MASSACHUSETTS 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 to let Brett know so he can fix it.

Source I - How River Towns Restore Their Waterways

Use this reading for questions 4 to 6.

For years, the Willow River carried more than water. Old tires, plastic bottles, and runoff from roads washed into the river after every heavy rain, and fish populations declined. Residents noticed the change first: the water smelled worse in summer, and fewer herons visited the banks.

In 2018, a group of volunteers began a restoration project. They organized monthly cleanups, planted native grasses along the banks to filter runoff, and worked with the town council to place new storm drains that trap trash before it reaches the water. Local schools joined the effort, and students tested water samples as part of science class.

By 2024, monitoring showed clear improvement. Fish species that had disappeared returned to the river, and water clarity had doubled since the project began. The project leaders credit steady community effort, not a single large cleanup, for the change. They now share their methods with other river towns facing similar problems.

1 **According to Source I, what is the main idea of the passage?**

- **A** One large cleanup solved all of the river's problems in a single day.
- **B** Fish populations declined because herons left the riverbanks.
- **C** Storm drains alone restored the river without volunteer help.
- **D** Steady community effort restored the Willow River over several years.

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2 **According to Source I, what text structure does the passage mainly use?**

- A Cause and effect only
- B Order of importance
- C Problem and solution
- D Compare and contrast

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3 **According to Source I, which action helped filter runoff before it reached the river?**

- A Banning science classes
- B Planting native grasses along the banks
- C Removing the town council, so no one is left to manage the river at all
- D Closing local schools

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4 **According to Source I, in what year did the restoration project begin?**

ANSWER _____

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5 **According to Source I, what can be inferred about the project leaders?**

- **A** They believe one cleanup is enough for any river.
- **B** They oppose sharing methods with other towns.
- **C** They think students should not test water samples.
- **D** They believe lasting results require steady effort over time.

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6 **What is the author's main purpose in Source I?**

- **A** To persuade readers to move to a river town, with its restored banks and clean water, as soon as they can
- **B** To entertain readers with a fictional story
- **C** To advertise storm drain products
- **D** To inform readers about a successful river restoration effort

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Source II - Choosing Sources for a Research Paper

Use this reading for questions 7 to 11.

A strong research paper begins with strong sources. A primary source, such as a letter, diary, or speech by someone who experienced an event, gives direct evidence. A secondary source, such as a textbook chapter or an article that analyzes an event, explains or interprets evidence gathered by others. Good researchers use both kinds, but they treat them differently.

Before trusting a source, a researcher should ask three questions. Who wrote it, and what are the author's credentials? When was it published, and is the information still current? Does the author present evidence fairly, or does the writing show strong bias toward one side? A source that hides its evidence or uses emotional language to push a conclusion deserves extra caution.

Finally, researchers must give credit for ideas that are not their own. A direct quotation copies exact words and needs quotation marks and a citation. A paraphrase restates an idea in the writer's own words, but it still needs a citation. Failing to cite either one is plagiarism, even if the writer did not intend to cheat.

7 **According to Source II, which of the following is a primary source?**

- **A** An article analyzing an event years later
- **B** A dictionary definition of an event
- **C** A letter written by someone who experienced an event
- **D** A textbook chapter summarizing an event

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8 **According to Source II, which question should a researcher ask before trusting a source?**

A Is the source printed in color?

B Who wrote it, and what are the author's credentials?

C How long is the title of the source?

D How many pictures does the source contain?

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9 **According to Source II, what is the difference between a quotation and a paraphrase?**

A A quotation never needs a citation, while a paraphrase always does, because only the paraphrase borrows an idea

B A quotation is always longer than a paraphrase.

C A quotation and a paraphrase are the same thing.

D A quotation copies exact words, while a paraphrase restates an idea in the writer's own words.

