



PLAN[®] Test Content and Sample Test Questions

ENGLISH TEST (30 minutes)

30 questions—Usage/Mechanics

20 questions—Rhetorical Skills

50 questions

This test measures your understanding of standard written English with regard to punctuation, grammar and usage, and sentence structure (Usage/Mechanics)—as well as your understanding of the appropriate use of strategy, organization, and style in writing (Rhetorical Skills). Rather than emphasizing memorization of rules of grammar, the test stresses the analysis of the kinds of prose that students read and write in most high school and college programs. The test consists of four prose passages, each accompanied by a number of multiple-choice questions.

MATHEMATICS TEST (40 minutes)

22 questions—Pre-Algebra/Algebra

18 questions—Geometry

40 questions

This test measures your achievement in solving practical quantitative problems. The skills learned in many first- and second-year high school courses (pre-algebra, first-year algebra, and plane geometry) are tested, but most of the questions (including those in geometry) emphasize content presented before the second year of high school. The test focuses on your ability to reason quantitatively rather than on memorized formulas or involved computations. All the questions are multiple choice. Use of calculators is permitted on the Mathematics Test.

READING TEST (20 minutes)

25 questions

This test measures your reading comprehension by focusing on skills you use in studying written materials from a range of subject areas. These skills include referring to details in the passage, drawing conclusions,

and making comparisons and generalizations. Knowledge of information outside the passages, vocabulary taken out of context, and rules of formal logic are not tested.

The test consists of three prose passages typical of those encountered in high school courses: one passage in the social sciences, one in the humanities, and one in prose fiction. Each passage is followed by several multiple-choice questions.

SCIENCE TEST (25 minutes)

30 questions

This test measures your scientific reasoning skills, based on material that is typically covered in first- and second-year high school general science courses, including topics in biology, chemistry, physics, geology, astronomy, and meteorology.

The test presents five sets of scientific information: two in the data representation format (graphs, tables, and other schematic forms), two in the research summaries format (descriptions of several related experiments), and one in the conflicting viewpoints format (two or more hypotheses that are inconsistent with one another). The multiple-choice questions that follow each set require you to understand the information provided, to examine critically the relationships between the information and the hypotheses developed, and to generalize from the information in order to draw conclusions or make predictions. The use of calculators is **not** permitted on the Science Test.

Sample Test Questions

The following pages provide several sample test questions from each of the four PLAN[®] tests. They are intended to illustrate the general types of questions included in the PLAN tests. An answer key is provided at the end of each section.

4. To get to the plane, Macon, Muriel, and the other passengers had to walk:
 - F. across a concrete area from the waiting room.
 - G. through a concrete hallway.
 - H. down a long, dark aisle before reaching the door.
 - J. in front of the pilot and under two rickety steps.
 5. The passage suggests that Muriel's flight on the commuter plane was an experience she:
 - A. had looked forward to.
 - B. had had before.
 - C. had read about.
 - D. considered routine.
 6. How did the pilot greet the passengers in the waiting room?
 - F. Harshly
 - G. Jokingly
 - H. Casually
 - J. Formally
 7. According to what Macon says, how could Macon's travel experience be most accurately described?
 - A. He flies on commuter planes more often than on jets.
 - B. He flies on jets more often than on commuter planes.
 - C. He does not travel by plane very often.
 - D. He travels by car more often than by plane or train.
 8. Since "not so much as a curtain hid the cockpit," Macon's view of the instrument panel and the crew was:
 - F. hidden.
 - G. unobstructed.
 - H. frightening.
 - J. scenic.
- | | | |
|---------------------------|------|------|
| Reading Answer Key | | |
| 1. C | 4. F | 7. B |
| 2. F | 5. A | 8. G |
| 3. D | 6. H | |

Science Test

Directions: The passage below is followed by several questions. After reading the passage, choose the best answer to each question and fill in the corresponding oval on your answer folder. You may refer to the passage as often as necessary.

You are NOT permitted to use a calculator on this test.

The following figures contain information about how solar energy can be collected through the windows of a house. Figure 1 shows the percent of possible sunshine, Figure 2 the average outdoor temperature during the heating season, and Figure 3 the net heat gained (in British thermal units, Btu) per hour per square foot of window area.

Single- and double-pane windows admit about the same amount of sunlight, but a single pane allows more heat to escape from the house than does a double pane.

