

Alabama High School Graduation Exam

Mock Test

The following sample questions were prepared by the Alabama Department of Education.

READING COMPREHENSION

Read the following article and answer questions 1- 5. You may look back at the article as often as you like.

The Globe Theater

THE GLOBE THEATER, a playhouse originally constructed in 1599 across the Thames River from London, England, has been rebuilt a second time. The reconstructed theater was opened officially in 1997.

The Globe, perhaps the most famous theater in history, was the scene of William Shakespeare's major plays, and two of his works about English kings bracketed its early years. The first, *Henry V*, christened the new theater; the second, *Henry VIII*, was playing in 1613 when a cannon, discharged at the entry of the king, set the thatched roof afire and completely destroyed the building. It was rebuilt in a year, but again tragically razed in 1644.

It was in the opening chorus of *Henry V* that Shakespeare referred to the theater as "this wooden O." His pride was justified, since he had been made a part owner of the building.

The original Globe was constructed by a syndicate headed by the Burbage brothers, Cuthbert and Richard. To build it, they tore down their previous playhouse, "The Theater," and transported the timber to the new site on carts. Luckily, it was an extremely cold winter, so the workmen were able to haul the material across the Thames, rather than using the crowded London Bridge.

The stage itself was ideally suited to the intimate, swiftly moving style of Elizabethan drama. The jutting forestage was used for general action. Behind it, there was a curtained-off area that could become a bedroom, as in *Othello*, or a cave, as in *The Tempest*. Above that was a gallery that was ideal for balcony scenes, and over that a smaller gallery for musicians. Above all was a

false ceiling, known as “the heavens.” Permanent doors gave access on either side of the main stage; trap doors allowed for sudden appearances and disappearances.

The general audience, known as “groundlings,” stood in the unroofed “yard” of the theater to watch the play. A rough and rowdy bunch, they loved ghosts, sword fights, and amusing wordplay. Around them, in the galleries, the wealthier customers sat. The courtiers and gallants, for a higher price, were allowed to sit on the stage itself.

Rebuilding the famous playhouse was the dream of American actor Sam Wanamaker. In London, just after World War II, he tried to find the site of the theater and could locate nothing more than a metal plaque on a decrepit brewery. He spent the next 40 years finding the money and organizing the reconstruction of an exact replica of the old Globe, just a few yards from its original location. Now tourists visiting London can put themselves in the shoes of those Elizabethan playgoers who cheered and jeered from the yard and galleries of the “wooden O.”

Circle the correct letter.

1. Workmen were able to haul materials across the Thames River because

- A. it was frozen over.
- B. London Bridge had been built.
- C. they had specialized equipment.
- D. it was less crowded than London Bridge.

2. What was the main idea of this article?

- A. The Globe Theater has a long history.
- B. The Globe Theater is now a tourist attraction.
- C. The Globe Theater has recently been rebuilt.
- D. The Globe Theater is currently owned by a syndicate.

3. What is apparent from the seating arrangements at the Globe?

- A. There was one ticket price for all.
- B. The audience appreciated fine music.
- C. Trap doors allowed for dramatic entrances.
- D. There were distinctions among social classes.

4. What caused the Globe Theater to burn down?

- A. a cannon shot
- B. a rowdy patron
- C. the king's entry
- D. the wooden stage

5. Which set of statements BEST summarizes the article?
- A. The Globe is the most famous theater in history because Shakespeare's plays were performed there. It burned down and then was rebuilt a year later.
 - B. The Globe's design made it the ideal theater for Shakespeare's plays. For this reason, it was reconstructed after many years and despite difficult problems.
 - C. The Globe was originally constructed by the Burbage brothers on the site of an earlier playhouse. After years as the site of Shakespeare's plays, it was razed and then rebuilt.
 - D. The Globe, where Shakespeare's plays were first performed, is possibly the most famous theater in history. A rebuilt version of it was opened in London after a period of reconstruction.

