

# READING

This section measures your ability to understand academic passages in English.

There are three passages in the section. Give yourself 20 minutes to read each passage and answer the questions about it. The entire section will take 60 minutes to complete.

You may look back at a passage when answering the questions. You can skip questions and go back to them later as long as there is time remaining.

**Directions:** Read the passage. Then answer the questions. Give yourself 20 minutes to complete this practice set.

### DEER POPULATIONS OF THE PUGET SOUND

Two species of deer have been prevalent in the Puget Sound area of Washington state in the Pacific Northwest of the United States. The black-tailed deer, a lowland, west-side cousin of the mule deer of eastern Washington, is now the most common. The other species, the Columbian white-tailed deer, in earlier times was common in the open prairie country; it is now restricted to the low, marshy islands and flood plains along the lower Columbia River.

Nearly any kind of plant of the forest understory can be part of a deer's diet. Where the forest inhibits the growth of grass and other meadow plants, the black-tailed deer browses on huckleberry, salal, dogwood, and almost any other shrub or herb. But this is fair-weather feeding. What keeps the black-tailed deer alive in the harsher seasons of plant decay and dormancy? One compensation for not hibernating is the built-in urge to migrate. Deer may move from high-elevation browse areas in summer down to the lowland areas in late fall. Even with snow on the ground, the high bushy understory is exposed; also snow and wind bring down leafy branches of cedar, hemlock, red alder, and other arboreal fodder.

The numbers of deer have fluctuated markedly since the entry of Europeans into Puget Sound country. The early explorers and settlers told of abundant deer in the early 1800s and yet almost in the same breath bemoaned the lack of this succulent game animal. Famous explorers of the North American frontier, Lewis and Clark arrived at the mouth of the Columbia River on November 14, 1805, in nearly starved circumstances. They had experienced great difficulty finding game west of the Rockies and not until the second of December did they kill their first elk. To keep 40 people alive that winter, they consumed approximately 150 elk and 20 deer. And when game moved out of the lowlands in early spring, the expedition decided to return east rather than face possible starvation. Later on in the early years of the nineteenth century, when Fort Vancouver became the headquarters for the Hudson's Bay Company, deer populations continued to fluctuate. David Douglas, Scottish botanical explorer of the 1830s, found a disturbing change in the animal life around the fort during the period between his first visit in 1825 and his final contact with the fort in 1832. A recent Douglas biographer states: "The deer which once picturesquely dotted the meadows around the fort were gone [in 1832], hunted to extermination in order to protect the crops."

Reduction in numbers of game should have boded ill for their survival in later times. A worsening of the plight of deer was to be expected as settlers encroached on the land, logging, burning, and clearing, eventually replacing a wilderness landscape with roads, cities, towns, and factories. No doubt the numbers of deer declined still further. Recall the fate of the Columbian white-tailed deer, now in a protected status. But for the black-tailed deer, human pressure has had just the opposite effect. Wildlife zoologist Helmut Buechner (1953), in reviewing the nature of biotic changes in Washington through recorded time, says that "since the early 1940s, the state has

had more deer than at any other time in its history, the winter population fluctuating around approximately 320,000 deer (mule and black-tailed deer), which will yield about 65,000 of either sex and any age annually for an indefinite period.”

The causes of this population rebound are consequences of other human actions. First, the major predators of deer—wolves, cougar, and lynx—have been greatly reduced in numbers. Second, conservation has been insured by limiting times for and types of hunting. But the most profound reason for the restoration of high population numbers has been the fate of the forests. Great tracts of lowland country deforested by logging, fire, or both have become ideal feeding grounds for deer. In addition to finding an increase of suitable browse, like huckleberry and vine maple, Arthur Einarsen, longtime game biologist in the Pacific Northwest, found quality of browse in the open areas to be substantially more nutritive. The protein content of shade-grown vegetation, for example, was much lower than that for plants grown in clearings.

