

BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**READING
CMT PRACTICE
PACKET**

#2

Reading



STUDENT'S NAME: _____

From 985 A.D. to about 1500 A.D., Scandinavian settlers lived in Greenland. For 300 years, their farms flourished. By 1578, however, the settlements had vanished. No survivors were found. What is the explanation? Why did the people 15?

- 15 delay obey
 forget meet
 disappear

The answer lies partly in the worldwide cooling, or "Little Ice Age," that began during the 13th century. In Europe, cold summers ruined crops, causing grain shortages. Times were hard for Europeans. But in Greenland, conditions were far worse. There, the people 16 more. In the end, they could not survive.

- 16 talked saved
 suffered moved
 earned

The climate changed so much in Greenland that farming and herding became impossible. To make matters worse, the settlers were soon cut off from European goods. Arctic ice, which could do great damage, had begun drifting into the Atlantic trade route. Ships were 17. Because of the danger, trade between Greenland and Europe declined and finally stopped. When this happened, the settlers were deprived of European grain, wood, and iron. These 18 were essential. Settlers needed them in order to prepare their meals, build their ships, and make their weapons.

- 17 burned sighted
 painted powered
 threatened

In 1410, the last ship sailed from Europe to Greenland. After that, visits to the settlements stopped. No more 19 were made. Thus, we have no eyewitness report of what finally happened. But in 1921, in an old cemetery, archaeologists found evidence of what the changing climate did to the land and people. The earliest graves were deep, for in the first years of colonization the ground was soft. Later, though, the deeper ground stayed frozen all year. Burials had to be closer to the 20. The last graves dug were extremely shallow.

- 18 roads supplies
 shoes houses
 animals

- 19 meals trips
 coats fires
 shelters

In these graves, scientists found the remains of small, weak people. The teeth were badly worn, suggesting that the settlers may have chewed seaweed, leaves, or bark to subsist. Their deformed bones and short stature are signs of poor nutrition. Evidently they had too little 21. Stunted and starved, every last one died.

- 20 surface family
 town shore
 church

- 21 water money
 faith food
 clothing

Cloze

Directions: Read each passage. Words are missing from the passages. Wherever a word is missing, there is a blank line with a number on it. Next to each passage you will see the same number and five words. Choose the word that makes the most sense in the blank. On your answer sheet, find the same number as the blank. Mark the letter for the answer you have chosen. You will have 70 minutes to complete this part of the test. This section is like the "Degrees of Reading Power" part of the CMT.

The United States Senate has one hundred members. Voters in each of the 50 states select two senators. A senator must be

1 He or she is chosen for a six-year term. A senator must be at least 30 years of age and have been a U.S. citizen for at least nine years. Senators must be 2 of the states they represent. By living in the state, they can better understand its concerns.

The Vice President of the United States serves as President of the Senate. In this job, he or she 3 the group. Senators help make laws. They therefore 4 all the issues. Some speak in favor of a bill and some speak against it. When the discussion is over, the senators vote. If there is a majority vote in favor of a bill, it may become a law.

Senators work in Washington, D.C., in a beautiful, domed building called the Capitol. Many 5 visit it each year.

Senators have many important decisions to make. They must discuss various 6. They often debate these topics for days until they reach an agreement. One of these topics is the money paid by people to support the government. The result of this debate determines how much people pay in 7.

1. a. elegant b. elected
c. content d. generous
e. smart
2. a. residents b. visitors
c. admirers d. historians
e. natives
3. a. opposes b. instructs
c. leads d. represents
e. follows
4. a. like b. dislike
c. avoid d. debate
e. create
5. a. workers b. sailors
c. tourists d. designers
e. scientists
6. a. hopes b. issues
c. books d. crimes
e. people
7. a. wages b. tips
c. barter d. taxes
e. prizes

Directions: Here is a journal about a woman who learns to navigate a clipper ship during the 1800s. Read “The Journal of Emma Scars.” Then answer the questions.

The Journal of Emma Scars

In the 1800s, sailing ships transported most raw materials and manufactured goods around the world. Whaling boats and tall-masted clipper ships crisscrossed the oceans, sometimes on journeys lasting as long as two years. Often, the wives of the ships’ captains traveled with their husbands. Many of these women kept journals or sent letters home describing their adventures at sea.

This journal is called historical fiction. The author took real events from the past and built a fictional character and journal around the events.

May 10, 1849, South Pacific

I write from our cabin somewhere in the South Seas. I am so proud of Edward as he issues orders to rim the sails and bring the ship about. Our ship is quite glorious under sail.

