

TOEFL Reading Sample Paper 07

- A) **Subject:** Reading Comprehension
- B) **Total Questions:** 20 Questions (2 Passages — 10 Questions per Passage)
- C) **Marking Scheme & Rules:**
- **Standard Questions:** 1 Point (Multiple Choice, Insert Text, etc.)
 - **Prose Summary:** 2 Points. This is the final question of each set.
 - **Partial Credit:** Awarded for the Prose Summary (usually 1 point if 2 out of 3 choices are correct).
 - **Negative Marking:** None. 0 points for incorrect answers.
 - **Timing:** Recommended 35 minutes for the entire section.

PASSAGE I: The Lascaux Cave Paintings

Paragraph 1: Discovered in Southwest France in 1940, the Lascaux Grotto contains narrow chambers filled with massive prehistoric paintings of animals. Some of these beasts, such as bulls, bison, and mammoths, are as large as 16 feet. While some follow each other in solemn parades, **others** swirl about sideways or even upside down. Scientists have identified that the pigments used—mostly reds, yellows, and browns—were derived from ochre and iron oxides ground into a fine powder.

Paragraph 2: [A] One of the most puzzling aspects is the location of these paintings. [B] Unlike the rock paintings of the Bushmen in South Africa, which are located near cave entrances or in the open, Lascaux's art is hidden in deep recesses far removed from original entrances. [C] This means artists worked in cramped spaces without natural light. [D] It also implies that whoever created them did not want them to be easily found, leading scholars to believe the locations were chosen for secret ceremonies.

Paragraph 3: Scholars suggest that the paintings were not merely decorative but served a functional purpose, such as acting as a record of seasonal migrations or as a psychological tool to ensure a successful hunt. Another theory involves shamanism, suggesting that certain animals assumed mythical significance. Some figures appear in a "trance state," a low consciousness between waking and sleeping, often depicted with bird-like heads or elongated bodies.

1. The word "others" in Paragraph 1 refers to:

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| A. Chambers | C. Beasts |
| B. Paintings | D. Parades |

2. According to Paragraph 1, how were the colors for the paintings produced?

- A. By mixing animal blood with plant dyes.
 - B. By grinding minerals like ochre into a powder.
 - C. By using hollow bones to spray liquid paint.
 - D. By soaking flower petals in warm oil.
- 3. Why does the author mention "Bushmen in South Africa" in Paragraph 2?**
- A. To suggest that prehistoric artists traveled between continents.
 - B. To contrast the location of their rock art with that of Lascaux.
 - C. To prove that all ancient art was created for religious purposes.
 - D. To provide an example of artists who used similar powdered pigments.
- 4. What can be inferred from Paragraph 2 about the artists who painted Lascaux?**
- A. They were forced to develop their own sources of artificial light.
 - B. They lived deep inside the caves for their entire lives.
 - C. They preferred to paint on rocks outside the caves during the summer.
 - D. They were unable to find suitable surfaces near the cave entrances.
- 5. The word "functional" in Paragraph 3 is closest in meaning to:**
- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| A. Artistic | C. Spiritual |
| B. Practical | D. Rare |
- 6. According to the "hunting theory" mentioned in the passage, why did artists paint wounded animals?**
- A. To warn other tribe members of the dangers of the hunt.
 - B. To psychologically motivate hunters by visualizing a successful kill.
 - C. To record the specific types of weapons used in the 1940s.
 - D. To show that animals were superior to humans in strength.
- 7. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in Paragraph 3?**
- A. Scholars agree that the paintings were created primarily to decorate the living spaces of ancient tribes.
 - B. Researchers believe the art had a specific utility, such as tracking animal movements or aiding in hunting preparation.
 - C. Seasonal migrations were the only reason that prehistoric people moved into deep cave systems.
 - D. Psychological tools like cave paintings were ineffective at improving the survival rates of hunters.
- 8. Look at the four squares [A, B, C, D] in Paragraph 2. Where would the following sentence best fit?**
- "This made it easy for the artists to paint and display them for the rest of the cave dwellers."*

A. [A]

B. [B]

C. [C]

D. [D]

9. The author discusses the "trance state" in Paragraph 3 to suggest that:

- A. The artists were suffering from a lack of oxygen in the caves.
- B. Some paintings may represent spiritual experiences or shamanistic rituals.
- C. Geometric shapes were easier to draw when the artist was sleepy.
- D. Ancient humans spent most of their time in a state of semi-sleep.

10. [Summary] Select 3 sentences that summarize the most important ideas of the passage.

- a. The Lascaux paintings are remarkable for their size, detail, and use of mineral-based pigments.
- b. The deep, inaccessible locations of the paintings suggest they were intended for private or ceremonial use.
- c. Various theories exist regarding the meaning of the art, ranging from hunting magic to spiritual trances.
- d. Some animals in the grotto are depicted upside down to represent death.
- e. Modern scientists ground their own iron oxides to replicate the prehistoric colors.
- f. Bird-headed men are the most common subject found in South African rock art.

PASSAGE II: The Geography of the Nile

Paragraph 1: The Nile Valley and Delta represent the most extensive oasis on Earth, created by the world's second-longest river and its **seemingly inexhaustible** sources. Without the specific topographic channel that allows the Nile to traverse the Sahara, Egypt would be entirely desert. The river flows northward for about 1,600 kilometers before emptying into the Mediterranean Sea. The Nile is a complex combination of three primary tributaries: the White Nile, the Blue Nile, and the Atbarah.

