's head and knocked much louder.

The music disappeared, replaced by shuffled footsteps. A dead bolt slid. Another. The door creaked open. A potbellied man with thin hair, sagging jowls, and a week-old beard squinted into the sunlight. He wore baby-blue man pajamas like guys in old movies. His face and belly were so round, and his arms so skinny, that he looked like a dough ball with four sticks stuck into it. "Mr. Van Houten?" Augustus asked, his voice squeaking a bit.

The door slammed shut. Behind it, I heard a stammering, reedy voice shout, "LEEE-DUH-VIGH!" (Until then, I'd pronounced his assistant's name like lid-uh-widge.)

We could hear everything through the door. "Are they here, Peter?" a woman asked.

"There are—Lidewij, there are two adolescent apparitions outside the door."

"Apparitions?" she asked with a pleasant Dutch lilt.

Van Houten answered in a rush. "Phantasms specters ghouls visitants **post-terrestrials** apparitions, Lidewij. How can someone pursuing a postgraduate degree in American literature display such abominable English-language skills?"

"Peter, those are not **post-terrestrials**. They are Augustus and Hazel, the young fans with whom you have been corresponding."

"They are—what? They—I thought they were in America!"

"Yes, but you invited them here, you will remember."

"Do you know why I left America, Lidewij? So that I would never again have to encounter

Americans.”

“But you are an American.”

“Incurably so, it seems. But as to these Americans, you must tell them to leave at once, that there has been a terrible mistake, that the blessed Van Houten was making a rhetorical offer to meet, not an actual one, that such offers must be read symbolically.”

I thought I might throw up. I looked over at Augustus, who was staring intently at the door, and saw his shoulders slacken.

For questions 1 – 6, choose the option (A, B, C or D) which you think best answers the question.

1 What was Hazel's reaction right before meeting Peter?

- A She did not care about him
- B She thought of him as unpleasant
- C She thought of him as loud and rude
- D She was excited to meet him

2 Why was Peter not happy to meet Hazel and Augustus?

- A He did not like being disturbed.
- B He thought they were coming later, and he was not ready yet.
- C His invitation was taken literally by Hazel and Augustus.
- D He did not like Americans, and both Hazel and Augustus were Americans.

3 Which of the following is true?

- A Peter was a neat and orderly man.
- B Lidewij was not very good at speaking English.
- C Meeting Peter was underwhelming for Augustus and Hazel.
- D Peter's child enjoyed loud rap music.

4 Where was this text an extract of?

- A Biography
- B Non-fiction book
- C Historical fiction
- D Fiction novel

5 Why did Hazel want to meet Peter?

- A She wanted to know more about his writings.
- B Lidewij had invited her to visit the house and meet Peter.
- C Hazel wanted to talk to him to complain about the loud music.
- D Augustus had convinced her to meet with him.

6 The word 'post-terrestrials' tells us

- A Peter thinks the kids are monsters.
- B Hazel does not like Peter anymore.
- C Lidwijn thinks they kids are nice people.
- D Peter thinks of Hazel and Augustus as strangers.

Read the song below by David Guetta then answer the following questions.

Don't You Worry Child

There was a time, I used to look into my father's eyes
In a happy home, I was a king I had a golden throne
Those days are gone, now they're memories are on the wall
I hear the sounds from the places where I was born

Up on a hill across the blue lake
That's where I had my first heart break
I still remember how it all changed

My father said
"Don't you worry, don't you worry child
See heaven's got a plan for you
Don't you worry, don't you worry now"
Yeah!
Ohh, oh
"Don't you worry, don't you worry now"

There was a time, I met a girl of a different kind
We ruled the world
I thought I'll never lose her out of sight
We were so young, I think of her now and then

I still hear the songs reminding me of a friend, hmm
Up on a hill across the blue lake
That's where I had my first heart break

I still remember how it all changed
My father said
"Don't you worry, don't you worry child
See heaven's got a plan for you
Don't you worry, don't you worry now"
Yeah!
Ohh, oh

"See heaven's got a plan for you"

Don't you worry, don't you worry now"
"Don't you worry, don't you worry child
See heaven's got a plan for you
Don't you worry, don't you worry now"

For questions **7 – 10**, choose the option (**A**, **B**, **C** or **D**) which you think best answers the question.

7 What is this song about?

- A** To avoid stress
- B** To give up
- C** To not give up
- D** Heartbreak

8 What is the language technique used in the second line of the song?

- A** Simile
- B** Metaphor
- C** Oxymoron
- D** Hyperbole

9 The phrase 'Heaven's got a plan for you' means

- A** The narrator should not give up
- B** The narrator knows what is going to happen
- C** The narrator should stress more about his life
- D** The narrator needs to make a plan

10 What does the repetition do for the meaning of the song?

- A** Makes the song catchy so more people will enjoy singing it
- B** Emphasises the need to worry less because everything will be fine
- C** Depicts the harshness of heartbreak
- D** Shows how these kinds of regretful events happen often

Read the extract below then answer the questions.

