



Additional Language Practice Questions
For
Canadian Adult Achievement Test
(CAAT) Level C

Part I: Vocabulary

Choose the word or phrase that *best* completes each sentence.

1. Computer programmers write _____ instructions for the computer so that it will follow our commands.
 - A) explicit
 - B) legitimate
 - C) perspicacious

2. Entrepreneurs must be _____ because the marketplace is highly competitive.
 - A) gentle
 - B) aggressive
 - C) expensive

3. The vice president of marketing will conduct all meetings _____ related to advertising campaigns.
 - A) prior
 - B) subsequent
 - C) bottom-line

4. Because triathlon athletes compete in three strenuous events, they must be in _____ condition.
 - A) prime
 - B) satisfactory
 - C) salutary

5. In current-day America, many writers looking for a name _____ with wealth and power might pick Donald Trump or another celebrity businessperson.
 - A) contiguous
 - B) synonymous
 - C) portentous

6. A person who continues to do something despite setbacks is:
- A) persistent
 - B) indecisive
 - C) uncaring
7. To refuse an invitation means to:
- A) incline
 - B) decline
 - C) recline
8. To say something indirectly means to:
- A) imply
 - B) reply
 - C) deny
9. Someone who refuses to believe is:
- A) belligerent
 - B) intelligent
 - C) incredulous
10. My boss gave me a nice _____: he said I was his most trusted employee.
- A) compliment
 - B) complement
 - C) insult

Part 11: Reading Comprehension

Read the passage. Then read each question about the passage. Decide which is the *best* answer to each question.

ROCK OF AGES

Brian Green

- 1 There are not many rock bands that can be defined as truly great. The history of rock is full of "one-hit wonders" and cult favourites, but very few groups have achieved both popular success and staying power. To be considered great, a rock band must have broad popular appeal, an exciting stage performance, and the ability to evolve with tastes and times.
- 2 Popularity is an important consideration in determining the greatness of a band, but because popular taste is so changeable, it can't be the only criterion. It takes great talent to produce lyrics and music, a style, and a personality that will keep a band in the public's favour for any length of time. Some bands manage to stay in business for years with a small, specialized following; others produce one platinum hit and are wildly popular for a few months before disappearing forever. But neither type of band qualifies for greatness.
- 3 Although popularity can be achieved with studio releases, a necessary ingredient in greatness is live performance. Studio bands can produce wonderful effects and a polished sound, but unless they can go on the road and demonstrate their abilities on stage, they will not be able to hold their audience beyond one or two albums. A stage performance need not be hi-tech or fantastically expensive to be successful; in fact, many groups who indulge in extravagant light shows and explosives to impress their fans are covering up for a lack of substance in the music. Great music well played, visually interesting performances, and appealing personalities are the characteristics of a great live performance.
- 4 Staying power is, in part, a product of popularity and performance, but versatility and adaptability are also needed if a band is going to have a long enough life span to qualify for greatness. Some bands that qualified under the other two criteria fell apart over personality differences, money, drugs, or music style before they could become truly great. Others didn't have the talent to change their style or adapt their themes as musical tastes evolved. Truly great bands possess the musical ability and the collective strength to shape and set style, rather than labour to catch up with what's popular.
- 5 Naturally, personal tastes will differ, but no one can deny that popular appeal, spectacular live performance, and versatility and adaptability are the factors that made the Beatles, the Stones, U2, and others like them the great bands of rock.

Green, Brian, "Rock of Ages." Essay Essentials with Readings. eds. S. Norton and B. Green, Toronto: Nelson Thomson Learning, 2003.184, print

11. One of the necessary ingredients in greatness is:
- A) good costumes
 - B) a live performance
 - C) great dance moves
12. What is needed for a band to have staying power?
- A) a good agent
 - B) good live performances
 - C) versatility and adaptability
13. Which of the following bands is not mentioned in the article?
- A) The Beatles
 - B) New Kids on the Block
 - C) U2
14. Popularity is a _____ in determining the greatness of a band.
- A) disadvantage
 - B) necessity
 - C) criterion

Read the passage. Then read each question about the passage. Decide which is the *best* answer to each question.

