



LITERACY AND NUMERACY TEST FOR INITIAL TEACHER EDUCATION STUDENTS

Literacy

Practice Questions September 2023
Suggested Worked Solutions

Suggested Worked Solutions for the Practice Literacy Questions

Qn	Unit name	Suggested worked solution
1	First Day	The correct answer is A: that her teaching staff are of high quality. Mrs Creevy's statement emphasises the stringency (in her opinion) of the selection processes for teachers at her school. She is intending to communicate (first to her students, ultimately to their parents) that all but the most qualified applicants will be rejected, thus ensuring a high-quality teaching staff. This intention needs to be interpreted by the reader.
2	First Day	The correct answer is D: Dorothy herself. Mrs Creevy's statement might be interpreted by the students as a threat aimed at them, but the text states that her look as she says this 'suggested that Dorothy would probably be the "somebody" referred to.' This reading of the text is based on an explicit statement.
3	First Day	The correct answer is C: She feels that she lacks the required content knowledge. The text explains that Dorothy's 'momentary qualm' derives from her lack of what she takes to be the required content knowledge for a teacher at that time: 'The subject she was now supposed to be teaching was history, and, like most "educated" people, she knew virtually no history. How awful, she thought, if it turned out that these girls knew more history than she did!' This reading of the text is based on an explicit statement.
4	First Day	The correct answer is D: The students have little recall of what they have previously been taught. After the students' inconsistent attempts at answering her questions (Ancient Britons, Columbus and Napoleon), the text is clear that the students have little recall of what they have previously been taught: 'It was obvious that instead of being uncomfortably knowledgeable as she had feared, the class knew as nearly as possible no history at all.' This reading of the text is based on an explicit statement.
5	First Day	The correct answer is C: motivated. In the final paragraph, Dorothy moves from her initial apprehension about her own sense of ignorance to an awareness that she might help the students to learn by building on their current knowledge, however limited: 'She grasped that before she could do anything else with them it was necessary to find out what, if anything, these children knew.' She is neither amused by their ignorance, irresolute about her task, nor any longer apprehensive. Instead, she appears motivated to do something beneficial for the students. This reading of the text requires the reader to interpret Dorothy's feelings.

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6	First Day	The correct answer is D: Mrs Creevy doubts Dorothy's competence. While Mrs Creevy insists on Dorothy's excellent credentials when she is talking to the students, what she says suggests that she is not convinced of her competence. Mrs Creevy's suggestion that Dorothy will probably 'start off by asking you a few questions about the history you've been learning' can be interpreted as advice to a teacher who is unlikely to know what to do, and she seems unconvinced that Dorothy will be able to control the class any better than the previous teachers have been able to do. This reading of the text is based on interpreting and integrating several parts of the passage.
7	First Day	The correct answer is A: When one teaches, two learn. At the end of the text, Dorothy's hesitant steps towards teaching the students result in new learning for her: namely, a knowledge of the students' current level of learning and also an understanding of how she can best raise this level. It is clear that the students will benefit from this realisation. Both Dorothy and the students are in a position to learn, driven by Dorothy's commitment to teaching. The question requires candidates to go beyond, and reflect on, this interpretative reading of the text to select the saying that best captures Dorothy's approach.
8	Eggcorns	The correct answer is (in order): Eggcorn; Correct; Eggcorn. This question assesses the candidate's direct knowledge of specific instances of English usage, which have plausible, alternative incorrect versions ('eggcorns'). Since eggcorns are by definition plausible, the correct answer cannot, if not known, be deduced with certainty. In the given sentences, 'a new leash on life' is an incorrect version of the idiom, 'a new lease on life'; 'all is said and done' is a correct idiom (the eggcorn that is based on this is 'all is set and done', but it is not necessary to be aware of this to answer the question); and 'mixmatch' is an incorrect version of 'mismatch'.
9	Assignments	The correct answer is B: will have completed. The form of the correct answer, known as the future perfect tense, indicates an event in the future (completing assignments) before another event in the future (the end of the term).
10	University	The correct answer is (in order): III; I; II. While each given idea could be related in some way to any of the headings, each one relates most directly to only one heading. The focus of the question is on introducing order into a set of vaguely related ideas. The first idea, about class sizes, relates most directly to a feature of university teaching. The second idea, about not being reminded of incomplete work, implies a need for responsible management of one's own participation in a course ('self-direction'). The third idea, about academic areas of study and friends, implies a need for achieving a balance between academic and social obligations ('study-life balance').

