

Level D

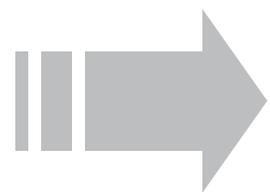
Reading

GOALS

Sample Items

2018

CASAS



TURN THE PAGE

DIRECTIONS

1. Mark your answers on the answer sheet. Use a number 2 pencil only.
 2. Please do **not** write in the test booklet.
 3. Try to answer every question. Choose the **one** best answer. If you want to change an answer, be sure to erase the first mark completely.
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PRACTICE



The Goffe Health Center

We Are Your Health Authority

- 1 “Use it or lose it.” This is an expression we often say when we talk about
2 physical skills or activities that require us to use our muscles.
- 3 Goffe Health Center (GHC) researchers have now proven that these words
4 also apply to cognition, especially as we age. As a result, your GHC
5 physicians now encourage senior citizens to use their mental skills in new
6 and different ways – every day!
- 7 • Go to a movie or play.
 - 8 • Read a newspaper or magazine.
 - 9 • Do a Sudoku or crossword puzzle.
 - 10 • Keep a diary or write your life story.
 - 11 • Take a course at a nearby college or senior center.

PRACTICE 1

In line 11 of the health advisory, which activity *best* matches the physicians' advice?

A woman in her _____.

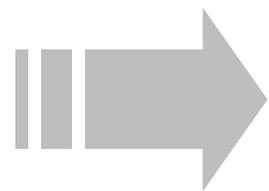
- A. twenties learning to play tennis
- B. thirties watching the news every night
- C. forties walking three miles a day
- D. sixties learning a foreign language

PRACTICE 2

In line 4, the writer uses the phrase as a result to show that _____.

- A. sentence 3 is more accurate than sentence 4
- B. sentence 4 is more important than sentence 3
- C. the idea in sentence 4 is caused by the idea in sentence 3
- D. the idea in sentence 4 is the opposite of the idea in sentence 3





**TURN THE PAGE
TO BEGIN THE TEST**

Lease vs Buy

Read This Before Leasing or Buying a Car!

1 Choosing between leasing or buying a car is one task in life that many
2 individuals face. Some experts believe buying is the preferred choice because
3 consumers have the freedom to sell the car at any time and are able to determine
4 the asking price for themselves. Others respond that leasing is the better
5 option because consumers often can select newer makes and models that may
6 not be within their reach when purchasing a car. More importantly, leasing
7 means lower monthly payments. Those who favor buying are quick to point
8 out that the payments never end with leasing, and after the endless payments,
9 consumers have nothing to call their own.

1. The writer distinguishes between leasing and buying by emphasizing the _____.

- A. affordability of leasing a car
- B. high cost of purchasing a car
- C. similarities of both options
- D. pros and cons of the options

2. In line 6, what phrase can *best* replace within their reach?

- A. their ability to select
- B. in their price range
- C. for their needs
- D. of their liking

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3. Which sentence would make the *best* conclusion to this article?
- A. Leasing the newest model beats owning an older one.
 - B. The decision depends on each person's situation.
 - C. It is obvious that leasing involves too many costs.
 - D. Most experts see little difference between leasing and buying.
4. Which argument does the writer use to reject the idea that leasing makes financial sense?
- A. "freedom to sell the car at any time" (line 3)
 - B. "determine the asking price" (lines 3-4)
 - C. "select newer makes and models" (line 5)
 - D. "payments never end" (line 8)



The National Employment Guide

Making the First-Day Connection

By Rita Goh

- 1 Anyone employed has had a first day at work and felt nervous, but if you follow these guidelines, you should be able to relax those jitters. Take a breath, realize that nearly all new employees have initial anxieties, and remember that because you are new, everyone accepts that you're a novice in their world.
- 2 Prior to your first day, do as much research about the company as possible. Study the company's website carefully, and research the industry. You can always learn something new, even if you have experience in the particular field.
- 3 On your first day, your supervisor will probably show you your work area and introduce you to others. Introduce yourself with a pleasant hello and a smile, and if your supervisor hasn't already done so, tell them your name. If you later see someone you've met but whose name you cannot remember, explain that you've met a lot of new people and you don't recall his or her name. Then make a mental note to remember this person.
- 4 Throughout your first several days, focus on what you're learning, and take notes. Don't be reluctant to ask questions if you don't understand something. This shows you're interested and want to learn.
- 5 If someone asks your opinion, think carefully before you answer. The first day is never the time to tell people that you think they're doing things wrong. Your co-workers are your teammates—you aren't there to judge them. And remember, no one likes a newcomer who is quick to criticize existing methods. Only after you've been with the company long enough to understand its procedures thoroughly should you feel free to suggest improvements.
- 6 Throughout each day, show respect for all, and display an eagerness to do your job. Your co-workers will warm to you, and your manager will remember your strong start.

