

Passages

Informational Texts: Test Prep Practice Test 1

Passage 1

Ragtime

1 Ragtime is an American style of music that was popular between 1897 and 1918. It is the first music to be created in America. It began in African American communities in the late 1800s. It became popular and quickly spread throughout the United States.

2 Ragtime is like a march, but it is a little different. It has a different rhythm that is described as being off-beat. The rhythm came from African American work songs, gospel tunes, and dance. It is lively and fun, which makes it perfect for dancing. Two things that helped to create ragtime were a certain style of piano playing that was similar to playing the drums, and also fiddle music and dances such as Irish jigs.

3 Scott Joplin has been called “the king of ragtime.” He composed, or wrote, ragtime music. Similar to classical music, Joplin’s songs were written down exactly. They were pieces that were meant to be played as they were written. But later on, people used his work to make up their own rhythms. This is how jazz, another type of music, was later created. Joplin wrote two of ragtime’s most well-known and popular pieces: “The Entertainer” and “The Maple Leaf Rag.” He wrote almost 50 ragtime pieces during his lifetime.

4 Ragtime became less popular as jazz started to claim the public’s attention in 1917. However, there have been many revivals, or regaining of interest, of ragtime through the years. In the 1940s, various jazz bands recorded some ragtime music. Later, in the 1950s, a variety of ragtime styles of the past were made available on records. New songs were composed, published, and recorded, as well. Scott Joplin’s music enjoyed a revival as late as the 1970s as a result of a popular movie called “The Sting.” The movie had the ragtime song “The Entertainer” as its main theme song.

Informational Texts: Test Prep Practice Test 1

Instruction A

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Passage 1

1) Which of the following is the best summary of paragraph 3?

- ☐ Scott Joplin is the greatest composer of ragtime. He created many pieces to be played on the piano exactly as he wrote them. His music later led to the creation of a new type of music called jazz. His most famous works are “The Entertainer” and “The Maple Leaf Rag.”
- ☐ Scott Joplin’s nickname is the king of ragtime. He is the most famous of all ragtime composers. Most people think he is the greatest composer of all time. His work influenced the development of jazz.
- ☐ The “king of ragtime,” Scott Joplin, wrote “The Entertainer” and “The Maple Leaf Rag.” They are two of the most well-known ragtime pieces. He also wrote other types of music such as ballets and operas.
- ☐ Scott Joplin’s ragtime pieces are similar to classical music because they are meant to be played as they are written. People called Joplin the king of ragtime. His music laid the groundwork for jazz.

Passage 1

2) Which sentence from the selection states the main idea of paragraph 4?

- ☐ *Ragtime became less popular as jazz started to claim the public’s attention in 1917.*
- ☐ *However, there have been many revivals, or regaining of interest, of ragtime through the years.*
- ☐ *In the 1940s, various jazz bands recorded some ragtime music.*
- ☐ *Scott Joplin’s music enjoyed a revival as late as the 1970s as a result of a popular movie called “The Sting.”*

Informational Texts: Test Prep Practice Test 1

Passage 1

3) The author organizes the selection mostly by —

- ☐ comparing and contrasting ragtime and jazz
- ☐ explaining what ragtime music is
- ☐ describing different ragtime musicians
- ☐ telling the history of ragtime through the years

Passage 1

4) What is the main idea of the selection?

- ☐ Ragtime music is best described as a march with an off-beat rhythm.
- ☐ Ragtime is not as popular now as it once was in America.
- ☐ Ragtime is an important part of American music history.
- ☐ Ragtime would not have been created if it weren't for Scott Joplin.

Passage 1

5) The text structure of the selection allows the author to —

- ☐ tell what led to the development of ragtime music
- ☐ convince readers to listen to ragtime music
- ☐ describe the creation, rise, and fall of ragtime music
- ☐ examine differences between ragtime and other types of music

Passages

Literary Texts: Test Prep Practice Test 2

Passage 1

A Green Cornfield

by Christina G. Rossetti

The earth was green, the sky was blue:
I saw and heard one sunny morn
A skylark hang between the two,
A singing speck above the corn;

5 A stage below, in gay accord,
White butterflies danced on the wing,
And still the singing skylark soared
And silent sank, and soared to sing.

10 The cornfield stretched a tender green
To right and left beside my walks;
I knew he had a nest unseen
Somewhere among the million stalks:

15 And as I paused to hear his song
While swift the sunny moments slid,
Perhaps his mate sat listening long,
And listened longer than I did.

“A Green Cornfield” by Christina G. Rossetti from *The Land of Song Book II*. ©1899 Silver, Burdett & Company.

Literary Texts: Test Prep Practice Test 2

Instruction A

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Passage 1

1) The poet included the word “speck” in line 4 to suggest that the skylark is —

- ☐ lost
- ☐ hidden
- ☐ high in the air
- ☐ sleeping

Passage 1

2) Read line 5 from the poem.

