



Notes on the Practice Exam

This practice exam has three major sections to it: test, answer key with hints, and scoring guide. You'll get the most out of this practice if you make the experience as authentic as possible so carefully follow the directions below. Good luck.

Directions

Find a quiet place to spend the next hour or two. Clear away all distractions and set a timer for 45 minutes. Once you start the timer resist the urge to pause for any reason or to peek ahead at the answers and hints. Once the timer goes off stop all work on test. Use the answer key to correct your test and the scoring guide to estimate your score on this practice exam. Lastly, go back through the exam using the hints to brush up on the ones you missed.

Practice Exam 1

Passage 1: At the Lake

- Like thousands of other families here in the North Woods, my family stays two weeks at my grandparents small lake cabin every August. The
- 1
- members of my immediate family—two parents, three
- 2
- 5 children, one dog look forward to our annual vacation with varying levels of enthusiasm.
- My older sister, not an outdoorsy type of person, finds the weeks at the cabin nearly intolerable. Once there, she complains incessantly that she's hot, allergic, itchy, and boring. She lolls in the hammock
- 3
- 10 most days, complaining.
- My younger brother, conversely, readies his
- 4
- fishing paraphernalia a month in advance, and gathers
- a medley of nets and an assortment of containers to
- 5
- 15 capture and imprison the insect specimens that he
- A. NO CHANGE

B. grandparent's

C. grandparents'

D. grandparents's
 - F. NO CHANGE

G. family; two parents, three children, one dog,

H. family: two parents, three children, one dog

J. family—two parents, three children, one dog—
 - A. NO CHANGE

B. bored

C. boredom

D. is bored
 - Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would be LEAST acceptable?

F. in contrast

G. consequently

H. however

J. on the other hand
 - A. NO CHANGE

B. a medley and assortment of nets and containers

C. an assortment of nets and an assortment of containers

D. an assortment of nets and containers

intends to collect. For him, these two weeks are
6
practice for his future career in entomology. Zeus, the
dog, is his faithful companion and able assistant.

Dad always has a project to work on when we

20 go to the lake. This summer, he's replacing roof
shingles, but he only works in the mornings, so they
7
can go berry picking or canoeing in the afternoons.
Mom looks forward to our vacation the most, I think.
She is nostalgic about returning to the cabin, which I

25 can understand. Her forte is the flowers that blanket
8
the area around the cabin; her grandmother planted
the rose bushes, her mother, the lilacs, and she, my
mom, has lilies sprouting everywhere.

The other fifty weeks of the year, when we're

30 not at the lake, we live at a hectic pace amid concrete,
9
traffic, and noise. I love the hushed calm of the lake
and the serenity it evokes, and I spend most of my
time there sitting on the dock, dreaming.

My absolute favorite time of the day is the

35 early morning. All silent, save for the twitter of birds.
10

In the morning sun filters through the leaves of the
11

oaks and maples that surround our cabin, dappling the
12
earth with luminescence. I get outside before the sun
has fully announced itself and jog down the well-worn

40 trail to the lake.

If I'm early enough, and quick enough,

I'll get there before the fog lifts. I love to watch it

6. F. NO CHANGE
G. this two weeks are
H. these two weeks is
J. this two weeks were

7. A. NO CHANGE
B. he and she
C. he and Mom
D. the two of them

8. Given that all of the choices are true, which
one provides the most relevant information
with regard to the mother's nostalgia at
returning to the cabin?
F. NO CHANGE
G. which is interesting because she's not a
very nostalgic person
H. a place she frequently visited as a child
J. which has stood in these woods for over
fifty years

9. A. NO CHANGE
B. from September through August
C. when we're not on vacation
D. OMIT the underlined portion

10. F. NO CHANGE
G. All is silent, save
H. Silent, except
J. Silently,

11. A. NO CHANGE
B. In the morning sun, filters
C. In the morning, sun filters
D. In the morning sun filters,

12. The best place for the underlined portion
would be:
F. where it is now
G. after the word leaves
H. after the word earth
J. after the word luminescence (ending the
sentence with a period)

- dissipate as the sun strengthens, the far shore slowly
¹³
comes into focus as the gray curtain evaporates. By
- 45 the time I can distinguish the red canoe on the
¹⁴
 opposite side, I'm ravenous and scurry back to the
- cabin for breakfast. **15**
13. A. NO CHANGE
 B. strengthens, the far shore slowly coming
 C. strengthens the far shore, slowly comes
 D. strengthens, and the far shore slowly coming
14. F. NO CHANGE
 G. distinguished
 H. could distinguish
 J. had distinguished
15. Which of the following sentences, if inserted here, would best conclude the narrative?
 A. After breakfast, we're all going on a hike around the lake.
 B. On the way, I see my brother and Zeus sniffing through the trees.
 C. Mom most likely has my favorite fresh blueberry muffins waiting for me.
 D. Even in August, it's a little brisk in the early mornings near the lake.