



# TSIA ELAR - CRC Test 1

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# English Language Arts and Reading

## Instructions

The TSIA English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR) tests focus on reading and writing skills that have been identified as essential for college and career readiness. Answer each question to the best of your ability.

### Passage

(1) I reached the house as the sun sunk behind the horizon, turning the long, feathered clouds an array of red and orange. It instilled in me some sense of impending doom—the sky lit up in fire at the end of the world, all napalm and sulfur. (2) Though, of course even then I understood that it was the project ahead that was daunting, not the sunset. (3) In my pocket, I had the letter from the city saying that the entire property had to be cleaned out by the end of the month, or they’d issue a forced foreclosure.

(4) You had left the house in disrepair. It had deteriorated since the last time I saw it, though it had always had a gently-dilapidated way about it, even when I was a child. (5) The city wasn’t wrong—it had to be cleaned out, that much was clear even from the driveway. (6) The lawn was a tangle of overgrown weeds, swallowing up the rusted frame of an old VW van that had been there for as long as I could remember. (7) Even the porch was crowded with boxes of unused tools, stacks of magazines and newspapers, and broken TVs and microwaves.

(8) I tried not to think about you (as I couldn’t, at that time, think of you without remembering those final, terrible days in the hospital, waiting at your bedside, though by then you didn’t recognize me), but there was no way not to. (9) As I walked to the front door, there was half-rotted step that you used to help me jump over, holding my hands in yours. (10) I remembered the way the door stuck, and you’d have to jam your shoulder against it to open it, the red welcome mat that you loved, now a sickly brown from years of shoes, the overstuffed armchair where I used to sit on your lap and you used to tell me stories.

(11) The inside of the house was far more overstuffed with things than I remembered—just like the porch and the lawn outside. (12) Your doctors had warned me that the compulsion had become more intense in the last few years, but it was still startling to see. (13) A small path was carved between towering piles of stuff winded through the house. (14) As I walked through it, careful not to disturb the leaning cliffs on either side, I was nearly overcome with a wave of guilt that I had spent the last few years of your life more than 1,000 miles away.

1.  
In sentence 2 “the project” clearly refers to

- A the narrator’s writing
- B cleaning out the house
- C the narrator’s journey to the house
- D the impending foreclosure

2.

Descriptions of the sunset and house are similar in that both descriptions

- A evoke a sense of longing for the past
- B contrast the narrator's emotional turmoil with the beauty of the world
- C highlight the narrator's feelings of grief and dread
- D contain images of violence and death

3.

Details in the passage suggest that the house

- A is the narrator's childhood home
- B has been recently purchased by the narrator
- C is newly constructed
- D has a reputation for being haunted

4.

When the narrator uses the pronoun "you" they are most likely speaking of

- A a parent
- B a sibling
- C the reader
- D a romantic partner

5.

Passage 1

Is obesity a disease? The medical community has long debated the precise definition of obesity and how it can be diagnosed. Sure, the condition can be defined as an excess of body fat, but some of the diagnostic tools used to measure the excess are outdated, like BMI. BMI (or one’s weight divided by the square of one’s height) was never meant to be a diagnostic tool used to determine whether or not someone is unhealthy. In fact, there’s no medical consensus on the symptoms that make obesity a disease. Now that there are revolutionary drugs available, like Ozempic, diagnosing obesity becomes a question crucial in determining how to allocate available resources. Though 40% of American adults have a BMI that can classify them as obese, not every one of those adults is sick. We need to determine gauges other than BMI to determine who benefits most from recent advancements in medicine.

Passage 2

Whether obesity is a disease or not should not be up for debate. In fact, disregarding it as a medical condition is dangerous. The American Medical Association classified obesity as a disease in 2013, and this designation led to funded research studies, incredibly effective new drugs, and the overall reduction of stigma. Ambiguity leads to neglect in care for a complex medical condition. What the medical community needs is to establish uniform standards.

The authors of both passages would characterize recent advancements in obesity medicine as generally being

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| A | uncertain     |
| B | life-changing |
| C | insignificant |
| D | surprising    |

6.

**Passage 1**

Working remotely offers a huge range of benefits for worker productivity, wellness, and job satisfaction. Employees who can choose their working environments and are not required to come to an office space save time and money from commuting and gain more time for their personal lives. Further, they can personalize their working environment, which supports focus and productivity. From the employer side, saving costs of an office space allows for more money to be reinvested in the business. Remote work is a new frontier offering mutually beneficial possibilities for both employees and employers alike.

