**Critical Reading Practice Test 1**

**Directions:** Questions follow each of the passages below. Using only the stated or implied information in each passage and in its introduction, if any, answer the questions.

Passage 1

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| Gauguin decided to settle in Mataiea, someforty-five kilometres from Papeete, probablyon the advice of a Tahitian chief whomhe had befriended. There he rented a(5)native-style oval bamboo hut, roofed withpandanu leaves. Once settled, he was in aposition to begin work in earnest and totackle serious figure studies. It was probablysoon after this that he painted Vahine(10)no te tiare, his first portrait of a Tahitianmodel.By the late summer of 1892 the completedcanvas was back in Paris, hanging in theGoupil gallery. From the many subsequent(15) references to this image in his correspondence,it is clear that Gauguin set considerablestore by his “Tahitienne” and, bysending her on ahead to Paris, wanted herto serve as an ambassadress for the further(20) images of Tahitian women he would bebringing back with him on his return. Hepressed his male friends for their reactionsto the girl, rather than to the picture, anxiousto know whether they, like him, would(25) be responsive to the beauty of her face:“And her forehead,” he later wrote, “withthe majesty of upsweeping lines, remindedme of that saying of Poe’s, ‘There is noperfect beauty without a certain singularity(30) in the proportions.’” No one, it seems, wasquite attuned to his emotional perception:while Aurier was enthusiastic, excited bythe picture’s rarity value, Schuffeneckerwas somewhat taken aback by the painting’s | (35) lack of Symbolist character. Indeed,apart from the imaginary floral backgroundwhich harked back to Gauguin’s 1888Self-Portrait, the image is a relativelystraightforward one. Recent anthropological(40) work, backed by the use of photography,had scientifically characterized thephysical distinctions between the differentraces, distinctions that in the past had beenimperfectly understood. Generally speaking,(45) artists before Gauguin’s time had representedTahitians as idealized types,adjusting their features and proportions toaccord with European taste. This meantthat hitherto the Tahitian in Western art(50) could scarcely be distinguished from hisAfrican or Asian counterpart.Unfortunately, Charles Giraud’s paintingshave disappeared, so we cannot comparethem with Gauguin’s, but this first image(55) by Gauguin suggests a desire to portray theTahitian physiognomy naturalistically,without the blinkers of preconceived rulesof beauty laid down by a classical culture.Naturalism as an artistic creed, though,(60) was anathema to Gauguin; it made theartist a lackey of science and knowledgerather than a god-like creator. He wantedto go beyond empirical observation of thiskind, to find a way of painting Tahiti that(65) would accord with his Symbolist aspirations,that would embody the feelings hehad about the place and the poetic imagehe carried with him of the island’s mysteriouspast. |

**Q1. In lines 15–16, the word “correspondence” means**

* A. correlation.
* B. agreement.
* C. conformity.
* D. similarity.
* E. letters.

 **Answer \_\_\_\_**

**Q2. Gauguin found the faces of Tahitian women beautiful because of their**

* A. elegant coloration.
* B. unusual proportions.
* C. refusal to wear makeup.
* D. dark hair covering the forehead.
* E. openness and innocence.

 **Answer \_\_\_\_**

**Q3. The passage suggests that a painter depicting a Tahitian in a period sometime before Gauguin would probably**

* A. rely on photographs for models.
* B. make an image that was not in accord with European ideals of female beauty.
* C. paint a picture that employed a symbolic landscape as background.
* D. fail to differentiate a Tahitian from the inhabitants of Asian countries.
* E. paint only models who were fully clothed in Western-style costume.

 **Answer \_\_\_\_**

**Q4. It can be inferred that the author would like to see the lost paintings of Charles Giraud in order to**

* A. determine whether they presented the Tahitians realistically.
* B. determine whether they were better paintings than Gauguin’s.
* C. determine whether they deserve their high reputation.
* D. compare the symbolism of these paintings with that of Gauguin’s.
E. discover what subjects Giraud chose to paint.

