ALASKA ENGLISH 11 · UNIT 2 · 25 QUESTIONS

Informational Reading and Research — Practice Test

This practice test was made by AI and there may be mistakes. If a question or answer looks wrong, use the Flag a mistake button so it can be fixed.

How Salmon Return to Alaska Streams

Use this reading for questions 1 to 8.

Each summer, salmon that grew up in the ocean swim back to the freshwater streams where they hatched. The journey can cover hundreds of miles, and the fish must swim upstream against strong currents, leap over small falls, and avoid bears and eagles along the way.

Scientists have found that salmon can sense the smell of their home stream. They follow that familiar scent through rivers and lakes until they reach the gravel bed where they were born. Once there, females dig shallow nests called redds and lay eggs, and males guard the nests from rivals.

The return of the salmon matters far beyond the stream. Bears, eagles, and people depend on salmon for food, and the nutrients from salmon that die after spawning help feed the forest. When salmon numbers fall, the whole system feels the loss, which is why protecting clean streams matters to Alaska communities.

Young salmon hatch in the spring and may spend a year or more in fresh water before migrating to the ocean. Years later, they return to the same stream to spawn, completing a cycle that links ocean, stream, forest, and town.

1 **According to the passage, what is the central idea of the article?**

- **A** Salmon never leave the ocean.
- **B** Salmon never leave the ocean at all, spending their whole lives far out at sea and never returning
- **C** Bears are the only animals that eat salmon.
- **D** Alaska streams are too cold for fish.

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2 **Why do female salmon dig redds in the gravel?**

- A To lay eggs
- B To escape bears
- C To find their home stream
- D To leap over falls

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3 **According to the passage, how do salmon find their home stream?**

- A By following boats.
- B By sensing its familiar smell.
- C By reading signs along the river.
- D By asking other fish for directions.

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4 **According to the passage, what happens to salmon that die after spawning?**

A They swim back to the ocean, returning to the sea to spawn again the next year

B They build new dams.

C They become trees.

D Their nutrients help feed the forest.

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5 **According to the passage, which obstacle do salmon face on their journey?**

A Strong currents and small falls.

B Frozen oceans with no water.

C Roads with no bridges.

D Deserts with no rivers.

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6

According to the passage, what can the reader infer about a stream with fewer returning salmon?

A The stream would become deeper.

B More salmon would arrive the next day, in even greater numbers than the year before

C Bears, eagles, forests, and towns that depend on salmon would feel the loss.

D The ocean would dry up.

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7

According to the passage, the author mainly organizes the article by what?

A Listing questions from readers, in the order they were sent in, without answering any of them

B Following the salmon life cycle in order, from ocean to stream and back.

C Comparing two different oceans.

D Telling a funny story about fishing.

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8 **According to the passage, what is the author's main purpose?**

A To persuade readers never to eat fish, and to give up salmon entirely for good

B To give steps for building a dam.

C To compare salmon with bears.

D To inform readers about how salmon return and why that cycle matters.

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9 **Which statement best explains the difference between a central idea and a supporting detail?**

A a central idea is the main point, while a supporting detail is evidence or an example for that point

B A central idea is always a single word, while a supporting detail is always a full paragraph on its own

C a central idea is an opinion, while a detail is always false

D a central idea and a detail mean exactly the same thing

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10 **Which source is most likely to be credible for a school research project?**

A an anonymous blog post with no sources listed

B a social media rumor shared by strangers

C an article by a recognized expert that cites its sources

D a joke page that copies text from other sites

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11 **A diary written by a person who lived through an event is an example of what kind of source?**

A A secondary source.

B A primary source.

C A fictional source.

D A summary source.

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12 **An author writes only about the benefits of a plan and uses strongly emotional words to praise it, while ignoring all drawbacks. This is most likely an example of what?**

- A A neutral summary, because it covers the plan.
- B A fact, because emotional words are always true.
- C A primary source, because the author saw the plan.
- D Bias, because it presents only one side.

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13 **Which sentence states an opinion rather than a fact?**

- A The library is the best place in town to study.
- B The library opens at 9 in the morning.
- C The library has three floors.
- D The library lends books for two weeks.

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14 **Which word most clearly signals a contrast between two ideas?**

- **A** Because, because it shows a cause, linking an event to the reason it happened
- **B** Similarly, because it shows likeness.
- **C** However, because it signals a change or contrast.
- **D** First, because it shows order.

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15 **Which word most clearly signals a cause?**

- **A** However, because it shows contrast.
- **B** Because, because it links a reason to a result.
- **C** Similarly, because it shows likeness.
- **D** Finally, because it shows the last step.

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16 **An article first describes a problem with litter in a park and then describes a cleanup plan that solved it. Which text structure does it mainly use?**

- A Compare and contrast.
- B Chronological order only.
- C Question and answer only.
- D Problem and solution.

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17 **An article describes how two towns handle recycling, pointing out what is alike and what is different. Which text structure does it mainly use?**

- A Compare and contrast.
- B Cause and effect.
- C Problem and solution.
- D Sequence of steps.

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18 **A writer claims that a new study program works. Which evidence would best support that claim?**

- A. A personal story from one student who liked the program and told all her friends about it
- B. A slogan praising the program.
- C. Results from a study comparing students who used the program with students who did not.
- D. A photo of students smiling.

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19 **Which evidence is weakest for a claim that a program helps all students?**

- A. Results from a large study with a comparison group.
- B. One student's personal story with no other data.
- C. Test scores from many schools over two years.
- D. A report by independent researchers.

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20 **An editorial urges readers to support a new school library. Its main purpose is most likely what?**

A To tell a funny story.

B To give a recipe.

C To list sports scores.

D To persuade.

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21 **What is the main purpose of a heading in an informational article?**

A To tell the reader what the section that follows is about.

B To repeat the whole article, word for word, so the reader never has to read the section itself

C To hide the main idea.

D To replace all evidence.

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22 **Library visits were 200 in January and 400 in February. By how many visits did attendance increase?**

A 100

B 300

C 200

D 400

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23 **An article states that library attendance doubled from 200 visitors to 400 visitors in one year. What can the reader correctly conclude?**

A Attendance fell by 200 visitors.

B Attendance increased by 200 visitors.

C Attendance stayed the same.

D Attendance increased by 400 visitors.

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24 **Which summary best summarizes an article about how regular exercise improves health?**

- **A** Running shoes come in many colors and sizes, in every shop and at every price imaginable
- **B** One student ran three miles on Tuesday.
- **C** Gyms open early in the morning.
- **D** Regular exercise improves health in several important ways.

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25 **A student restates an author's idea in her own words and names the source. This is an example of what?**

- **A** Paraphrasing with a citation.
- **B** Plagiarism, because she used the idea.
- **C** Quoting, because she copied the words.
- **D** Bias, because she changed the words.

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ANSWER KEY

1. B
2. A
3. B
4. D
5. A
6. C
7. B
8. D
9. A
10. C
11. B
12. D
13. A
14. C
15. B
16. D
17. A
18. C
19. B
20. D
21. A
22. C
23. B
24. D
25. A

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