EXERCISES IN TEST-WISENESS

Test-Wiseness is a skill that helps you choose the correct alternative on objective tests when you are not completely sure of the answer. If you do know the correct response to an item, then mark it. But if you are not sure then GUESS. Through the test-wiseness clues, you will be able to guess more wisely.

Test-wiseness helps you take advantage of the clues an instructor may put in when the test is written. In a guessing situation, you will be able to eliminate some of the alternatives and concentrate your choice on the others, or you will be tipped off to the correct answer right away. By using the test-wiseness clues, you should be able to raise your scores.

Instructions:

1. The items below contain the following:
   a) An explanation of test-wiseness a principle
   b) An example based on this principle
   c) Review questions to help reinforce/recall the principle

2. First, read the principle. Then, do the example - record your answers. Do this before you do the fill-in exercise that comes with each example.

3. After completing the example and exercises for #1 on page 1, you will find the answers right above #2 on page 2.
   ▪ Correct your answer sheet if it is wrong. Then go ahead and do #2.
   ▪ Answers to #2 will be found right above #3 on page 3. And so on.
   ▪ When you come to page 8 go back to page 1 to find #9.

4. As mentioned, the following principles and examples are intended to be clues to help you in case you need to guess on an item (and are not guidelines or substitutes for proper studying or other test preparation). We hope you find them to be helpful.

By: Gary R. Langer and David M. Wark
University of Minnesota, 1969
(Principle):
1. The most general alternative is often the correct one. If three of the alternatives are specific in nature and one is more general in that it allows for exceptions, then in a guessing situation, choose the more general alternative.

(Example):
Muscle:

A. usually functions in producing movement or tension.
B. is always found attached to bone.
C. functions only in body heat production.
D. is characteristic only of mammals.

(Exercise):
Specific alternatives do not allow for exceptions. The correct alternative is often the MORE _______ alternative and it does allow for ____________ .

(ANSWER TO 8: C : association; stem; “blockage”)

9. The number of spaces provided for fill-in-the-blank items may give you a clue as to which word or words is required. If 4 spaces are given, the a 4-letter-word is needed. Seeing these 4 spaces may help you to recall which word is needed. The number of blanks can help you recall the right words to fill in, or the number of words needed.

The head of the Catholic Church is the _ _ _ _.

The _________ of _____________ provided for fill-in items can give you a clue to the correct response. This example requires a word containing _______ letters.

(ANSWER TO 16: T ; specific determiner; correct)

17. Any S-shaped line is an:

A. curve
B. ogee
C. form
D. bow

In this example the correct alternative must agree with the stem.
2. The **longest** alternative is often the correct one. If three alternatives are much shorter than a fourth, then choose the **longest** alternative when you are guessing.

The French Revolution of the 18th century was mainly the result of:

A. the Russian Revolution  
B. the oppression of the Parisian middle and lower classes by the French nobility and the Bourbon monarchs.  
C. the oppression of the gentry  
D. *das Capital* by Karl Marx

In this example the correct alternative is the ______________ alternative.  
This test-wiseness clue makes use of the _______________ of the alternatives.

(ANSWER TO 9:  P O P E ; number of blanks (spaces); 4)

10. Certain words, called **Specific Determiners**, are associated with the correctness of statements.  
Specific Determiners associated with **INCORRECT** statements are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>word</th>
<th>word</th>
<th>word</th>
<th>word</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>always</td>
<td>merely</td>
<td>necessarily</td>
<td>impossible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>never</td>
<td>must</td>
<td>none</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>only</td>
<td>all</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When these words are included in a statement, the statement is usually **incorrect**, i.e. false. These words give the statements an absolute sense that it must be true all of the time with no exceptions. But there are few absolutes, so these statements are usually incorrect.

**True / False**  
The human skin is composed of only cuboidal epithelium.

The specific determiner in this item is _______________. Words like all, none, and must are called _______________ and are associated with (correct/incorrect) statements.

(ANSWER TO 17:  B ; grammatically)

18. In 404 B.C. the Athenian oligarchs, supported by Lysander and Theramens:

A. set up a commission of thirty to write a new constitution.  
B. encouraged a military expedition against the Spartans.  
C. rejected the constitution created by the committee of ten.  
D. approved a plan to rebuild sections of the city.

