

Speech Communication (0220)

Test at a Glance

Test Name	Speech Communication		
Test Code	0220		
Time	2 hours		
Number of Questions	120		
Format	Multiple-choice questions		
	Content Categories	Approximate Number of Questions	Approximate Percentage of Examination
	I. Interpersonal Communication	20	17%
	II. Small Group Communication	16	13%
	III. Public Speaking	20	17%
	IV. Media and Their Influences	12	10%
	V. Play Production	16	13%
	VI. Oral Interpretation	16	13%
	VII. Forensics: Classroom and Cocurricular Instruction	12	10%
	VIII. Assessment and Evaluation Issues	8	7%

About This Test

The Speech Communication test is designed to measure the preparedness of examinees to teach speech communication in junior and senior high schools. The 120 multiple-choice questions cover a wide variety of subjects; some questions measure basic knowledge, and others call upon the examinee's ability to apply principles to real-life situations.

The questions in the test require the examinee to demonstrate an understanding of the principles and concepts related to speech communication, including their development and application, the selection and use of appropriate instructional strategies, and ways of evaluating student learning.

Eight major content areas are included in the test: interpersonal communication, small group communication, public speaking, media and their influences, play production, oral interpretation, forensics: classroom and curriculum instruction, and assessment evaluation issues.

Examinees typically have completed a bachelor's degree program in speech communication. Because there are many variations in such undergraduate programs, it is not expected that all of the material covered in the test will be familiar to every examinee. This test may contain some questions that will not count toward your score.

Topics Covered

Representative descriptions of topics covered in each category are provided below.

I. Interpersonal Communication

- Communication process: perception, self-concept, self-disclosure
- Communication competence: functions, development, assessment
- Verbal and nonverbal communication
- Listening
- Goals, skills, and outcomes of interpersonal communication
- Intercultural communication

II. Small Group Communication

- Discussion principles
- Problem-solving/decision-making
- Group roles and functions, including leadership
- Conflict management

III. Public Speaking

- Purposes, types, and forms of public speaking
- Audience analysis
- Organizing strategies
- Language and style
- Delivery, including voice and diction, pronunciation, and movement
- Listening, feedback, and adaptation to the audience
- Criticism and evaluation of speeches, including rhetorical criticism and the assessment of student speeches

IV. Media and Their Influences

- Media: television, film, radio, computer technology
- Critical analysis and evaluation
- Social and technological influences and effects, including programming, commercials, campaigns, funding, and the political process
- Production techniques and audiovisual teaching materials

V. Play Production

- Dramatic theory and criticism: forms, styles, structures, aesthetic principles
- Acting: voice, movement, characterization, improvisation, pantomime
- Directing: play selection, play analysis, casting, rehearsal
- Design and construction: scenery, properties, lighting, sound, costumes, makeup
- Theater management: safety rules and procedures for physical and vocal development; safety rules and procedures for the technical aspects of theater; budgeting; adapting to community standards; the use of school time, school facilities, and school monies

VI. Oral Interpretation

- Readers' theater, storytelling, folklore, oral history, and creative dramatics
- Aesthetic principles: the relationship between reader, script, and audience; universality, individuality, and imagination; principles of text, performance, and narrative
- Analysis: the thinking involved in the interpretation process
- Performance techniques: voice, use and handling of manuscripts; the development of character; creating images or mood

VII. Forensics: Classroom and Cocurricular Instruction

- Argumentation and debate: Lincoln-Douglas Debate; persuasion; policy, team, or cross-examination debate; and parliamentary debates
- Individual events: extemporaneous speaking, oratory, and interpretation
- Program management: tournament management, forensics program philosophy, and school relations

VIII. Assessment and Evaluation Issues

- Teacher responsibilities: prompt, objective assessment of performance; types of feedback
- Curriculum: planning and development, appropriate assignments, textbook selection
- Oral performance: classroom behaviors, intercultural concerns, written/oral critiques
- Test construction

Sample Test Questions

The sample questions that follow illustrate the types of questions in the test. They are not, however, representative of the entire scope of the test in either content or difficulty. Answers with explanations follow the questions.

