### EGTC READING PRACTICE TEST LEVEL D

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<tr>
<th>Time Allowed</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pencil Provided</td>
<td>YES!</td>
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<td>Paper Provided</td>
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<td>Electronic Test</td>
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**If I don’t know the answer, should I guess?** YES!
Here is a passage from a book about sports. Read the passage. Then do Numbers 1 through 5.

What kind of sport could you play with your eyes closed? If you find it a challenge to locate and catch a ball with just your ears to guide you, imagine playing a team sport with your eyes closed.

Actually, there is such a sport. It's called **goal ball**, and it's played mainly by people with little or no vision. They wear blindfolds to give everyone the same chance. There are three players on a side, and the teams take turns trying to get a jingling basketball-sized ball into the other team's goal. Players use all parts of their bodies to defend the goal, even making spectacular diving saves when necessary.

As you'll discover, it requires concentration and quiet to listen for the jingling, so goal ball audiences are silent, cheering only when there's a goal in the play.

1. Why do goal ball players wear blindfolds?
   A. so the players will not watch the clock
   B. so the two teams cannot see each other's goals
   C. so players with some sight do not have any advantage
   D. so the audience will not distract the players

2. Players can score the greatest number of points in goal ball by
   F. using their bodies to defend their goal
   G. being quieter than members of the other team
   H. keeping the ball in their own goal the longest time
   J. getting the ball into their opponents' goal the most times

3. The passage says that goal ball "requires concentration." What does the word *concentration* mean here?
   A. clean court
   B. fixed attention
   C. quick movement
   D. playful attitude

4. What rule must people follow when they watch a goal ball game?
   F. They must be very quiet.
   G. They must wear blindfolds.
   H. They must cheer only when the ball is moving.
   J. They must tell the players where the ball is.

5. The author's purpose in writing this passage was probably
   A. to challenge people to play a game
   B. to amuse people with a sports story
   C. to persuade people to make their own sports equipment
   D. to tell people about a sport that can be played without sight

The passage says, "If you find it a challenge to locate and catch a ball with just your ears to guide you, imagine playing a team sport with your eyes closed." Here is part of a dictionary entry for the word *challenge*. Use it to do Number 6.

**challenge** (chəl'əŋ) **Noun.** 1. A call to engage in a contest or fight. 2. A demand for an explanation; a calling into question. 3. A sentry's call for identification. 4. The quality of requiring full use of one's abilities, energy, or resources; a *job that offers a challenge*. 5. A claim that a vote is invalid or that a voter is unqualified.

6. Which definition of the word *challenge* is used in the passage?
   F. Definition 2
   G. Definition 3
   H. Definition 4
   J. Definition 5
Read the letter and recipe that a grandmother sent to her grandson. Then do Numbers 7 through 11.

Dear Nathan,

I was so glad to hear about you children raising money for homeless people. I think a bake sale is a grand idea.

Here is the recipe for my great-grandmother Lavinia's famous Buttermilk Pecan Cake. This recipe has been in our family for more than two hundred years. Lavinia was a cook for the Winthrop family in Georgia. Folks claim everybody loved her cooking. All I know is that I've been eating this cake all my life, and I've liked to see 82 good years!

I'm so proud of you, Nathan, and I know Mama Lavinia would be, too. Bless you and your friends for having the heart to care about others in these troubled times.

Much love,
Grandma Anne

PS. You'd better make more than one of these cakes, honey. I guarantee you will want one at home. One taste and you're heaven bound!

LAVINIA'S BUTTERMILK PECAN CAKE

2 cups chopped pecans
2 1/2 cups flour (sift twice to get it extra fine or use cake flour)
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1 1/2 cups buttermilk
1/2 cup sweet butter
(about three sticks, soft)
5 extra-large eggs
2 1/2 cups sugar
1/2 cup powdered sugar for dusting

Pour your chopped pecans in a little bowl and set it down. Then, sift your flour and salt in another bowl and set that down, too. Put the soda in the buttermilk in a third bowl and set that down for about the minute.

