

Study Guide for Reading Placement Test:

The reading placement test is designed to assess your current reading skills. The assessment is a 40-question, multiple-choice and true/false test that is untimed. There is no passing or failing score. Instead, the results of the test will be interpreted by an advisor and used to assist with appropriate course placement.

Topics covered in the test may include the following: Reading comprehension, vocabulary, inference, main ideas, supporting details, signal words, patterns of organization, fact, opinion, tone, connotation, and denotation.

To help prepare for the test, please review these sample questions:

Sample Question One:

Read the selected passage below from Walt Whitman's "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry." Then, choose the most appropriate definition of the word scheme as it is used in the passage.

The impalpable sustenance of me from all things at all hours of
the day,
The simple, compact, well-join'd scheme, myself disintegrated,
every one disintegrated yet part of the scheme,
The similitudes of the past and those of the future,
The glories strung like beads on my smallest sights and hearings,
on the walk in the street and the passage over the river,
The current rushing so swiftly and swimming with me far away,
The others that are to follow me, the ties between me and them,
The certainty of others, the life, love, sight, hearing of others.

Attribution: Access for free at <https://whitmanarchive.org/published/LG/1881/poems/87>.

From: Whitman, Walt. "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry." *Leaves of Grass*. *The Walt Whitman Archive*. 1 Mar. 2021
<https://whitmanarchive.org/published/LG/1860/poems/122>.

Possible Answers:

- A. river
- B. diabolical
- C. whole
- D. arrangement

Sample Question Two:

Read the passage, and then answer the question that follows it.

BIOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCE (BPS) RESEARCH IN ACTION: A SAMPLING OF CURRENT STUDIES

Whether you know it or not, quantum science touches our lives each day. Quantum mechanics refers to the branch of physics that focuses on the behaviors of atoms and subatomic particles, and it is a foundational part of many components in many modern technologies, including cell phones and computers, that employ the wave nature of electrons in silicon.

One example of quantum research supported by BPS is the Cold Atom Lab (CAL), the world's first multi-user facility for the study of ultra-cold atoms in space. A "mini-lab" in space, CAL gives researchers a suite of tools to cool, tune and probe ultra-cold atoms. In low gravity, cold atom clouds essentially "free float" inside a high vacuum chamber. Under these conditions it is possible to reach lower temperatures and to create experiments not possible on Earth.

As atoms get colder, they move more slowly and become effectively larger. Ultracold atom facilities like CAL cool atoms down below a billionth of a degree above absolute zero, the temperature at which they would theoretically almost stop moving entirely. At these low temperatures, the atoms can form unique quantum states of matter.

Development of quantum science and technology is still at the discovery stage. Physicists are just beginning to build practical quantum computers, and experiments with the quantum properties of matter have only been possible at all because of research technologies developed in the last 20 years.

NASA is currently partnering with outstanding physicists from around the world to advance quantum science through space-based research. This research could enable new opportunities on a ten-year horizon, possibly including: the development of quantum processors which may enable limited computing applications; new sensors for biotechnology and defense; next-generation positioning, navigation, and timing systems for military and commercial applications; new approaches to understanding materials, chemistry, and even gravity through quantum information theory; novel algorithms for machine learning and optimization; and transformative cyber security systems including quantum-resistant cryptography in response to developments in quantum information science.

Attribution:

Access for free at <https://science.nasa.gov/science-news/bps/a-new-home-for-nasa-s-biological-and-physical-sciences-research>

Taken from "A New Home for NASA's Biological and Physical Sciences Research." *NASA Science: Share the Science*. 2020. <https://science.nasa.gov/science-news/bps/a-new-home-for-nasa-s-biological-and-physical-sciences-research>

True or False: At a certain temperature, called absolute zero, atoms almost stop moving.

Sample Question Three:

Choose the most appropriate word to complete this sentence:

Last summer, my family and I had a wonderful vacation in Arizona; I was, however, amazed by how cold the _____ was at night.

- A. dessert
- B. desert