From Climate Change: How Do We Know? by NASA

Earth's climate has changed throughout history. Just in the last 650,000 years there have been seven cycles of glacial advance and retreat, with the abrupt end of the last ice age about 11,700 years ago marking the beginning of the modern climate era — and of human civilization. Most of these climate changes are attributed to very small variations in Earth's orbit that change the amount of solar energy our planet receives.

The current warming trend is of particular significance because most of it is extremely likely (greater than 95% probability) to be the result of human activity since the mid-20th century and proceeding at a rate that is unprecedented over decades to millennia.

Earth-orbiting satellites and other technological advances have enabled scientists to see the big picture, collecting many different types of information about our planet and its climate on a global scale. This body of data, collected over many years, reveals the signals of a changing climate.

The heat-trapping nature of carbon dioxide and other gases was demonstrated in the mid-19th century. Their ability to affect the transfer of infrared energy through the atmosphere is the scientific basis of many instruments flown by NASA. There is no question that increased levels of greenhouse gases must cause Earth to warm in response.

Ice cores drawn from Greenland, Antarctica, and tropical mountain glaciers show that Earth's climate responds to changes in greenhouse gas levels. Ancient evidence can also be found in tree rings, ocean sediments, coral reefs, and layers of sedimentary rocks. This ancient, or paleoclimate, evidence reveals that current warming is occurring roughly ten times faster than the average rate of ice-age-recovery warming. Carbon dioxide from human activity is increasing more than 250 times faster than it did from natural sources after the last Ice Age.

For questions **11 – 14**, choose the option (**A**, **B**, **C** or **D**) which you think best answers the question.

11 Which of the following is incorrect?

- A** The current climate change is mainly caused by humans.
- B** Climate change in Earth has always occurred.
- C** The current speed of change of the Earth's climate is normal.
- D** The advancements in technology has allowed humans to learn about the Earth's climate.

12 According to the text, what do greenhouse gases do?

- A** Create ice cores
- B** Create carbon dioxide
- C** Clean the earth's air
- D** Trap heat in the Earth

13 is not used in the text as evidence for climate change.

- A** Orbiting satellites and technologies have heated up the atmosphere
- B** Ice cores from different countries shows the effect of greenhouse gases
- C** Coral reefs show the impact of climate change over time
- D** Tree rings is ancient evidence supporting its existence

14 From the text, which of the following is correct?

- A** Climate change is due to the industrial revolution
- B** Climate change is only due to variations in Earth's orbit
- C** In the last 650,000 years, there have been seventeen glacial advances
- D** Satellites and other technologies helped confirm climate change

Read the text below then answer the questions.

Six sentences have been removed from the text. Choose from the sentences (**A – G**) the one which fits each gap (**15 – 20**). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use

Paleontology

Paleontology is the study of the history of life on Earth. **15** Paleontologists use fossil remains to understand different aspects of extinct and living organisms.

Individual fossils may contain information about an organism's life and environment.

16 Studying oyster fossils can help paleontologists discover how long the oyster lived, and in what conditions. If the climate was favorable for the oyster, the oyster probably grew more quickly and the rings would be thicker. If the oyster struggled for survival, the rings would be thinner. Thinner rings would indicate an environment not favorable to organisms like the oyster. They would suggest, for example, that the water was too warm or too cold for the oyster, or that it lacked the necessary nutrients.

Some fossils show how other organisms lived. Amber, for instance, is hardened, fossilized tree resin. As the sticky resin dripped down a tree trunk, it has sometimes trapped small insects and some organisms as large as frogs and lizards. Paleontologists study amber to observe these complete specimens. Amber can preserve tissue as delicate as dragonfly wings. **17**

18 For instance, paleontologists suggest that duck-billed dinosaurs called hadrosaurs lived in large herds. They reached this conclusion after observing a single site with approximately 10,000 hadrosaur skeletons.

Fossils can also provide evidence of the evolutionary history of organisms. For instance, paleontologists have concluded that whales evolved from land-dwelling animals. Fossils of extinct animals closely related to whales have front limbs like paddles, similar to front legs. They even have tiny back limbs. Although the front limbs of these fossil animals are in some ways similar to legs, in other ways they also show strong similarities to the fins of modern whales.

Throughout human history, fossils have been used, studied, and understood in different ways. Early civilizations used fossils for decorative or religious purposes but did not always understand where they came from.

