INFORMATIONAL TEXT AND RESEARCH · PRACTICE TEST | MONTANA ENGLISH 12 · UNIT 2 · 25 QUESTIONS

Informational Text 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 - Sleep and School Start Times

Use this reading for questions 1 to 5.

Many studies of teenagers find the same pattern: the brain's sleep clock shifts later in adolescence, so many teens do not feel sleepy until late at night, yet early school start times still require them to wake before dawn. The result is a regular sleep debt that builds across the school week.

Researchers who studied schools that moved start times later found that students reported less daytime sleepiness and, in several districts, tardiness fell. Supporters argue that a later start is a low cost change with clear benefits for attention and mood. Critics note that later starts can clash with bus schedules, after school jobs, and sports practice, so districts must plan the whole day, not just the first bell.

The evidence does not prove that a later start alone will fix every school problem. It does suggest, however, that sleep is one factor schools can influence, and that decisions about start times should weigh student health alongside transport and activities.

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

- **A** Teenagers prefer late nights for fun
- **B** A later teen sleep clock plus early school starts creates sleep debt, and later starts show benefits but require whole day planning
- **C** Bus schedules are the only school problem
- **D** Sports practice should be cancelled

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2 **According to Source I, what evidence supports later start times?**

- A students reported less daytime sleepiness and tardiness fell in several districts
- B every school problem disappeared
- C parents stopped driving students to school
- D teachers worked fewer hours

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3 **According to Source I, what concern do critics raise?**

- A later starts cost nothing to plan
- B later starts make students sleep less
- C later starts can clash with bus schedules, after school jobs, and sports practice
- D later starts harm student mood

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4 **According to Source I, the author would most likely agree that**

- **A** start times should ignore student health
- **B** a later start alone fixes every school problem
- **C** teen sleep clocks do not shift in adolescence
- **D** sleep is one factor schools can influence, and health should be weighed with transport and activities

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5 **According to Source I, the phrase sleep debt most nearly means**

- **A** money owed for school buses
- **B** sleep lost over time that is not made up
- **C** a fine for tardiness
- **D** time spent in sports practice

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Source II - Should Towns Keep Public Libraries

Use this reading for questions 6 to 9.

Some argue that public libraries are outdated because almost any fact can be found on a phone. That argument misses what libraries actually do. Libraries lend books, but they also provide quiet study space, help with job applications, classes for new readers, and free internet access for people who have none at home.

A town that closes its library does not just lose books. It loses a free, shared place where students can study after school, where job seekers can print resumes, and where older residents can learn new technology with patient help. Digital access helps, but it is not the same as a staffed public space open to everyone.

Keeping a library does cost money, and towns must make hard budget choices. The question is not whether libraries are free to run, but whether the services they provide are worth funding as a public good, like parks and roads.

6 **According to Source II, what is the author's main argument?**

- **A** libraries provide valuable free services beyond books and are worth funding as a public good
- **B** libraries are outdated and should close
- **C** phones have replaced all library services
- **D** only students use libraries

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7 **According to Source II, which is an example of a library service beyond lending books?**

- A selling phones
- B running a sports team
- C help with job applications and free internet access
- D building roads

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8 **According to Source II, what does the author concede?**

- A libraries cost nothing to run
- B parks are useless
- C no one visits libraries anymore
- D keeping a library costs money and towns face hard budget choices

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9 **According to Source II, the comparison of libraries to parks and roads is used to**

A argue libraries are a public good worth funding

B prove libraries are outdoor spaces

C show libraries need no staff

D suggest parks should close

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Source III - How to Judge a Source

Use this reading for questions 10 to 13.

Not every source that looks professional is reliable. A strong researcher checks who wrote a source, when it was published, what evidence it cites, and whether other reliable sources agree. A personal blog may be honest, but it is not the same as a peer reviewed study or a report from an agency that checks its facts.

Bias does not always mean a source is useless. A source with a clear point of view can still be useful if the reader names the bias, checks its claims against other sources, and separates facts from opinions. The danger comes when a reader accepts one source alone, without checking, and treats opinion as settled fact.

10 **According to Source III, what is the main idea of the passage?**

- **A** all blogs are false
- **B** a strong researcher checks author, date, evidence, and agreement with other reliable sources, and names bias instead of accepting one source alone
- **C** peer reviewed studies are never useful
- **D** opinions are always facts

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11 **According to Source III, what should a reader do with a biased source?**

- **A** ignore it completely
- **B** treat its opinions as settled fact
- **C** name the bias, check claims against other sources, and separate facts from opinions
- **D** copy it without citation

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12 **According to Source III, why is accepting one source alone dangerous?**

- **A** because it takes too long
- **B** because blogs are always honest
- **C** because all sources agree
- **D** because opinion may be treated as settled fact without checking

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13 **According to Source III, which source is strongest for a research claim?**

A an anonymous post with no evidence

B a peer reviewed study that cites evidence

C a slogan on a poster

D a single personal opinion

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14 **A primary source is**

A a firsthand record from the time, such as a diary, letter, or original data

B a textbook summary of an event

C a review of other books

D an encyclopedia entry

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15 **Which is the best example of a secondary source?**

A a diary written in 1945

B a photograph taken in 1945

C a modern history book that analyzes letters from 1945

D an original census form

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16 **A thesis statement should**

A list every fact in the paper

B appear only in the conclusion

C ask a question and never answer it

D state the main claim the paper will support

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17 **Plagiarism is best defined as**

A quoting a source with full citation

B presenting someone else's words or ideas as your own without credit

C paraphrasing in your own words with citation

D using common knowledge facts

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18 **Which is the best paraphrase practice?**

A restating the idea fully in your own words and citing the source

B copying a sentence and changing two words

C copying without quotation marks

D using the source's exact words without citation

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19 **In research, a credible source is most likely to**

A hide its author and date

B rely only on slogans

C show its author, evidence, and publication information clearly

D refuse to cite any evidence

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20 **A research question should be**

A so broad it cannot be answered

B copied from the title page

C a yes or no question with no discussion

D focused enough to be answered with evidence in the paper's length

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21 **Which statement shows a fact, not an opinion?**

A the library is the best place in town

B the library is open until 8 p.m. on weekdays

C libraries are boring

D everyone loves reading

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22 **When a writer quotes a source, the quotation must**

A match the source exactly and be credited

B be changed to fit the writer's view

C be presented as the writer's own words

D appear without quotation marks

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23 **Which source is most likely biased in favor of a company?**

A a peer reviewed study by rival researchers

B an independent test by a consumer agency

C a report paid for and published by that company praising its own product

D a government safety record

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24 **A student plans a research paper with 3 main sections and 2 sources discussed in each section. How many source discussions are planned in total?**

ANSWER _____

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25 **Which is the best reason to use an outline before drafting?**

A it replaces all research

B it removes the need for citations

C it guarantees a perfect grade

D it organizes claims and evidence in logical order before writing

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ANSWER KEY

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

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