**Directions:** Now answer the questions.

P  
A  
R  
A  
G  
R  
A  
P  
H  
1

Two species of deer have been prevalent in the Puget Sound area of Washington state in the Pacific Northwest of the United States. The black-tailed deer, a lowland, west-side cousin of the mule deer of eastern Washington, is now the most common. The other species, the Columbian white-tailed deer, in earlier times was common in the open prairie country; it is now restricted to the low, marshy islands and flood plains along the lower Columbia River.

1. According to paragraph 1, which of the following is true of the white-tailed deer of Puget Sound?
  - (A) It is native to lowlands and marshes.
  - (B) It is more closely related to the mule deer of eastern Washington than to other types of deer.
  - (C) It has replaced the black-tailed deer in the open prairie.
  - (D) It no longer lives in a particular type of habitat that it once occupied.

Nearly any kind of plant of the forest understory can be part of a deer's diet. Where the forest **inhibits** the growth of grass and other meadow plants, the black-tailed deer browses on huckleberry, salal, dogwood, and almost any other shrub or herb. But this is fair-weather feeding. What keeps the black-tailed deer alive in the harsher seasons of plant decay and dormancy? One compensation for not hibernating is the built-in urge to migrate. Deer may move from high-elevation browse areas in summer down to the lowland areas in late fall. Even with snow on the ground, the high bushy understory is exposed; also snow and wind bring down leafy branches of cedar, hemlock, red alder, and other arboreal fodder.

2. It can be inferred from the discussion in paragraph 2 that winter conditions
  - (A) cause some deer to hibernate
  - (B) make food unavailable in the highlands for deer
  - (C) make it easier for deer to locate understory plants
  - (D) prevent deer from migrating during the winter
  
3. The word "**inhibits**" in the passage is closest in meaning to
  - (A) consists of
  - (B) combines
  - (C) restricts
  - (D) establishes

The numbers of deer have fluctuated markedly since the entry of Europeans into Puget Sound country. The early explorers and settlers told of abundant deer in the early 1800s and yet almost **in the same breath** bemoaned the lack of this succulent game animal. Famous explorers of the North American frontier, Lewis and Clark arrived at the mouth of the Columbia River on November 14, 1805, in nearly starved circumstances. They had experienced great difficulty finding game west of the Rockies and not until the second of December did they kill their first elk. To keep 40 people alive that winter, they consumed approximately 150 elk and 20 deer. And when game moved out of the lowlands in early spring, the expedition decided to return east rather than face possible starvation. Later on in the early years of the nineteenth century, when Fort Vancouver became the headquarters for the Hudson's Bay Company, deer populations continued to fluctuate. David Douglas, Scottish botanical explorer of the 1830s, found a disturbing change in the animal life around the fort during the period between his first visit in 1825 and his final contact with the fort in 1832. A recent Douglas biographer states: "The deer which once picturesquely dotted the meadows around the fort were gone [in 1832], hunted to extermination in order to protect the crops."

4. The phrase "**in the same breath**" in the passage is closest in meaning to
  - (A) impatiently
  - (B) humorously
  - (C) continuously
  - (D) immediately

5. The author tells the story of the explorers Lewis and Clark in paragraph 3 in order to illustrate which of the following points?
- (A) The number of deer within the Puget Sound region has varied over time.
  - (B) Most of the explorers who came to the Puget Sound area were primarily interested in hunting game.
  - (C) There was more game for hunting in the East of the United States than in the West.
  - (D) Individual explorers were not as successful at locating game as were the trading companies.
6. According to paragraph 3, how had Fort Vancouver changed by the time David Douglas returned in 1832?
- (A) The fort had become the headquarters for the Hudson's Bay Company.
  - (B) Deer had begun populating the meadows around the fort.
  - (C) Deer populations near the fort had been destroyed.
  - (D) Crop yields in the area around the fort had decreased.