Cream your butter and sugar in a large bowl and add everything into it. Mix till the white streaks are gone. Pour the batter into a tube-cake pan (you know, honey, the kind I bake angel food cake in). Bake about an hour and fifteen minutes at 350 degrees, or until a broom straw or a toothpick goes into the center and comes out clean. Let it cool, and dust it down with powdered sugar.

This cake is mighty good with fresh fruit or ice cream. But I like it just plain, with a good, strong cup of coffee.

7. What does the word cream mean in the passage?
   A. to make liquid
   B. to mix until soft
   C. the heavy part of milk
   D. the mixture of sugar and butter

8. Which of the following probably gives the most flavor to Lavinia's cake?
   F. flour
   G. butter
   H. pecans
   J. baking soda

9. Why does Grandma Anne advise Nathan to make more than one cake?
   A. in case he burns the first cake
   B. to have more baked goods to sell
   C. to have an extra cake ready to give to family or friends
   D. because the cake is so good Nathan will want to keep one

10. From reading the letter, you could say that Nathan and his grandmother both
    F. know family history
    G. enjoy helping people
    H. like cake and ice cream
    J. have many delicious recipes

11. From the letter you can tell that Nathan's grandmother probably wants to
    A. become a better cook
    B. visit Nathan more often
    C. keep family traditions alive
    D. learn more about the Winthrop family

Page 5
Here is a passage describing an interesting theory about how our brains function. Read the passage. Then do Numbers 12 through 17.

As breakthroughs in our understanding of how the brain functions lead us to a new awareness, some researchers feel that we are on the threshold of what might be called the “Brain Age.” It is generally accepted that human beings experience only a small fraction of what is happening in the world because our brains select just a portion of the sensations available to us.

Investigations have led to many interesting ideas about how we experience the world. According to one theory, our brains are made up of three parts: the new brain, the old brain, and the limbic brain.

This theory identifies the new brain, the last to be developed in humans, as the mass of grey, wrinkled matter lying just beneath the top of the skull. Specific areas of the brain control specific functions. For example, hearing takes place on the side of the brain, vision at the back, and muscular movements on the top. In front of the new brain are the so-called association areas. According to this theory, all our thoughts, ideas, reasoning, and opinions are transmitted in complex patterns of chemical and electrical activity in these areas.

The old brain, sometimes called the brain stem or reptilian brain, is concerned with basic instincts of survival: hunting for food and shelter, finding a mate, nurturing the young, and defending territory. The old brain may direct a person to respond to situations in ways that are no longer appropriate. According to this theory, if the old brain dominates, a person may seem stubborn and set in his or her ways; if the new brain dominates, the person may seem cold and calculating.

Our third brain, called the limbic brain or limbic system, surrounds the old brain and acts as a mediator between the old and new brains. This system interprets sensations coming from both inside and outside the body, and gives value to our perceptions. The theory suggests that our feelings about what is real, important, and true are stimulated by the limbic brain.

Some researchers believe that each of our three brains has its own separate sphere of knowledge. To create balance and unity, the three brains need to communicate with each other and exchange information. Scientists think this communication among the brains takes place while we are asleep. So sleep, along with a good diet and exercise, is necessary for a healthy brain and nervous system and for enjoying the fullest possibilities of discovery in the Brain Age.

12 Which of these would be the best title for this passage?
   F “The Origin of Thought”
   G “Truth and the Limbic Brain”
   H “A New Theory About the Brain”
   J “Selective Awareness in Humans”

13 This passage would most likely be found in
   A a magazine article
   B a novel about doctors
   C a newspaper editorial
   D a science fiction book

14 Which of these best explains why a witness to an accident may not be able to recall all of the details?
   F We experience sensations according to which of our brains is dominant.
   G Our brains select only a limited number of sensations from the environment.
   H We always respond more to sensations coming from inside the body than from outside it.
   J Our brains are balanced in such a way as to make us completely different from one another.

