

TOEFL Reading Sample Paper 08

- 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: Sustainable Architecture and Green Design

Paragraph 1: In recent years, there has been an outpouring of information regarding the environmental impact of buildings. While literature promotes the **efficacy** of sustainable construction, it seldom offers practical advice to practitioners, such as those designing mechanical and electrical systems, on how to implement this knowledge. Furthermore, the terms "green" and "sustainable" are often used interchangeably, yet they have distinct meanings. Sustainability focuses on minimizing negative human impacts on the environment, particularly irreversible ones, whereas green design may include features like internal air quality that do not affect the global ecological balance.

Paragraph 2: [A] Despite the growing number of architects with experience in green design, the transition to sustainable building is often stalled. [B] The driving force behind a building's environmental impact is the owner—the person financing the project. [C] If the owner considers green design to be of secondary importance, it will likely be excluded from the final plan. [D]

Paragraph 3: Owners who bypass the commissioning process—where objectives and benchmarks are documented—often "come a cropper" once the building is operational. Initially, equipment may seem to function well, but over time, maintenance and operational costs rise significantly. Consequently, the lack of initial coordination between stakeholders, including contractors and end-users, leads to higher long-term ownership costs and a greater environmental footprint. Owners may initially **balk at** the added fees of green coordination, but case studies show that these designs result in lower costs for long-term ownership and even construction.

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

A. Cost	C. Appearance
B. Effectiveness	D. Popularity
2. According to Paragraph 1, what is the main difference between "green" and "sustainable" design?
A. Green design is only concerned with the cost of materials.
B. Sustainability focuses specifically on preventing permanent environmental damage.
C. Sustainable buildings are always more expensive than green buildings.
D. Green design excludes the use of mechanical and electrical systems.
3. According to Paragraph 2, why are many buildings still constructed without green features?
A. There are not enough architects trained in sustainable methods.
B. Construction companies are unaware of how to build them.
C. The people financing the buildings often prioritize other factors.
D. Most countries have laws that prevent green construction.
4. Why does the author mention "mechanical and electrical systems" in Paragraph 1?
A. To provide examples of systems that are rarely included in sustainable literature.
B. To argue that these systems are the primary cause of global warming.
C. To show that practitioners in these fields are resistant to change.
D. To explain why green buildings are more complex to design.
5. The phrase "come a cropper" in Paragraph 3 is closest in meaning to:

A. Experience success	C. Save money
B. Suffer a failure	D. Change a plan
6. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in Paragraph 3?
A. Commissioning is a process that helps owners save money on building materials.
B. Owners who skip the planning and benchmark stage often face serious problems later.
C. Operational buildings are more efficient than those still in the commissioning phase.
D. Documentation is the most expensive part of the entire construction process.
7. What can be inferred from Paragraph 3 about the "added fees" of green design?
A. They are usually paid for by the government through tax credits.
B. They result from the need for better communication between different specialists.
C. They are much higher than the eventual savings in maintenance.
D. They are only required for buildings in urban areas.
8. The word "balk at" in Paragraph 3 is closest in meaning to:

A. Agree to
B. Resist

C. Inquire about
D. Understand

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

"This is because firms do not get to decide the ultimate ecological goals of a project."

A. [A]

B. [B]

C. [C]

D. [D]

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

- a. Green design and sustainability are related but distinct concepts in modern architecture.
- b. Building owners are the most critical factor in determining whether a project is eco-friendly.
- c. Skipping the commissioning process often leads to increased long-term costs and inefficiency.
- d. Mechanical and electrical engineers need more written advice on sustainable practices.
- e. Tax credits are available for any building that uses renewable energy sources.
- f. Internal air quality is the only feature that distinguishes green from sustainable design.

PASSAGE II: The Reality of Anthropological Fieldwork

Paragraph 1: Anthropology distinguishes itself through its heavy emphasis on fieldwork as the primary source of knowledge. The goal is to develop an intimate understanding of a culture by staying in the field long enough for the researcher's presence to be considered "natural." Realistically, however, this status is rarely achieved. Foreign mannerisms often make anthropologists appear "clownish" to locals. If they speak the local language, they often do so with flawed grammar, and they inadvertently break social rules.

Paragraph 2: [A] Regardless of the researcher's role, fieldwork is physically and mentally demanding. [B] Anthropological texts often read like exciting journeys, but the reality is characterized by boredom, illness, and frustration. [C] Adapting to unfamiliar climates, strange food, and different standards of hygiene is particularly trying for Western researchers. [D]

Paragraph 3: Fieldwork methodologies are often classified as *emic* or *etic*. An *emic* account attempts to describe the culture from the native's point of view, whereas an *etic* account uses the analytical perspective of the outsider. **While emic descriptions are highly desirable, they are difficult to attain because a researcher's own cultural biases and literary style inevitably seep into the narrative.** Furthermore, the process of translating speech into writing often alters the original meaning of local utterances.