Directions: Each of the questions or statements below is followed by five suggested answers or completions. Select the one that is best in each case.

1. Which of the following statements about the effects on behavior of the perception of space is accurate?
 - (A) People usually accept uninvited entry into their personal space but not into their social space.
 - (B) Seating arrangements have little effect on who is likely to dominate a conversation.
 - (C) People who are cooperating are more likely to sit at opposite sides of the table.
 - (D) Interpersonal distances are the same from culture to culture.
 - (E) People often react to the messages expressed by their physical environments.

2. All of the following are descriptive of listening behavior EXCEPT:
 - (A) Careful listening can lead to anticipation of a speaker's actions.
 - (B) People learn to listen selectively and can even shut out what is undesirable.
 - (C) Listening comprises at least one-half of all communication.
 - (D) The ability to be a good listener comes naturally and no training is necessary.
 - (E) Being an effective communicator means that one must listen to oneself.

3. When a group is faced with a problem requiring immediate action, the most effective leadership style is
 - (A) authoritarian
 - (B) democratic
 - (C) laissez-faire
 - (D) charismatic
 - (E) permissive

4. Having identified a problem area, the teacher assigns members of a group specific roles in the group and then requires that the group reach an agreement through discussion but without resorting to voting or bargaining. This exercise helps the students gain practical experience in which of the following?
 - I. Role playing
 - II. Problem solving
 - III. Leadership skills
 - IV. Consensus
 - (A) II only
 - (B) I and III only
 - (C) II and IV only
 - (D) I, II, and IV only
 - (E) I, III, and IV only

5. A startling introductory statement is most useful in establishing contact with which kind of group?
 - (A) Hostile
 - (B) Apathetic
 - (C) Attentive
 - (D) Homogeneous
 - (E) Political

6. According to diffusion theory, opinion leaders are
 - (A) very successful with followers whose backgrounds differ from their own
 - (B) very likely to make themselves available to the mass media
 - (C) less socially active and more introverted than their followers
 - (D) uniformly disregarded by other agents of change
 - (E) unlikely to be influential until they have built a strong group of followers

7. Which of the following most accurately describes the research on the relationship between viewing violence on television and engaging in violent behavior?
- (A) It has demonstrated fairly conclusively that there is no substantive relationship between the two activities.
 - (B) It suggests that there is a substantial relationship, in that television viewing patterns will predict about 75 percent of violent behavior.
 - (C) It demonstrates the various ways that violent behavior is manifested in our society.
 - (D) It shows a significant relationship between the two but explains no more than a moderate amount of violent behavior.
 - (E) It concludes that there is a substantial relationship for children but no relationship for adults.
8. In preparing a play, a class in dramatic arts takes which of the following steps first?
- (A) Block the scene
 - (B) Memorize lines
 - (C) Discuss interpretation of parts
 - (D) Read the script aloud
 - (E) Select costumes and stage props
9. It is a generally accepted first principle of oral interpretation that the reader must be true
- (A) to himself or herself
 - (B) to the author
 - (C) to the method
 - (D) to the audience
 - (E) to his or her training
10. Which of the following should be done to prepare the surface of stage scenery for subsequent application of paint or dye?
- (A) Priming
 - (B) Dutching
 - (C) Spattering
 - (D) Stippling
 - (E) Graining
11. Which of the following characteristics is LEAST important for a creative drama leader?
- (A) An ability to lead students beyond their own vision of the possible
 - (B) A respect and liking for children and youth
 - (C) A strong background and expertise in professional theater
 - (D) An understanding of the potential of human play
 - (E) The ability to deal with emotional involvement
12. In debate, a prima facie case is one that
- (A) minimally meets the negative side's burden of proof
 - (B) is presented in the second affirmative rebuttal
 - (C) is necessary only when arguing a proposition of fact
 - (D) is necessary only when arguing a proposition of value
 - (E) minimally meets the affirmative's unattached burden of proof
13. In teaching the constitutional concept of freedom of speech, a speech communication teacher would find which of the following situations a useful example?
- I. A historian doing research on the political goals of the nineteenth-century abolitionist movement
 - II. A school board discussing hiring a Marxist teacher
 - III. A college considering canceling a speech by a civil rights leader because of campus unrest
- (A) I only
 - (B) II only
 - (C) I and II only
 - (D) II and III only
 - (E) I, II, and III

