

Reading for the Real World 2

Final Test (Units 7-12)

A. Fill in the blanks with the words in the box.

contradict	valid	facet	hierarchy	fundamentally
occupation	uplifting	elaborate	portray	comply

1. Animated movies often portray animals as being able to talk.
2. This book tells the uplifting story of how two soldiers on opposite sides of a war became friends.
3. Several new studies contradict current beliefs about salt, suggesting that it is not unhealthy after all.
4. In the military there is a strict hierarchy, and you must obey those of a higher rank.
5. Despite this temporary slowdown in growth, the economy is fundamentally healthy.
6. Photography has always been my favorite hobby, and now I'm hoping to make it my occupation.
7. If the police ask you to pull your car to the side of the road, you'd better comply.
8. Which facet of you culture do you think is hardest for foreign visitors to understand?
9. Some of the points made in this opinion piece are valid, but others are unfair or factually wrong.
10. On every major holiday, Mom spends all day making a(n) elaborate and delicious meal.

B. Match each word with its definition.

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|---------------|----------|------------------------|
| 1. consent | <u>c</u> | a. ability |
| 2. projection | <u>f</u> | b. measured in numbers |
| 3. phenomenal | <u>i</u> | c. to give permission |

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------|--|
| 4. integral | <u>e</u> | d. to hold back |
| 5. competence | <u>a</u> | e. very important and necessary |
| 6. magnitude | <u>h</u> | f. a guess about a measurable quantity |
| 7. interact | <u>j</u> | g. relating to heat |
| 8. quantitative | <u>b</u> | h. volume, power, or extent |
| 9. thermal | <u>g</u> | i. amazing |
| 10. constrain | <u>d</u> | j. to talk or do things with others |

C. Read the excerpt from “The Origin of the Universe.” Then answer the questions.

In the 1920s, US astronomer Edwin Hubble observed a crucial phenomenon that increased our understanding of the [origin of the universe]. Using a powerful new telescope, he identified a group of celestial objects outside our own galaxy. By observing the Doppler shift of these stars—the way the wavelengths and colors of their light changed due to their motion—he realized that they were receding from our own position in the universe. In fact, all the observable galaxies were moving away from each other, too. Furthermore, the more distant the galaxy, the faster it was moving away. This observed acceleration implied the universe was expanding.

Hubble’s observation led to the assumption that at some point, all matter in the universe was close together. The event that started its expansion is referred to as the Big Bang. According to the Big Bang theory, time and space did not exist prior to the beginning of the expansion. Thus, the age of the universe can be calculated using the distance and the velocities of the stars traveling away from us and working backwards to find when they were all together at one point. The age of the universe is estimated to be between 12 and 14 billion years.

The Big Bang theory has led to many other theories and predictions in science. In the 1940s, physicist George Gamow realized the early universe must have been extremely hot and dense. As the universe expanded, it would cool down, and the initial hot radiation should eventually be observable as uniform radio waves throughout space. In the 1960s, Robert Wilson and Arno Penzias discovered cosmic uniform radio waves that implied a temperature of about 3 degrees above absolute zero (Kelvin). Later, technology enabled scientists to take very detailed wavelength and thermal measurements of this radiation. They confirmed that it is extremely uniform, is of the shape predicted by the theory, and has a temperature of 2.7 degrees Kelvin. This observation provides strong evidence that the Big Bang theory is valid.

1. Circle T for true or F for false.

Hubble's crucial observation was that other galaxies were accelerating away from our galaxy. **T** **F**

2. Which of the following was necessary in determining the age of the universe?

- a. The age of stars
- b. The distance of stars
- c. The size of stars
- d. The speed of stars**

3. Which of the following is true, according to the passage?

- a. George Gamow believed that the universe was hot and dense shortly before the Big Bang.
- b. Wilson and Penzias were the first to predict uniform cosmic radiation.
- c. Scientists found radiation throughout the universe at about 2.7 degrees Kelvin.**
- d. Wilson and Penzias's discoveries disproved Gamow's ideas.

D. Read the excerpt from "Mandela's Fight Against Apartheid." Then answer the questions.

Apartheid was a system of legal racial segregation enforced by the National Party government of South Africa between 1948 and 1990. It continued the more informal racial hierarchy put in place by Great Britain in the late 19th century. Apartheid formally allowed the ruling white minority in South Africa to segregate and discriminate against the vast majority: black Africans mostly, but also Asians and other people of mixed races. Under apartheid laws, South African blacks were not only denied voting rights but were also forced to stay in small sections of the country. Travel was only possible with "pass books" designed to regulate the movements of black Africans in urban areas. It was during these times that Nelson Mandela rose up as a major speaker against the injustice of apartheid.

