

Communication (0800)

Test at a Glance

Test Name	Communication		
Test Code	0800		
Time	2 hours		
Number of Questions	120		
Format	Multiple-choice questions		
	Content Categories	Approximate Number of Questions	Approximate Percentage of Examination
	I. General Communication	22	17%
	II. Speech	21	17%
	III. Theater	20	17%
	IV. Media	19	17%
	V. Literature	14	10%
	VI. Language	12	10%
	VII. Professional Concerns	12	12%

About This Test

The Communication test is designed for prospective teachers of communication in elementary or secondary schools. The 150 multiple-choice questions assess knowledge of relevant facts and the ability to analyze problems and apply principles in specific situations.

Examinees have typically completed a bachelor's degree program in communication, with additional coursework in elementary or secondary education.

The test covers seven content areas: general communication, speech, theater, media, literature, language, and professional concerns.

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. General Communication

- Communication process and theory; interpersonal communication; intercultural communication; listening; audience analysis and response; communications rights, freedoms, responsibilities, and laws

II. Speech

- Public speaking, group discussion, debate, oral interpretation, critical analysis of speeches

III. Theater

- Stage production, directing, basic acting, creative dramatics, history of the theater and of dramatic literature, critical analysis of dramatic literature

IV. Media

- General knowledge of broadcasting media, print media, and film; basic techniques; the history of various media; functions of mass media; critical analysis of mass media

V. Literature

- Recognition and critical analysis of major works, authors, periods, movements, and genres, covering American, British, and world literature

VI. Language

- Language variation, including history, etymology, and levels of usage; the writing process; semantics

VII. Professional Concerns

- Methodology, print and nonprint resources, professional organizations, career awareness, organization and management of cocurricular activities

Sample Test Questions

The sample questions that follow illustrate the kinds 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 four suggested answers or completions. Select the one that is best in each case.

1. The development of voice depends on
 - (A) relaxation, proper breathing, and good posture
 - (B) nasality, inflection, and resonance
 - (C) tension, tone, and diction
 - (D) projection, force, and focus

2. To defeat a libel suit brought by a local politician, a newspaper would have to demonstrate which of the following about the printed information in question?
 - I. The information is true.
 - II. The information constitutes fair comment about a public figure.
 - III. The information was taken from another printed source.
 - (A) I and II only
 - (B) I and III only
 - (C) II and III only
 - (D) I, II, and III only

3. A debater who scores high in the area of refutation is skilled at
 - (A) demonstrating that the contentions of the opposition are false or erroneous
 - (B) making emotional appeals to sway the opinion of the audience and judges
 - (C) defining the terms necessary to understand the issue
 - (D) showing that his or her own position rests on sufficient and convincing evidence

4. In its exploration of the theme of self-delusion, *Long Day's Journey into Night* shows how James, Mary, and Jamie Tyrone attempt to escape their past and present by taking refuge in alcohol, drugs, and pipe dreams. Only Edmund can face the truth about himself and his family and transmute their pain into poetry. Only he can begin to come to terms with the future.

The play referred to above is by

 - (A) August Wilson
 - (B) Eugene O'Neill
 - (C) Lillian Hellman
 - (D) Tennessee Williams

5. The major models of communication theory include all the following phenomena EXCEPT
 - (A) encoding messages
 - (B) decoding messages
 - (C) finding contradictions
 - (D) receiving feedback

6. Improvisation as a performance technique must be
 - (A) done without scenery or props
 - (B) unscripted and unrehearsed
 - (C) used only as an acting class exercise
 - (D) used in works requiring only one performer

7. A simultaneous fade-in of one video source and fade-out of another is called a
 - (A) cut
 - (B) wipe
 - (C) split screen
 - (D) dissolve