11. According to Paragraph 1, how does anthropology differ from other social sciences?
- A. It relies more on historical documents than on direct observation.
 - B. It places a greater emphasis on fieldwork as a way to gain knowledge.
 - C. It requires researchers to stay in the field for exactly ten years.
 - D. It focuses exclusively on the study of ancient civilizations.
12. What can be inferred from Paragraph 1 about the "clownish" appearance of researchers?
- A. It is a deliberate strategy used to make locals feel more comfortable.
 - B. It results from the researcher's inability to perfectly mimic local customs.
 - C. it is only a problem for researchers who do not speak the local language.
 - D. It prevents the researcher from ever collecting any useful data.
13. According to Paragraph 2, how do anthropological books differ from the actual experience of fieldwork?
- A. Books focus on the boring aspects, while the experience is mostly exciting.
 - B. The books often glamorize the journey, hiding the frustration and illness.
 - C. The books are written by locals, but the fieldwork is done by outsiders.
 - D. There is no difference; the books are an exact record of the researcher's daily life.
14. What is the "Rhetorical Purpose" of the author's mention of "hygiene" in Paragraph 2?
- A. To argue that Westerners are cleaner than other cultures.
 - B. To illustrate one of the specific physical challenges of field research.
 - C. To explain why anthropologists often get sick in the field.
 - D. To provide a reason why fieldwork should be banned in certain areas.
15. The word "trying" in Paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to:
- A. Attempting
 - B. Challenging
 - C. Brief
 - D. Successful
16. Which of the following is NOT true about an *emic* account?
- A. It is told from the perspective of the person being studied.
 - B. It is currently the preferred method of research in anthropology.
 - C. it is easy to produce because it only requires basic translation.
 - D. It can be influenced by the researcher's own cultural background.
17. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in Paragraph 3?
- A. Biases and writing styles make it nearly impossible to capture a truly native viewpoint.
 - B. Researchers prefer emic accounts because they are easier to write than etic ones.
 - C. Narratives are only useful when they are written in a specific literary style.
 - D. Native points of view are less accurate than the analytical views of outsiders.
18. The word "inevitably" in Paragraph 3 is closest in meaning to:

- A. Unavoidably
- B. Occasionally

- C. Intentionally
- D. Rapidly

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

"It takes a dedicated individual to conduct research that is not negatively affected by these personal discomforts."

A. [A]

B. [B]

C. [C]

D. [D]

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

- a. Fieldwork is the core of anthropology, but researchers face significant social and physical barriers.
- b. The "natural" status of a researcher is difficult to achieve due to cultural differences and flawed communication.
- c. Emic and etic perspectives represent the two main ways of interpreting cultural data, each with its own limitations.
- d. Most anthropologists prefer the "superior expert" role because it grants them more respect.
- e. Translation is the most effective tool for ensuring the accuracy of an emic description.
- f. Boredom and illness are the primary reasons why anthropologists write exciting books.

Solutions - Section I

1. (B) "Efficacy" refers to the ability to produce a desired or intended result; "effectiveness" is the best synonym.
2. (B) Paragraph 1 states that sustainability focuses on "minimizing negative impacts... in particular those which have long-term and irreversible effects."
3. (C) The text explains that the "driving force" is the owner, and if the owner considers it "unimportant," it won't be in the plan.
4. (A) The author uses these practitioners to show a specific group that is currently underserved by sustainable literature.
5. (B) To "come a cropper" is an idiom meaning to fail heavily or have a disaster.
6. (B) The sentence discusses how skipping commissioning (planning) leads to "coming a cropper" (failure). Option B is a perfect paraphrase.
7. (B) The text mentions that coordination between various stakeholders (contractors, professionals, users) is what "requires additional expenditure."
8. (B) To "balk at" something is to be hesitant or unwilling to accept it; "resist" is the most accurate synonym.
9. (B) Square [B] is the best fit because it explains *why* the transition is stalled—because firms (architects) don't have the final say.
10. (a, b, c) These summarize the definitions (a), the owner's influence (b), and the planning/cost benefits (c).

Solutions - Section II

11. (B) Paragraph 1 states that anthropology "distinguishes itself... by its greater emphasis on fieldwork."
12. (B) The text says "foreign mannerisms" and "flawed grammar" make them look clownish, implying they can't perfectly blend in.
13. (B) The author contrasts the "exciting journey" in books with the "boredom, illness, and frustration" of reality.
14. (B) Hygiene is mentioned as one of the many "discomforts" (along with food and climate) that make fieldwork difficult.
15. (B) In the context of a difficult experience, "trying" means "challenging" or hard to endure.
16. (C) Paragraph 3 says emic accounts are "difficult to attain," contradicting the idea that they are "easy."

17. **(A)** The original sentence states that biases "inevitably seep into the narrative," making emic views hard to reach. Option A captures this.
18. **(A)** "Inevitably" means as is certain to happen; "unavoidably" is the best fit.
19. **(D)** Square [D] follows the list of specific discomforts (hygiene, food, climate) and concludes with the need for a dedicated individual.
20. **(a, b, c)** These capture the barrier of fieldwork (a), the struggle for natural status (b), and the emic/etic methodology (c).