

PSAT Reading Practice Test 6: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

1. What is a bias?

- A. A preconceived and sometimes unfair belief
- B. A person or group that often faces prejudice
- C. An unstated idea that underlies an argument
- D. A sweeping statement that may not always be true

2. Which statement is an opinion?

- A. Freshman Anita Jones states that excessive homework requirements cause her undue stress.
- B. Students reported symptoms such as headaches, anxiety attacks, and difficulty sleeping.
- C. Excessive homework requirements causes students undue stress and harm their quality of life.
- D. Students who do homework more than three hours per day show elevated cortisol levels compared to students who do no homework.

3. Which statement, if true, is a fact?

- A. The 2018 London New Year's Day Parade had more spectators than the 2018 NFL Super Bowl.
- B. The 2018 London New Year's Day Parade was more exciting than the 2018 NFL Super Bowl.
- C. The 2018 London New Year's Day Parade was a fantastic display of award-winning marching bands, creatively designed parade floats, and international celebrities.

D. The 2018 London New Year's Day Parade caused greater joy and entertainment than the 2018 NFL Super Bowl.

4. On a chart, horizontal lines are called _____, whereas vertical lines are called _____.

- A. keys, rows
- B. legends, keys
- C. rows, columns
- D. columns, legends

5. Which of the following is not a formatting feature?

- A. Italics
- B. Charts
- C. Boldfacing
- D. Underlining

6. What do footnotes do?

- A. Show the reader how ideas are organized
- B. Illustrate ideas that cannot clearly be stated in words
- C. Provide source information and peripheral information
- D. Provide nutrition facts about the contents of a package

Read the following text and answer questions 7-9.

When my mother was a teenager, most kids didn't have cell phones. If she wanted to talk to her friends after school, she had to call their landline. Sometimes a friend's mom or dad answered, and she had to ask to talk to their kid. She says that was awkward. Also, if she and a friend talked on the phone for a long time, the whole family's phone line was busy, so nobody else could get calls. Parents got mad at kids for tying up the phone too long.

Today, every kid I know has a smartphone. We talk and text whenever we want, and none of us ever have awkward conversations with our friends' parents. But in some ways, parents today have more control.

A lot of parents check kids' phone records and read their texts, so they can tell if their kids are up to no good. Families don't all rely on one phone line, so when kids talk for a long time, we don't prevent anyone else in the family from communicating with their friends. But parents today still get mad —mainly because kids' phone habits cost too much money.

7. What category of writing is this?

- A. Narrative
- B. Technical
- C. Expository
- D. Persuasive

8. The structure of the passage is:

- A. description.
- B. cause/effect.
- C. problem-solution.
- D. compare/contrast.

9. What is the genre of the passage?

- A. Essay
- B. Criticism
- C. Biography
- D. Autobiography

ANSWER KEY

1. **A.** Biases may be stated or unstated, and they are not necessarily sweeping. They are preconceived and sometimes unfair ideas about the world. **See Lesson: Facts, Opinions, and Evaluating an Argument.**
2. **C.** Words like “excessive” and “undue” are subject to interpretation and reflect beliefs rather than verifiable facts. However, words like these may appear in factual statements about what people said they felt or believed. **See Lesson: Facts, Opinions, and Evaluating an Argument.**
3. **A.** All of these statements contain beliefs or feelings that are subject to interpretation except the statement about the number of people attending the 2018 London New Year’s Day Parade compared to the 2018 NFL Super Bowl. This is a verifiable piece of information, or a fact. **See Lesson: Facts, Opinions, and Evaluating an Argument.**
4. **C.** Horizontal lines on a chart are called rows, and vertical lines are called legends. Using this terminology, it is possible to describe the spaces on the chart (e.g. “What is the value in the fourth column of the second row?”) **See Lesson: Evaluating and Integrating Data.**
5. **B.** Formatting features make text stand out in a title or within a paragraph. Charts are graphic elements that present data or illustrate information. **See Lesson: Evaluating and Integrating Data.**
6. **C.** Footnotes may provide information about source materials or give the reader interesting information that is not essential to the main point. **See Lesson: Evaluating and Integrating Data.**
7. **C.** This passage is an explanation of phone habits in two eras. Although it uses a few time words, it does not describe narrative scenes. It is an expository piece. **See Lesson: Types of Passages, Text Structures, Genre and Theme.**

8. D. The passage describes phone use in two eras, highlighting similarities and differences. This makes it a compare/contrast piece. **See Lesson: Types of Passages, Text Structures, Genre and Theme.**

9. A. This piece describes parts of both the author's life and another person's life, but it is not an autobiography or biography because it is not telling a story of either one. Rather, it is an essay—short description of a subject from the author's point of view. **See Lesson: Types of Passages, Text Structures, Genre and Theme.**

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