8. I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.
- The first two lines of the stanza above employ which of the following poetic devices?
- (A) Simile
(B) Oxymoron
(C) Personification
(D) Antithesis
9. Which of the following assignments is most likely to require students to make inferences and to reach and support conclusions?
- (A) Paraphrase three quotations from prominent politicians.
(B) Write a paragraph on whether a character in a play loves her daughter.
(C) Summarize the economic forecasts published in a newsmagazine over the past three months.
(D) Describe five psychological defense mechanisms so that they can be understood by the general public.
10. The English poets William Blake and William Wordsworth were strongly influenced by which of the following wars?
- (A) The Boer War
(B) The First World War
(C) The French Revolution
(D) The English Civil War
11. Which of the following is the best topic sentence for a paragraph containing the other three sentences?
- (A) The definitions seemed extremely tedious to me at the time.
(B) Each week we were to write down words that we had been exposed to for the first time.
(C) We had to learn the definition of each word and share it with the class.
(D) In this course we gained useful knowledge about words, although we often did not like the process.
12. Which of the following was the first commercially distributed film to use sound?
- (A) *Casablanca*
(B) *The Great Train Robbery*
(C) *The Jazz Singer*
(D) *The African Queen*
13. The paragraph below is from a student paper about television commercials.
- (1) I don't understand why people complain so much about television commercials. (2) Some commercials are livelier and more imaginative than the shows they interrupt. (3) When the annoying commercials come on, I just turn down the sound and ignore them. (4) Or use the time to get a snack from the kitchen.
- Which of the statements in the paragraph is a sentence fragment?
- (A) 1
(B) 2
(C) 3
(D) 4
14. Which of the following classroom activities will most likely require students to analyze and synthesize?
- (A) A question-and-answer session on media history facts
(B) An enactment of the first radio broadcast
(C) A lecture on important dates in the development of radio and television
(D) A debate on government control of the media
15. The most central part of learning about another culture is understanding its
- (A) world view
(B) language
(C) aesthetics
(D) kinesics

16. In order to maintain control of ongoing proceedings, a negotiator does which of the following?
- (A) Takes a straw vote
 - (B) Summarizes major decisions
 - (C) Tells a joke or story
 - (D) Confronts the opposition leader
17. “Children in our society eat mountains of ice cream each month.”
“We are drowning in sugar and fat.”
- The statements above contain examples of which of the following rhetorical devices?
- (A) Personification
 - (B) Irony
 - (C) Alliteration
 - (D) Hyperbole
18. To play “open” to an audience, two actors who share the focus equally should stand in which of the following body positions?
- (A) Left profile
 - (B) One-quarter right and one-quarter left
 - (C) Three-quarter right and three-quarter left
 - (D) Right profile
19. When a speaker analyzes the ethnicity, gender, and age of audience members, he or she is using which of the following types of audience analysis?
- (A) Personal
 - (B) Situational
 - (C) Holistic
 - (D) Demographic
20. Known as one of the great playwrights of the twentieth century, Tennessee Williams wrote which of the following plays exploring family dynamics set in the South?
- (A) *Desire Under the Elms*
 - (B) *Fences*
 - (C) *The Glass Menagerie*
 - (D) *Death of a Salesman*
21. Which of the following is an example of the genre known as the Theatre of the Absurd?
- (A) *The Bald Soprano*
 - (B) *She Stoops to Conquer*
 - (C) *Blithe Spirit*
 - (D) *Everyman*
22. Which of the following statements about listening is accurate?
- (A) Hearing is not the same as listening.
 - (B) Passive listening is as beneficial as active listening.
 - (C) Appreciative listening involves listening in order to evaluate.
 - (D) Criticizing delivery and appearance are advantageous to listening.
23. The sentence below is written by a student whose purpose is to describe how to get good grades.
- In order to accomplish the task of getting good grades, the student must set goals for making good grades, set time aside to study in order to get good grades, and take lecture notes carefully to facilitate higher grades.
- Which of the following problems does this sentence contain?
- (A) It is a fragment.
 - (B) It contains too many connotations.
 - (C) It contains clutter.
 - (D) It uses too much hyperbole.
24. Which of the following is a cocurricular organization for competitive high school speech and debate?
- (A) National Oratory League
 - (B) National Forensic League
 - (C) National Thespian Organization
 - (D) National Debate Tournament

