



## Texas Assessment Practice

### ASSESS

Taking this practice test will help you assess your knowledge of these skills and determine your readiness for the Unit Test.

### REVIEW

After you take the practice test, your teacher can help you identify any standards you need to review.



**READING 1A** Determine the meaning of technical academic English words derived from Latin affixes. **1B** Analyze textual context to draw conclusions about the nuance in word meanings. **2C** Relate the characters, setting, and theme of a literary work to the historical, social, and economic ideas of its time. **8** Analyze, make inferences and draw conclusions about the author's purpose in historical contexts. **9C** Make subtle inferences and complex conclusions about the ideas in text and their organizational patterns. **12B** Evaluate the interactions of different techniques used in multi-layered media. **WRITING 13C** Revise drafts to clarify meaning and achieve specific rhetorical purposes, consistency of tone, and logical organization. **ORAL AND WRITTEN CONVENTIONS 18** Use appropriate capitalization and punctuation conventions.

For more practice, see **Texas Assessment Practice Workbook**.

Practice  
Test



Take it at [thinkcentral.com](http://thinkcentral.com).  
KEYWORD: HML12-1392

**DIRECTIONS** Read the two selections and the viewing and representing piece. Then answer the questions that follow.

### *from* Testament of Youth *by Vera Brittain*

- 1 I saw the Sisters in their white overalls hurrying between the wards, the tired orderlies toiling along the paths with their loaded stretchers, the usual crowd of Red Cross ambulances outside the reception hut, and I recognised my world for a kingdom of death, in which the poor ghosts of the victims had no power to help their comrades by breaking nature's laws.
- 2 Angels of Mons still roaming about, I thought. Well, let them roam, if it cheers the men to believe in them! No doubt the Germans, too, had their Angels of Mons; I have often wondered what happened when the celestial backers of one Army encountered their angelic opponents in the nocturnal neutrality of No Man's Land. Michael's war in heaven was nothing, I feel certain, to what happened then.
- 3 Certainly no Angels of Mons were watching over Étaples, or they would not have allowed mutilated men and exhausted women to be further oppressed by the series of nocturnal air-raids which for over a month supplied the camps beside the railway with periodic intimations of the less pleasing characteristics of a front-line trench. The offensive seemed to have lasted since the beginning of creation, but must actually have been on for less than a fortnight, when the lights suddenly went out one evening as the day-staff was finishing its belated supper. Instead of the usual interval of silence followed by the return of the lights, an almost immediate series of crashes showed this alarm to be real.
- 4 After days of continuous heavy duty and scamped, inadequate meals, our nerves were none too reliable, and I don't suppose I was the only member of the staff whose teeth chattered with sheer terror as we groped our way to our individual huts in response to the order to scatter. Hope Milroy and I, thinking that we might as well be killed together, sat glassy-eyed in her small, pitch-black room. Suddenly, intermittent flashes half blinded us, and we listened frantically in the deafening din for the bugle-call which we knew would summon us to join the night-staff in the wards if bombs began to fall on the hospital.
- 5 One young Sister, who had previously been shelled at a Casualty Clearing Station, lost her nerve and rushed screaming through the Mess; two others seized her and forcibly put her to bed, holding her down while the raid lasted to prevent her from causing a panic. I knew that I was more frightened than I had ever been in my life, yet all the time a tense, triumphant pride that I was not revealing my fear to the others held me to the semblance of self-control.

## *from* The Ghost Road *by Pat Barker*

1 November, 1918

- 1 My turn to go out last night. One alarm post ‘exterminated’. I hope it’s the last. We crawled almost to the edge of the canal, and lay looking at it. There was just enough starlight to see by. A strong sense of the Germans on the other side, peering into the darkness as we were, silent, watchful. I had the sense that somewhere out there was a pair of eyes looking directly into mine.
- 2 The canal’s raised about four feet above the surrounding fields, with drainage ditches on either side (the Germans have very sensibly flooded them). It’s forty feet wide. Too wide to be easily bridged, too narrow from the point of view of a successful bombardment. There’s no safety margin to allow for shells falling short, so men and equipment will have to be kept quite a long way back. Which means that when the barrage lifts, as it’s supposed to do, and sweeps forward three hundred yards, there’ll be about five minutes in which to get across the swampy fields, across the drainage ditches, and reach even our side of the canal. Plenty of time for them to get their breath and man the guns—though officially, of course, they’ll all have been wiped out.
- 3 The field opposite’s partially flooded already, and it’s still raining. Not just rain, they’ve also flooded the drainage ditches on *their* side. From the canal the ground rises steeply to La Motte Farm, which is our objective in the attack. Uphill all the way. Not a scrap of cover. Machine-gunners behind every clump of grass.
- 4 Looking at the ground, even like that in semi-darkness, the problem became dreadfully apparent. Far clearer than it is on any of the maps, though we spend hours of every day bent over them. There are two possibilities. Either you bombard the opposite bank so heavily that no machine-gunner can possibly survive, in which case the ditches and quite possibly even the canal bank will burst, and the field on the other side will become a nightmare of weltering mud ten feet deep, as bad as anything at Passchendaele.<sup>1</sup> Or you keep the bombardment light, move it on quickly, and wait for the infantry to catch up. In that case you take the risk that unscathed machine-gunners will pop up all over the place, and settle down for a nice bit of concentrated target practice.
- 5 It’s a choice between Passchendaele and the Somme.<sup>2</sup> Only a *miniature* version of each, but then that’s not much consolation. It only takes one bullet per man.