Propagating pussy willow trees is easy. They root so readily that cut branches can simply be inserted into moist soil in summer. Roots will develop within a few weeks. A few planting tips for pussy willow trees to remember:

- 1 .Take the cuttings from the new growth on male pussy willows, not the older, gray-colored branches.
2. There's a right and a wrong end of the cutting to stick in the ground. The end that you want to insert into the ground is the end that you cut -- in other words, the bottom of the stem as it was growing in the wild.
3. Take a cutting that is about as thick as a pencil and at least one foot long. It needs to be long enough for a few inches to be underground (for stability) while a couple of nodes should still be showing above ground.
4. If you don't wish to wait until summer, bring your pussy willow cuttings inside and root them in water; then transplant outside when danger of frost is past.
5. These trees have invasive roots. Consequently, plant your cuttings far away from septic tank fields, sewer lines or water lines.

Beaulieu, David. "Planting Pussy Willow Trees for Spring Pussy Willows." *About. com*. n.d. Web. 25 May 2009.

15. The roots of the pussy willow are:

- A) short
- B) soft
- C) invasive

16. Pussy willow cuttings can be rooted:

- A) inside in water
- B) outside in the frost
- C) in the spring only

17. When rooting a cutting:

- A) insert the cut end into the ground
- B) insert the uncut end into the ground
- C) bury the entire cutting in the ground

18. Older branches are:

- A) red
- B) brown
- C) grey

Part III: Language

Read each question and choose the *best* answer.

29. Which is the best source to find out how to make a black forest cake?

- A) an encyclopedia
- B) an almanac
- C) a cookbook
- D) a newspaper

30. If you had to file a folder with the label "Masters," where would you file it?

- A) Between folders labelled "Norseman" and "Noth"
- B) Between folders labelled "Marsden" and "Mathers"
- C) Between folders labelled "Mayerthorpe" and "Maynes"
- D) Between folders labelled "Mabelle" and "Macey"

Use the dictionary entries below to answer the next 4 questions.

outlandish: 1. of or relating to another country. 2. strikingly out of the ordinary; bizarre.
3. exceeding proper or reasonable limits or standards. 4. remote from civilization.

differ: 1. to postpone, be different. 2. to be unlike or distinct in nature, form or characteristics. 3. to change from time to time from one instance to another; vary. 4. to be unlike or of opposite opinion; disagree.

31. Which definition best fits the word *outlandish* as it is used in this sentence?

Her costume was outlandish, complete with pink feather boa and yellow sequined platform shoes.

- A) 1
- B) 2
- C) 3
- D) 4

32. Which definition best fits the word *outlandish* as it is used in this sentence?

My cabin is outlandish. It takes 3 hours on gravel roads to get there.

- A) 1
- B) 2
- C) 3
- D) 4

33. Which definition best fits the word *differ* as it is used in this sentence.

The number of cookies in the box may differ from time to time.

- A) 1
- B) 2
- C) 3
- D) 4

34. Which definition best fits the word *differas* it is used in this sentence?

The laws of one state differ from that of another.

- A) 1
- B) 2
- C) 3
- D) 4

For each question, there are four sentences that express the same idea.

Read each sentence and decide which sentence expresses the idea best.

35. A) It is a small forest, however, being just enough land on which to build a house.
- B) It is a small forest. However, being just enough land on which to build a house.
- C) It is a small forest, however. Being just enough land on which to build a house.
-
36. A) My piano teacher. Mr. Licarra has a forest next to his backyard.
- B) My piano teacher, Mr. Licarra, has a forest next to his backyard.
- C) My piano teacher, Mr. Licarra. He has a forest next to his backyard.
-
37. A) I tried to look at things in a new way. After all, some people actually enjoy cold showers.
- B) To look at things in a new way, after all. Some people actually enjoy cold showers.
- C) To look at things in a new way. After all, some people actually enjoy cold showers.