In 1944, Mandela joined the African National Congress (ANC), a political party formed to increase the rights of the black South African population. At that time the ANC worked relatively quietly for more legal inclusion. But under the Program of Action started in 1949, it began boycotts, strikes, and civil disobedience against apartheid. In 1952, as volunteer-in-chief of the ANC's Campaign for the Defiance of Unjust Laws, Mandela organized the fight against apartheid discrimination. This led to a criminal conviction but also increased respect from his peers. He was then elected a deputy president of the ANC.

During this period Mandela came to the conclusion that violence was inevitable since the government met peaceful demands with force. Thus, in 1961 he helped

form Umkhonto we Sizwe (“Spear of the Nation,” abbreviated as MK). With MK, Mandela coordinated sabotage campaigns against military and government targets. Mandela also raised funds for MK abroad and arranged for paramilitary training of group members.

In 1962, Mandela traveled abroad illegally to gather support for the antiapartheid struggle. Upon his return he was arrested, convicted of crimes in two separate trials, and handed a life sentence. But Mandela continued to demand equality from within the confines of Robben Island Prison.

Mandela rejected an offer of release on the condition that he renounce armed struggle by stating, “What freedom am I being offered while the organization of the people remains banned? Only free men can negotiate. A prisoner cannot enter into contracts.”

1. Circle T for true or F for false.

Racial discrimination did not exist in South Africa before 1948.

T

F

2. Which is NOT true about the African National Congress, according to the passage?

- a.** It was founded by Mandela in 1944.
- b. It began taking more aggressive action in 1949.
- c. Its campaign against unjust laws was led by Mandela.
- d. It made Mandela a deputy president in the 1950s.

3. Which is NOT true about Mandela, according to the passage?

- a. He organized the destruction of government property as a protest.
- b.** He was arrested abroad and forced to return to South Africa.
- c. He was found guilty in two trials and given life in prison.
- d. He could have won release from prison by promising to give up his armed anti-apartheid activities.

E. Read the excerpt from “An Office Away from the Office.” Then answer the questions.

Employers’ attitudes toward [telecommuting] have been mixed. On one hand, employers understand that telecommuting can cut costs. The average office space costs an employer about \$10,000 per year for each worker, according to the Industrial and Technology Assistance Corporation (ITAC). In addition, offering telecommuting opportunities reduces absenteeism and improves employee retention, which both increase overall productivity. Employers also see telecommuting as a powerful recruitment tool to attract top talent. In a survey of top company CFOs, Robert Half Technology cited telecommuting as a bonus second only to a higher salary in job negotiations.

On the other hand, employers are aware of the fact that telecommuting also has some disadvantages. First of all, allowing confidential company information to leave the office can pose privacy and security concerns. A study done by the Center for Democracy and Technology showed that companies are often unable to fully implement telecommuting security policies. In addition, some telecommuters are not properly trained in protecting company data. Another risk has to do with the work style of the telecommuter. A successful telecommuter has to be independent, self-motivated, and disciplined. A telecommuter who needs constant supervision and feedback will not be successful. This can cost the company in the long run. Finally, it can be more difficult to manage a telecommuter than an on-site worker. A manager of telecommuters cannot, for instance, be a “micromanager” but must be willing to delegate responsibility. In fact, companies are finding it necessary to re-train their managers in how to supervise telecommuters.

And not all companies approve of the trend. In a move that became public when leaked memos were circulated, Yahoo! revoked its work-from-home policy and ordered all employees to report for work at the office in 2013. CEO Marissa Mayer came to Yahoo! from Google and was tasked with changing Yahoo!’s corporate culture. Unexpectedly, this included ending the popular telecommuting option. Mayer remained tight-lipped about the decision for months in spite of media interest, but eventually explained that telecommuting was not in Yahoo!’s best interests at the time. Although she did not go into detail, she mentioned the more collaborative nature of the traditional office as a key factor in the decision.

1. Circle T for true or F for false.

Telecommuting results in employees’ missing work less often. ☒ T F

2. What can be inferred from paragraph 1?

- ☒ a. Many job seekers would accept a chance to telecommute in place of a higher salary.
- b. Employers are increasingly struggling to pay for office space for their workers.
- c. Top-level managers view telecommuting more positively than low-level workers do.
- d. Most employees are more productive in offices but happier with their jobs if they telecommute.

3. Which is true, according to the passage?

- a. The security of company data has not proven a problem in telecommuting so far.
- ☒ b. Telecommuters need certain personal qualities in order to succeed.
- c. Supervising telecommuters is identical to supervising on-site workers.
- d. Marisa Mayer publicly announced the end of telecommuting at Yahoo! in 2013.