14. A speech that relates the events leading up to the Boston Tea Party would be classified as what type of speech?
- (A) Expository
 - (B) Persuasive
 - (C) Ceremonial
 - (D) Adaptive
 - (E) Analytical
15. Which of the following organizations will provide the speech communication and theater teacher with publications, addresses, and classroom books useful for curricular activities?
- I. The Modern Language Association
 - II. The National Communication Association
 - III. The American Alliance for Theater and Education
- (A) I only
 - (B) II only
 - (C) I and II only
 - (D) II and III only
 - (E) I, II, and III
16. A debate in which the affirmative constructive is six minutes long and the negative constructive is seven minutes long is following which of the following formats?
- (A) Standard
 - (B) Lincoln-Douglas
 - (C) Oxford
 - (D) Cross-examination
 - (E) Mock Trial
17. When authorities claim that communication competence is situational, they mean that
- (A) only certain situations require communication competence
 - (B) the physical situation is the dominant factor in determining appropriateness
 - (C) speakers' communication competence varies from situation to situation
 - (D) most speakers who excel at public speaking will excel in interpersonal situations as well
 - (E) all situations require the same response
18. Which of the following techniques would help a student to practice using eye contact effectively while delivering a speech?
- (A) Focusing his or her eye contact on the side of the room where the teacher is seated
 - (B) Concentrating on looking at classmates who are personal friends
 - (C) Using a blank stare so that listeners will not misinterpret nonverbal messages
 - (D) Bypassing listeners who do not agree with his or her position
 - (E) Scanning the audience to include all members
19. "Excessive consumption of caffeine can lead to high blood pressure; therefore, you should reduce your consumption of cola beverages, coffee, and chocolate." The argument above illustrates which of the following?
- (A) A false dilemma
 - (B) Deductive reasoning
 - (C) An *ad hominem* argument
 - (D) Inductive reasoning
 - (E) Analogical reasoning
20. In oral interpretation, a slow tempo to suggest a serious idea may be created with
- (A) a pitch change
 - (B) greater vocal resonance
 - (C) infrequent pauses after units of meaning
 - (D) sustained vowel or certain other sounds such as "m" or "ng"
 - (E) an increase in the frequency of words spoken during a specified time