38. A) I hate when I can't finish my shower because I suddenly get nothing. But freezing cold water.
- B) I hate when I can't finish my shower because I suddenly get nothing but freezing cold water.
- C) I hate when I can't finish my shower. Because I suddenly get nothing but freezing cold water.

Below is a paragraph in which certain parts have been underlined and numbered. These numbers correspond to the number of the questions on your answer sheet. Some underlined parts have no error, but there is never more than one type of error in any underlined part. If there is no error, mark space "N E" on your answer sheet. If there is an error, mark the space that corresponds to the type of error you have found.

Mark:

G for GRAMMAR error

P for PUNCTUATION error

C for CAPITALIZATION error

NE for NO ERROR

EXAMPLE:

Winter brings ice and Snow.

A

There is a **CAPITALIZATION** error because snow should not be capitalized. You would fill in space C on your answer sheet.

Home Is Where Your Stomach Is

For Shania twain (39), it's dill pickle potato chips, but we all got our (40) weaknesses when it comes to junk food. The attraction of many such foods is that they remind us of our Parents' traditions (41) or our province's special charm (42)-- especially when we're away, eating them makes us feel as though we're at home.

Whether it's Newfoundland's scrunchions B.C. Ferries' (43) infamous breakfast or Quebec's Poutine (44), each regional "junk food" carry with it (45) some powerful memories that's why (46) each regional specialty, from pickled pigs feet to the Nanaimo bar, is ours to crave. In fact if our region's (47) food is considered disgusting by large groups in the rest of the country, we're even more proud (48).

Anon. "Home Is Where Your Stomach Is." MacLean's. July 1, 2003. rpt. The Least You Should Know About English Form B. Eds. Glazier et al. Toronto: Nelson Thomson Learning, 2005. 37.

39.

- A) G
- B) P
- C) C
- D) NE

40.

- A) G
- B) P
- C) C
- D) NE

41.

- A) G
- B) P
- C) C
- D) NE

42.

- A) G
- B) P
- C) C
- D) NE

43.

- A) G
- B) P
- C) C
- D) NE

44.

- A) G
- B) P
- C) C
- D) NE

45.

- A) G
- B) P
- C) C
- D) NE

46.

- A) G
- B) P
- C) C
- D) NE

47.

- A) G
- B) P
- C) C
- D) NE

48.

- A) G
- B) P
- C) C
- D) NE

Read the following group of four sentences. Then decide how to arrange it into a well-organized paragraph by putting the sentences in order from first to last. Indicate the sentence order you have chosen by answering the four questions that follow the group of sentences.

- A: Some of these reactions are among the reasons why cats have been thought to have magical powers.
- B: First of all, the cat feels the sensations that we humans don't.
- C: Earthquakes begin with movements far underground, and cats often react.
- D: In his book *Catwatching*, Desmond Morris explains why cats seem to be able to feel earthquakes before they happen.

49. In the paragraph, which sentence should be first?

- A) Sentence A
- B) Sentence B
- C) Sentence C
- D) Sentence D

50. In the paragraph, which sentence should be second?

- A) Sentence A
- B) Sentence B
- C) Sentence C
- D) Sentence D

51. In the paragraph, which sentence should be third?

- A) Sentence A
- B) Sentence B
- C) Sentence C
- D) Sentence D

52. In the paragraph, which sentence should be fourth?

- A) Sentence A
- B) Sentence B
- C) Sentence C
- D) Sentence D

Answer Key

1. A
2. B
3. B
4. A
5. B
6. A
7. B
8. A
9. C
10. A
11. B
12. C
13. B
14. C
15. C
16. A
17. A
18. C
19. A
20. C
21. D
22. B
23. A
24. D
25. C
26. A
27. C

- 28. A
- 29. C
- 30. B
- 31. B
- 32. D
- 33. C
- 34. B
- 35. A
- 36. B
- 37. A
- 38. B
- 39. C
- 40. A
- 41. C
- 42. D
- 43. B
- 44. C
- 45. A
- 46. B
- 47. B
- 48. D
- 49. D
- 50. B
- 51. C
- 52. A