

TACHS Verbal

The Verbal portion of the **TACHS** exam tests your skills in **Reading** and in **Language**. The two **Reading** Sections of the exam are divided into a *Vocabulary Test* and a *Reading Comprehension Test*.

The *Vocabulary Test* consists of 20 questions, which you will have 10 minutes to answer.

The *Reading Comprehension Test* consists of 30 questions and is comprised of several short reading passages. Some questions will ask about information stated in the passages. Some will ask you to think about the passage and draw conclusions based on what you have read.

The **Language** section is comprised of a *Spelling test*, a *Punctuation test*, a *Capitalization Test*, a *Usage test*, and an *Expression test*. There are 40 questions in this section from these various topics. You will have 23 minutes to answer the questions in this section.

Sample Questions

Below are some sample questions and directions for each of the TACHS Verbal categories. These should make you more comfortable with the content and format of the test.

READING TEST

Part I

This is a test about words and their meanings.

- For each question, you are to decide which one of the four answers has most nearly the same meaning as the underlined word(s) above it.
- Choose the answer that you think is better than the others.

1. a belligerent villain

***Hint: you know it has to be something that can describe a villain!!!!

- A friendly
- B educated
- C nasty
- D fearful

2. the placid meadow

***Hint: you know it has to be something that can describe a meadow!!!!

- J peaceful
- K positioned
- L portly
- M predictable

3. a stack of counterfeit money

- A expensive
- B fake
- C high
- D necessary

***Hint: What could a stack of money be described as?
Does this sound positive or negative?

4. performed with vigor

- J lies
- K calmness
- L music
- M energy

***Hint: What can a person perform with?

5. sagacious advice

- A vicious
- B cold
- C wise
- D floppy

***Hint: What kind of advice would you want to get?

6. an intrepid warrior

- J clumsy
- K brave
- L confused
- M relaxed

7. filled with awe

- A amazement
- B dirt
- C material
- D oddities

8. read with cognition

- J wariness
- K promise
- L heart
- M awareness

9. a meandering road

- A straight
- B curious
- C winding
- D wondering

10. the potent smell

- J greasy
- K strong
- L movable
- M livid

Part II

- Read the passage below and then answer the questions.
- Four answers are given for each question. You are to choose the answer that you think is better than the others.

Alexander's dexterity as he set up his Coleman stove, assembled pots and pans and bags of food, was at variance with his appearance. Bony and slightly stooped, he had the look of someone who was destined to trip over cracks and get tangled up in his own two feet. But no. With training, with eyes less myopic, with a shorter frame, he had it within him to be a great dancer. But life of Alexander was full of a lot of if-onlys. If only he were more handsome, less nervous, more practical, less absentminded, more confident, less hesitant. Then, oh *then*, things would be different.

1. What is the purpose of this paragraph?

- A To show that dancing is a valuable profession
- B To prove that being clumsy is a good thing
- C To teach the reader more about Alexander
- D To inform the reader of Alexander's exact location

2. What does the word variance mean in this passage?

- J Anger
- K Skill
- L Fire
- M Listlessness

3. Which of the following best describes Alexander's physical appearance?

- A Pale and sickly
- B Very muscular
- C Short and pudgy
- D Tall and thin

LANGUAGE TEST

This is a test of how well you can find mistakes in writing. The directions below tell what type of mistake to look for.

- On the questions about spelling, capitalization, and punctuation, choose the answer with the same letter as the **line** containing the mistake. When there is no mistake at all, choose the last answer.
- On the questions about usage and expression, follow the specific directions for each question.

Directions: Look for mistakes in **spelling**.

1. **A** complete ****Hint: If you see 2 spellings of the same word, one is likely incorrect
 B compleet
 C discreet
 D discrete
 E (*No mistakes*)
2. **J** effects ****Hint: Process of elimination comes in handy. Eliminate words you
 K affects know are spelled correctly
 L efforts
 M afforts
 N (*No mistakes*)
3. **A** fashion ****Hint: Don't doubt yourself!!!!
 B passion
 C attraction
 D detracton
 E (*No mistakes*)

Directions: Look for mistakes in **capitalization**.

4. **J** My family and I ****Hint: Look for proper names of people and places
 K traveled to arizona
 L on a large airplane.
 M (*No mistakes*)
5. **A** The f.b.i. has decided ****Hint: Look for acronyms (Letters standing for words)
 B the criminals because of
 C their horrible crimes.
 D (*No mistakes*)
6. **J** We wanted to sleep, ****Hint: Capitals can be incorrect also
 K but Cathy made us stay
 L awake to see the Sun rise.
 M (*No mistakes*)

Directions: Look for mistakes in **punctuation**.

7. **A** Make sure that you pick
 B up milk eggs and bread
 C when you go to the store.
 D (*No mistakes*)

8. **J** Sometimes, what you are
K looking for is in the
L last place you look
M (No mistakes)

****Hint: Sometimes the answer is almost too obvious

9. **A** It looks like people are
B hungry. Did you
C make enough food
D (No mistakes)

****Hint: Think of when certain punctuation marks are used

Answers:

1. C
2. J
3. B
4. M
5. C
6. K
7. A
8. M
9. C
10. K

1. C
2. J
3. D

1. B
2. M
3. E
4. K
5. A
6. L
7. B
8. L
9. B

