

# TEAS Reading Comprehension Practice Test - 45 Questions

## Instructions

- Read each passage carefully before answering questions
  - Choose the best answer for each question
  - Time limit: 64 minutes (actual TEAS reading section timing)
  - Answer key is provided at the end
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## PASSAGE 1

**Questions 1-4 are based on the following passage:**

Antibiotics have revolutionized modern medicine since their discovery in the early 20th century. Alexander Fleming's accidental discovery of penicillin in 1928 marked the beginning of the antibiotic era. However, the overuse and misuse of antibiotics have led to a growing problem: antibiotic resistance. When bacteria are repeatedly exposed to antibiotics, they can develop mechanisms to survive these drugs, making infections harder to treat. The World Health Organization has declared antibiotic resistance one of the top global public health threats. To combat this issue, healthcare providers must prescribe antibiotics judiciously, and patients must complete their full course of treatment even when feeling better.

1. What is the main idea of this passage? A) Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin in 1928 B) Antibiotics are the most important medical discovery C) Antibiotic resistance is a serious problem requiring careful antibiotic use D) The World Health Organization monitors global health threats
  2. According to the passage, what causes antibiotic resistance? A) Fleming's discovery of penicillin B) Repeated exposure of bacteria to antibiotics C) Patients feeling better during treatment D) Healthcare providers prescribing new medications
  3. The author's tone in this passage is: A) Optimistic B) Concerned C) Celebratory D) Angry
  4. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage? A) All bacteria are resistant to antibiotics B) Antibiotic resistance developed recently C) Proper antibiotic use can help reduce resistance D) Fleming intended to discover penicillin
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## PASSAGE 2

**Questions 5-8 are based on the following passage:**

The human brain consumes approximately 20% of the body's total energy, despite representing only 2% of body weight. This high energy demand is necessary to maintain the billions of neurons that process information continuously. During sleep, the brain doesn't rest but rather performs critical

maintenance functions. The glymphatic system, discovered relatively recently, acts like a cleaning service for the brain. Cerebrospinal fluid washes through brain tissues, removing metabolic waste products that accumulate during waking hours. This process is most active during deep sleep, which explains why adequate sleep is essential for cognitive function and long-term brain health.

5. What percentage of the body's energy does the brain use? A) 2% B) 10% C) 20% D) 50%
  6. What is the primary function of the glymphatic system? A) Processing information B) Maintaining neurons C) Removing brain waste products D) Regulating sleep cycles
  7. Based on the passage, when is the glymphatic system most active? A) During waking hours B) During light sleep C) During deep sleep D) During physical exercise
  8. The author uses the phrase "cleaning service" to: A) Describe the brain's energy consumption B) Explain the glymphatic system's function C) Compare sleep to rest D) Illustrate neuron processing
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### **PASSAGE 3**

**Questions 9-12 are based on the following passage:**

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in global temperatures and weather patterns. While climate variations are natural, scientific evidence shows that human activities since the Industrial Revolution have been the dominant driver of climate change. The burning of fossil fuels releases greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, trapping heat and warming the planet. Consequences include rising sea levels, more frequent extreme weather events, and shifts in precipitation patterns. Addressing climate change requires both mitigation strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation measures to cope with unavoidable changes.

9. According to the passage, what is the primary cause of recent climate change? A) Natural climate variations B) Rising sea levels C) Human activities since the Industrial Revolution D) Extreme weather events
  10. What are greenhouse gases compared to in their function? A) A blanket trapping heat B) Industrial pollution C) Natural climate variations D) The passage doesn't make this comparison
  11. The passage suggests that addressing climate change requires: A) Only reducing emissions B) Only adaptation measures C) Both mitigation and adaptation strategies D) Stopping all industrial activities
  12. The organizational pattern of this passage is: A) Chronological order B) Problem and solution C) Cause and effect D) Compare and contrast
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### **PASSAGE 4**

**Questions 13-16 are based on the following passage:**

Telemedicine, the practice of providing healthcare remotely through technology, has experienced unprecedented growth, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Video consultations, remote monitoring devices, and mobile health applications have made healthcare more accessible to patients in rural areas and those with mobility limitations. However, telemedicine also presents challenges. Technical difficulties, limited physical examination capabilities, and concerns about data privacy are significant considerations. Additionally, the digital divide means that some populations may have limited access to the technology required for telemedicine services. As healthcare systems continue to integrate telemedicine, addressing these challenges while maximizing benefits will be crucial.