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10 **According to Source II, why does a paraphrase still need a citation?**

- **A** Because paraphrases are always copied word for word, just like a quotation, and need the same treatment
- **B** Because citations make a paper longer
- **C** Because quotations do not need citations
- **D** Because the idea came from another person, even though the words are new

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11 **According to Source II, what is plagiarism?**

- **A** Using only primary sources
- **B** Citing every source in a paper, including sources the writer only glanced at but never used
- **C** Using another person's ideas or words without giving credit
- **D** Writing a paper that is too short

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12 **A thesis statement in an informational essay should do what?**

- **A** Repeat the title of the essay
- **B** State the main claim the essay will support with evidence
- **C** List every fact in the essay
- **D** Ask a question and never answer it, leaving the reader to guess what the essay claims

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13 **Which of the following best describes summarizing?**

- **A** Copying a whole paragraph word for word
- **B** Adding new opinions to a text
- **C** Translating a text into another language, word for word, so it can be read elsewhere
- **D** Restating the main points of a longer text in fewer words

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14 **A works cited page is used for what purpose?**

- A To list the writer's favorite books, whether or not they were actually used in the paper
- B To replace all in text citations
- C To hide the sources a writer used
- D To list the sources a writer used so readers can find them

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15 **Which internet domain is generally most likely to come from a government agency?**

- A A domain ending in .net
- B A domain ending in .org
- C A domain ending in .gov
- D A domain ending in .com

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16 **Peer reviewed research is most trustworthy because what is true of it?**

- A It is always free to read, with no paywall and no subscription needed by anyone
- B Other experts checked it before publication
- C It was written quickly
- D It contains many pictures

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17 **Which of the following is a fact rather than an opinion?**

- A River restoration is the most interesting topic in science.
- B Volunteers are the best people in any town.
- C Old rivers are more beautiful than new rivers.
- D Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius at sea level.

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18 **Chronological text structure organizes information in what order?**

A Order from least to most important

B Alphabetical order by author name

C Random order

D The order in which events happened in time

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19 **Compare and contrast structure is most often signaled by which words?**

A Similarly and on the other hand

B First, second, and third

C Because and as a result

D In conclusion

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20 **A research question should be which of the following?**

- **A** Focused enough to answer with evidence in the available time
- **B** So broad that it covers every topic, so the writer never has to choose what to leave out
- **C** Answered with a single yes or no
- **D** Based only on personal opinion

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21 **Why should a researcher corroborate important claims?**

- **A** Corroboration makes a paper shorter.
- **B** Checking a claim in more than one reliable source makes it more trustworthy.
- **C** One source is always biased and useless.
- **D** Corroboration replaces the need for citations, so a writer who checks a second source never has to cite anything

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22 **Which source would be most credible for a paper on climate patterns?**

A A recent report by a university research team using collected data

B An anonymous post with no evidence, written by an unnamed author with no data to check

C A poem about the weather

D An advertisement for rain boots

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23 **An annotation in research is best described as what?**

A A brief note explaining what a source says and how it is useful

B A copy of an entire source, reproduced word for word so the reader has the whole text

C A drawing of the author

D A list of unrelated topics

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24 **Which of the following shows bias in a source?**

- **A** The author cites several reliable sources.
- **B** The author cites several reliable sources, including experts on different sides of the question, and states the facts plainly
- **C** The author states facts and dates clearly.
- **D** The author quotes experts on both sides.

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25 **When outlining a research paper, a writer should place what first?**

- **A** The main claim, followed by supporting points in logical order
- **B** The conclusion, followed by the title
- **C** Random facts with no order
- **D** The works cited page before the introduction, so readers see the sources before the claim itself

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ANSWER KEY

1.	D	**10.**	D	**19.**	A
2.	C	**11.**	C	**20.**	A
3.	B	**12.**	B	**21.**	B
4.	2018	**13.**	D	**22.**	A
5.	D	**14.**	D	**23.**	A
6.	D	**15.**	C	**24.**	B
7.	C	**16.**	B	**25.**	A
8.	B	**17.**	D		
9.	D	**18.**	D		

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