



On Your Way to Scoring High

On the **Iowa Tests of Basic Skills®**

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Unit 2

Reading Comprehension

Lesson 2b Reading Comprehension

Directions: Read the passage and the answer choice. Choose the best answer.

sample
A The Denner family solved a problem in an interesting way. They tired of mowing their lawn, watering it, and using chemicals on it. One day, they decided to take out their lawn and replace it with a wildflower garden. Their beautiful, carefree garden has become the talk of the neighborhood.

Why is the wildflower garden the talk of the neighborhood?

- A** People talk about things they don't understand.
- B** The neighbors don't like it.
- C** People must think it is a wonderful idea.
- D** The flowers are cut and put in vases.



• **Sometimes the answer is not stated in the passage. You have to "read between the lines."**

Directions: As part of a pen-pal project, Ashihiro kept a journal of what the weather was like on the first day of every month for his friend in Argentina. Use the journal to answer questions 1–6.

- March 1** This is probably the most miserable day of the year. It's raining, cloudy, and the wind is blowing. When we have weather like this on the weekend, my computer gets a good workout.
- April 1** It snowed almost ten inches last night! Only kidding ... it's an April Fool's Day joke. Today is beautiful, and my friends and I are going to the park to play baseball. I play the outfield and am pretty good, but not as good as my older sister.
- May 1** The wind is really blowing and a storm is coming in. The weather report says we might have thunder and lightning for the first time this year. I love storms, as long as I can be inside.
- June 1** School will be over in two more weeks! I hope the weather is like this all summer. The temperature is supposed to be 70° and there isn't a cloud in the sky.
- July 1** What a dreadful day! The temperature is already 80°, and it's damp and sticky. I wish we had a swimming pool, but living in the city in an apartment makes that impossible.
- August 1** The weather has finally started to cool off. All of July was humid, almost exactly like the day I wrote you. I couldn't sleep at night because it was so sticky. I hope it stays cool for a while.
- September 1** School starts in four days. If the weather then is as miserable as it is today, I might not even go. Actually, I love the first day of school because I get to see everyone and it's so busy we don't have much work.

GO

- October 1** The fall colors have been spectacular, and today is a perfect day to enjoy them. The sky is blue, there are just a few clouds, and the sun is bright. I feel sorry for people who don't have trees that change color in the fall.
- November 1** Winter is definitely here. It's cold, gray, and in general, nasty. The temperature is still in the 20s, and I'm not looking forward to school at all. I have to walk to school, and I hate getting there wet.
- December 1** When December rolls around, everyone in school starts thinking about the holidays. This year, everyone is thinking about the weather. We have had the snowiest winter in history. It's like living in Alaska. Two feet of snow fell last night, and there was already a foot on the ground. Pretty soon, we'll have to dig tunnels to get around.

- 1** What can you conclude about where the writer of this journal lives?

A It is usually warm.
B It is usually cold.
C It has good weather.
D It has four seasons.

- 2** How do the journal entries change from March to September?

J They focus less on the weather than on the writer's feelings.
K They become much shorter.
L They talk more about the writer's family.
M They focus more on the weather than on the writer's feelings.

- 3** What was the weather in July like?

A Cooler than usual
B Hot and sticky without a breeze
C It rained more often than usual.
D The wind made the weather nasty.

- 4** How does the writer feel about the first day of school?

J Bored about school
K Excited to go
L Sad that summer is over
M Happy to go to a new school

- 5** What does the writer mean in the March first entry when he says "his computer will get a good workout"?

A He will work hard to earn money to buy a computer.
B He will go to the gym before using his computer.
C He will spend the day using the computer.
D He will exercise instead of using his computer.

- 6** In the entry for September, what does the word "miserable" mean?

J Pleasant
K Unusual
L Usual
M Unpleasant

Unit 4

Capitalization and Punctuation

Lesson 5a Punctuation

Directions: Fill in the space for the answer that has a mistake in punctuation. Fill in the last answer space if there is no mistake.

- sample** A Susan shouted to the others,
A B Come over here! I think I
 C found a good place to camp."
 D (No mistakes)

- sample** J The storm that started on
B K Sunday night is expected to
 L last until at least Wednesday.
 M (No mistakes)



- Check for punctuation at the end of the sentence. Then look for a missing comma, apostrophe, or quotation mark in the sentence.
- Take your time and work carefully.