LANGUAGE

1. Choose the sentence that contains an error.
- A. Across the entire western states, the skies are clear.
 - B. The town council recognized the rescuers as heroes.
 - C. The two musicians were son-in-laws of the conductor.
 - D. How many former secretaries of state are still living?
2. Choose the sentence that is written correctly.
- A. Each one of the teachers were given an award.
 - B. Either my brothers or my sister is driving me to the airport.
 - C. Few of the students really understands the calculus problem.
 - D. The decision of the lower courts were reversed by the appeals court.
3. Choose the answer that is a sentence fragment.
- A. Ancient palaces line the Grand Canal, the major thoroughfare of the city of Venice.
 - B. Lined with ancient palaces, the Grand Canal is the major thoroughfare of the city of Venice.
 - C. The city of Venice's main thoroughfare, the Grand Canal, which is lined with ancient palaces.
 - D. The major thoroughfare of the city of Venice, the Grand Canal, is lined with ancient palaces.
4. Choose the sentence that is punctuated correctly.

- A. Igloos are used as homes on the ice; also hunting shelters.
- B. The Statue of Liberty was designed by Frederic Bartholdi; a French sculptor.
- C. The pulmonary artery, the superior vena cava, and the aorta: are three of the large blood vessels of the heart.
- D. We collected many items for the hurricane victims: bottled water, blankets, canned food, batteries, and medical supplies.

5. Read the paragraph. Choose the sentence that does NOT belong in the paragraph.

(1) As humans consume more and more oil, new sources must be found. (2) Oil hunters sink their wells when they see signs of oil, but the wells often turn up dry. (3) Companies must continue drilling even though each well costs thousands of dollars. (4) Coal is another source of fuel.

- A. Sentence 1
- B. Sentence 2
- C. Sentence 3
- D. Sentence 4

MATHEMATICS

1. Factor: $x^2 - x - 2$

- A. $(x + 1)(x - 2)$
- B. $(x - 1)(x - 2)$
- C. $(x + 1)(x + 2)$
- D. $(x - 1)(x + 2)$

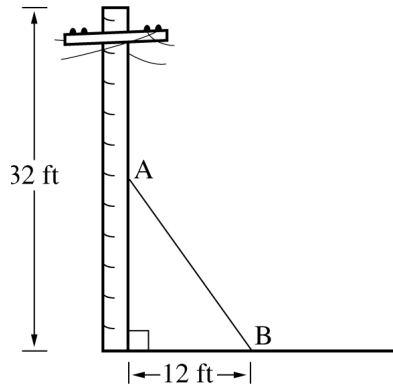
2. Solve: $-2x - 7 = -x + 13$

- A. -20
- B. -6
- C. -2
- D. 20

3. Ryan makes \$3.00 per hour more than Scott. If 3 times Ryan's rate plus 4 times Scott's rate is \$65.00, what is Ryan's hourly wage?