 **Answer \_\_\_\_**

**Q5. Of the following phrases, which does the author use to refer to the aspect of Gauguin’s art that attempts to depict the real world accurately?**

I. “the image is a relatively straightforward one” (lines 38–39)
II. “desire to portray the Tahitian physiognomy naturalistically” (lines 55–56)
III. “a way of painting Tahiti that would accord with his Symbolist aspirations” (lines 64–66)

* A. II only
* B. III only
* C. I and II only
* D. I and III only
* E. I, II, and III

 **Answer \_\_\_\_**

**Q6. The passage suggests that an important problem Gauguin would have to deal with in his paintings of Tahiti was how to**

* A. reconcile his naturalistic and symbolistic impulses.
* B. make Europeans understand the beauty of Tahiti.
* C. find the necessary supplies in a remote location.
* D. earn enough money to support himself by selling his paintings in Paris.
* E. make artistic use of the new advances in photography.

 **Answer \_\_\_\_**

Passage 2

**Questions 7 through 15 are based on the following passage:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Jim Hansen, a climatologist at NASA’sGoddard Space Institute, is convinced thatthe earth’s temperature is rising and placesthe blame on the buildup of greenhouse(5) gases in the atmosphere. Unconvinced,John Sununu, former White House chief ofstaff, doubts that the warming will be greatenough to produce a serious threat andfears that measures to reduce the emissions(10) would throw a wrench into the gears thatdrive the United States’ troubled economy.The stakes in this debate are extremelyhigh, for it pits society’s short-termwell-being against the future of all the(15) planet’s inhabitants. Our past transgressionshave altered major portions of theearth’s surface, but the effects have beenlimited. Now we can foresee the possibilitythat to satisfy the energy needs of an expanding(20) human population, we will rapidlychange the climate of the entire planet,with consequences for even the most remoteand unspoiled regions of the globe.The notion that certain gases could warm(25) the planet is not new. In 1896 SvanteArrhenius, a Swedish chemist, resolved thelong-standing question of how the earth’satmosphere could maintain the planet’s relativelywarm temperature when the oxygen(30) and nitrogen that make up 99 percent ofthe atmosphere do not absorb any of theheat escaping as infrared radiation fromthe earth’s surface into space. He discoveredthat even the small amounts of carbon(35) dioxide in the atmosphere could absorblarge amounts of heat. Furthermore, he reasonedthat the burning of coal, oil, and naturalgas could eventually release enoughcarbon dioxide to warm the earth. Hansen(40) and most other climatologists agree thatenough greenhouse gases have accumulatedin the atmosphere to makeArrhenius’s prediction come true. Burning | fossil fuels is not the only problem; a fifth(45) of our emissions of carbon dioxide nowcome from clearing and burning forests.Scientists are also tracking a host of othergreenhouse gases that emanate from a varietyof human activities; the warming effect(50) of methane, chlorofluorocarbons, and nitrousoxide combined equals that of carbondioxide.Although the current warming from thesegases may be difficult to detect against the(55) background noise of natural climate variation,most climatologists are certain that asthe gases continue to accumulate, increasesin the earth’s temperature will become evidenteven to skeptics. The battle lines for(60) this particular skirmish are surprisinglywell balanced. Those with concerns aboutglobal warming point to the recent reportfrom the United Nations IntergovernmentalPlan on Climate Change, which suggests(65) that with “business as usual,” emissions ofcarbon dioxide by the year 2025 will be 25percent greater than previously estimated.On the other side, the George C. MarshallInstitute, a conservative think tank,(70) published a report warning that withoutgreenhouse gases to warm things up, theworld would become cool in the next century.Stephen Schneider, a leading computermodeler of future climate change, accused(75) Sununu of “brandishing the [Marshall] reportas if he were holding a crucifix to repel avampire.”If the reality of global warming were put ontrial, each side would have trouble making(80) its case. Jim Hansen’s side could not provebeyond a reasonable doubt that carbon dioxideand the other greenhouse gases havewarmed the planet. But neither could JohnSununu’s side prove beyond a reasonable(85)doubt that the warming expected from greenhousegases has not occurred. |