I spend my days writing letters, reading novels, doing Edward’s laundry, and supervising the cook. The weather has been lovely and we are making good progress. Most of the seamen are caring and hardworking, although rather rough sorts. They call our ship a “hen frigate,” meaning that there is a women on board. They are not pleased to have me aboard, as they think this will bring bad luck. However, I am determined to change their minds by befriending them, while keeping out of their way.

Why do you suppose that young women are not permitted to attend maritime academies to learn to navigate and command grand ships, such as Edward’s? Such skills seem far more stimulating than darning socks and stitching samplers!

June 19, 1849, South Pacific

We have spent three days sitting in the Doldrums, which is a hot, airless calm. Since we have no wind or even a breeze, we cannot make any progress. Edward wears a fierce scowl, worrying constantly about the time we must make up to deliver our cargo.

The crew is bored and restless. To relieve the tedium, the men caught a shark and brought it on board, which entertained us for a few hours and raised the spirits of those on the ship. I still beg Edward to teach me to navigation skills, and he agreed, somewhat reluctantly. he does not think a woman needs to know these things, but he will teach me anyway. We takes “sightings” of the stars on clear nights. To navigate, or set a course, for the ship, I must learn a great deal of mathematics and trigonometry, which I truly enjoy.

August 23, 1849, South Pacific

Two nights ago, I stayed up many hours nursing Edward, who is ill with fever. I was bathing his forehead with a towel soaked in seawater when the first mate came in to announce the sighting of storm clouds. Without Edward to navigate, the men worried about becoming caught in the storm and losing our direction.

I entered the captain’s bridge and began my calculation to help us navigate clear of the storm. I gave orders to adjust the sails to catch the breeze and then set our course. I was determined that we should make haste to leave this deadly calm and outrun the storm that chased us. To my amazement, none of the men refused or balked at my command! It was my good fortune to earn their trust and friendship early in the voyage.

Unfortunately, we could not outrun the storm. The main mast snapped with a fierce crack as thunder rolled and lightning struck all around us that night. The men pulled together under my command to shorten the canvas sails and steer us from the crest of one huge wave to the next. I tied myself onto the bridge so that the waves could not sweep me overboard. I have never been so frightened in my life, yet I did not let the men see, for I knew they would no longer heed my orders if they sensed any weakness.

It was exhilarating to be in command and using my brain! It seems clear to me now that all young women must have an education and an opportunity to exercise their mental powers through challenging labor. I am determined to raise my daughters to do so, and am resolved to spread this idea of education upon my return home.

1) What is the author's purpose in writing this journal?

- to explain that many women who traveled kept journals
- to inform readers about what life at sea was like during the 1800s
- to describe Emma's experiences and show the importance of education
- to persuade women to learn to sew

2) As a result of Emma's experience commanding the ship,

- Emma hopes to command a ship again.
- Emma feels strongly that her daughters should be educated.
- the ship's crew senses Emma's fear and weakness.
- Edward might lose his job as ship's captain.

3) Which of the following details happened last in the journal?

- Emma learned to navigate the ship.
- Emma commanded the ship through a storm.
- Emma befriended the crew.
- Emma nursed Edward, who was ill with a fever.

4) Which of the following statements is a valid generalization?

- Women in the past did not have as many opportunities for education as they have today.
- Women are better sea captains than men
- Women are less skilled in mathematics than men.
- All of the sea captains' wives who traveled with their husbands kept journals.

5) **When Emma takes command of the ship, this reveals that Emma is**

- self-confident
- generous
- fearful
- arrogant

7) **From the information in the journal, you can conclude that**

- the men do not trust Emma to command the ship.
- life at sea is always boring.
- the men think that the storm results from the bad luck of having a woman on board.
- the men believed in Emma's abilities.

6) **How does the crew's attitude change from the beginning of the journal to the end?**

- At first, they are caring and hardworking; later they are bored and lazy.
- At first, they think Emma's presence is bad luck; later, they are willing to follow her orders.
- At first, they are fearful of storms; later, they overcome their fears.
- At first, they do not believe women should be educated; later, they change their minds about education for women.

8) **How does being in the Doldrums affect the attitude of the ship's men?**

- It doesn't affect them; they continue to work as usual.
- They are eager to use the time to teach Emma about navigation.
- They become bored and restless because they cannot make any progress.
- They are relieved to have a break from work.