**Passage 2**

Despite the apparent perks of working remotely, in reality, the practice is harmful for the well-being of both employees and their employers. When working remotely, staff members are often isolated and their work suffers from lack of collaboration. Without natural avenues for co-working and communication, there is often poor cohesion across departments. With regard to staff health, many workers find that remote work blurs boundaries between personal and professional life, contributing to burnout. While it can be tempting for employers to prioritize the money saved by forgoing an office workplace, they would be wise to consider a hybrid option that maximizes the potential benefits of remote work and counteracts its many risks.

The author of Passage 2 would probably respond to the last sentence of Passage 1 (“Remote work...employers alike”) by

- A asserting that remote work is better for employees than it is for employers
- B agreeing that remote work is a great opportunity for everyone involved
- C suggesting that workers don't save very much money from skipping their commute
- D arguing that the benefits of remote work may not be as great as they seem

7.

It's hard to believe that the first cell phone was used in just 1973, given how integral they are in our daily lives now. However, that first cell phones were far different from the modern phones we know today—the devices weren't even portable until the 1980s! "Smartphones" entered the market in the 1990s, marking the beginning of today's era where we carry small computers everywhere we go.

All of the following statements about cell phones discussed in the passage are true EXCEPT

- A the first cell phones were not portable
- B cell phones are very prevalent in our daily lives
- C cell phones were invented in the 1990s
- D smartphones are like small computers

8.

The invention of duct tape in 1943 was the brainchild of a woman working in a munitions factory. She noticed paper tape was performing quite poorly in keeping boxes securely closed, and frequently was so damaged from water and travel that soldiers could not open the new ammunition quickly when urgently needed. Whether motivated by concerns about her two sons currently serving in the US Navy or patriotic commitment, Vesta Stoudt was determined to introduce a better tool. Initially deterred by her superiors when sharing the idea, she then wrote, explaining the issue, directly to President Roosevelt, who fast tracked the idea to mass production.

In context, "deterred" (sentence 4) most nearly means

- A intimidated
- B discouraged
- C forbidden
- D appreciated

9.

Equipment used for camping, hiking, and other outdoor adventuring needs to be durable, lightweight, and weather resistant in order to provide safety and comfort. Traditionally, such gear was made from heavy fabrics like cotton. Today, synthetic materials like nylon and polyester are preferred because they are lightweight and durable. Current trends in adventure gear include interest in eco-friendly materials as well as modular products that can be customized according to individual needs and preferences.

It can be inferred from the passage that outdoor activity gear products

- A are declining in quality since they started being made from synthetic materials
- B necessitate a greater investment of labor to fabricate than clothing designed for indoor-use
- C adapt to reflect issues in the social consciousness, like climate awareness
- D are less popular with the public than they were in previous decades

10.

In the 1960s, Jane Goodall was the first to discover that chimpanzees make gestures to one another. Since Goodall's initial discovery, other primatologists have identified eighty gestures made by chimpanzees, bonobos, gorillas, and orangutans. Researchers theorized that the gestures came from "ritualization." A baby ape points to his mother's mouth when he wants food, which makes the mom give him food, and then the baby knows that doing the gesture again will successfully attain him food. However, this theory has been disproven, because of how consistent some of the gestures are across different ape species. In light of this, scientists have hypothesized that the gestures are encoded in the genes of apes, the way courtship dances are encoded in a bird's DNA.

The author uses the term "ritualization" to indicate that some scientists thought apes developed gestures

- A through a genetic disposition
- B in the process of imitating other apes
- C through habitual repetition
- D by being taught by their mothers

11.

Though the prevalence of the male genius figure in the history of computer science (Alan Turing, Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, etc.) might suggest that the industry's trailblazers were largely men, such a view tends to overlook certain figures like 19th century female scholar Ada Lovelace, who is generally regarded as the world's first computer programmer. She worked with engineers, mathematicians, and inventors as they developed early computers and explored the frontiers of science. Her biggest legacy is her writings demonstrating recognition that computers could do far more than calculations, envisioning their capacity for creating music and art.

According to the passage, Ada Lovelace

- A invented the personal computer
- B is well-respected for her contributions to computer science
- C was a visionary in her field
- D was successful despite a poor education

12.