**Q7. The purpose of the first paragraph (lines 1–23) of the passage is to**

* A. argue for the reduction of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.
* B. defend on economic grounds the reduction of greenhouse gases.
* C. present two opposing positions on the subject of the earth’s rising temperature.
* D. lessen the concern of the public about the alleged buildup of greenhouse gases.
* E. introduce the two most important spokesmen for and against ecological reforms.

 **Answer \_\_\_\_**

**Q8. In the first paragraph in line 13, the word “pits” means**

* A. removes the core of.
* B. sets in competition.
* C. depresses.
* D. marks with small scars.
* E. hardens.

 **Answer \_\_\_\_**

**Q9. From the information in the second paragraph of the passage, you can infer that a planet**

* A. whose atmosphere was made up entirely of oxygen would be warmer than a planet equally distant from the sun with an atmosphere made up entirely of nitrogen.
* B. whose atmosphere was made up entirely of nitrogen would be warmer than a planet equally distant from the sun with an atmosphere made up entirely of oxygen.
* C. with a larger amount of carbon dioxide in its atmosphere, other factors being equal, will be warmer than a planet with less carbon
dioxide.
* D. with a small amount of carbon dioxide in its atmosphere cannot increase this amount.
* E. with little infrared radiation escaping from its surface is likely to be extremely cold.

 **Answer \_\_\_\_**

**Q10. The passage implies that a greenhouse gas is one that**
I. forms a large part of the earth’s atmosphere.
II. absorbs heat escaping from the earth’s surface.
III. can be formed by the clearing and burning of forests.

* A. III only
* B. I and II only
* C. I and III only
* D. II and III only
* E. I, II, and III

 **Answer \_\_\_\_**

**Q11. From the passage, it can be inferred that all the following are greenhouse gases EXCEPT**

* A. nitrogen.
* B. carbon dioxide.
* C. methane.
* D. chlorofluorocarbons.
* E. nitrous oxide.

 **Answer \_\_\_\_**

**Q12. Which of the following, if true, would call into question the argument of the Marshall report?**

**I.** Since the earth’s climate did not grow colder in the five hundred years since 1400 when the amount of greenhouse gases released by
humans was small, there is no reason to expect a decrease in temperature when the amounts of gas released are now much larger.
**II.** The radical reduction of the emission of greenhouse gases will result in massive unemployment throughout the industrial world.
**III.** Some scientific studies have shown that the temperature of the earth is unaffected by the presence of oxygen in the atmosphere.

* A. I only
* B. II only
* C. I and II only
* D. I and III only
* E. I, II, and III

 **Answer \_\_\_\_**

**Q13. The word “skeptics” in line 59 most nearly means**

* A. scientists.
* B. ecologists.
* C. opponents.
* D. doubters.
* E. politicians.

 **Answer \_\_\_\_**

**Q14. Stephen Schneider probably referred to Sununu’s “brandishing the [Marshall] report as if he were holding a crucifix to repel a vampire” in order to**

I. amuse his audience.
II. suggest that Sununu’s claims are melodramatic.
III. imply that the idea that greenhouse gases are dangerous is as imaginary as a vampire.

* A. III only
* B. I and II only
* C. I and III only
* D. II and III only
* E. I, II, and III

 **Answer \_\_\_\_**

**Q15. The effect of the final paragraph of the passage is to**

* A. stress the superiority of Jim Hansen’s case.
* B. undermine Sununu’s argument.
* C. support the conclusions of the Marshall report.
* D. call Arrhenius’s theories into question.
* E. leave the debate about global warming unresolved.

 **Answer \_\_\_\_**

Answer Keys and Explanation Link

<https://gotestprep.com/critical-reading-practice-test/>