15 The first sentence in Paragraph 4 of the passage mentions “nurturing the young.” Which of these has the same meaning as the word nurturing in that sentence?
   A rearing
   B dominating
   C improvising
   D rehabilitating

16 According to current theory, how might going without sleep for long periods affect a person’s brain function?
   F The brain would accept only a small portion of available information.
   G The old brain would gradually dominate the new brain, making it impossible for any new decisions to be made.
   H The brain’s ability to select perceptions would diminish, overwhelming the person with sensory information.
   J Unity and balance of brain function would be upset because communication between the three brains would be disrupted.

17 Which of these statements best summarizes the passage?
   A To reason well, people need a good diet, exercise, and plenty of sleep.
   B A new part of the brain that functions as a communication center in the brain has been discovered.
   C One interesting theory about human brain function illustrates the potential for further discovery.
   D Scientists are on the brink of discovering why some people are stubborn and reluctant to change their behavior.
Study this index page from the Pacific Bell SMART Yellow Pages. Then do Numbers 18 through 22.

Gymnasium – Headstones

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<td>Gymnasiums Equip</td>
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<td>Gymnasiums</td>
<td>468</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gymnastics Instructor</td>
<td>489</td>
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18 Which of these is another listing for "Hair Styling"?
A Barbers
B Beauty Colleges
H Hair Replacement
J Hair Supplies-Retail

19 Which of these is listed on Page 115?
A Hazardous Waste
B Headlight Adjusting
C Halls and Auditoriums
D Hair Cutting and Styling

20 Which of these cannot be found on this index page?
F Hauling
G Headstones
H Hotel Equipment
J Halls and Auditoriums

21 Suppose you have a large pile of tree branches that you need removed from your property. On which page will you find the phone number of someone who can provide this service?
F 498
G 503
H 622
J 883
Here is a passage about a twentieth-century Mexican artist. Read the passage. Then do Numbers 23 through 29.

Artist Frida Kahlo, whose talent was not fully recognized until after her death, led a colorful life. Kahlo was born in Mexico City in 1907, three years before the beginning of the Mexican Revolution. Her childhood was marked by the sights and sounds of armed struggle in the city streets. Later, Kahlo said that she and modern Mexico had come into being at the same time.

When Kahlo was six, an attack of polio put her to bed for months and left her with a weakened leg. To improve her health, the young girl learned to wrestle, swim, box, and play soccer—sports which in those days only boys were supposed to enjoy. She enrolled at the National Preparatory School and was one of only thirty-five girls among two thousand students. She was a brilliant student and a lively, fascinating companion to her many friends.

Then, when Kahlo was eighteen, an accident changed her life forever. A trolley car crashed into the wooden bus on which she was riding, and a steel handrail pierced her body. Kahlo suffered such severe injuries that doctors wondered whether she would ever walk again, or even survive. She did survive and was able to walk as well, but for the rest of her life she continued to suffer from the painful effects of the accident.

In 1929 Kahlo married Diego Rivera, perhaps the most famous of Mexican mural artists. His monumental works, portraying laborers, social movements, and the pre-Columbian people of Mexico, were much celebrated. Both Kahlo and Rivera involved themselves in politics and travel. Their friends were artists, philosophers, and poets from all over the world.

Many people, especially those who did not know her well, thought of Frida Kahlo primarily as the beautiful and vibrant wife of Diego Rivera. However, Kahlo continued to produce her own work. Many of her paintings were portraits of herself, usually seated and dressed in her favorite clothing of Mexican skirts and shawls, surrounded by flowers and animals. In these now-famous works, viewers can see in Kahlo's face both her strength and her struggle with emotional and physical pain. She could never bear children because of the accident, and her relationship with Rivera was often stormy. The paintings express an intense response to these aspects of her life.

