

Nelson Denny Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary Test

This examination is broken down into two sections. One section covers the Reading Comprehension portion of the examination. The second section covers the vocabulary portion of the examination. The two sections of the test are timed.

In this study guide you will find two similar examples of the type of reading comprehension passages and questions you will be expected to answer during the Reading Comprehension section of the examination.

You will also find a word list consisting of 300 words you should be familiar with before taking the examination. The word list is also accompanied by two sample questions similar to what you will be expected to answer during the examination.

Prior to the beginning of the test, a proctor will give concise instructions regarding the examination. A passing score of 102 is required to proceed in the hiring process. Those individuals scoring below an 86 will be disqualified from proceeding further into the hiring process.

Study Guide for the Nelson Denny

Sample Question:

#1 Indispensable means: A. uncomfortable B. costly C. durable D. essential E. timely

#2 If something atrophies, it: A. saves up B. wastes away C. wins D. develops E. moves

Vocabulary

Explain	Militant	Sensory
Vulgar	Juncture	Congregate
Elastic	Scant	Incentive
Copious	Peers	Cordon
Evoke	Alter	Linear
Exaggerate	Implosion	Covert
Heedless	Partial	Delayed
Instill	Introspective	Void
Similarities	Incursion	Vessel
Garish	Unequivocal	Craven
Massive	Edifices	Insufficient
Credulity	Tasteless	Schemes
Boisterous	Abruptly	Cower
Avidly	Ascribe	Degenerate
Lapses	Grasp	Unscrupulous
Ensuing	Avow	Credulous
Tawdry	Segments	Induce
Resources	Quota	Syndrome
Brazen	Fulcrum	Deride
Blatant	Harrowingly	Drudgery
Quest	Harrow	Disperse
Onerous	Sparse	Placid
Indispensable	Entreat	Derision
Resplendent	Edit	Prodigious
Stultify	Sway	Destitute
Replication	Ethos	Contaminate
Usury	Desist	Vivid
Waft	Extol	Despotic
Whet	Lurking	Recessive
Zealous	Unworthy	Dolt
Vilify	Mesh	Wreak
Migration	Surface	Leniency
Ail	Atonement	Emit
Jovial	Presumed	Ailment
Lyre	Intoxicate	Rigidity
Inscribe	Belligerent	Ennui
Indict	Resistance	Fascinated
Aggravated	Cacophony	Succulent
Dependence	Surplus	Diversity
Delusion	Cohort	Verbatim

Exigent
Rampant
Susceptible
Fallacious
Robust
Foolhardy
Feckless
Glib
Fracas
Scathing
Retention
Foibles
Surfeit
Uncouth
Gullible
Curtailed
Hapless
Idiosyncrasy
Obscure
Hoodwink
Sardonic
Demise
Iconoclast
Pseudo
Imbued
Imbroglia
Caricatures
Mundane
Blatantly
Insidious
Emulate
Pungent
Laud
Lofty
Mar
Myopic
Narcissist
Overtly
Obdurate
Pith
Quaff
Rarefy
Tyro
Underling
Venal
Turmoil

Torpor
Undertaker
Fearless
Stress
Dismal
Confidential
Value
Aliens
Grueling
Pledge
Lethal
Interrogate
Mute
Affected
Turbulent
Gnome
Competent
Granted
Lurk
Recipient
Ingests
Obscene
Persisted
Deserve
Entice
Apothecary
Opted
Impetuous
Regress
Forestalled
Romp
Perplexed
Adverse
Replenishment
Quench
Vehemently
Pomposity
Impromptu
Heinous
Affronted
Amnesty
Cumbersome
Libel
Admonitions
Devastation
Enliven

Illuminate
Imperceptible
Rational
Provocative
Foreshadowing
Inevitability
Perpetual
Shackles
Narcissism
Berated
Deplorable
Intangible
Irate
Estrangement
Virtuosos
Prone
Mayhem
Ebb
Inept
Annotate
Denote
Subtle
Invaluable
Ruefully
Assess
Painstaking
Advocate
Mollifying
Ethereal
Lethargic
Prolific
Bequest
Flippant
Pallid
Apathetically
Ebullient
Atrophies
Nuances
Menial
Pugnacity
Formidable
Fatigued
Enamored
Dissect
Countenance
Famished

