

PSAT Reading Practice Test 3

Passage – 1

The passages below are followed by several questions about their content. Read each passage carefully and answer the questions based on what is stated or implied in the text.

The worst and longest economic crisis in the modern industrial world, the Great Depression in the United States had devastating consequences for American society. At its worst (1932–1933), more than 16 million people were unemployed, more than 5,000 banks had closed, and over 85,000 businesses had failed. Millions of Americans lost their jobs, their savings, and even their homes. The homeless built shacks for (5) temporary shelter—these emerging shantytowns were nicknamed “Hooverilles,” a bitter homage to President Herbert Hoover, who refused to give government assistance to the jobless. Farmers were hit especially hard. A severe drought coupled with the economic crisis ruined small farms throughout the Great Plains as productive farmland turned to dust and crop prices dropped by 50%. The effects of the American depression—severe unemployment rates and a sharp drop in the production and sales of goods—could also be felt abroad, where many European nations were still struggling to recover from World War I.

Q1. The passage is most likely an introduction to which of the following?

- A. a discussion of the global impact of the Great Depression
- B. an account of the causes and effects of the Great Depression
- C. a proposal for changes in how the government handles economic crises
- D. a history of unemployment in the United States
- E. a comparison of economic conditions in the 1930s and that of today

Answer: ____

Q2. The author cites the emergence of “Hooverilles” (line 5) as an example of

- A. federally sponsored housing programs
- B. the resilience of Americans who lost their jobs, savings, and homes
- C. the government’s unwillingness to assist citizens in desperate circumstances
- D. a new kind of social program introduced by the government
- E. the effectiveness of the Hoover administration in dealing with the crisis

Answer: ____

Q3. In line 7, coupled most nearly means

- A. eloped
- B. allied
- C. centralized
- D. combined
- E. associated

Answer: ____

Passage – 2

Snake venom is one of the most effective methods of self-preservation in the animal kingdom. It is, essentially, toxic saliva composed of different enzymes that immobilizes prey. One type of toxin, known as a hemotoxin, targets the victim’s circulatory system and muscle tissue. The other is called a neurotoxin, and it affects the nervous system by causing heart failure or breathing difficulties. Although deadly, some snake (5) venoms have been found to have curative properties. In fact, toxinologists, herpetologists, and other scientists have used the venom of a Brazilian snake to develop a class of drugs that is used to treat hypertension.

Q4. What is the best synonym for *immobilizes* as it is used in line 2?

- A. movement
- B. dislocates
- C. daunts
- D. sensitizes
- E. incapacitates

Answer: ____

Q5. The final sentence of the passage (lines 5–6) serves primarily to

- A. explain how medicines are derived from snake venom
- B. show how evolutionarily advanced snakes are
- C. provide evidence to support the statement made in the previous sentence
- D. suggest that Brazilian snakes have more curative venom than other snakes
- E. introduce the idea that there is a special class of drugs used to treat hypertension

Answer: ____

Passage – 3

About the Aristotle’s view on friendship.

If you have ever studied philosophers, you have surely been exposed to the teachings of Aristotle. A great thinker, Aristotle examines ideas such as eudaimonia (happiness), virtue, friendship, pleasure, and other character traits of human beings in his works. In his writings, Aristotle suggests that the goal of all human beings is to achieve happiness. Everything that we do, then, is for this purpose, even when our actions do not explicitly demonstrate this. For instance, Aristotle reasons that even when we seek out friendships, (5) we are indirectly aspiring to be happy, for it is through our friendships, we believe, that we will find happiness. Aristotle asserts that there are three reasons why we choose to be friends with someone: because he is virtuous, because he has something to offer to us, or because he is pleasant. When two people are equally virtuous, Aristotle classifies their friendship as perfect. When, however, there is a disparity between the two friends’ moral fiber; or when one friend is using the other for personal gain and or (10) pleasure alone, Aristotle claims that the friendship is imperfect. In a perfect friendship—in this example, let’s call one person friend A and the other friend B—friend A wishes friend B success for his own sake. Friend A and friend B spend time together and learn from each other, and make similar decisions. Aristotle claims, though, that a relationship of this type is merely a reflection of our relationship with ourselves. (15) In other words, we want success for ourselves, we spend time alone with ourselves, and we make the same kinds of decisions over and over again. So, a question that Aristotle raises, then, is: Is friendship really another form of self-love?

Q6. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. introduce the reader to philosophy
- B. suggest that Aristotle was a great thinker
- C. show that human beings are egoistic hedonists
- D. introduce one aspect of Aristotle’s philosophy
- E. pose a question for the reader to ponder

Answer: ____

Q7. According to Aristotle, helping a friend get the job she always wanted by writing a recommendation letter would be an example of

- A. a virtuous person
- B. an unselfish act
- C. someone in a perfect friendship
- D. someone who has self-love
- E. a person who wants success for all

Answer: ____

Q8. The word *disparity* in line 9 means

- A. similarity
- B. anomaly
- C. fluctuation
- D. incongruity
- E. shift

Answer: ____

Q9. According to the passage, if A befriends B only because A enjoys B's sense of humor, this would imply that

- A. B is not a virtuous person
- B. A is a virtuous person
- C. both A and B are virtuous people
- D. A and B are involved in a perfect friendship
- E. A and B are involved in an imperfect friendship

Answer: ____

Q10. In the last sentence (lines 16–17), the author's purpose is to

- A. demonstrate that human beings are selfish
- B. extrapolate one of Aristotle's points on friendships
- C. leave the reader in a quandary
- D. justify human beings' behavior
- E. illustrate for the reader that Aristotle's teachings are complex

Answer: ____

Answers Keys and Explanation Link

<https://gotestprep.com/psat-reading-practice-test-3/>