PARAGRAPH  
4

Reduction in numbers of game should have boded ill for their survival in later times. A worsening of the plight of deer was to be expected as settlers encroached on the land, logging, burning, and clearing, eventually replacing a wilderness landscape with roads, cities, towns, and factories. No doubt the numbers of deer declined still further. Recall the fate of the Columbian white-tailed deer, now in a protected status. But for the black-tailed deer, human pressure has had just the opposite effect. Wildlife zoologist Helmut Buechner (1953), in reviewing the nature of biotic changes in Washington through recorded time, says that "since the early 1940s, the state has had more deer than at any other time in its history, the winter population fluctuating around approximately 320,000 deer (mule and black-tailed deer), which will yield about 65,000 of either sex and any age annually for an indefinite period."

7. Why does the author ask readers to recall "the fate of the Columbian white-tailed deer" in the discussion of changes in the wilderness landscape?
- (A) To provide support for the idea that habitat destruction would lead to population decline
  - (B) To compare how two species of deer caused biotic changes in the wilderness environment
  - (C) To provide an example of a species of deer that has successfully adapted to human settlement
  - (D) To argue that some deer species must be given a protected status
8. The phrase "indefinite period" in the passage is closest in meaning to a period
- (A) whose end has not been determined
  - (B) that does not begin when expected
  - (C) that lasts only briefly
  - (D) whose importance remains unknown

9. Which of the following statements about deer populations is supported by the information in paragraph 4?
- Ⓐ Deer populations reached their highest point during the 1940s and then began to decline.
  - Ⓑ The activities of settlers contributed in unexpected ways to the growth of some deer populations in later times.
  - Ⓒ The clearing of wilderness land for construction caused biotic changes from which the black-tailed deer population has never recovered.
  - Ⓓ Since the 1940s the winter populations of deer have fluctuated more than the summer populations have.

PARAGRAPH 5

The causes of this population rebound are consequences of other human actions. First, the major predators of deer—wolves, cougar, and lynx—have been greatly reduced in numbers. Second, conservation has been insured by limiting times for and types of hunting. But the most profound reason for the restoration of high population numbers has been the fate of the forests. Great tracts of lowland country deforested by logging, fire, or both have become ideal feeding grounds for deer. In addition to finding an increase of suitable browse, like huckleberry and vine maple, Arthur Einarsen, longtime game biologist in the Pacific Northwest, found quality of browse in the open areas to be substantially more nutritive. The protein content of shade-grown vegetation, for example, was much lower than that for plants grown in clearings.

10. The word “rebound” in the passage is closest in meaning to
- Ⓐ decline
  - Ⓑ recovery
  - Ⓒ exchange
  - Ⓓ movement
11. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in paragraph 5? Incorrect choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.
- Ⓐ Arthur Einarsen’s longtime familiarity with the Pacific Northwest helped him discover areas where deer had an increase in suitable browse.
  - Ⓑ Arthur Einarsen found that deforested feeding grounds provided deer with more and better food.
  - Ⓒ Biologists like Einarsen believe it is important to find additional open areas with suitable browse for deer to inhabit.
  - Ⓓ According to Einarsen, huckleberry and vine maple are examples of vegetation that may someday improve the nutrition of deer in the open areas of the Pacific Northwest.

12. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in paragraph 5 as a factor that has increased deer populations?
- (A) A reduction in the number of predators
  - (B) Restrictions on hunting
  - (C) The effects of logging and fire
  - (D) Laws that protect feeding grounds of deer

What keeps the black-tailed deer alive in the harsher seasons of plant decay and dormancy? One compensation for not hibernating is the built-in urge to migrate. ■ Deer may move from high-elevation browse areas in summer down to the lowland areas in late fall. ■ Even with snow on the ground, the high bushy understory is exposed; also snow and wind bring down leafy branches of cedar, hemlock, red alder, and other arboreal fodder. ■

The numbers of deer have fluctuated markedly since the entry of Europeans into Puget Sound country. ■ The early explorers and settlers told of abundant deer in the early 1800s and yet almost in the same breath bemoaned the lack of this succulent game animal.

13. Look at the four squares [■] that indicate where the following sentence can be added to the passage.

**There food is available and accessible throughout the winter.**

Where would the sentence best fit?