In 1953, a friend who owned an art gallery organized the first solo exhibit in Mexico of Kahlo's work. Kahlo was deeply pleased and excited by the prospect of having her own show, although by the time it opened she was so ill she had to be brought to the gallery on a stretcher. She was placed on a canopied bed in the center of the exhibit, where she received the congratulations of scores of admirers. A few months later, she died at the age of forty-seven, having triumphed for many years over pain and adversity. Since her death, Frida Kahlo's fame has increased, and the events of her life have become a legend in her native land.

23 According to the passage, Kahlo felt that her childhood was formed by
   A her interest in art
   B her interest in boys' sports
   C her experience of the Mexican Revolution
   D her studies at the National Preparatory School

24 According to the passage, Kahlo's paintings expressed her intense response to life. In this context, the word intense means about the same as
   A deeply felt
   B thoughtful
   C imaginative
   D highly colored

25 Which of these is probably true of Frida Kahlo?
   A She turned to art as a reflection of her feelings.
   B She could paint only when her life was going smoothly.
   C She is best known for large paintings of historical subjects.
   D She was most influenced by the rules of classical European art.

26 Which of these is most likely to be the subject of a Kahlo painting?
   A a young soldier of the revolution looking fierce and noble
   B a group of happy children playing on the streets of Mexico City
   C a young woman gazing at the viewer, with an expression of deep suffering
   D a farmer working in the central valley of Mexico in the days before Columbus

27 Which of these best describes Frida Kahlo's reaction to the solo exhibit?
   A She was unhappy at having to appear in public.
   B She was joyful about the recognition of her talent.
   C She was amused by the reception of her paintings.
   D She was upset with her friend for surprising her with the show.

28 Which of these statements is best supported by the passage?
   A People are not usually interested in the lives of artists.
   B Becoming an artist requires many years of formal training.
   C The talent of an artist may not be recognized during the artist's lifetime.
   D The most famous artists are those who have produced landscapes.

29 Which of these best summarizes the passage?
   A Frida Kahlo was the wife of Diego Rivera, the famous artist.
   B Frida Kahlo showed her appreciation of her Mexican heritage by wearing Mexican skirts and shawls.
   C Frida Kahlo played boys' sports as a child and attended a school with mostly boys.
   D Frida Kahlo, a Mexican painter, survived tragic events and expressed them in her artwork.
Leticia, a nurse, is Jacob’s supervisor. She is writing an evaluation of Jacob’s work. Leticia made notes all year about Jacob’s efforts to improve his performance as a community worker. She noticed that Jacob learned about the special health needs of families in the area. Jacob listened to clients and encouraged them to use the services of the nursing department. Also, on his own time he drew a large poster for one of Leticia’s health talks.

30. This evaluation is used to rate the performance of
   F  a student
   G  an employee
   H  a supervisor
   J  a job seeker

31. Which of these is a comment Leticia would probably write about Jacob’s work with others?
   A  Jacob enjoys leading health talks.
   B  Jacob takes care of clients’ health concerns.
   C  Jacob prefers to work alone in an office.
   D  Jacob listens well and enjoys working in the community.

32. Which of these statements by Leticia probably is related to Jacob’s work on the poster?
   F  He lacks the ability to draw.
   G  He comes to work regularly and on time.
   H  He is able to follow instructions.
   J  He uses his time off for work-related projects.

33. According to the evaluation form, what area of performance would show that Jacob follows Leticia’s instructions?
   A  Reliability
   B  Dependability
   C  Work Quality
   D  Work Quantity

34. Which of these might be written on the form under “Areas of Focus for the Coming Year”?
   F  Jacob has worked very well this year.
   G  Jacob plans to improve his writing skills.
   H  Jacob is aware of safety rules and follows them.
   J  Jacob gets along well with co-workers and customers.

