

**READING COMPREHENSION TEST**  
(90 MINUTES-including the reading of the directions and examples)  
*English-English and/or English-Spanish dictionaries allowed*

***DIRECTIONS AND EXAMPLES***

In this test you will read several passages. Each one is followed by several questions about it. For each question you are to choose the **one best** answer, (A), (B), or (C). Then, on your answer sheet, find the number of the question and fill in the space that corresponds to the letter of the answer you have chosen.

Answer all the questions about the information in a passage on the basis of what is stated or implied in that passage.

**SAMPLE PASSAGE:**

5 The railroad was not the first institution to impose regularity on society, or to draw attention to the importance of precise timekeeping. For as long as merchants have set out their wares at daybreak and communal festivities have been celebrated, people have been in rough agreement with their neighbors as to the time of day. The value of this tradition is today more apparent than ever. Were it not for public acceptance of a single yardstick of time, social life would be unbearably chaotic: the massive daily transfer of goods, services, and information would proceed in fits and starts; the very fabric of modern society would begin to unravel.

***Example 1***

**Sample Answer**

[A] [B] [C]

What is the main idea of the passage?

- (A) In modern society we must make more time for our neighbors.
- (B) An accepted way of measuring time is essential for the smooth functioning of society.
- (C) Society judges people by the times at which they conduct certain activities.

The main idea of the passage is that societies need to agree about how time is to be measured in order to function smoothly. Therefore, you should choose answer (B).

***Example 2***

**Sample Answer**

[A] [B] [C]

In line 4, the phrase "this tradition" refers to

- (A) The practice of starting the business day early in the morning.
- (B) The railroad's reliance on time schedules.
- (C) People's agreement on the measurement of time.

The phrase "This tradition" refers to the preceding clause, "people have been in rough agreement with their neighbors as to the time of day." Therefore, you should choose (C).