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11	Summit	The correct answer is B: lunch. Three of the four commas in the provided sentence are used <i>correctly</i> , although some writers may consider that not all three are <i>necessary</i> . The comma after 'lunch', however, incorrectly separates the subject of the sentence and its verb.
12	Theatrical Excursion	The correct answer is 'piqued'. The spelling error in the provided sentence is 'peaked'. Another homophone, 'peeked', would also be incorrect in this context.
13	Working with Children Check	The correct answer is (in order) Yes; Yes; No. The gloss marked by ** in the text explicitly provides criteria for possible exemption. Age is one factor listed ('visitors under 18'), as is profession ('e.g. teachers, police officers'). Previous visits to the school are not mentioned.
14	Working with Children Check	The correct answer is A: a visiting speech pathologist. This question requires the candidate to bring two sections of the text to bear. First, the box labelled 'Child-centred work' provides examples of visitors doing child-centred work who require a WWCC, which are comparable to speech therapists (e.g. 'literacy and numeracy support staff'). In addition, the gloss marked by ** provides examples of visitors who may be exempt, and the position of speech therapist would generally not fall under any of these categories. Answering this question calls for the identification of explicitly stated information in the first instance, but some interpretation of this information is also required.
15	Working with Children Check	The correct answer is A: office staff. The final box in the text explicitly states that required WWCCs must be 'checked by office staff'. This is different from the stated role of the principal, which is to determine in some instances whether a WWCC is required.

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16	The Approach	The correct answer is B: as an embodiment of the barriers. Throughout the text, but most explicitly in the statement ‘the steps aren’t the only way in which the university is inaccessible, even if they might be the most physically arresting and apparent’, the steps are treated as forming a symbolic barrier between universities and their communities. The physical barrier is explicit, but recognising this as ‘an embodiment’ of a wider range of barriers requires some interpretation.
17	The Approach	The correct answer is A: provide a contrast with the continuing existence of discrimination. The text establishes a contrast between the disrepair of the steps and the continuing existence of what they represent: ‘Today, the steps in this postcard are in ruins, but the ideology of the steep steps persists’. This is an explicit statement, but to recognise that ‘ideology’ here refers to discrimination requires some interpretation.
18	The Approach	The correct answer is D: the intimidating effect of the university’s architecture. The text states that the people in the photograph ‘look very small, giving perspective on just how steep and massive the approach is.’ Elsewhere, the text states that the steps ‘fit with the template, the architectural fingerprint of the school.’ The steepness and massiveness of the steps, which fit the general architecture, can be interpreted as representing the intimidating influence of the university’s architecture.
19	The Approach	The correct answer is D: access to people with disability being restricted in practice (paragraph 4). While the text uses the steps as a metaphor that encompasses all four of the listed practices, the metaphor of difficult-to-climb steps is most directly appropriate to the idea of keeping people out, rather than to keeping people in or to any practice that may occur on the other side of the steps. The candidate is required not just to interpret the metaphor but to reflect on its applicability in the given context.
20	The Approach	The correct answer is C: elaborating on a symbolic connection. All the points that the text (which is only part of a larger, more varied article) makes about universities are tied in some way to the central metaphor of the steps; that is, elaborating on a symbolic connection. Only one source is cited; evidence is not provided in this part of the article; and no personal experience is included. This question asks the candidate to reflect on the nature of the text itself.