35. Jacob is very productive at work. What does the word productive mean here?
   A  useful
   B  sensible
   C  reluctant
   D  ambitious
This is an excerpt from a novel by Laurence Yep. The story tells of a family in China at the turn of the century. In the excerpt, a woman and her son and daughter have come from a fertile field to a field that their family used to own, but which they now farm as sharecroppers. Read the excerpt. Then do Numbers 36 through 42.

When we got to our field, I thought wistfully of the tall, healthy stalks. Our own plants were always such scrappy little things. "I wish we had a field like that. It's almost like we have to fight the dirt to let anything grow."

Mother rounded on her heel. "Don't you ever let me hear you talk that way again," she scolded me. "You've got an ancestor who died for this field."

I looked away from her toward the field as if there still might be traces of blood in the dirt. "Really?"

Mother seemed sorry she had lost her patience with me. When she spoke again, her voice was calmer. "It happened over two hundred years ago—when the Manchus were still trying to conquer our country. One of your ancestors tried to defend that field."

I could have understood if it was a prime field, but it was such a miserable little scrap of land. "But why?"

"Because it was his own. She leaned forward and pressed her face against mine urgently. "No, because it was him."

I scratched my forehead, puzzled. "What?"

"Don't you see, Cassia? His ancestors had already been working that same field for hundreds of years before him. Their blood and sweat went into the same soil. And the dirt grew the plants that went into their bodies—and on in an endless cycle." She held out an arm toward us. "His flesh came from that dirt. So does yours. So the earth is like hating yourself."

"But what happened to him when he tried to defend the field?"

Mother sighed. "He met up with a Manchu horseman who was determined to take this one little patch of dirt from him. Your ancestor was cut down where he stood."

I picked up a handful of dirt from the dike and wondered which of my ancestors the dirt had once been part of. And for a strange moment, because of Mother's words, I could feel a kind of oneness with the field and the valley and the entire clan. It was as if the soil and our bodies were only different versions of each other.

36 What does Cassia mean when she says they "have to fight the dirt to let anything grow"?
F The land is stubbornly unproductive.
G The weeds must be constantly beaten back.
H The family has to protect its field from invaders.
J The family uses clumps of hard soil as weapons against an attack.

37 What was the "endless cycle" Cassia's mother referred to?
A the annual planting and harvesting seasons
B people always prospering due to their hard work
C generations of a family living off their own land
D the changing seasons and accompanying weather patterns

38 Which of these sentences from the excerpt expresses a fact?
F Hating the earth is like hating yourself.
G It was such a miserable little scrap of land.
H I could feel a kind of oneness with the field and the valley and the entire clan.
J His ancestors had already been working that same field for hundreds of years before him.

39 At the end of the excerpt, if Cassia heard her brother complain about working in the field, she would most likely respond by
A vigorously supporting the family's obligation to its land
B ignoring his brother's complaints to avoid any conflict
C strongly agreeing with and adding to his complaints
D assuming responsibility for her brother's chores in the field

40 With which of these statements would Mother most likely agree?
F Land should belong to those with the greatest power.
G No piece of land, no matter how cherished, is as valuable as a person's life.
H Treat yourself and the planet with respect and care, for you are one and the same.
J Private landowners should contribute their smaller fields for community gardening projects.

41 By the end of the excerpt, how have Cassia's feelings about the family's land changed?
A from proud to ashamed
B from curious to worried
C from indifferent to satisfied
D from disappointed to appreciative

42 Which of these is the best title for the excerpt?
F "The Manchu Invasion"
G "The Field of My Ancestors"
H "Cultivating Land in China"
J "The Story of My Mother's Life"
Here is a passage about an unusual plant. Read the passage. Then do Numbers 43 through 48.

The nineteenth-century farmers and ranchers of the western plains tamed the wild prairie and turned it into a place that served them. The cattle had plenty to eat, and the farmlands seemed to stretch endlessly. Farmers routinely plowed a larger area than they could get around to planting, even though the winds often blew the topsoil away.