Alternatives A & C are **opposite/similar** in meaning.  
If two alternatives are opposite in meaning, choose **(either/neither)**.
3. If the alternatives range in value from high to low or from big to small, then eliminate the extreme values and choose from the **middle values**. The correct choice is most often a **middle value**.

In 1950, how many states were in the United States?

A. 45  C. 48  
B. 47  D. 50

When alternatives range in value, ________________ the extremes and choose an alternative with a _________________. In this example, ___ & ____ are middle value alternatives.

(ANSWER TO 10: F; only; specific determiners; incorrect)

11. There are also **Specific Determiners** associated with **CORRECT** statements.

These are:

- often
- seldom
- may
- perhaps
- generally
- usually

When one of these words is in a statement, the statement is usually **correct**. These **specific determiners** allow the statements to have exceptions and not to be so absolute.

**True / False** Demos is a term that may refer to the common people.

The specific determiner in this item is _________________. Give three specific determiners that are associated with correct statements:

________________ , ________________ , ________________

(ANSWER TO 18: A; opposite; either)

19. The country comprising several islands southeast of Australia is ________________.

The principle used here would be the ________________ of blanks provided for a fill-in item.
4. If two alternatives have **similar meaning**, then choose **neither**. If two alternatives were similar in meaning and you wanted to pick one, then you should pick the other also. But since only one answer is correct, this can't be. So choose from the remaining alternatives. Choose **neither** of the **similar meaning** alternatives.

The Battle of Bouvines in July, 1214 resulted in:

A. the military success of Phillip II of France over King John of England and Otto IV of Germany.  
B. the victory of Louis IX of France over England's Edward II.  
C. the rout of the English and Flemish by Phillip III of France.  
D. the military triumph of France under Louis IX over Edward II of England

The two alternatives similar in meaning are _____ and _____. If two alternatives have __________________ meaning, choose (either/neither).  

(ANSWER TO 11:  T ; may; see list for 3 words)  

12. When an item, as in the example below, has options to choose from, choose an alternative that contains those **options** you **know** to be correct. Choose it even if it contains another option you are not sure of. Choose the alternative that contains all the **options known** to be correct.

Which of the following has (have) square roots that are whole numbers?

1. 4  
2. 9  
3. 436921 (do not solve)  
4. 373322 (do not solve)

A. 1  
B. 3 and 4  
C. 1 and 2 and 3  
D. 2 and 3 and 4

Of the four options containing numbers, you are probably sure of numbers _____ and _____. The only alternative reflecting options __________________ to be correct is alternative _________. This alternative also contains an option (436921) that you may not know.

(ANSWER TO 19:  New Zealand; number)

20. **True / False** It is impossible for oxygen to be in a liquid state.

This statement contains a(n) __________________ , the word “impossible”.  
This word is associated with (correct/incorrect) statements.
5. If two alternatives have **opposite meaning**, then the correct answer is one of these in most cases. Eliminate all others. When two alternatives are **opposite** in meaning, choose **either**.

Adding more items to a test would probably:

- A. decrease its cost of administration.
- B. increase its standard error or measurement.
- C. decrease its reliability.
- D. increase its reliability.

The two opposite alternatives are ___________ and ________. If two alternatives have meanings that are ___________, then choose **(either/neither)**.

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(ANSWER TO 12: **C**; 1 & 2; known; C)

13. The population of Albany, New York in 1960 was approximately:

- A. 75,000
- B. 130,000
- C. 220,000
- D. 460,000

For this example, you would use the test-wiseness principle of ___________ to choose the correct alternative. You would eliminate the ___________ and choose a ___________ value alternative.