A stage below, in gay accord,

This line suggests that the scene is —

- ☐ full of activity
- ☐ funny to watch
- ☐ spread over a large area
- ☐ only make-believe

Literary Texts: Test Prep Practice Test 2

Passage 1

3) The speaker's actions while walking through the cornfield support the idea that she is —

- ☐ all alone on a vacation away from the city
- ☐ searching for the skylark somewhere in the field
- ☐ in a strange place that is unfamiliar to her
- ☐ new to watching birds on her walks

Passage 1

4) The poem is mostly about —

- ☐ losing patience
- ☐ being alone
- ☐ feeling playful
- ☐ enjoying nature

Passage 1

5) Read line 14 from the poem.

While swift the sunny moments slid,

In line 14, what literary device does the poet use and why does she use the words “swift,” “sunny,” and “slid”?

- ☐ Alliteration to help show that time is moving quickly
- ☐ Figurative language to suggest that the setting has changed
- ☐ Assonance to explain that dreams can seem real
- ☐ Alliteration to tell how pleasant experiences are forgotten

Passages

Revising: Test Prep Practice Test

Passage 1

Under the Back Porch

Lilly wrote this story for a class assignment. Read her story and look for the revisions she needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.

Under the Back Porch

(1) Thunder rumbled as Jason got home from school. (2) He suddenly realized he had left his keys in his locker. (3) Annoyed at the extra effort of getting the hidden key, Jason headed to the back porch, which had a storage area underneath it.

(4) Jason ducked under the shelter of the porch floor and moved away a pile of bricks on the ground. (5) There was no key. (6) *Uh-oh*, he thought. (7) *It's raining, the key is gone, and no one's getting home for at least an hour!*

(8) Jason scanned the dusty, cobwebbed crawl space. (9) Jason looked for a ball or an old toy to help pass the time. (10) His eyes settled on a small shovel, and he thought, *Why not dig for treasure like I used to?*

(11) The dirt was dry and crumbly, and before long, Jason had dug a hole one foot deep. (12) He heard a light *ting!* (13) It was as if his shovel had hit a piece of metal. (14) Jason reached into the hole and pulled out an object. (15) He wiped it off to reveal a gold coin worn with age. (16) *This is actually buried treasure!* Jason thought, his heart racing. (17) *I found something!*

(18) Jason raced out into the rain. (19) *Oh, right*, he thought with disgust. (20) It was just a piece from a game he had played as a little kid. (21) In brighter light he was able to read the words on the coin: PIRATE'S TREASURE. (22) Hopes dashed and clothes already drenched, Jason walked back toward the crawl space.

Revising: Test Prep Practice Test

Instruction A

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Passage 1

- 1) After rereading the story, Lilly decides that she wants to include the moment when the rain begins. She would like to add the following sentence to the story.

He felt the first drops of rain.

Where is the **BEST** place to insert this sentence?

- ☐ After sentence 3
- ☐ After sentence 8
- ☐ After sentence 12
- ☐ After sentence 21

Passage 1

- 2) What is the **BEST** way to combine sentences 8 and 9?

- ☐ Jason scanned the dusty, cobwebbed crawl space, but he looked for a ball or an old toy to help pass the time.
- ☐ Because Jason scanned the dusty, cobwebbed crawl space, Jason looked for a ball or an old toy to help pass the time.
- ☐ Jason scanned the dusty, cobwebbed crawl space, and Jason looked for a ball or an old toy to help pass the time.
- ☐ Scanning the dusty, cobwebbed crawl space, Jason looked for a ball or an old toy to help pass the time.

Revising: Test Prep Practice Test

Passage 1

3) What is the **BEST** way to combine sentences 12 and 13?

- ☐ He heard a light *ting* and it was as if his shovel had hit a piece of metal.
- ☐ He heard a light *ting*, as if his shovel had hit a piece of metal.
- ☐ He heard a light *ting*; it was as if his shovel had hit a piece of metal.
- ☐ It was as if his shovel had hit a piece of metal because he heard a light *ting!*

Passage 1

4) Lilly wants to make a cut in the fourth paragraph (sentences 11 to 17). Which sentence could she delete without missing important ideas?

- ☐ Sentence 14
- ☐ Sentence 15
- ☐ Sentence 16
- ☐ Sentence 17

Passage 1

5) Lilly thinks the sequence of ideas in the final paragraph (sentences 18 to 22) is confusing. What would be the **BEST** way to rearrange the sentences?

- ☐ Move sentence 18 to the end of the paragraph
- ☐ Move sentence 22 to the beginning of the paragraph
- ☐ Move sentence 21 after sentence 18
- ☐ Move sentence 21 to the end of the paragraph