- A. \$7.57
- B. \$8.00
- C. \$9.71
- D. \$11.00

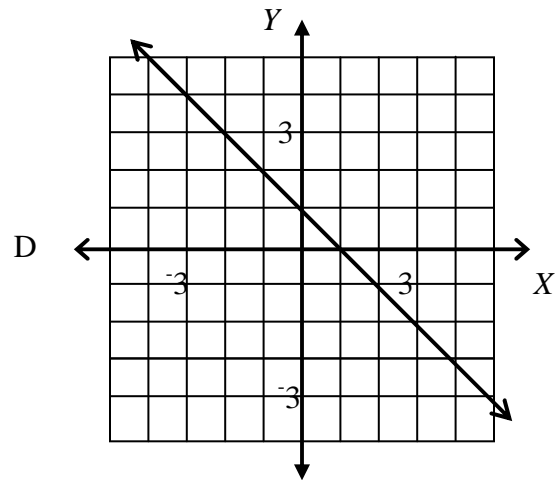
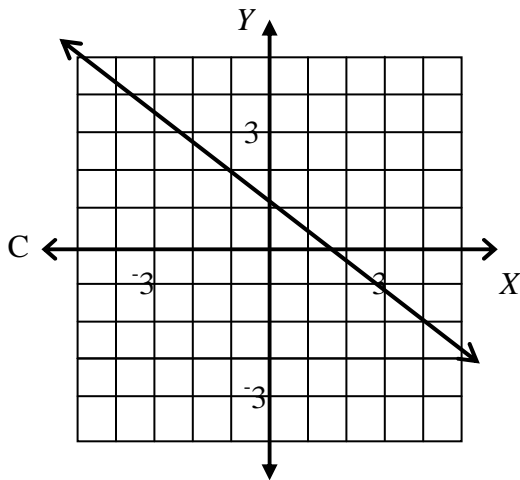
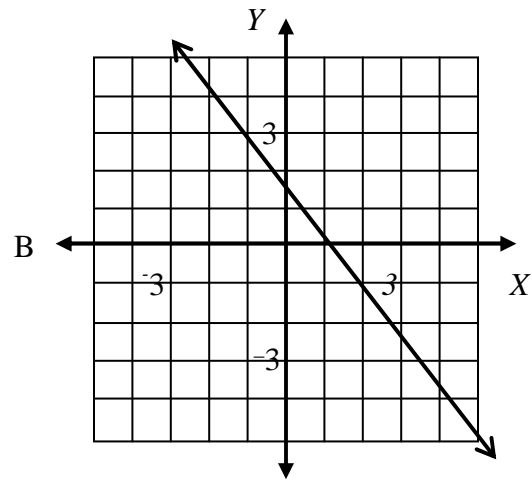
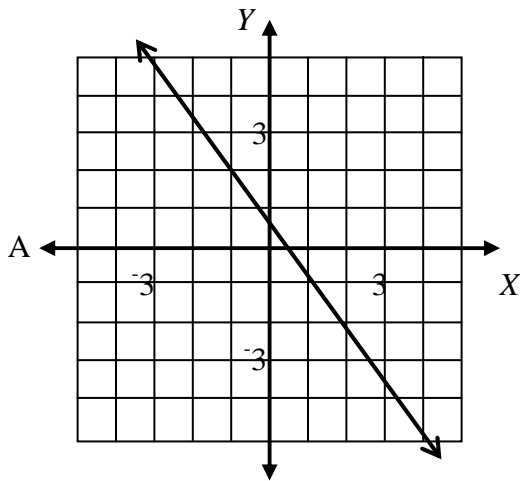
4. The diagram below shows a 32-foot telephone pole. An electrician wants to connect a support wire from point A, halfway up the pole, to point B.



What is the length of the wire?

- A. 12 feet
- B. 16 feet
- C. 20 feet
- D. 24 feet

5. Which of these graphs represents a line that has a slope of $-3/4$ and passes through $(-1, 2)$?

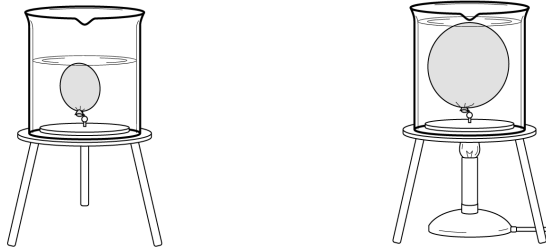


SCIENCE

1. If a blood cell is placed in pure water, it will die because

- A. water diffusing out will dehydrate it
- B. water diffusing in will cause it to burst
- C. carbon dioxide will be unable to diffuse out
- D. cell organelles will diffuse through the membrane

2. Study the pictures below.



These pictures show how a balloon that is submerged in water changes as the water is heated. Which property of the air inside the balloon decreases as the water is heated?

- A. mass
- B. volume
- C. density
- D. temperature

3. Study the Punnett square below.

	Male		
	WW	Ww	W = dominant
Female	Ww	ww	w = recessive

Two hamsters with white fur produced an offspring with brown fur. If “W” represents the gene for white fur and “w” represents the gene for brown fur, which of these combinations of parents will yield offspring with brown fur (ww)?

- A. WW and ww
- B. WW and Ww
- C. Ww and Ww
- D. WW and WW

4. An African snail brought to Hawaii became a plant-eating pest. To control the African snails, 19 snail-eating species were imported to Hawaii from all over the world. One of the imports, the cannibal snail, has nearly destroyed the native Hawaiian tree snail population.

What is the MOST important conclusion suggested by the passage above?

- A. Snails eat plants.
- B. Snails eat each other.
- C. Imported species usually cannot survive.
- D. Imported species may upset biological balances.

**ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION EXAM
SAMPLE TEST
ANSWER KEY**

READING COMPREHENSION

1. A
2. A
3. D
4. A
5. D

LANGUAGE

1. C
2. B
3. C
4. D
5. D

MATHEMATICS

1. A
2. A
3. D
4. C
5. C

SCIENCE

1. B
2. C
3. C
4. D

Note: Social studies is not included on this sample exam because it will not be added to the exam until the spring of 2000. Sample questions are not available yet.