TEST A

Selection 2

Directions: Read this article about Benjamin Banneker. Then answer Questions 9–16.

An Extraordinary Man

Although you may never have heard of Benjamin Banneker, he was an extraordinary man who made many contributions to American history.

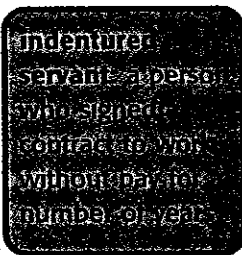
Banneker came from humble beginnings. His grandmother was an Englishwoman named Molly Walsh, who had been arrested for stealing milk. Her sentence was to spend seven years as an indentured servant in the faraway British colony of Maryland. After Walsh served her sentence, she bought two African slaves and a farm along the Patapsco River near Baltimore.

Walsh later set both slaves free and married one of them, a man named Bannaky. They had a daughter, Mary, who grew up and married an African-American slave named Robert. Mary and Robert lived on the Bannaky family farm. On November 9, 1731, they had a son, whom they named Benjamin.

Benjamin's grandmother taught him to read. Then, for a few winters, he attended a Quaker boys' school, one of the few American schools at that time that admitted both whites and blacks. At school, the family name was changed to Banneker. Also at school, Benjamin learned to write, and he showed a talent for mathematics and science. Unfortunately, like many young boys at the time, he had to drop out of school to work on the farm.

Benjamin Banneker taught himself algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and astronomy. He learned to play the flute and the violin. He also created an irrigation system to carry water from the underground springs on the family farm to the fields. The Bannekers' tobacco crop flourished even in long dry spells.

In the 1700s, mechanical clocks and watches were a new technology. At the age of twenty-one, Banneker saw a pocket watch for the first time. He was so fascinated with it that the owner lent it to him. Banneker took the watch apart to see how it worked. Using the watch as a model, he carved the parts out of wood and built a clock of his own—the first clock made completely in America. It kept good time and struck every hour on the hour for forty years. The clock made Banneker famous, and he started a business repairing clocks and watches.



Postage stamp of Benjamin Banneker

Then, in 1791, a most unexpected event occurred in Banneker's life. President George Washington decided that the capital of the United States should be located in the area now called Washington, D.C. He hired the French city planner Pierre-Charles L'Enfant, a brilliant but bad-tempered architect and engineer, to plan and build the city. L'Enfant had fought under George Washington in the Revolutionary War. President Washington also appointed a committee to work with L'Enfant.

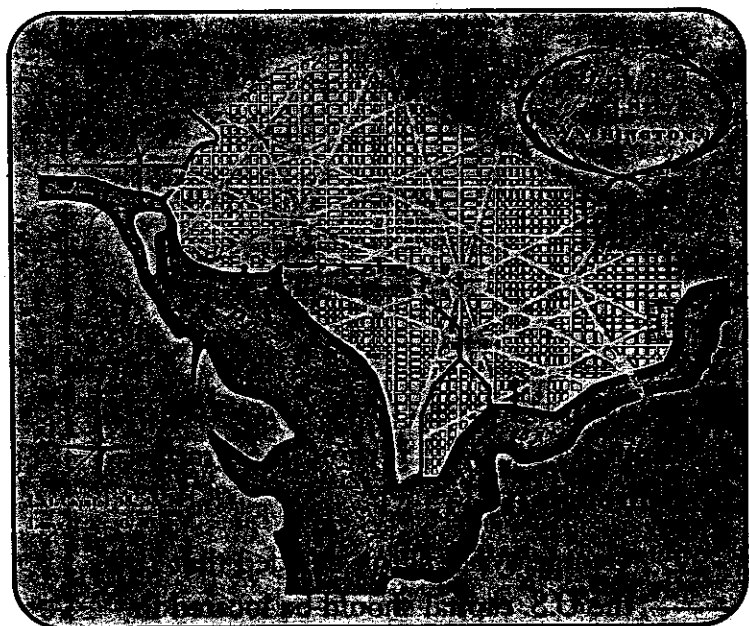
Andrew Ellicott, a member of the committee, recommended to President Washington that he hire Benjamin Banneker as L'Enfant's assistant. Banneker was sixty years old and a well-known mathematician and astronomer by then. He was also Ellicott's neighbor in Maryland. Thomas Jefferson, who was at the time Secretary of State, knew Banneker's work and agreed that he should have the job.