- 1** A A large rock, which had been
 B dug up during construction was
 C washed and placed in the garden.
 D (No mistakes)
- 2** J The school bus was parked
 K near the museum. The children
 L would meet there, at three o'clock.
 M (No mistakes)
- 3** A Monday Tuesday and Wednesday
 B are the best days to go to the movies.
 C The other days are way too crowded.
 D (No mistakes)
- 4** J The bridge over the river is
 K being repaired. Traffic will be
 L detoured to Second Street
 M (No mistakes)

- 5** A "It is usually a good idea"
 B to compare food prices among
 C different stores before shopping.
 D (No mistakes)
- 6** J How do you know what kind of
 K bird that is? It looks just like
 L every other bird at the bird feeder.
 M (No mistakes)
- 7** A The bus driver said loudly, The
 B next stop is Landis Avenue.
 C Is anyone getting off there?"
 D (No mistakes)
- 8** J Most of the furniture in
 K the house has been borrowed
 L from my mother aunt or sister.
 M (No mistakes)

STOP

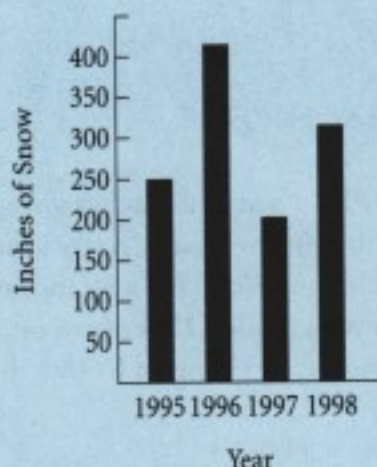
Unit 7

Math Problem Solving and Data Interpretation

Lesson 11a Data Interpretation

Directions: Read each mathematics problem. Choose the best answer.

sample
A

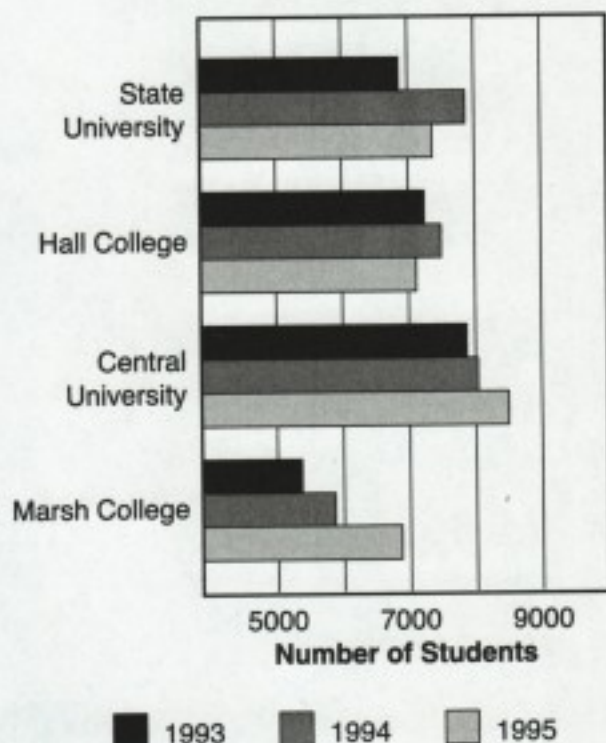


The graph shows the amount of snow that fell in a mountain town during four years. In which year did more than 400 inches of snow fall?

- A 1995
- B 1996
- C 1997
- D 1998



- Read each question carefully. Be sure you understand what you are supposed to do.
- Look at the graph or chart to find the answer.



- 1 About how many students attended State University in 1994?
A 6900
B 7400
C 7900
D 8200
- 2 In 1995, how many more students attended Central University than Hall College?
J 1300
K 1500
L 2300
M 2500
- 3 Which college has the smallest number of students?
A State University
B Hall College
C Central University
D Marsh College

GO

Unit 8

Math Computation

Lesson 12a Computation

Directions: Solve each problem. Choose the answer you think is correct. If the correct answer is not given, fill in the space for the last answer, N.

sample
A $\begin{array}{r} 111 \\ - 22 \\ \hline \end{array}$

- A 89
B 99
C 133
D N

sample
B $\begin{array}{r} 144 \\ + 6 \\ \hline \end{array}$

- J 130
K 138
L 140
M N



- Look at the numbers and the operation sign carefully.
- Work the problem on scratch paper before you look at the answer choices.

1 $\begin{array}{r} 2496 \\ + 327 \\ \hline \end{array}$

- A 2,169
B 2,823
C 2,833
D N

2 $\begin{array}{r} 3000 \\ \times 90 \\ \hline \end{array}$

- J 270,000
K 300,009
L 300,900
M N

3 $8 \overline{)7326}$

- A 914
B 914 R6
C 915 R6
D N

4 $0.094 - 0.07 =$

- J 0.0024
K 0.087
L 0.164
M N

5 $\begin{array}{r} \frac{10}{15} \\ - \frac{4}{15} \\ \hline \end{array}$

- A $\frac{1}{6}$
B $\frac{2}{5}$
C $\frac{14}{15}$
D N

6 $\frac{1}{12} + \frac{7}{12} + \frac{1}{12} =$

- J $\frac{1}{2}$
K $\frac{2}{3}$
L 1
M N

7 $\begin{array}{r} 14.2 \\ 9.0 \\ 6.2 \\ + 2.7 \\ \hline \end{array}$

- A 29.1
B 32.1
C 32.2
D N

8 $0.35 \times 6 =$

- J 2.10
K 21.0
L 210
M N

STOP