Apprized
Aural
Analyze
Abstract
Aesthetic
Benevolent
Capricious
Complacent
Conciliatory
Devious
Diligent
Discernible
Dogmatic
Eccentric
Fallacious
Indifferent
Inquisitive
Meticulous
Pertinent
Plausible
Reticent
Morose
Novice
Obscure
Ostentatious
Precocious
Prevaricate
Querulous
Quiescent
Repose
Repudiate
Soporific
Spontaneous
Squander
Theoretical
Virulent
Diverse
Enigma
Futile
Gratuitous
Hackneyed
Incessant
Insidious

Comprehension Sample Question
Passage One

Governments cost money – huge sums of money. Our federal government alone spends close to \$250 billion each year. State and local governments spend many more billions. About 35 cents out of each dollar earned by all American workers and business firms goes as taxes to help pay costs of governments. From these figures you may get some idea of the enormous costs of the services and programs that our governments provide.

What is this money spent for? In the early 1970's the federal government spent from \$75 billion to \$80 billion each year for national defense. Space research and technology took another \$3 billion to \$4 billion. Veteran's benefits cost \$8 to \$12 billion. Interest on the national debt was over \$20 billion per year. In addition, many billions of dollars were required for the federal government to help our states construct highways, housing, and community redevelopment projects. Federal aid to education and manpower training averaged over \$10 billion annually.

The huge costs of governments are of concern to every citizen. Americans have to pay the costs of government. We pay them with out taxes. We have a responsibility as concerned citizens to make sure that our governments spend our money wisely and spend it for worthwhile purposes.

1. Which of the following federal programs was not mentioned?
 - a. Retirement
 - b. Research
 - c. Redevelopment
 - d. Education
 - e. Housing
2. State and local governments were said to spend _____.
 - a. \$20 billion
 - b. \$3 billion to \$4 billion
 - c. \$250 billion
 - d. \$35 billion
 - e. an amount not given
3. The best title for this passage would be
 - a. Runaway Spending
 - b. Government Spending
 - c. Federal Wastefulness
 - d. The National Debt
 - e. Federal Taxes
4. The Federal government apparently does not help the states in the area of _____.
 - a. Education
 - b. Manpower training
 - c. Housing
 - d. Public safety
 - e. Redevelopment

Passage Two

Economics is a study of the process by which we make and spend our incomes. It is also defined as a study of how man satisfies his wants and needs for economic goods and services. Even more specifically, economics is a study the process by which man attempts to get the most satisfaction possible when he cannot buy all of the goods and services that he would like. The inability of man to buy all of the goods and services that he would like is often referred to as the economic fact of *scarcity*. Economics, then, is concerned with the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services.

Economic activity at a given time includes everything that is being done to satisfy man's wants and needs through production, distribution, and consumption. Management, labor, and government all contribute to economic activity through which man's wants and needs are satisfied. The end results sought through economic activity are: (1) the creating of economic goods and services for man's use; and (2) the providing of opportunities for man to earn a reasonable income so he can acquire and consume the goods and services he wants and needs.

5. Economics was definitely said to involve_____.
 - a. Making a living
 - b. Satisfying our needs
 - c. Paying taxes
 - d. Planning a budget
 - e. Making investments
6. The passage mentions_____.
 - a. Scarcity
 - b. Surplus
 - c. Depression
 - d. Inflation
 - e. Taxes
7. The purpose of this passage is _____.
 - a. To arouse interest
 - b. To entertain
 - c. To criticize
 - d. To make clear
 - e. To warn
8. Chief emphasis is on the_____.
 - a. *How*
 - b. *Where*
 - c. *When*
 - d. *What*
 - e. *Why*

Reading Comprehension Answer: 1. A, 2. E, 3. B, 4. D, 5. B, 6. A, 7. D, 8. A

Vocabulary Answer: 1. D, 2. B