Some ancient Greek and Roman scientists did recognize that fossils were the remains of life forms. **19** During the Middle Ages, many people believed fossils were remains left behind by Noah's flood.

20 For the first time, scientists began to carefully study and classify fossils. In the 1850s, scientist Charles Darwin suggested that new species evolve over time. New fossil evidence supported Darwin's theory of evolution.

- A** The formal science of palaeontology began in the 1700s.
- B** However, many early scholars believed fossils were evidence of mythological creatures such as dragons.
- C** The behavior of organisms can also be deduced from fossil evidence
- D** It focuses on fossils, which are the remains of plants, animals, and other living things that have been replaced by rock material or whose impressions have been preserved in rock.
- E** For example, each ring on the surface of an oyster shell denotes one year of its life.
- F** The "duckbilled dinosaurs" were common in the Upper Cretaceous of Europe, Asia, and North America.
- G** Some ants were trapped in amber while eating leaves, allowing scientists to know exactly what they ate, and how they ate it.

Read the four extracts below on the theme of dogs.

For questions **21 – 25**, choose the option (**A, B, C** or **D**) which you think best answers the question.

Which extract...

says that when a dog licks a person, it is because they like the person? **21** _____

talks about a dog's incredible sense of smell? **22** _____

talks about how dogs are almost as smart as a toddler? **23** _____

says that dog's noses are like compasses? **24** _____

uses research from Vienna to accentuate their point? **25** _____

Extract A

The nose is a prominent canine facial feature...long, short, black, pink. Noses vary, but they all have one thing in common. Noses are key to canine survival.

Why are noses important to dogs?

The canine nose does more than smell the roses. While humans primarily depend on their vision, dogs use both sight and smell to assess their surroundings and communicate. People spend more time interpreting visual data than olfactory information. Dogs are just the opposite.

Dogs devote lots of brain power to interpreting smells. They have more than 100 million sensory receptor sites in the nasal cavity as compared to 6 million in people, and the area of the canine brain devoted to analyzing odors is about 40 times larger than the comparable part of the human brain. In fact, it's been estimated that dogs can smell anywhere from 1,000 to 10,000 times better than people.

Do noses "talk"?

While noses don't actually speak, they do communicate. With a single sniff, noses interpret an entire story without words by using amines and acids emitted by dogs as the basis for chemical communication. The chemical aromas communicate what a dog likes to eat, and identify gender and mood. By simply smelling, a dog can determine if a new friend is male or female, happy or aggressive, healthy or ill. Dogs get a general idea about each other with a quick sniff, but get more detailed information by getting up close and personal. That's why some dogs sniff private parts of the anatomy!

Dogs also have a good scent memory that can identify other dogs they haven't seen for years – and can remember which of them was the dominant member of the pair. When dogs belonging to the same family are separated for a while, they use sense of smell to catch up on things. Changes in odors may convey where the dog went, what he ate, and what he did.

When in a new territory, a dog can sniff a tree and determine what other dogs live in the neighborhood. They can smell a visitor's pant-leg and get a good impression of where the person lives and whether he has pets at home.

Dogs also have a great homing instinct that depends on their ability to smell. Since dogs move their nostrils independently, they can determine the direction of an odor and use their sense of smell like a compass.

"The dog's sense of smell is so adept that a blind dog has much less difficulty adjusting to the loss of vision than a human does."

Humans each have a unique innate scent that enables dogs to tell one person from another. Our dogs don't need to see us to identify us. The dog's sense of smell is so adept that a blind dog has much less difficulty adjusting to the loss of vision than a human does.

Dogs also sense fear and anxiety via their noses. When we are stressed or scared, we secrete the fight-or-flight hormone, adrenaline, which dogs detect even though we can't smell it. Also, when we are anxious, we have increased heart rate and blood flow which carries body chemicals to the skin surface where dogs can pick them up more easily. So, it's no use trying to mask your true feelings from your canine companion. His sense of smell will not be fooled.

Extract B

It's no secret that domesticated dogs are descendants of wolves. Even today, modern dogs continue to share similar genes to wolves that live in the wild. The idea of "the loyal dog" is both a cultural and biological construct, as humans have created the dog over years of selective breeding and domestication to be this way. Essentially, humans picked and chose the wolf characteristics that would best serve their own benefit, transforming a wolf's hierarchical structure and social bond to their packs into obedience and loyalty to humans.

Selective Breeding

Throughout history, long-term domestication has resulted in hundreds of different dog breeds designed to fulfil specialized functions in society, many with significant behavioral differences. Early humans likely participated in selective breeding without even knowing they were doing so, by killing off the dogs who attacked or bit a member of their family or community. Additionally, dogs who were naturally gifted as loyal hunters would have been better cared for, upping the chances of successful and repeated reproduction. Dogs that contributed to society were kept for longer, while aggressive or unskilled dogs weren't. And, as humans promoted dogs with tame or friendly characteristics, physical attributes began to change as well.

