

# Certification Exams

*PRAXIS-Reading-Section  
Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST) - Reading Section*



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# Latest Version: 6.0

## Question: 1

Read the following passage and answer the question.

Equal Opportunity is the expressed policy of SmithCo. Our policy is to select the best-qualified person for each position in the organization and to conduct all business relationships without prejudice. SmithCo is committed to the principles of equal employment opportunity for all employees and applicants for employment. Advancement opportunities and employment decisions will be made without regard to race, creed, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, physical or mental handicap, veteran or military status, or any other characteristic protected under federal, state, or local law. Managers are expected to seek out a diverse pool of candidates for consideration when making hiring decisions. SmithCo also develops an annual Affirmative Action program, which is a federal requirement due to our status as a government contractor. The leadership team plays an active role in demonstrating SmithCo's commitment by providing equal employment opportunities at all levels of employment. Managers and employees are advised to meet with the HR manager for assistance in meeting the standards set in this policy. Equal Employment Opportunity applies throughout the employment process to advance the principles of equal employment opportunity. SmithCo also extends this policy to every phase of the employment process including, but not limited to, recruitment, selection, placement, transfer, training and development, promotion, compensation, benefits, layoffs, termination, and all other conditions or benefits of employment. All employees are expected to abide by and promote this policy of equal employment opportunity within the organization, as well as with those who have a business relationship with SmithCo. Equal Employment Opportunity requires the participation of all associates. While overall authority for implementing an Equal Employment Opportunity policy is assigned to the Vice President of Human Resources, an effective equal employment opportunity program cannot be achieved without the support of all associates. Any associate who feels they have been denied equal opportunity or subjected to discrimination should consult with their

manager or HR representative. SmithCo's Employee Assistance Program also provides assistance with these matters.

What is the main purpose of SmithCo's equal employment opportunity policy?

- A. to lessen the chance of lawsuits against SmithCo for discrimination
- B. to prevent sexual harassment
- C. to document out the rules for termination
- D. to create and maintain a workplace free from discrimination
- E. to ensure qualified employees are hired

**Answer: D**

## Question: 2

Read the following passages and answer the question.

Passage 1. Because it is filled with contradictions, performance is also filled with risk. This is the domain of

stage fright. The actor is aware that appearing in front of an audience is a scary proposition.

Maintaining the

reality of the character is, in itself, a fragile affair; it demands of the actor a series of complex transformations.

The actor has the unique problem of hiding and showing at the same time. The actor's conscious fear is not

about making a mistake, but about allowing the audience to see something that it is not supposed to see:

namely, the performer's fear, or stage fright.

Passage 2. The term "stage fright" has largely dropped out of use, because we know now that dwelling on

something this malevolent gives it power. If I tell you not to be afraid, you may dwell on your fear. If I say,

do not

think of fast-food burgers under any circumstances, a line of them will parade through your mind. The key to

most fears is substitution. On the simplest level, you replace the ogre with something less menacing to fill your

consciousness. If you will imagine yourself to be a host rather than an actor, and think more about the comfort

of your listeners than their verdicts, everything will fall into place.

How do the passages view stage fright in relation to human behavior in general?

- A. Passage 1 attributes stage fright to an individual's personal problems, whereas Passage 2 believes stage fright is caused by social problems.
- B. Passage 1 sees stage fright as normal and healthy, while Passage 2 sees stage fright as an extreme reaction
- C. Passage 1 emphasizes that situations unique to the theater cause stage fright, whereas Passage 2

views stage fright as similar in one way to most others

D. Both passages view stage fright as a phenomenon that people experience in everyday life.

E. Both passages view stage fright as part of a phase actors go through in their lives

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

Explanation: Passage 1 specifically suggests that “performance” is the “domain of stage fright”. Passage 1

emphasizes that situations unique to the theater contribute to stage fright. Passage 2 states that “the key

to most fears is substitution”, and shows how actors can use substitution to overcome stage fright.

Passage 2 thus sees stage fright as “similar in one way to most other fears.”

### Question: 3

Read the following passage and answer the question.