1. **Passchendaele:** a village in Flanders where a British offensive was fought in fields of immobilizing mud.

2. **Somme:** battle in France that resulted in 1.2 million casualties but few strategic gains.



British recruitment poster for World War I.

## Reading Comprehension

Use “Testament of Youth” (p. 1392) to answer questions 1–4.

- 1 Which descriptive details help you identify the setting of this excerpt?
  - A “the wards,” “tired orderlies,” “Red Cross ambulances,” “reception hut”
  - B “series of crashes,” “order to scatter,” “intermittent flashes,” “deafening din”
  - C “beside the railway,” “less than a fortnight,” “belated supper”
  - D “celestial backers,” “war in heaven,” “rushed screaming through the Mess”
- 2 During the air raid, the setting becomes —
  - F quiet and deserted
  - G hot and smoky
  - H dark and chaotic
  - J dirty and crowded
- 3 What does the author reveal about herself by using the first-person point of view?
  - A She keeps her fear to herself.
  - B She looks calm outwardly.
  - C Hope sat in her room in the dark.
  - D The raid has everyone frightened.
- 4 Which statement best expresses the theme of this excerpt?
  - F Working in a military hospital is more rewarding than fighting on the front lines.
  - G The experiences of war can push people to their limits, but can also draw out their unexpected strengths.
  - H In times of war, the common good is more important than the needs of the individual.
  - J During World War I, military hospitals were understaffed and not well protected.

Use “The Ghost Road” (p. 1393) to answer questions 5–8.

- 5 Which statement best describes the setting?
  - A On La Motte farm, above the camp of the German soldiers
  - B At an alarm post during a battle for the surrounding fields
  - C At the edge of a canal separating the German and Allied soldiers
  - D In muddy fields surrounding the Allied encampment at Passchendaele

- 6 From his reasoning in paragraph 4, you can conclude that the narrator views his situation —

F idealistically      H realistically  
G optimistically      J sentimentally

- 7 Which statement best expresses the main theme of this excerpt from *The Ghost Road*?
- A In war, soldiers come face-to-face with the possibility of death.  
B Before committing to a specific battle plan, you need to study the land carefully.  
C War changes the rural landscape and affects farming practices.  
D During a war, soldiers' dangerous jobs lead them to question their abilities.
- 8 What can you conclude about the upcoming battle from the narrator's observations?
- F As long as the soldiers attack swiftly, the battle will be successful.  
G The attack will be a dangerous undertaking with an uncertain outcome for the soldiers.  
H The land and weather conditions will help the Allies accomplish their objective.  
J The surprise attack will most likely lead to a surrender by the German soldiers.

**Use both selections to answer question 9.**

- 9 *Testament of Youth* is an autobiographical memoir, and *The Ghost Road* is historical fiction. Both authors use the first-person point of view to emphasize —
- A an outside observer's understanding of how war affects the main characters  
B how the war affects entire groups of people  
C the immediacy of the narrators' observations, thoughts, and feelings  
D more than one person's perspective on the events described in the excerpts

**Use the visual representation on page 1394 to answer questions 10–11.**

- 10 Which qualities does the landscape represent?
- F Self-confidence and generosity  
G Endurance and humility  
H Peace and orderliness  
J Toughness and aggression
- 11 Which statement describes the overall message of this poster?
- A In order to bring modern factories to rural areas, the country needs more help.  
B Everyone should think about what makes going to war a worthwhile endeavor.  
C England's soldiers need the support of people who live in the country.  
D England needs more soldiers to protect the English way of life.

### SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

**Write a short response to each question, using text evidence to support your answer.**

- 12 Why does Brittain call her world “a kingdom of death” in *Testament of Youth*? Support your response with evidence from the selection.
- 13 In paragraph 5 of *The Ghost Road*, the narrator remarks that “It only takes one bullet per man.” What does the narrator think of his situation? Support your response with evidence from the selection.
- 14 By relating her experiences from the first-person point of view, has Vera Brittain increased the suspense of her memoir? Explain why or why not and support your response with evidence from the selection.



## Vocabulary

Use context clues and your knowledge of figurative and literal meanings of words to answer the following questions.

- 1 What is the meaning of the figurative expression underlined in paragraph 3 of the excerpt from *Testament of Youth*?

“The offensive seemed to have lasted since the beginning of creation. . . .”

- A The first day of life on earth
- B A very long time
- C The start of the war
- D A specific time period

- 2 What is the meaning of the figurative expression underlined in paragraph 4 of the excerpt from *Testament of Youth*?

“Hope Milroy and I, thinking that we might as well be killed together, sat glassy-eyed in her small, pitch-black room.”

- F Vulnerable to criticism
- G Reflecting the surroundings
- H Fitted with artificial eyes
- J Without expression

- 3 What is the meaning of the figurative expression underlined in paragraph 4 of the excerpt from *The Ghost Road*?

“ . . . in which case the ditches and quite possibly even the canal bank will burst, and the field on the other side will become a nightmare of weltering mud ten feet deep. . . .”

- A A frightening dream
- B A late-night view
- C A very bad situation
- D An event that occurs at night

Use context clues and your knowledge of prefixes to answer the following questions.

- 4 The prefix *be-* means “to make; cause to become.” What does the word *belated* mean in paragraph 3 of the excerpt from *Testament of Youth*?

- F Became insignificant
- G Made secure
- H Occurred after dusk
- J Was delayed

- 5 The prefix *in-* means “not.” What does the word *inadequate* mean in paragraph 4 of the excerpt from *Testament of Youth*?

- A Without value
- C Lacking flavor
- B Not sufficient
- D Not expected

- 6 The prefix *inter-* means “between.” What does the word *intermittent* mean in paragraph 4 of the excerpt from *Testament of Youth*?

- F Stopping and starting again from time to time
- G Occurring in a middle position or state of existence
- H Intervening during an episode or event
- J Pausing for a long time

- 7 The prefix *ex-* means “out of; away from.” What does the word *exterminated* mean in paragraph 1 of the excerpt from *The Ghost Road*?

- A Far away
- B Totally inactive
- C Destroyed completely
- D Set free from danger

- 8 The prefix *un-* means “not.” What does the word *unscathed* mean in paragraph 4 of the excerpt from *The Ghost Road*?

- F Disarmed
- H Not injured
- G Not safe
- J Never noticed

## Revising and Editing

**DIRECTIONS** Read this passage and answer the questions that follow.

(1) The flashlight dimly flickers as we crept down the hallway. (2) “Can you hear that?” Dan asks. (3) At the entrance to the dining room, we stumble over boxes that line the walls. (4) “Which is the box that has all the candles?” he wonders. (5) We each take a side of the cavernous room and grope our way along the line of boxes, gently shaking each one, prying open the lids, and searching with our fingertips for the tell-tale smoothness of wax. (6) Something soft and sticky suddenly brushes up against my face. (7) A thunderous roar crashes overhead, and an explosion of light fills the room. (8) The shrouded furniture seems to shudder on the bright flash of light.

- 1 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 1?
  - A Change *dimly* to **dim**
  - B Insert a comma after *flickers*
  - C Change *crept* to **creep**
  - D Make no change
- 2 Carol wants to add this sentence to the paragraph.
 

*Strange scuttling sounds are coming from the ceiling!*

Where is the best place to insert this sentence?

  - F At the beginning of the paragraph
  - G After sentence 2
  - H After sentence 4
  - J After sentence 6
- 3 Which sentence could follow sentence 6 and build suspense?
  - A “Leave me alone,” I say to whatever it is.
  - B What could it be?
  - C “Yikes!” I scream.
  - D I don’t like this.
- 4 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 7?
  - F Delete the comma
  - G Change *thunderous* to **thunder**
  - H Change *and* to **because**
  - J Make no change
- 5 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 8?
  - A Change *shudder* to **shuddering**
  - B Change *on* to **in**
  - C Insert a comma after *shudder*
  - D Make no change