L'Enfant drew up detailed plans for the new city of Washington, D.C. However, L'Enfant could not get along with the other committee members. In fact, the other committee members disagreed so much with L'Enfant that they fired him. Enraged, L'Enfant went home to Paris, taking all the plans with him.

The committee members were now faced with the unpleasant task of having to tell President Washington that a year of work had been lost, or so they thought. Banneker surprised the committee by handing them a new set of plans almost identical to L'Enfant's, which he had re-created from memory. For this, Benjamin Banneker became known as "the man who saved Washington."

Later, for a period of five years, Banneker published an annual farmer's almanac, for which he did all the calculations himself. The almanac included astronomical tables, tide calculations, and weather predictions. Banneker spent many nights outdoors, studying the motion of the stars and planets. He predicted the solar eclipse of April 14, 1789.

When Benjamin Banneker died in 1806, he was the most famous African American of his time. He was a farmer, engineer, mathematician, inventor, and author. Until recently, the accomplishments of this extraordinary man were unjustly neglected. In 1980, the U.S. Postal Service issued a postage stamp in his honor.



An early plan of Washington, D.C.

astronomical
tables, star
dealing with the
study of the
stars and planets

TEST A

Selection 2

11 What is the main idea of paragraphs 7 through 10?

- (A) the accomplishments of French planner Pierre-Charles L'Enfant
- (B) how Andrew Ellicott and Benjamin Banneker met
- (C) how Benjamin Banneker saved the planning of Washington, D.C.
- (D) George Washington's decision to create a national capital

12 Which detail from the article *best* supports the main idea of paragraphs 7 through 10?

- (F) George Washington decided that the U.S. capital should be located in Washington, D.C.
- (G) Banneker was sixty years old and a well-known mathematician and astronomer.
- (H) Banneker surprised the committee by handing them a new set of plans that he had re-created from memory.
- (J) Thomas Jefferson knew Banneker's work and agreed that he should have the job.

13 The author's main purpose for writing this article is to

- (A) inform readers about the life and accomplishments of Benjamin Banneker.
- (B) explain how Benjamin Banneker wrote an almanac.
- (C) convince readers that Benjamin Banneker should be more honored than he is.
- (D) inform readers about the history of technology in the 1700s.

14 From the article, you can infer that Benjamin Banneker

- (F) lost his job when the committee fired L'Enfant.
- (G) was a charming man who lacked strong beliefs.
- (H) was gifted with unusual curiosity and ability.
- (J) wished he could have been the president of the United States.

I Which of the following events happened *first* in Banneker's life?

- (A) He attended a Quaker school.
- (B) He built his own clock, made of carved wooden pieces.
- (C) He re-created L'Enfant's plans from memory.
- (D) His grandmother, Molly Walsh, taught him to read.

II Which of the following statements is an *opinion*?

- (F) Banneker predicted the solar eclipse of April 14, 1789.
- (G) Banneker took apart a pocket watch.
- (H) Banneker was an extraordinary man.
- (J) Banneker was a man with many interests.

I "The Bannekers' tobacco crop *flourished*, even in long dry spells."

The word *flourished* means

- (A) grew or succeeded.
- (B) failed or was unsuccessful.
- (C) weakened or decayed.
- (D) swayed gently.

II L'Enfant left for Paris and took the plans for Washington, D.C. with him. As a result,

- (F) Thomas Jefferson agreed that Banneker should be L'Enfant's assistant.
- (G) Banneker re-created the plans from memory.
- (H) President Washington appointed a committee to work with L'Enfant.
- (J) Banneker completely redesigned the plans for the capital.

For his art class, Rico decided to write about the wilderness photographer, Ansel Adams. He has written a draft of the biography. Now he needs help editing and revising it.

Read Rico's draft and use it to answer Numbers 21 through 30.

Ansel Adams: Wilderness Photographer

(1) All his life, Ansel Adams was a pioneering individual with a great love of nature. (2) Even as a young boy, he enjoyed long walks along the shorelines near his home. (3) As an adult, Adams shared his lifelong passion for the natural world through photography. (4) His breathtaking photographs have inspired countless people. (5) The photographs also made a powerful contribution to preserving wilderness areas in many states. (6) California, Arizona, Wyoming, and Nevada are all states with wilderness areas captured in his photographs.

(7) In 1902, Ansel Adams was born in San Francisco a city on the shore of the magnificent Pacific Ocean. (8) As he was growing up, his father often took Ansel, deepening his love of nature, on adventures along rocky beaches. (9) When he was twelve, his parents decided to take him out of school to complete his education at home, where he studied Greek, English literature, and algebra. (10) The beautiful ocean scenery helped Ansel appreciate wide open spaces.