The musician Prince was a groundbreaking, audacious artist who has inspired scores of international fans. He found huge fame in the 1970s and 1980s in hits such as "Purple Rain" and "Kiss," producing and writing most of the music himself. Interestingly, he recorded over 500 songs in his musical career and many remain unreleased. Throughout his career, he not only pushed boundaries by mixing musical genres, but also in flamboyant, daring performances. As further evidence of his true artist spirit, Prince famously changed his name to an unpronounceable symbol amidst a dispute with his record label and was successfully released from his contract.

In sentence 1, the word "audacious" most nearly means

- A well-trained
- B famous
- C bold
- D emotional



13.

Pomegranates are a uniquely structured fruit with high nutritional value. The pomegranate fruit is characterized by a rough outer skin and soft inner membrane full of chambers. Within each chamber, there are small, juicy pieces with tiny seeds inside called arils. Full of antioxidants and other nutrients, both pomegranate juice and pomegranate arils are favorites among many health-conscious consumers. The distinct structure of the fruit contributes not only to its interesting visual appeal, but also its resilience, as it ensures efficient seed dispersal after animals eat it.

According to the passage, the structure of pomegranates mainly contributes to the fruit's

A	colors
B	flavor
C	survival
D	popularity

14.

Artificial intelligence is increasingly present in everyday life, which instigates many discussions about ethics and human behavior. However, while considering the risks of growing reliance on such technology, we should not forget its everyday benefits for some individuals in particular. Having such advanced technology accessible at home makes independence possible for the elderly or those with disabilities, from robots adjusting the home temperature to monitoring important health indicators. Robot assistance powered by artificial intelligence has the potential to ensure the health and dignity of many who may require expensive and constant support otherwise.

In the sentence 1, “instigates” most nearly means

A	contradicts
B	argues
C	starts
D	balances

15.

In the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson declared the rights to “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” Of the three, “the pursuit of happiness” appears the most opaque for contemporary understanding. Most of us think of the meaning as chasing happiness. However, at the time of its usage, pursuit meant practicing happiness, not running after it. Reframing “the pursuit of happiness” as an *experience* of happiness shows us that the founding fathers declared a right to a good life and emphasized the government’s responsibilities in providing it for its citizens.

What is the main purpose of this passage?

- A To clarify the meaning of a misunderstood term in the Declaration of Independence
- B To outline the responsibilities of the American government to its people
- C To critique the Declaration of Independence’s usage of a certain phrase
- D To portray Thomas Jefferson's frame of mind while writing the Declaration of Independence

Passage

(1) On a muggy midsummer Baltimore day, I wandered into the air-conditioned sanctum of the Baltimore Museum of Art, notebook and pen in hand. (2) I was here on a secret poetry mission, having just received a phone call informing me that I would be representing the Northeast as a 2016 National Student Poet. (3) The first assignment popped into my inbox soon after the momentous phone call. (4) I was to travel to the nearest museum and write a persona poem about a piece of artwork.

(5) At first I shuffled through the older art, uncertain, my brain just bouncing back off the gilt-encrusted religious triptychs and the fantastically pompous portraits of royalty. (6) I was faced with the opposite issue in the modern galleries—given hyper-minimalist geometric figures, my imagination delved in too deep, giving me far too wide a scope to whittle into a poem. (7) I had dabbled with persona poems before, enjoying the opportunity to embody another speaker's voice, and the capacity for empathy that the style allows.

(8) A little panicky, I stumbled almost by accident into a small gallery off the main courtyard. (9) Occupying a back wall, I encountered Joyce J. Scott's artwork for the first time. (10) Joyce uses beadwork, glass, and jewelry to create powerful works of art, often with ties to social injustices, race, and gender. (11) Her "Nuanced Veil" drew my eye, with its wild energy and colors. (12) I turned to a fresh journal page and quickly transcribed the words that were flashing in my head, quick and fiery and snappish.

(13) I was struck by the parallels between beadwork and poetry. (14) We both use small units (beads and words) strung together in beautiful, sometimes shocking patterns. (15) Both art forms have a spark of something elemental earth and glass to make beads, breath to make words and language. (16) We take what's scattered and disparate and make something cohesive. (17) This is the power of art and poetry— to gather the fragments and bits and make something recognizable again.

16.

Which choice most effectively combines sentences 3 and 4 (reproduced below) at the underlined portion?