5. Which paragraph addresses the issue of preparing in advance for a new job?

- A. paragraph 2
- B. paragraph 3
- C. paragraph 4
- D. paragraph 5

6. In paragraph 1, which of these sentences could *best* replace the phrase everyone accepts that you're a novice in their world?

- A. People assume that you are knowledgeable in your field.
- B. People understand that you are interested and ready to work.
- C. People believe that you are going to be a good fit for the job.
- D. People realize that you are unfamiliar with the company and the job.

7. For what purpose did the writer *most likely* write this article?

- A. to assist readers in finding a different kind of job
- B. to persuade readers to help new employees blend in
- C. to teach readers ways to get along with new co-workers
- D. to entertain readers with an interesting workplace story

8. What recommendation does the writer offer?

- A. Research new procedures to suggest to co-workers.
- B. Keep a brief record of new information to remember.
- C. Think carefully before asking questions about operations.
- D. Be careful that you do not call people by an incorrect name.

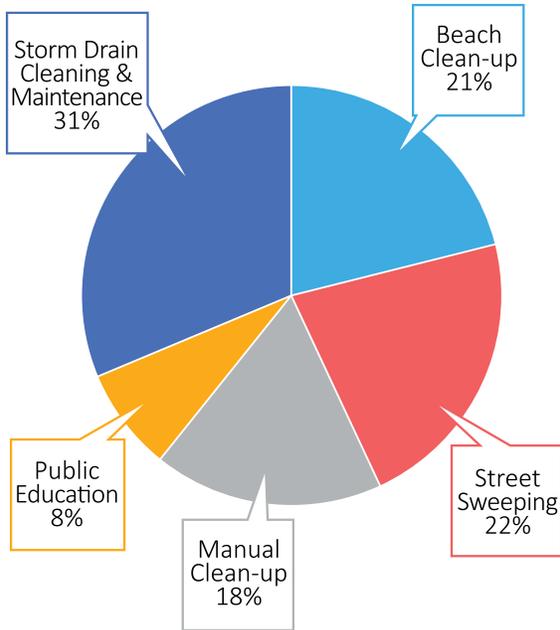
9. The writer indicates that *most* new employees _____.

- A. have not done enough research
- B. feel apprehensive in the beginning
- C. are eager to learn all the guidelines
- D. are too nervous to share their opinions

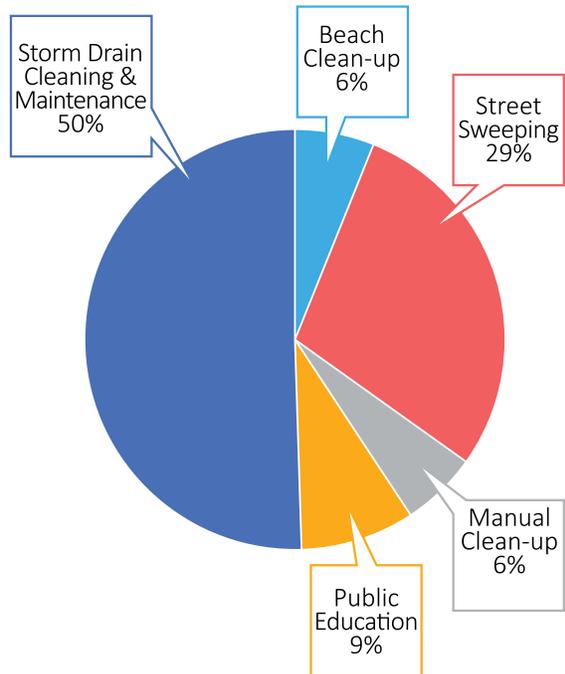
City Spending on Water Clean-up

Plastic waste in waterways harms wildlife, creates hazards for navigation, and may even threaten the health of humans. As a result, communities spend large sums of money to educate the public and to remove trash that might end up in the rivers and oceans. The charts below compare water clean-up budgets for two communities.

Porter City = \$24 million
(population 6.8 million)



Santa Bella = \$9.5 million
(population 2.1 million)



Statistics compiled by the Water Resource Research Committee.

10. According to the two charts, Porter City and Santa Bella spend the largest percentage of their water-cleanup budgets on _____.

- A. Street Sweeping
- B. Beach Clean-Up
- C. Manual Clean-Up
- D. Storm Drain Maintenance

11. What is a reason the cities are spending money on water clean-up?

- A. to satisfy community complaints
- B. to increase visitors to the city
- C. to reduce the use of plastics
- D. to protect local wildlife



Editorial

We asked readers to give us their comments about the difficulties faced in the workplace by younger and older workers. Here are two of the many letters we received.