The early domesticated dogs intelligent enough to associate their owners with things like food and shelter in exchange for obedience (think: “don’t bite the hand that feeds you”) were more likely to survive longer. In a reliance comparison between dogs and cats, for example, studies show that dogs attempt tasks before looking at their owners while cats do not.

While it may have started with a simple exchange of food and shelter for animal-assisted guarding or hunting, humans eventually began to favor dogs that were more docile and sociable. As humans evolved to hunt less and moved on to more secure lifestyles, the domestication process eventually began to encourage companionship.

Pack Behavior

Dogs, like their wolf ancestors, are pack animals at their core. In order to survive in the wild, members of a pack have to be trusting and cooperative. A wolf leader, or alpha, is in charge until it becomes too sick or old to perform at its highest abilities and is eventually challenged by a stronger wolf for the betterment of the entire pack. This suggests that wolves are motivated by the good of the group rather than pure loyalty to its leader. This is exactly what a 2014 study in Vienna found when researchers examined lab-raised dog and wolf packs, concluding that the relationship between dogs and humans is hierarchical (with their owner at the top) rather than cooperative. As wolves were slowly domesticated into modern dogs, the study suggests, they were bred for their loyalty, dependance on human masters, and ability to follow orders.

Extract C

Willie gave a short start and opened his eyes. In a chair opposite sat Tom, who was drinking tea and looking at a book. Sammy, who had been watching Willie sleep, now stood up. Tom looked up. "You feelin' better?" he asked. "You's lookin' better." He poured a mug of hot, sweet tea and handed it to him. " 'Ere, you git that down you." Willie looked apprehensively at Sammy, who was sniffing his feet. " 'E won't harm you," said Tom. " 'E's a spry ole thing, but he's as soft as butter, ent you, ole boy?" And he knelt down and ruffled his fur. Sammy snuggled up between his knees and licked his face. "See," said Tom, " 'e's very friendly." Willie tried to smile. "You want to learn somethin' wot'll make him happy?" Willie nodded. "Hold one of yer hands out, palm up, like that." Willie copied him. "That's so he knows you ent going to harm him, see. Now, hold it out towards him and tickle his chest." Willie leaned nervously forward and touched Sammy's fur. "That's the idea. You jes' keep doin' that." Willie stroked him. His fur felt silky and soft. Sammy gave his fingers a long lick. " 'E likes you, see. When he licks you, that's his way of sayin', 'I likes you and you makes me happy.' " "Why does he sniff?" he asked, as Sammy crawled under the blanket to get to his legs. " 'E likes to know what everythin' smells like so's he knows who to say hello to and who not." "Stop it!" said Willie as Sammy put his nose into his crotch. "Naughty dog." Immediately Tom dragged him from under the blanket, and he began barking and chasing his tail. "You'm gettin' overexcited, Sam. 'E needs a good romp in the fields"—and he looked at Willie—and I reckon you do an' all, he thought.

Extract D

They can also understand more than 150 words and intentionally deceive other dogs and people to get treats, according to psychologist and leading canine researcher Stanley Coren, PhD, of the University of British Columbia. He spoke Saturday on the topic “How Dogs Think” at the American Psychological Association’s 117th Annual Convention.

Coren, author of more than a half-dozen popular books on dogs and dog behavior, has reviewed numerous studies to conclude that dogs have the ability to solve complex problems and are more like humans and other higher primates than previously thought.

“We all want insight into how our furry companions think, and we want to understand the silly, quirky and apparently irrational behaviors [that] Lassie or Rover demonstrate,” Coren said in an interview. “Their stunning flashes of brilliance and creativity are reminders that they may not be Einsteins but are sure closer to humans than we thought.”

According to several behavioral measures, Coren says dogs’ mental abilities are close to a human child age 2 to 2.5 years.

Reference

1. John Green, *'The Fault in our Stars'*, 2012
2. Swedish House Mafia, *'Don't You Worry Child'*
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5. Diane Boudreau, Melissa McDaniel, Erin Sprout and Andrew Turgeon, *Paleontology*, National Geographic, 2011
6. Lynn Buzhardt, *How dogs use smell to perceive the world*, VCA Hospitals
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8. Michelle Magorian, *Goodnight Mister Tom*, 1981
9. *Smarter Than You Think: Renowned Canine Researcher Puts Dogs' Intelligence on Par with 2-Year-Old Human*, American Psychological Association, 2009

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