Paragraph 2: [A] The White Nile, originating at Lake Victoria, **supplies** approximately 28 percent of the Nile's waters in Egypt. [B] Its elevation drops significantly in the south, but as it passes through central Sudan, it enters a wide, flat plain covered with swamp vegetation. [C] Here, the water slows almost to stagnation, allowing for high rates of evaporation. [D]

Paragraph 3: The Blue Nile, which starts at Lake Tana in Ethiopia, provides the majority of the water—roughly 58 percent—and flows with a much steeper gradient and greater velocity than its counterpart. Unlike the clearer White Nile, the Blue Nile carries a massive volume of sediment. For several kilometers north of their junction at Khartoum, the waters of the two rivers remain distinct: the eastern side is visibly muddy from the Blue Nile, while the western side remains clear.

11. The word "inexhaustible" in Paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to:

- A. Endless
- B. Limited
- C. Predictable
- D. Finite

12. According to Paragraph 1, what prevents Egypt from being a complete desert?

- A. Frequent rainfall in the Sahara region.
- B. The presence of the Mediterranean Sea to the north.
- C. The river's path through a specific topographic channel.
- D. The agricultural cycles tracked by the stars.

13. The word "supplies" in Paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to:

- A. Takes
- B. Flows
- C. Provides
- D. Stores

14. In Paragraph 2, what causes the White Nile to reach a state of "stagnation"?

- A. The extreme heat of the Sahara Desert.
- B. The lack of a steep incline in the central Sudanese plains.
- C. The introduction of salt from the surrounding soil.
- D. The blockage caused by the junction with the Blue Nile.

15. According to the passage, where do the Blue and White Nile rivers meet?

- A. Lake Victoria
- B. Lake Tana
- C. Khartoum
- D. The Mediterranean

16. What can be inferred about the eastern bank of the Nile north of Khartoum?

- A. It is the best place to build hydroelectric dams.
- B. It contains higher levels of silt and mud than the western bank.
- C. It is where the Atbarah river joins the main channel.
- D. It has a much lower elevation than the surrounding desert.

17. Which of the following does NOT describe the Blue Nile?

- A. It originates at Lake Tana.
- B. Its primary source is Lake Victoria.
- C. It carries a large amount of sediment.
- D. It provides more than half of Egypt's water.

18. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in Paragraph 3?

- A. The White Nile is faster and steeper than the Blue Nile, but provides less water to the delta.
- B. The Blue Nile is the main water source for the Nile and has a faster, steeper flow than the White Nile.

- C. Lake Tana and Lake Victoria provide equal amounts of water to the Egyptian Nile Valley.
- D. counterparts in Ethiopia and Uganda have developed different irrigation techniques for the Nile.

19. Look at the four squares [A, B, C, D] in Paragraph 2. Where would the following sentence best fit?

"Small-scale wind turbines and solar cells are now being used to pump this water into nearby fields."

- A. [A] B. [B] C. [C] D. [D]

20. [Summary] Select 3 sentences that summarize the most important ideas of the passage.

- a. The Nile River is the primary force that allows life to exist in the Saharan region of Egypt.
- b. The river is fed by different sources, including the White Nile from the south and the Blue Nile from the east.
- c. Differences in geography cause the tributaries to have distinct characteristics, such as sediment levels and flow speed.
- d. The Atbarah is the shortest of the three tributaries that make up the Nile.
- e. Stagnation in the Sudanese plains leads to significant water loss through evaporation.
- f. The western bank of the Nile is the most popular site for ancient Egyptian monuments.

Solutions - Section I

1. (C) "Others" refers back to the "beasts" (animals) mentioned in the previous sentence.
2. (B) Paragraph 1 states pigments were "derived from ochre and iron oxides ground into a fine powder."
3. (B) The author uses the Bushmen (who painted near entrances) to contrast with Lascaux (hidden deep inside).
4. (A) Since they worked in "cramped spaces without natural light," they must have had artificial light.
5. (B) "Functional" in this context refers to something that has a useful, "practical" purpose beyond decoration.
6. (B) The text says they might have used pictures to "imagine a successful hunt," providing motivation.
7. (B) Option B captures the two main functions discussed: migration records and hunting utility.
8. (B) Square [B] is correct because the previous sentence describes paintings near entrances (easy to see), and the next sentence begins the contrast with the deep recesses.
9. (B) The mention of bird-heads and trances links the art to spiritual and shamanistic practices.
10. (a, b, c) These summarize the physical traits (a), the mystery of location (b), and the diverse theories (c).

Solutions - Section II

11. (A) "Inexhaustible" refers to something that cannot be used up; "endless" is the best fit.
12. (C) Paragraph 1 credits the "topographic channel" for allowing the Nile to flow across the desert.
13. (C) In the context of water distribution, "supplies" is synonymous with "provides."
14. (B) The text states the river enters a "wide, flat plain," which causes it to slow down (stagnate).
15. (C) Paragraph 3 identifies the "junction at Khartoum."
16. (B) The text says the eastern side is "visibly muddy" because it comes from the sediment-rich Blue Nile.

17. **(B)** This is false. The *White* Nile originates at Lake Victoria. The Blue Nile starts at Lake Tana.
18. **(B)** The original sentence highlights the Blue Nile's volume (58%) and its steep/fast flow. Option B is a perfect paraphrase.
19. **(D)** Square [D] follows the discussion of water accumulation in the plains, making it the logical spot for a sentence about modern extraction.
20. **(a, b, c)** These capture the Nile's necessity for Egypt (a), the two main sources (b), and their physical differences (c).