Dear Editor:

I believe those of us who are older workers face greater challenges than younger workers do because they have something we do not have: time. Young people have a long working life ahead of them — time to build a career, time to save for retirement. I do not have that luxury.

According to a study released last year, while economic downturns have an impact on all groups, they frequently have a greater impact on older workers because we have less time to recover. We have worked hard all our lives only to have our savings, investments, and the value of our homes reduced to the point that we have to keep working because we don't have sufficient savings to retire. Some of us who thought we would retire at age 62 will have to work until age 75 and perhaps beyond.

Even if we want to keep working, some of us can't because with age comes health problems. And according to several research studies in well-known medical journals, even if we are capable of working, it is harder for us to find employment if we've been terminated.

I will grant that younger workers have their own unique challenges, but for aging workers, the challenges are greater.

Vincent M. Nieto

Dear Editor:

Young people sometimes face the challenge of starting a career during an economic downturn. An exceedingly high number of twenty-somethings are unemployed. Competition among the young is fierce for available jobs. The reason is that we are both the largest and most educated generation in history, and the supply of workers exceeds the demand.

Older people make the situation even worse by continuing to occupy positions well beyond retirement age, taking jobs we could have. We are also losing jobs to technology or companies overseas.

With all these forces working against us, it is tempting to offer the suggestion that we just have to work a bit harder to achieve the standard of living of our parents. Unfortunately, for many of us, starting from behind means we will never catch up.

Jane Lombardo

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12. In the first paragraph of Vincent's letter, which word can *best* replace face without changing the meaning?
- A. demonstrate
 - B. encounter
 - C. impose
 - D. challenge
13. Jane supports her belief that older workers contribute to the problems of younger workers by _____.
- A. blaming older workers for a weakened economy
 - B. emphasizing that younger workers are over-educated
 - C. explaining that younger people need to work harder
 - D. criticizing older workers for staying on the job too long
14. Jane could have provided more evidence for her position by highlighting the _____.
- A. unemployment rate of young people
 - B. value of older people staying employed
 - C. usefulness of foreign competition
 - D. increasing demand for younger workers

Is the College-to-Job Path the Best Route to Higher Employment Rates?

PRO

By Luke Dubois

How can job openings and unemployment statistics occur simultaneously? Why are the unemployed not able to land these available positions? The answer lies in a skills gap resulting from an education system that does not train enough people to meet employers' needs. What is the best way to minimize this gap? By far, the most advantageous solution is to create a path from our educational institutions to companies in need of workers. Such partnerships anticipate the number of skilled workers a company will need and create educational curricula that fulfill this demand. One example is a well-known European car manufacturer that is operating in the United States and forming a partnership with a community college. The company provided input on the tools to train students in using the machinery at their manufacturing plant and contributed to the content of the coursework. This mutual arrangement gives the company skilled workers and provides the college with increased job placement rates to attract new students. Hence, the college-to-job path benefits the country as a whole by increasing the number of educated members of society, a win-win situation for all indeed.

CON

By Nadine Ng

College is not an automatic fit for everyone. In fact, in recent years the number of college students who actually complete their degree has been only slightly above the fifty percent range. The remedial classes that many students end up enrolling in can prolong the time needed to complete degree requirements, making college seem too time-consuming to finish. In addition, in an attempt to develop well-rounded graduates, colleges often make it a mission to expose students to a wide curriculum, which results in a lengthier path leading to lower student graduation rates. In contrast, vocational training programs that do not burden students with additional college requirements are the most logical route to successful job training and placement. To avoid setting up students for failure, we must ensure they are qualified to complete training programs successfully by requiring entrance exam scores. Students who complete vocational programs receive a certificate of completion showing they are ready to work in many industries. Society should focus on expanding the number of graduates from these programs, as their job placement results appear more promising.

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15. What word could *best* replace the underlined word hence as used by the PRO writer?
- A. briefly
 - B. except
 - C. therefore
 - D. yet
16. Nadine Ng’s argument supports the claim that a college education is not for everyone by explaining that _____.
- A. many students who start college never graduate
 - B. a college education limits students’ career choices
 - C. a majority of students transfer to vocational courses
 - D. colleges put too much emphasis on remedial classes
17. What would be the *best* alternative title for this article?
- A. Why Is College Ultimately the Best Route to Career Success?
 - B. How Much Education Do Effective Workers Really Require?
 - C. Is College or Vocational Training the Ultimate Answer?
 - D. Are European Companies Transforming the Labor Market?

CASAS Reading GOALS – Sample Test Items

Answer Keys

Level D

- Prac. 1. D
- Prac. 2. C
- 1. D
- 2. B
- 3. B
- 4. D
- 5. A
- 6. D
- 7. C
- 8. B
- 9. B
- 10. D
- 11. D
- 12. B
- 13. D
- 14. A
- 15. C
- 16. A
- 17. C