The houses in Peking are built in a very rambling fashion, covering a large amount of ground, and our former

house was no exception to the rule. It had sixteen small houses, one story high, containing about 175 rooms,

arranged in quadrangles facing the courtyard, which went to make up the whole; and so placed, that without

having to actually go out of doors, you could go from one to the other by verandas built along the front and

enclosed in glass. My reader will wonder what possible use we could make of all of these rooms; but what with

our large family, numerous secretaries, Chinese writers, messengers, servants, mafoos (coachmen), and chair

coolies, it was not a difficult task to use them. The gardens surrounding the houses were arranged in the

Chinese way, with small lakes, stocked with gold fish, and in which the beautiful lotus flower grew; crossed

by

bridges; large weeping willows along the banks; and many different varieties of flowers in prettily arranged

flower beds, running along winding paths, which wound in and out between the lakes. At the time we left for

Paris, in the month of June, 1899, the gardens were a solid mass of flowers and foliage, and much admired

by

all who saw them.

What kind of text would this passage most likely appear in?

A. editorial

B. high school yearbook

C. autobiography

- D. epic poem
- E. encyclopedia

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

The passage sounds like a description of the author's childhood.

### Question: 4

Read the following passage and answer the question.

Swimming has developed from a primal mode of movement to an advanced hobby and competitive sport.

Exercising nearly every muscle group, swimming is a rigorous sport and requires intense training. In competitions, swimmers typically contend for the fastest time to complete a certain distance by performing a specific swimming stroke. Also, swimmers work to build endurance and an ability to swim over long distances.

Because swimming has developed into a highly intricate competitive sport, where one wrong technique can

disqualify a participant, it is interesting to ponder how the sport will evolve for people in the future, either

advancing into a progressive purpose or regressing to a primal mode of movement.

Which of the following situations would fulfill the author's prophecy for swimming?

- A. Humans settling on the moon use swimming techniques to move through space
- B. Swimming remains a competitive Olympic sport.
- C. Animals, including amphibians, begin to swim instinctively upon birth, as a dominant genetic trait.
- D. People swim in home and community pools to relax and exercise
- E. Fish begin swimming at unprecedented speeds and extend the average life span.

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

Explanation: This question refers you to the conclusion sentence. The author states clearly that swimming

must

either progress into a new form or regress to the primal mode of movement. Choice "Swimming remains a

competitive Olympic sport" and "People swim in home and community pools to relax and exercise" can be

eliminated because they show no change, just a continuation of current circumstances. Choice "Humans settling on the moon use swimming techniques to move through space" is an actual possibility as humans

may

very well be settling in outer space in the future. Choice "Animals, including amphibians, begin to swim

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instinctively upon birth, as a dominant genetic trait” and “Fish begin swimming at unprecedented speeds and extend the average life span” refer to animals anyway, when the author specifically was predicting a future for humans. Choice “Humans settling on the moon use swimming techniques to move through space” is the most realistic and relevant prophecy according to the premises developed by the author

### Question: 5

Read the following passage and answer the question.

Early Populism in the United States. In the years following the Civil War, the US heartland suffered from an overabundance of wheat and rice; these surpluses, coupled with the advances in transportation and communication, drove prices down. Farmers were forced into high debt which they could never repay, leading to deflation and a scarcity of currency. Since many farmers didn’t own the land that they worked, the banks often had to foreclose when farmers were unable to pay their debts. Farmers blamed their problems on a number of different factors. They blamed the railroads, which usually gave discount rates to bigger shippers. They blamed the banks, who loaned money to the rich but were unforgiving of farmers’ economic plight. They also blamed the tax system, claiming that it was easy for businesses to hide their assets, and impossible for farmers to do so. They also blamed the tariff, which discouraged other countries from buying US goods. The Patrons of Husbandry (Grange) organization was founded in 1867 by Oliver Kelley to establish cooperatives, in which individuals bought goods directly from the wholesale distributor. His group was also responsible for the Granger Laws, which attacked railroad and grain elevator interests. The Grange, however, had basically disappeared by 1875. The National Farmer’s Alliance and Industrial Union pursued a number of different initiatives: more national banks; cooperatives; a federal storage system for non-perishable items; more currency; free coinage of silver; reduction of tariff; direct election of senators; 8-hour workday; government control of railroads and telegraphs; and one term for the president. This group’s success led to the formation of the Populist Party in 1890. This party aimed to speak for the farmers, and included all of the farmer’s unions as well as some labor unions, the Greenbackers, and the Prohibitionists. The party suffered from internal

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divisions

from its inception.

What was the basic reason for the formation of the Populist Party?

- A. the success of the Grange
- B. the plight of farmers
- C. the fairness of the tariff
- D. the popularity of the gold standard
- E. the failure of the National Farmer's Alliance

<b>Answer: B</b>
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Explanation:

The Populist Party was formed to represent the interests of farmers and common citizens.

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