- 13.** What is the author's purpose in writing this passage? A) To promote telemedicine services B) To criticize telemedicine technology C) To provide a balanced view of telemedicine D) To explain how to use telemedicine
- 14.** According to the passage, which group has particularly benefited from telemedicine? A) Healthcare providers B) Technology companies C) Patients in rural areas D) Hospital administrators
- 15.** What does "digital divide" refer to in this context? A) Different types of telemedicine technology B) Unequal access to technology C) Privacy concerns about data D) Technical difficulties with devices
- 16.** The passage suggests that the future of telemedicine depends on: A) Eliminating all challenges B) Replacing traditional healthcare C) Balancing benefits and challenges D) Increasing technology costs
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## PASSAGE 5

**Questions 17-20 are based on the following informational graphic:**

### Hospital Emergency Department Wait Times by Day of Week

- Monday: Average 45 minutes
- Tuesday: Average 38 minutes
- Wednesday: Average 35 minutes
- Thursday: Average 42 minutes
- Friday: Average 55 minutes
- Saturday: Average 72 minutes
- Sunday: Average 68 minutes

- 17.** On which day is the emergency department wait time shortest? A) Tuesday B) Wednesday C) Thursday D) Monday
- 18.** What is the difference in wait times between the longest and shortest days? A) 35 minutes B) 37 minutes C) 40 minutes D) 45 minutes

19. Which pattern can be observed from this data? A) Wait times are consistent throughout the week  
B) Weekends have longer wait times than weekdays C) Monday has the longest wait time D) Wait times decrease throughout the week
20. If you needed non-emergency care, which day would be optimal to visit? A) Friday B) Saturday C) Sunday D) Wednesday
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## PASSAGE 6

Questions 21-24 are based on the following passage:

The placebo effect demonstrates the powerful connection between mind and body in healing. When patients believe they are receiving effective treatment, they often experience real improvements in their symptoms, even when given inactive substances like sugar pills. This phenomenon occurs across various medical conditions and can produce measurable physiological changes. Brain imaging studies show that placebos can activate the same neural pathways as actual medications. The placebo effect is so significant that all new medications must be tested against placebos in clinical trials to determine their true effectiveness. Interestingly, the placebo effect can work even when patients know they are taking a placebo, suggesting that the ritual of treatment itself may have therapeutic value.

21. What is the main topic of this passage? A) Clinical trial methodology B) The connection between mind and body in healing C) Brain imaging technology D) Medication effectiveness testing
22. According to the passage, what happens in the brain during the placebo effect? A) No measurable changes occur B) Different pathways activate than with real medication C) The same neural pathways activate as with real medication D) Brain activity decreases significantly
23. Why must new medications be tested against placebos? A) To save money on clinical trials B) To determine the medication's true effectiveness C) To study brain imaging results D) To understand patient beliefs about treatment
24. What surprising finding about placebos does the passage mention? A) They only work for psychological conditions B) They can work even when patients know they're taking placebos C) They are more effective than real medications D) They only work in clinical trial settings
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## PASSAGE 7

Questions 25-28 are based on the following passage:

Nurse practitioners (NPs) have become increasingly important in healthcare delivery, particularly in addressing physician shortages in primary care. These advanced practice registered nurses complete graduate-level education and obtain specialized training in diagnosing and treating patients. In many states, NPs can practice independently, prescribe medications, and serve as primary care providers. Research consistently shows that NPs provide high-quality care comparable to physicians for many

conditions, often with greater emphasis on patient education and preventive care. As healthcare systems seek cost-effective solutions and patients demand more accessible care, the role of nurse practitioners continues to expand across various specialties and settings.

