

Reading SAT Practice Test 27

Passage 1 is adapted from Louisa Twining, "Workhouses and Women's Work" © 1857 by The National Association for the Promotion of Social Science. Passage 2 is adapted from Florence Nightingale and William Rathbone, "Workhouse Nursing, the Story of a Successful Experiment" © 1867 by Macmillan and Co.

Passage 1

The evils of the employment of pauper nurses is dwelt upon by all who have considered the subject of workhouse management. When we
Line consider the persons to whom such extensive
5 power and responsibility are entrusted, in the care of 50,000 sick persons in the London workhouses alone, we can hardly wonder at what is told of the results of the system. The only way in which an employment of the inmates could
10 be successfully carried out, would be under the constant supervision of superior persons; but in the present system that is an impossibility. Efficient nurses, who could gain a living in any of our hospitals, would not be likely to offer
15 themselves for a post in which it is nearly all work of the hardest kind, and no pay. One of these pauper nurses boldly stated that she had been sixteen times in the House of Correction, and she was not ashamed of it. Of course such labor

20 is cheap, and it is desirable, if possible, to employ those who must be maintained at the cost of the parish; but in no case should they be left with the sole charge and responsibility of sick wards, as they continually are at present, without any other
25 control than the occasional visit of the matron, bestowed at the utmost once a day, in some cases only once a week.

Seeing how careful boards of guardians are in all matters of expense, it would have been well if
30 the recommendation of the poor law with regard to the employment of at least one paid nurse had been a law; as it is, many workhouses are without one. That such a person would always be all we could desire for so important a post we could
35 hardly hope, from what we know of the paid

But on the 18th of May, 1865, a Lady
40 Superintendent who had received a thorough
training at Kaiserswerth and St. Thomas's, twelve
Nightingale nurses from St. Thomas's, eighteen
probationers, and fifty-two of the old pauper
nurses were placed in charge of the patients in the
45 male wards of the Workhouse Infirmary.

With the exception of the failure of the
nurses taken from the pauper class, the first
year's trial was sufficiently successful to induce a
continuance of the experiment. It was impossible,
50 however, to judge the result by statistics. None
that were available could be considered as an
evidence of success or failure, for several reasons.
The season was very unhealthy, and to relieve
the pressure on the space and resources of the
55 hospital, steps were taken to treat slight cases
outside.

The endeavor to limit the admissions to serious cases would of course affect the returns, both as regards the time taken in curing, and the
60 proportion of deaths. Even had there been no exceptional disturbing element, there is a defect in the statistics of workhouse hospitals which affects all inferences from them, in the absence of any careful classified list of cases kept by the
65 medical officers, such as might fairly enable one to form a judgment from mere statistical tables. These, then, are not reliable as means of judgment, unless extending over a long period. The character of seasons, and nature of cases
70 admitted, varies so much from year to year as to invalidate any deductions, unless founded on minutely kept medical records. The following extracts, however, from the reports of the Governor, and the surgical and medical officers of
75 the Workhouse, bear decisive witness to the value of the "new system," especially as contrasted with the "old system," which in 1865-66 still prevailed in the female wards. All these reports bear

emphatic testimony to the merits and devotion
80 of the Lady Superintendent and her staff. The
medical men, it is noteworthy, speak strongly of
the better discipline and far greater obedience to
their orders observable where the trained nurses
are employed—a point the more important
85 because it is that on which, before experience has
reassured them, medical and other authorities
have often been most doubtful.

1. The primary purpose of Passage 1 is to

- A. praise an effective structure.
- B. criticize a social group.
- C. examine the finances of a system.
- D. advocate for a necessary change.

2. Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A. Lines 13-16 ("Efficient nurses...pay")
- B. Lines 16-19 ("One of...it")
- C. Lines 22-27 ("but in...week")
- D. Lines 28-32 ("Seeing how...law")

3. As used in lines 21, "maintained" most nearly means

- A. provided for.
- B. affirmed.
- C. healed.
- D. fixed.

4. The phrase in lines 34-35 ("we could hardly hope") most directly suggests that

- A. an ideal candidate should be found for a position.
- B. people who go to hospitals should be critical of nurses.
- C. allowances should be made, since no person is perfect.
- D. an improvement is still likely to have some flaws.

5. Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A. Lines 13-16 ("Efficient nurses...pay")
- B. Lines 19-22 ("Of course...parish")
- C. Lines 29-32 ("it would...law")
- D. Lines 35-38 ("from what...plan")

6. The final sentence of Passage 1 has which effect?

- A. It emphasizes that the current situation is unpleasant.
- B. It shares the author's despair over the circumstances.
- C. It casts an entirely optimistic light on a proposal.
- D. It evokes the generally low opinion held for a certain group.

7. It can be most directly inferred from the second paragraph of Passage 2 (lines 46-56) that the first year of the experiment described in the passage was unusual in

- A. having weather that caused an uncharacteristic amount of illness.
- B. the overall number of people who required medical treatment.
- C. that effective medical treatment exceeded statistical expectations.
- D. the number of people who died from disease.

8. The author of Passage 2 references a "careful classified list of cases" (line 64) in order to

- A. specify what will be required of all workhouses in the future, if the experiment continues.
- B. explain a missing element that would have ensured an outcome.
- C. reveal an inconsistency which made more accurate analysis impossible.
- D. detail the extent to which records can be kept over a long period.

9. As used in line 69, the phrase "character of seasons" most nearly means

- A. changes in morality.
- B. weather patterns.
- C. the overall health during a period.
- D. the unpredictable nature of human behavior.

10. The author of Passage 1 would most likely respond to the phrase in lines 46-47 ("With the exception...class") of Passage 2 by

- A. expressing surprise at an unexpected result that is inconsistent with prior observations.
- B. acknowledging that an ideal situation may not be practical to attain.
- C. noting that intervention earlier in life may have changed an outcome.
- D. suggesting that the data may not be entirely representative.

11. Which choice best describes the relationship between the two passages?

- A. Passage 2 describes a scenario that addresses some elements of the situation shown in Passage 1.
- B. Passage 2 discusses potential results of the overall problem reviewed in Passage 1.
- C. Passage 2 underscores the futility of attempts to resolve the concerns of Passage 1.
- D. Passage 2 resolves the issues brought to light