(11) When Ansel was fourteen years old, his parents would have given him his first camera. (12) That same year, he brought his new camera with him on his first hike into the Sierra Nevada mountain range. (13) The beautiful rivers and high cliffs completely blew him away, and he took as many pictures of them as he could.

(14) Later, Ansel joined the local chapter of the Sierra Club and photographed the spectacular mountains and waterfalls of Yosemite for four summers in a row. (15) Although he didn't know it at the time, this was the real beginning of his career as both a photographer and as a conservationist.

(16) For over sixty years, Ansel Adams captured the wild beauty of the western United States in his photographs. (17) He was one of the first to raise photography to an art form. (18) Adams saw beauty in expansive canyon landscapes and tiny pine cones; he helped millions of others see that beauty as well.

-
21. Choose the sentence that does **not** belong in the paragraph that begins with sentence 7
- Sentence 7
 - Sentence 8
 - Sentence 9
 - Sentence 10

22. Choose the sentence that **best** be added right after sentence 15.
- During these years, he refined his skill and developed techniques that became his trademark throughout his life.
 - Yosemite State Park, still one of our truly precious national treasures, continues to fascinate millions of visitors.
 - Conservation of natural resources is one important way of showing respect for the planet and for future generations.
 - Photography is a fascinating and challenging career path for people who, like Adams, possess both artistic and technical ability.
23. Choose the sentence that **best** be added right after sentence 16.
- He used light and shadow to reveal the details of rugged mountains, harsh deserts, and towering clouds.
 - He even worked for a time as a photographer for the Department of Interior in Washington, D.C., during World War II.
 - In order to support his artistic work, Adams also occasionally photographed everyday objects for catalogs and magazines.
 - He was influenced early in his career by Alfred Stiegliz, who was an important inspiration to many young artists and photographers.
24. Choose the correct way to write the underlined part of sentence 3.
- Threw
 - Through
 - Thorough
 - No change is needed.
25. Choose the **best** way to combine the ideas in sentences 5 and 6 into one sentence.
The photography also made a powerful contribution to preserving wilderness areas in many states. California, Arizona, Wyoming, and Nevada are all states with wilderness areas captured in his photographs.
- Powerfully preserved, the wilderness areas in California, Arizona, Wyoming, and Nevada are captured in his photographs.
 - The photographs also contributed powerfully to preserving wilderness areas in the states of California, Arizona, Wyoming, and Nevada.
 - The states of California, Arizona, Wyoming, and Nevada have wilderness areas that are captured and also preserved in his powerfully contributed to preserving them.
26. Choose the correct way to write the underlined part of sentence 7.
In 1902, Ansel Adams was born in San Francisco a city on the shore of the Magnificent Pacific Ocean.
- San Francisco, a city on the shore of the magnificent Pacific Ocean.
 - San Francisco a city, on the shore of the magnificent Pacific Ocean.
 - San Francisco a city on the shore, of the magnificent Pacific Ocean.
 - No change is needed.

27. Read sentence 8, which is poorly written.

As he was growing up, his father often took Ansel, deepening his love of nature, on adventures along rocky beaches.

Choose the best way to rewrite this sentence.

- Deepening his love of nature, Ansel's father often took Ansel on adventures along rocky Beaches as he was growing up.
- being often taken on adventures along rocky beaches by his father as he was growing up, Ansel's love of nature was deepened.
- Ansel's father often took him on adventures, as he was growing up, along rocky beaches, which made his love of nature deeper.
- As Ansel was growing up, his father often took him on adventures along rocky beaches, deepening his love of nature.

28. Choose the correct way to write the underlined part of sentence 11.

When Ansel was fourteen years old, his parents would have given him his first camera.

- Gave
- Given
- Had gave
- No change is needed

29. Choose the best way to write the underlined part of sentence 13 so that the biography maintains a consistent tone.

The beautiful rivers and high cliffs completely blew him away, and he took as many pictures of them as he could.

- Knocked his socks off
- Seemed very cool to him
- Thoroughly impressed him
- Were way awesome to him

30. Choose the correct way to write the underlined part of sentence 14.

Later, Ansel joined the local chapter of the Sierra club and photographed the spectacular mountains and waterfalls of Yosemite for four summers in a row.

- The Local Chapter of The Sierra Club
- the local chapter of The Sierra Club
- the local chapter of the Sierra Club
- No change is needed