**25.** What is the primary focus of this passage? A) Comparing nurses to doctors B) Explaining the role and importance of nurse practitioners C) Discussing healthcare costs D) Describing nursing education requirements

**26.** According to the passage, how does NP care compare to physician care? A) NPs provide lower quality care B) NPs provide higher quality care C) NPs provide comparable quality care for many conditions D) The passage doesn't make this comparison

**27.** What advantage do NPs offer according to the passage? A) Lower education requirements B) Greater emphasis on patient education and preventive care C) Ability to perform complex surgeries D) Higher patient satisfaction scores

**28.** The expansion of NP roles is driven by: A) Physician shortages and demand for accessible care B) Government regulations C) Lower education costs D) Hospital administrator preferences

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## **PASSAGE 8**

**Questions 29-32 are based on the following passage:**

Medical errors are a significant concern in healthcare, with studies suggesting they are among the leading causes of death in hospitals. These errors can occur at any stage of patient care, from diagnosis and treatment to medication administration and discharge planning. Common types include medication errors, surgical mistakes, diagnostic failures, and communication breakdowns between healthcare team members. To reduce medical errors, healthcare organizations have implemented various safety measures such as electronic health records, medication barcoding systems, surgical checklists, and improved communication protocols. Creating a culture of safety where healthcare workers feel comfortable reporting errors without fear of punishment is essential for continuous improvement and patient protection.

**29.** What is the main purpose of this passage? A) To criticize healthcare workers B) To discuss the problem of medical errors and prevention strategies C) To promote electronic health records D) To explain different types of surgery

**30.** According to the passage, medical errors can occur during: A) Only medication administration B) Only surgical procedures C) Any stage of patient care D) Only diagnostic procedures

**31.** What is essential for reducing medical errors according to the passage? A) Punishing healthcare workers who make mistakes B) Creating a culture of safety with comfortable error reporting C) Eliminating all technology from healthcare D) Reducing the number of healthcare workers

**32.** Which safety measure is NOT mentioned in the passage? A) Electronic health records B) Surgical checklists C) Patient identification wristbands D) Medication barcoding systems

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## **PASSAGE 9**

**Questions 33-36 are based on the following passage:**

The microbiome refers to the trillions of microorganisms living in and on the human body, particularly in the digestive system. These bacteria, viruses, and fungi play crucial roles in digestion, immune function, and even mental health. Research has revealed that the composition of an individual's microbiome can influence their susceptibility to various diseases, including obesity, diabetes, and inflammatory conditions. Factors such as diet, antibiotics, stress, and early childhood experiences can significantly alter the microbiome. Scientists are exploring how manipulating the microbiome through probiotics, dietary changes, and even fecal transplants might treat various health conditions. This emerging field of personalized medicine based on microbiome analysis holds promise for revolutionizing healthcare approaches.

**33.** What does the term "microbiome" refer to? A) A type of medication B) Microorganisms living in and on the human body C) A medical testing procedure D) A type of digestive disorder

**34.** According to the passage, the microbiome influences: A) Only digestive function B) Only immune function C) Digestion, immune function, and mental health D) Only disease susceptibility

**35.** Which factor is NOT mentioned as affecting the microbiome? A) Diet B) Exercise habits C) Antibiotic use D) Stress levels

**36.** The passage suggests that microbiome research could lead to: A) The elimination of all bacteria B) Personalized medicine approaches C) Reduced healthcare costs D) Simpler diagnostic procedures

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## **PASSAGE 10**

**Questions 37-40 are based on the following passage:**

Hand hygiene is the single most important measure for preventing healthcare-associated infections. Despite its simplicity, compliance with proper hand hygiene practices remains challenging in healthcare settings. Healthcare workers should clean their hands before and after patient contact, after contact with potentially infectious materials, and after removing gloves. Both alcohol-based hand sanitizers and soap and water are effective, though soap and water are preferred when hands are visibly soiled or after caring for patients with certain infections. The World Health Organization's "Five Moments for Hand Hygiene" provides a framework for when healthcare workers should clean their hands. Improving compliance requires ongoing education, convenient access to hand hygiene products, and organizational commitment to patient safety.

- 37.** According to the passage, what is the most important infection prevention measure? A) Wearing gloves B) Using antibiotics C) Hand hygiene D) Patient isolation
- 38.** When should healthcare workers clean their hands according to the passage? A) Only before patient contact B) Only after patient contact C) Before and after patient contact, plus other specific times D) Only when hands appear dirty
- 39.** When are soap and water preferred over alcohol-based sanitizers? A) Always B) Never C) When hands are visibly soiled or after caring for patients with certain infections D) Only during surgical procedures
- 40.** What does improving hand hygiene compliance require? A) Only education B) Only convenient access to products C) Education, convenient access, and organizational commitment D) Only organizational policies
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## **PASSAGE 11**

**Questions 41-45 are based on the following passage:**

Pain management is a critical component of healthcare that significantly impacts patient quality of life and recovery outcomes. Pain can be classified as acute, which is short-term and typically related to injury or surgery, or chronic, which persists for months or years. Effective pain management requires a comprehensive approach that may include medications, physical therapy, psychological support, and alternative treatments such as acupuncture or meditation. The opioid crisis has highlighted the need for balanced pain management strategies that provide adequate relief while minimizing the risk of addiction and dependence. Healthcare providers must carefully assess each patient's pain level, medical history, and individual circumstances to develop appropriate treatment plans. Patient education about pain management options and realistic expectations is essential for successful outcomes.