Answers

1. The best answer is E. Research shows that environment is an important factor affecting both judgment-making and communication. Research also shows that personal space (1½–4 feet) is more important to people than social space (4–12 feet); that seating arrangements have a pronounced effect on communication; that people who are working together will probably sit side by side; and that interpersonal distances vary considerably across cultures.
2. The correct answer is D. Authorities agree that effective listening is not a natural ability but requires study and practice. Research indicates that effective listening can certainly give information about a speaker's intentions and actions; that listeners often avoid listening to communication they find dull or difficult; that communicators spend the majority of their communication time listening; and that self-feedback is an important factor in good communication.
3. The best answer is A. In situations requiring immediate action, such as one involving stress because of an impending deadline, an authoritarian style is most often considered appropriate and is in fact frequently welcomed by group members.
4. The correct answer is D. The group members are asked to play roles and to solve a problem, and they should thus gain practical experience in those activities. The members are also instructed to reach a consensus (unanimous agreement through discussion). Although there are some aspects of leadership behavior that could be practiced, leadership skills would not be stressed in this type of democratic exercise.
5. The best answer is B. Research shows that a startling opening statement is very likely to be effective in catching the attention of an audience that has little or no interest in the speaker or the topic. An apathetic audience is more likely to be affected by such an opening than are any of the other kinds of audiences listed.
6. The best answer is B. An opinion leader spreads information to others who rely on him or her as a source. Such an individual is likely to maintain close contact with the mass media as a means of both obtaining information and disseminating it. Opinion leaders tend to have backgrounds that resemble, rather than differ from, those of their followers. If social activity is involved, the leaders will be more active than their followers; opinion leaders are usually respected by their peers.
7. The best answer is D. Although a connection has been established between violence on television and violent behavior, in both children and adults, the evidence is far from conclusive and accounts for only a small amount of real-life violence.
8. The correct answer is D. The first step in the production of a play should be a group reading of the script so the cast can become familiar with the entire play. This step would precede blocking, memorization, the discussion of interpretation, and the selection of costumes and props.
9. The correct answer is B. The primary aim of the oral interpreter should be to act as a medium for the ideas, images, and emotions of a literary text. The interpreter must care about the author's material and must want to share it with others.
10. The correct answer is A. In the painting of stage scenery, a first coat of paint is generally applied to a previously unpainted surface to seal the surface and prepare it for subsequent painting; this process is called "priming."
11. The best answer is C. It is not necessary to have professional theatrical expertise in order to guide others in a creative drama experience. It is more important to be able to relate to and inspire students and to recognize that creative play is a valuable and often educational experience.
12. The correct answer is E. The first requirement that the affirmative must meet, whether debating fact or value, is that of "burden of proof": the affirmative must prove something in order to win a judge's decision. The minimal proof is a case that will persuade "a reasonable and prudent person" that the affirmative resolution deserves acceptance. This minimal case is called a prima facie case, one that is convincing at first glance.
13. The best answer is D. Both II and III would serve as examples of situations in which the constitutional freedom of speech of a person or group would be directly affected. Example I would not be relevant in this way because the historian's research is a private matter rather than an issue of free speech.
14. The correct answer is A. Speech or writing that conveys information or offers an explanation is termed "expository." The type of speech described here would by nature be expository.
15. The correct answer is D. Groups II and III both provide the service described. The Modern Language Association does not deal directly with speech and theater activities, but rather with language and literature.
16. The correct answer is B. In the standard accepted format for Lincoln-Douglas Debate, the affirmative constructive is six minutes long and the negative constructive is seven minutes long. This is not true of any of the other debate formats listed.

17. The correct answer is C. The notion of “situational competence” implies that speakers might have different levels of comfort and competence in different communication situations. Research indicates that some people are more effective when communicating in one situation (e.g., giving a speech to a group) but may be less effective in others (e.g., interpersonal communication in a business setting). Thus, speakers who excel in one area may not necessarily be effective in a different type of communication because different situations may require different responses and different approaches.

18. The correct answer is E. In order to make eye contact effectively, a speaker delivering a speech should be sure to include the entire audience. Focusing only on specific people (like a teacher) or groups (friends or people in agreement with what the speaker is saying) will fail to draw the audience into the speech and may hinder communication of meaning.

19. The correct answer is B. Deductive reasoning is defined as the process of reasoning from general principles to specific instances. In this case, the argument moves from the general idea that consumption of caffeine leads to high blood pressure to the conclusion that, in order to help avoid high blood pressure, it is important to reduce caffeine intake.

20. The correct answer is D. The only choice here that would lead to a slower tempo involves sustaining the sounds (vowel sounds and certain consonants, like “m” or “ng,” are the best possibilities when speakers are looking for places to sustain sounds). Pitch and resonance could be altered at any tempo, and both fewer pauses and greater frequency of words would increase the tempo of the interpretation.



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