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(ANSWER TO 20: **F**; specific determiner; incorrect)

21. Robert Louis Stevenson wrote:

1. *Treasure Island*
2. *Weir of Hermiston*
3. *Great Western*
4. *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym*

- A. 2
- B. 4
- C. 1 and 2
- D. 2 and 3

In this example you would choose the alternative that contains the option you know to be ___________. The alternative you choose is ___________ and this is because you know option ___________ to be correct.
6. The correct alternative must agree ...GRAMMATICALLYf with the stem of the item. The first ...grammatical agreementf concerns the use of "A"and "An". If the stem ends in an, the alternative must begin with a vowel. If the stem ends in a, then the alternative must begin with a consonant. The alternative must grammatically agree with the stem.

An ancient Greek coin is a:
A. icon
B. drashma
C. escudo
D. eulalia

The stem and the alternative must agree __________________. "A" is followed by a word beginning with a ____________. "An" is followed by a word beginning with a ________________.

(ANSWER TO 13:  B ; middle value; extremes; middle)

14. The Municipal Corporation Bills, enacted by Parliament in 1935:
A. guaranteed the rights and freedoms of large urban industries.
B. restricted the corrupt practices of town leaders.
C. provided a plan of government for most towns and cities.
D. prohibited interference with the rights of large city industries.

Alternatives A and D are ________________ in meaning. For alternatives ________________ in meaning, choose (either/neither).

(ANSWER TO 21:  C ; ...correct; C; 1)

22. The Minimal Current Gradient is the phenomenon associated with:
A. formation of the myelinated sheath of nerve cells.
B. intermittent intracellular response of the sensory receptor
C. passive depolarization of the Ca++-Mg++ potential across the nerve membrane.
D. the nerve's requirement for voltage sufficient in magnitude and duration to produce excitation.

The principle used here would be word ________________________ . Words in the ________ are associated with words in one of the ____________________.
"Minimal" is related to ________________________ in one of the alternatives.
7. The second **grammatical agreement** concerns use of singulars and plurals. If the stem calls for a singular response, the alternative must agree. Likewise, for a plural response, the alternative must be of a plural nature if the stem calls for a plural.

Small salamanders are:

A. mole  
B. tarpon  
C. cowl  
D. newts

If the stem is stated in the plural, the correct alternative must also be ___________________.  
This is the second part of ___________________.

(ANSWER TO 14:  C ; similar; similar; neither)

15. Emilio Agunialdo was a notable figure in world history because he was:

A. A Peruvian dictator.  
B. the leader of an insurrection in the Philippine Islands which was ruthlessly suppressed by the United States in 1902.  
C. a general in the army of Simon Bolivar.  
D. the admiral who led the Spanish Armada.

One of the alternatives is much _____________ than the others.  In this example you would use the test-wiseness principle of choosing the ________________ alternative.

(ANSWER TO 22:  D ; association; stem; alternatives; "sufficient")

23. Brass is an alloy of the following metals.

1. copper  
2. gold  
3. zinc  
4. tin

A. 1  
B. 2  
C. 3  
D. 1 and 3

This is another example of ________________ agreement. Because the stem asks for a (singular/plural) response, the alternative must be ____
8. The correct alternative can sometimes be found because of word association

Word or words in the stem can relate directly or through synonyms to word or words in one of the alternatives. The correct alternative may contain the same meaning or the same words as does the stem. By associating words in the stem to the alternatives, you may find the correct response.

Inhibition of the motor neurons may be brought about by:

A. an anodic increase in the Nernst potential
B. elicitation of a synaptic potential across the postsynaptic membrane
C. blockage of acetylcholine at the synaptic junction by chemical inactivation
D. intramuscular administration of physiological saline solution

This principle involves word _________ between the _________ and one of the alternatives. “Inhibition” in the stem relates to ________________ in the alternative you chose.

16. True / False A drupe is generally another term for any fruit with a soft part around an inner stone.

This example contains a word called a ...

Words like generally, usually and may are associated with (correct/incorrect) statements.

24. The writings of John Ashbery

A. are frequently in verse.
B. were published posthumously.
C. consist of seven novels.
D. were written in Dublin.

The correct alternative can be chosen because it is the ________________

Three alternatives are specific in nature and do not allow for ________________

The one that does allow for exceptions is the most ________________

[ END OF THE EXERCISES. NOW DO MATCHING REVIEW ON THE ANSWER SHEET. ]