A sense of panic sprang up among the settlers when large, round weeds that seemed to come out of nowhere began to take over the cleared prairies. Exceptionally sturdy, these weeds tumbled with the breeze, plowing up fences, trees, and other obstacles. In a strong wind, they sometimes even knocked over fences.

Ranchers didn’t like them either. The tough weeds would get stuck in ditches and pile up, catching drifting soil. When enough soil piled up, a land bridge would form and cattle would wander away.

The invasion of tumbleweed, also known as Russian thistle or Russian cactus, is thought to have begun in Fargo, North Dakota. A bag of six seeds with tumbleweed seeds sticking to it was brought from Europe. These seeds escaped, took hold, and began to conquer the West. Each seed grew a plant that produced 200,000 seeds. When the time was right, the plant broke free from its roots and blew away in the wind. It scattered its seeds everywhere as it rolled across the open landscape. All the plowed, empty fields were taken over. Farm machines jammed as the weeds caught in their gears. The sharp spikes of the seeds stuck to horses’ hooves, causing serious infections.

Nothing could stop the seeds as they spread to all states west of the Mississippi and two states east of it. When they had the opportunity, the seeds hitched rides on wagons, animals, and people’s clothing. Seeds even traveled on the newly built railroad. The United States Department of Agriculture suggested that any tumbleweed should be killed on sight like a rattlesnake. In spite of efforts to control it, by the turn of the century, tumbleweed had spread into Canada and Mexico.

Tumbleweed probably continues to have more enemies than friends, but some people think it may deserve respect. In 1894, during a severe drought, western farmers saved their animals by feeding them harvested tumbleweed. Tumbleweed may be an ideal desert pasture crop. When harvested before blooming, it is more nourishing than alfalfa. It requires little water, resists disease, and thrives on salty water and hot sunshine—conditions few other plants can survive.

Scientists are exploring other surprising possibilities. The easily grown weed can be used to produce medicines, vitamins, chemicals, and fibers. Pressed tumbleweed is as good a fuel as low-grade coal. A factory that processed tumbleweed could use what was left to heat its buildings. This persistent plant may prove to be as much of a boon in the future as it was a pest in days gone by.

43 The tumbleweed probably acquired its name because
A it is sharp and thorny  
B it is easily blown by the wind  
C the plants get stuck in ditches  
D the seeds fall off the plant easily

44 According to the passage, why did ranchers dislike tumbleweed?
F Tumbleweed jammed their machines.  
G Tumbleweed took over alfalfa fields.  
H The seeds from tumbleweed stuck to the cattle.  
J Cattle could wander away over bridges made of tumbleweed and soil.

45 Which of these actions would probably best control the spread of tumbleweed?
A building fences across the prairies  
B importing seeds from other countries  
C harvesting the plants before they bloom  
D clearing the land and leaving it unplanted

46 Based on the passage, which of these is probably true?
F The early farmers used tumbleweed as fuel.  
G Some common weeds in the United States are not native.  
H Weed control is easily managed once land has been cleared.  
J Rivers helped slow the spread of wild plants.

47 Tumbleweed might be a useful crop for places with
A high winds  
B few animals  
C a hot, dry climate  
D deep salt marshes

48 The author of this passage probably would
F like to see tumbleweed disappear  
G agree that seeds should be imported  
H help spread tumbleweed seeds in the desert  
J support research on the potential uses of weeds

Numbers 49 and 50 are related to using reference sources. Read each item and then choose the best answer.

49 The fastest way to find the location of a small town in a particular state would be to look in
A an atlas  
B an almanac  
C an encyclopedia  
D a travel magazine

50 Which of these books would probably be the best source of information about the pollution of ocean waters?
F Navigating the Seven Seas  
G Famous Underwater Explorers  
H The Geography of the Ocean Floor  
J Protecting the Marine Environment