- 41.** How is pain classified in the passage? A) Mild, moderate, and severe B) Physical and psychological C) Acute and chronic D) Treatable and untreatable
- 42.** What does effective pain management require according to the passage? A) Only medication B) Only physical therapy C) A comprehensive approach with multiple treatment options D) Only psychological support
- 43.** Why is the opioid crisis mentioned in the passage? A) To discourage all pain medication use B) To highlight the need for balanced pain management strategies C) To promote alternative treatments only D) To criticize healthcare providers
- 44.** What must healthcare providers consider when developing treatment plans? A) Only the patient's pain level B) Only the patient's medical history C) Pain level, medical history, and individual circumstances D) Only available medications

**45.** According to the passage, what is essential for successful pain management outcomes? A) High-dose medications B) Patient education about options and realistic expectations C) Avoiding all medications D) Using only alternative treatments

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## ANSWER KEY

### Questions 1-10:

1. C) Antibiotic resistance is a serious problem requiring careful antibiotic use
2. B) Repeated exposure of bacteria to antibiotics
3. B) Concerned
4. C) Proper antibiotic use can help reduce resistance
5. C) 20%
6. C) Removing brain waste products
7. C) During deep sleep
8. B) Explain the lymphatic system's function
9. C) Human activities since the Industrial Revolution
10. D) The passage doesn't make this comparison

**Questions 11-20:** 11. C) Both mitigation and adaptation strategies 12. C) Cause and effect 13. C) To provide a balanced view of telemedicine 14. C) Patients in rural areas 15. B) Unequal access to technology 16. C) Balancing benefits and challenges 17. B) Wednesday 18. B) 37 minutes (72 - 35 = 37) 19. B) Weekends have longer wait times than weekdays 20. D) Wednesday

**Questions 21-30:** 21. B) The connection between mind and body in healing 22. C) The same neural pathways activate as with real medication 23. B) To determine the medication's true effectiveness 24. B) They can work even when patients know they're taking placebos 25. B) Explaining the role and importance of nurse practitioners 26. C) NPs provide comparable quality care for many conditions 27. B) Greater emphasis on patient education and preventive care 28. A) Physician shortages and demand for accessible care 29. B) To discuss the problem of medical errors and prevention strategies 30. C) Any stage of patient care

**Questions 31-40:** 31. B) Creating a culture of safety with comfortable error reporting 32. C) Patient identification wristbands 33. B) Microorganisms living in and on the human body 34. C) Digestion, immune function, and mental health 35. B) Exercise habits 36. B) Personalized medicine approaches 37. C) Hand hygiene 38. C) Before and after patient contact, plus other specific times 39. C) When hands are visibly soiled or after caring for patients with certain infections 40. C) Education, convenient access, and organizational commitment

**Questions 41-45:** 41. C) Acute and chronic 42. C) A comprehensive approach with multiple treatment options 43. B) To highlight the need for balanced pain management strategies 44. C) Pain level,



medical history, and individual circumstances 45. B) Patient education about options and realistic expectations

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## Scoring Guide

- **42-45 correct (93-100%):** Excellent reading comprehension skills
- **38-41 correct (84-91%):** Good comprehension, review challenging question types
- **34-37 correct (76-82%):** Fair comprehension, focus on main ideas and inferences
- **30-33 correct (67-75%):** Needs improvement, practice identifying key information
- **Below 30 correct (<67%):** Significant study needed, focus on basic comprehension strategies

## Key Reading Skills Tested:

- Main idea identification
- Supporting detail recognition
- Author's purpose and tone
- Making inferences
- Vocabulary in context
- Text organization patterns
- Graphic interpretation
- Fact vs. opinion
- Cause and effect relationships
- Compare and contrast analysis