Answers

1. Choice A is the best answer. Relaxation, proper breathing, and good posture permit and cause the development of voice for speech or drama. They are physical preconditions for working effectively to develop voice. The terms in the other choices are characteristics or aspects of voice itself.
2. Choice A is the best answer. To defeat a libel suit, a newspaper must demonstrate that what it printed is true and fair. Whether the information was taken from another printed source is not crucial to the question of whether the newspaper acted legally.
3. Choice A is the best answer. Refutation is defined as the undermining or defeat, by argument, of someone's point or position.
4. The correct answer is B. The described play is *Long Day's Journey into Night* by Eugene O'Neill.
5. In our use of language to express and understand, we encode and decode messages, as well as give and receive feedback. Choice C is not included and is, therefore, the best answer.
6. The best answer is B. Improvising is making something up spontaneously as one goes along. Thus, a distinguishing feature of improvisation is that it is not scripted or rehearsed. The other listed features might or might not accompany improvisation.
7. The correct answer is D. Dissolve is the gradual disappearing of a picture or scene while the succeeding picture or scene slowly appears.
8. A simile is an explicit comparison of one thing with another ("I" and "cloud"); A is the best answer.
9. The best answer is B. The assignment calls for inferences about the invisible emotional sources of a character's outward behavior. The students fulfilling the assignment must make interpretive judgments about something as interior and intangible as love, based on and justified by much more tangible evidence. The other assignments require students to paraphrase, summarize, and describe in simpler language. These processes all involve changing the words of a given verbal text, but they do not necessarily involve making inferences and conclusions that need to be supported with evidence.
10. The correct answer is C. Blake and Wordsworth lived during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries and were influenced by the French Revolution and the ideas of freedom and change that developed in its wake.
11. The best answer is D. It makes a general, interpretive conclusion, an "umbrella" statement, about the process detailed in the other three sentences. Writing down words (choice B), learning and sharing definitions (choice C), and reacting with boredom to learning the definitions (choice A) are all more specific parts of the more general process of gaining "useful knowledge about words" described in choice D. Therefore, D would make a better topic sentence for a paragraph containing all four sentences than would any of the other three.
12. The correct answer is C. The first distributed commercial film using sound was *The Jazz Singer*, in 1927.
13. Sentence 4 is the fragment because it has a verb ("use") but no subject, so D is the correct answer. The other sentences have both subject and predicate.
14. The best answer is D. A debate will require students to use facts to support positions on a controversial issue, thus encouraging analysis and synthesis of information. The other three activities involve the communication of facts.
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.
15. The correct answer is A. In order to understand another culture fully, the most important thing to know is its world view because the world view is the (more or less) consistent sense of existence that is integral to a culture. A culture's world view develops over a long period of time and determines to a great extent how people from that culture interact, process knowledge, and frame their lives. The world view is the central part of learning about another culture because it is generated by numerous other factors, including common experiences, common languages, physical environments, political environments, economic development, etc.
16. The correct answer is B. Experienced negotiators will prevent one side or the other from getting out of control (giving in to emotions, focusing only on winning or losing, etc.) by summarizing what has happened and what has been decided. This tactic allows both sides in the negotiation to see that the process has been proceeding in a manner that is fair and equitable. Taking a straw vote would likely be ineffective because each side would simply vote for its interests. Jokes or stories can relieve tension at times, but they may not be effective in managing and controlling the proceedings and they can deflect the progress of the negotiation. Confrontation, of course, is generally not a good method of maintaining control of a negotiation.

17. The correct answer is D. Hyperbole is defined as “an extravagant statement not intended to be taken literally; an obvious and intentional exaggeration.” In this case, the children are not literally eating “mountains” and people are not actually “drowning,” but the statements are exaggerations designed to create an effect. They are figures of speech that call to the reader’s mind the idea of large quantities.

18. The correct answer is B. In theater performance terminology, to be “open” to the audience means to be visible, turned toward the audience. A very common stage picture, often used when two characters are speaking and sharing focus equally, has the actors standing in one-quarter positions. If they faced the audience directly, it would not be realistic to imagine that they were speaking to one another. However, if they were standing in profile, then the audience would not be able to see them clearly. Three-quarter positions would mean that they were almost all the way turned away from the audience, and thus not “open” to the audience.

19. Choice D is the correct answer. Demographic audience analysis looks at the characteristics of the individuals in the audience.

20. Choice C is the correct answer. Tennessee Williams wrote *The Glass Menagerie*.

21. Choice A is the correct answer. *The Bald Soprano* by Eugène Ionesco is one of the most famous examples of Theatre of the Absurd. *She Stoops to Conquer* and *Blithe Spirit* are both comedies of manners, and *Everyman* is a morality play.

22. The best answer is choice A. Hearing is a physiological process; listening involves understanding meaning. The other choices are incorrect because passive listening forces the speaker to do all of the work, appreciative listening is defined as listening for enjoyment, and criticizing delivery and appearance are barriers to listening.

23. The best choice is C. There are many unnecessary words and phrases in the sentence that could be eliminated. The sentence is complete, there are no words with obvious connotations, and it has no hyperbole.

24. The answer is B. The National Forensic League is an organization that promotes high school competitive speech and debate competition. The National Oratory League does not exist, the National Thespian Organization is called the International Thespian Society and promotes theater, and the National Debate Tournament is a college debate tournament.



Listening. Learning. Leading.®

www.ets.org