- (A) What keeps the black-tailed deer alive in the harsher seasons of plant decay and dormancy? One compensation for not hibernating is the built-in urge to migrate. **There food is available and accessible throughout the winter.** Deer may move from high-elevation browse areas in summer down to the lowland areas in late fall. ■ Even with snow on the ground, the high bushy understory is exposed; also snow and wind bring down leafy branches of cedar, hemlock, red alder, and other arboreal fodder. ■  
The numbers of deer have fluctuated markedly since the entry of Europeans into Puget Sound country. ■ The early explorers and settlers told of abundant deer in the early 1800s and yet almost in the same breath bemoaned the lack of this succulent game animal.
- (B) What keeps the black-tailed deer alive in the harsher seasons of plant decay and dormancy? One compensation for not hibernating is the built-in urge to migrate. ■ Deer may move from high-elevation browse areas in summer down to the lowland areas in late fall. **There food is available and accessible throughout the winter.** Even with snow on the ground, the high bushy understory is exposed; also snow and wind bring down leafy branches of cedar, hemlock, red alder, and other arboreal fodder. ■

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The numbers of deer have fluctuated markedly since the entry of Europeans into Puget Sound country. ■ The early explorers and settlers told of abundant deer in the early 1800s and yet almost in the same breath bemoaned the lack of this succulent game animal.

- Ⓓ What keeps the black-tailed deer alive in the harsher seasons of plant decay and dormancy? One compensation for not hibernating is the built-in urge to migrate. ■ Deer may move from high-elevation browse areas in summer down to the lowland areas in late fall. ■ Even with snow on the ground, the high bushy understory is exposed; also snow and wind bring down leafy branches of cedar, hemlock, red alder, and other arboreal fodder. ■

The numbers of deer have fluctuated markedly since the entry of Europeans into Puget Sound country. **There food is available and accessible throughout the winter.** The early explorers and settlers told of abundant deer in the early 1800s and yet almost in the same breath bemoaned the lack of this succulent game animal.

14. **Directions:** An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is provided below. Complete the summary by selecting the THREE answer choices that express the most important ideas in the passage. Some sentences do not belong in the summary because they express ideas that are not presented in the passage or are minor ideas in the passage.

Write your answer choices in the spaces where they belong. You can either write the letter of your answer choice or you can copy the sentence.

**Deer in the Puget Sound area eat a wide variety of foods and migrate seasonally to find food.**

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**Answer Choices**

- A** The balance of deer species in the Puget Sound region has changed over time, with the Columbian white-tailed deer now outnumbering other types of deer.
- B** Because Puget Sound deer migrate, it was and still remains difficult to determine accurately how many deer are living at any one time in the western United States.
- C** Deer populations naturally fluctuate, but early settlers in the Puget Sound environment caused an overall decline in the deer populations of the area at that time.
- D** Although it was believed that human settlement of the American West would cause the total number of deer to decrease permanently, the opposite has actually occurred for certain types of deer.
- E** In the long term, black-tailed deer in the Puget Sound area have benefitted from human activities through the elimination of their natural predators, and more and better food in deforested areas.
- F** Wildlife biologists have long been concerned that the loss of forests may create nutritional deficiencies for deer.

# LISTENING

**Directions:** This section measures your ability to understand conversations and lectures in English.

Listen to each conversation and lecture only one time. After each conversation and lecture, you will answer some questions about it. Answer each question based on what is stated or implied by the speakers.

You may take notes while you listen and use your notes to help you answer the questions. Your notes will **not** be scored.

In some questions you will see this icon: . This means that you will hear, but not see, the question.

Answer each question before moving on. Do not return to previous questions.

It will take about 60 minutes to listen to the conversations and lectures and answer the questions about them.

**Directions:** Listen to Track 1. 



**Directions:** Now answer the questions.

1. Why does the man need the woman's assistance? *Choose 2 answers.*
  - A He does not know the publication date of some reviews he needs.
  - B He does not know the location of the library's video collection of plays.
  - C He does not know how to find out where the play is currently being performed.
  - D He does not know how to determine which newspapers he should look at.
  