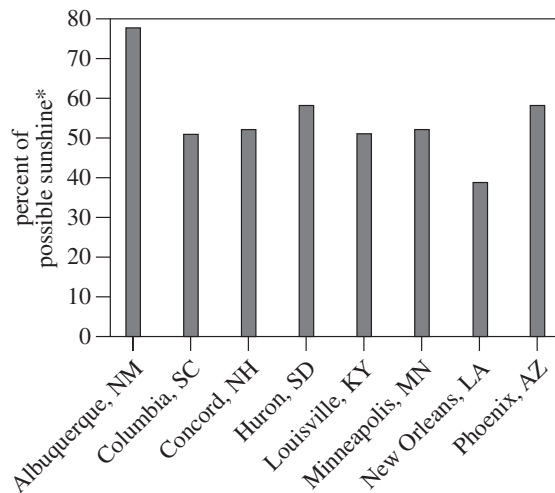


Figure 1

$$\text{*percent of possible sunshine} = \frac{\text{actual hours of direct sunlight}}{\text{possible hours of sunlight}} \times 100$$

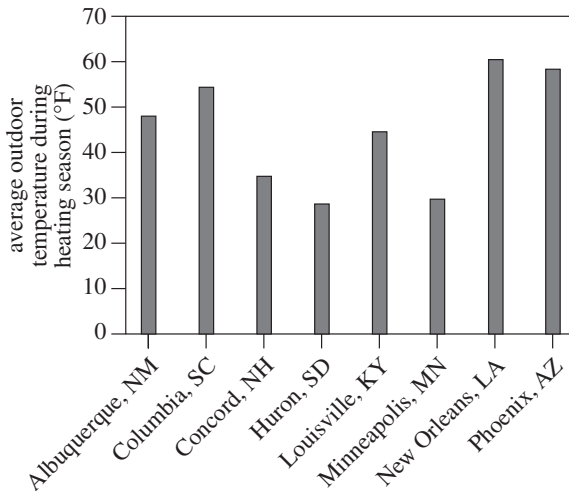


Figure 2

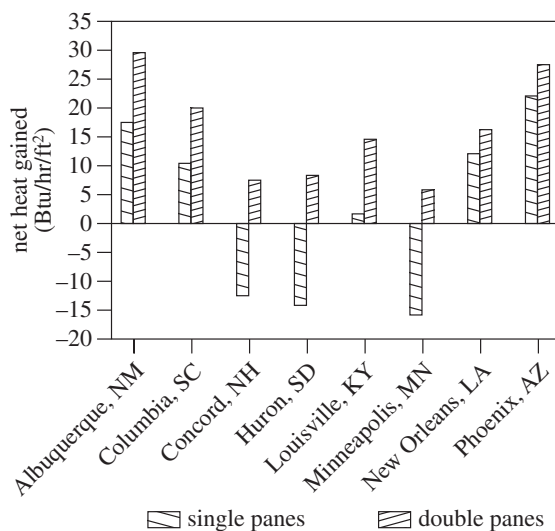


Figure 3

- According to the information in Figure 1, which of the following cities receives the LEAST percent of possible sunshine?
 - Albuquerque
 - Columbia
 - Louisville
 - New Orleans
- According to the information in Figure 3, the greatest heat gained through double-pane glass occurs in which of the following cities?
 - Albuquerque
 - Minneapolis
 - New Orleans
 - Phoenix
- According to the data, the greatest net heat *loss* through a single-pane window occurred in which city?
 - Concord
 - Huron
 - Minneapolis
 - Phoenix
- Indianapolis, Indiana, receives 51% possible sunshine and has an average temperature of 40.3°F during the heating season. On the basis of the data presented, the net heat gained by a double-pane window in Indianapolis would be approximately:
 - 15 Btu/hr/ft².
 - 7 Btu/hr/ft².
 - 11 Btu/hr/ft².
 - 27 Btu/hr/ft².
- Which of the following hypotheses about the relationship between the percent of possible sunshine and average outdoor temperature during the heating season is best supported by the data?
 - As the percent of possible sunshine increases, the average temperature decreases.
 - As the percent of possible sunshine increases, the average temperature increases.
 - The average temperature is not directly related to the percent of possible sunshine.
 - The percent of possible sunshine depends on the length of the heating season, rather than the average temperature.

Science Answer Key

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. D | 4. H |
| 2. F | 5. C |
| 3. C | |