*The first assignment popped into my inbox soon after the momentous phone call. I was to travel to the nearest museum and write a persona poem about a piece of artwork.*

A	call,
B	call—this being to
C	call, and I was to
D	call: to

17.

Which is the most logical placement for sentence 7 (reproduced below)?

*I had dabbled with persona poems before, enjoying the opportunity to embody another speaker's voice, and the capacity for empathy that the style allows.*

A	Where it is now
B	Before sentence 5
C	Before sentence 6
D	After sentence 8

18.

In sentence 11 (reproduced below), the writer wants to echo the themes from sentence 12. Which version of the underlined portion best accomplishes that goal?

Her “Nuanced Veil” drew my eye, with its wild energy and colors.

A	(as it is now)
B	subtle
C	warm
D	balanced

19.

Which is the best version of the underlined portion of sentence 15 (reproduced below)?

Both art forms have a spark of something elemental earth and glass to make beads, breath to make words and language.

A	(as it is now)
B	elemental,
C	elemental:
D	elemental;

20.

Because novelist Shirley Hazzard was born in Australia and moved to the United States when she was twenty; her fiction prominently features displaced characters who grapple with a sense of statelessness.

A	twenty; her fiction
B	twenty, her fiction
C	twenty; thus giving her fiction
D	wenty, and therefore her fiction

21.

A picky eater, her aunt's goulash went uneaten.

- A her aunt's goulash went uneaten
- B she refused to eat her aunt's goulash
- C she having eaten her aunt's goulash
- D her aunt's goulash being uneaten

22.

Students in the classroom shared their excitement for a new student by decorating colorful cards.

- A their
- B its
- C one's
- D her

23.

Fad diets that promise quick and effortless results and they usually harm an individual's health.

- A that promise quick and effortless results and they usually harm
- B that promise quick and effortless results usually harm
- C that promise quick and effortless results and which usually harm
- D promise quick and effortless results and usually harming

24.

Going for a jog, which is a common exercise sometimes used as an aerobic fitness test to determine a person's overall fitness.

- A jog, which is a common exercise
- B jog, a common exercise,
- C jog being a common exercise
- D jog is a common exercise

25.

While I finish my current project, I will ask for a new assignment from my manager.

- A While
- B After
- C Until
- D Unless

26.

With the rising cost of pharmaceuticals, and some patients being unable to get care.

- A With the rising cost of pharmaceuticals, and some patients being
- B With the rising cost of pharmaceuticals, some patients are
- C With the cost of pharmaceuticals rising so much, and some patients
- D Cost of pharmaceuticals rising so much, some patients are therefore

27.

Trained by their caretakers, dogs are usually healthier and safer than dogs without any training.

A

Trained by their caretakers, dogs are usually healthier and safer

B

Dogs which are trained by their caretakers are usually healthier and safer

C

Dogs are trained by their caretakers, as a result they are usually healthier and safer

D

Dogs trained by their caretakers, they are usually healthier and safer

28.

Even though my mother visited Austin, she can't stop talking about how crowded she found every restaurant.

A

Even though my mother visited

B

My mother visited

C

Ever since my mother visited

D

Whenever visiting

29.

The dugong, being a whale-like marine mammal that inhabits warm coastal water and grazes on seagrass, has been in danger of extinction because of the loss of seagrass in their habitats.

A

dugong, being a

B

dugong and a

C

dugong, a

D

dugong, it is a

30.

With their soaring, adventurous anthems and emotional tones, the soundtrack of the movie *Titanic* is nearly as well-known as the movie itself.

A

With their soaring, adventurous anthems and emotional tones,

B

With its soaring, adventurous anthems and emotional tones,

C

It has soaring, adventurous anthems and emotional tones,

D

Because of their soaring, adventurous anthems and emotional tones,

31.

**Passage:**

You may have heard the anecdote all the cells in our body are replaced every 7 years, and while the truth is a little more complex (some cells can take up 15 years to regenerate while others regenerate weekly) it is more or less true that every decade our bodies are made up of entirely different cells than they were the previously decade. This brings up philosophical questions about how much of us remains the same if we're constantly being replaced?

**Assignment:**

Do we remain the same person our entire lives or does someone change enough in that time to be considered a "new person"?

Plan and write a multiparagraph essay (300-600 words) in which you develop your point of view on the above question. Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, studies, or observations.