2. What does the woman imply about critical reaction to the play *Happy Strangers*?
  - A Negative critical reaction led to its content being revised after it premiered.
  - B The play has always been quite popular among university students.
  - C Reactions to the play are more positive nowadays than they were in the past.
  - D The play is rarely performed nowadays because critics have never liked it.
  
3. What does the woman say about her experience seeing a performance of *Happy Strangers* when she was younger? *Choose 2 answers.*
  - A It was the first play she had seen performed professionally.
  - B She saw it against the wishes of her parents.
  - C She was surprised at how traditional the performance was.
  - D She had a variety of emotional reactions to the play.
  
4. What is the man's attitude toward his current assignment?
  - A He is not confident that he will find the materials he needs.
  - B He feels that performing in a play is less boring than reading one.
  - C He thinks his review of the play will be more objective than the contemporary reviews were.
  - D He is optimistic that he will learn to appreciate the play he is researching.

5. Listen to Track 2. 
- Ⓐ To ask the man to clarify his request
  - Ⓑ To state the man's request more precisely
  - Ⓒ To make sure that she heard the man correctly
  - Ⓓ To correct a mistake the man has made

# SPEAKING

This section measures your ability to speak in English about a variety of topics.

There are six questions in this section. For each question, you will be given a short time to prepare your response. When the preparation time is up, answer the question as completely as possible in the time indicated for that question. You should record your responses so that you can review them later and compare them with the answer key and scoring rubrics.

1. You will now be asked to speak about a familiar topic. Give yourself 15 seconds to prepare your response. Then record yourself speaking for 45 seconds.

Listen to Track 12. 

What do you miss most about your home when you are away? Use specific details in your explanation.

**Preparation Time: 15 seconds**

**Response Time: 45 seconds**

2. You will now be asked to give your opinion about a familiar topic. Give yourself 15 seconds to prepare your response. Then record yourself speaking for 45 seconds.

Listen to Track 13. 

Many universities now offer academic courses over the Internet. However, some people still prefer learning in traditional classrooms. Which do you think is better? Explain why.

**Preparation Time: 15 seconds**

**Response Time: 45 seconds**

# WRITING

This section measures your ability to write in English to communicate in an academic environment.

There are two writing questions in this section.

For question 1, you will read a passage and listen to a lecture about the same topic. You may take notes while you read and listen. Then you will write a response to a question based on what you have read and heard. You may look back at the passage when answering the question. You may use your notes to help you answer the question. You have 20 minutes to plan and write your response.

For question 2, you will write an essay based on your own knowledge and experience. You have 30 minutes to plan and complete your essay.

1. **Directions:** Give yourself 3 minutes to read the passage.

**Reading Time: 3 minutes**

Endotherms are animals such as modern birds and mammals that keep their body temperatures constant. For instance, humans are endotherms and maintain an internal temperature of 37°C, no matter whether the environment is warm or cold. Because dinosaurs were reptiles, and modern reptiles are not endotherms, it was long assumed that dinosaurs were not endotherms. However, dinosaurs differ in many ways from modern reptiles, and there is now considerable evidence that dinosaurs were, in fact, endotherms.

#### ***Polar dinosaurs***

One reason for believing that dinosaurs were endotherms is that dinosaur fossils have been discovered in polar regions. Only animals that can maintain a temperature well above that of the surrounding environment could be active in such cold climates.

#### ***Leg position and movement***

There is a connection between endothermy and the position and movement of the legs. The physiology of endothermy allows sustained physical activity, such as running. But running is efficient only if an animal's legs are positioned underneath its body, not at the body's side, as they are for crocodiles and many lizards. The legs of all modern endotherms are underneath the body, and so were the legs of dinosaurs. This strongly suggests that dinosaurs were endotherms.

#### ***Haversian canals***

There is also a connection between endothermy and bone structure. The bones of endotherms usually include structures called Haversian canals. These canals house nerves and blood vessels that allow the living animal to grow quickly, and rapid body growth is in fact a characteristic of endothermy. The presence of Haversian canals in bone is a strong indicator that the animal is an endotherm, and fossilized bones of dinosaurs are usually dense with Haversian canals.



