

SKILLS LIST and SAMPLE ITEMS

FOR

PRACTICE TEST FOR READING, GRADE 11

(Test items developed for skills measured in ALABAMA*)

Skills

- 1.0 Literal Understanding
 - 1.1 Supporting Details
 - 1.2 Sequence of Events
 - 1.3 Follow Directions
 - 2.0 Interpret Passages
 - 2.1 Main Idea
 - 2.2 Draw Conclusions
 - 2.3 Cause and Effect
 - 2.4 Fact and Opinion
 - 2.5 Summarize Statements
 - 3.0 Critical Analysis
 - 3.1 Logic/Arguments
 - 3.2 Analyze Literary Elements
 - 3.3 Understand Figurative Language
 - 4.0 Reading Strategies
 - 4.1 Word Meaning Through Context Clues
 - 4.2 Preview and Predict
 - 4.3 Discern Organizational Patterns
 - 4.4 Reference Material Use
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Number of questions: 100

Number of pages: 14

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ALABAMA PRACTICE TEST IN READING - GRADE 11

Read the article below to answer Numbers 1 through 7.

THE DAVIS HEPCATS JAZZ BAND

Kenn Bekerman rose excitedly at 6 a.m. Yesterday, after saving money for more than a year, he had finally been able to buy his new silver trumpet. Kenn always practiced his music for an hour before school each morning, but today he would be playing his new trumpet for the first time. He bought the trumpet earlier than he had originally planned because last week he had been invited by a local community jazz band, the Davis Hepcats, to audition. Kenn had wanted to join a community band for a long time, but the invitation by the Hepcats was especially great because Kenn's grandfather, Bix Bekerman, had been one of the original founders of the group. Bix founded the group when he returned from duty after World War II, more than fifty years ago. Three years ago, when he turned eighty, Kenn's grandfather retired from the group. Kenn thought that it would be a great link to the family's history if he could play in the group that his grandfather had founded. Bix had promised to attend Kenn's audition, and that made him want to play even better.

Kenn barely had the \$1,062.48 the store charged for the glistening trumpet. He had been mowing lawns on the weekends, weeding his neighbors gardens, and even teaching trumpet lessons to younger students for more than a year in order to earn the money. The store offered him insurance on the new trumpet for an additional \$150.00, but Kenn said no because he couldn't afford it. After all, he intended to be very careful with his instrument, and that made him think he wouldn't need the insurance.

For almost two weeks Kenn rose early every morning to practice alone in one of the practice rooms available at Davis High School. He also practiced after school as well. If he was accepted into the Davis Hepcats, he would be paid to play at different concerts. He would also be able to quit doing yard work and spend more time playing and practicing.

The day before Kenn's audition was a very busy day. As usual, he rose early to practice before school, and after school he played in the band at the basketball game. The game didn't finish until late, so Kenn left his trumpet in the practice room to use the next morning since he was spending the night at a friend's house.

The next morning Kenn overslept and was late getting to his morning practice. He and his friends had stayed up very late playing games. When he got to school, his trumpet was gone.

Kenn searched everywhere. He asked other students if they moved it or saw anyone in the practice room where he left it. No one had seen anything. When the band teacher arrived at 8 o'clock, he

reported his trumpet stolen. His teacher told him sadly that there was very little that could be done. Unless the thief returned the trumpet, Kenn would probably never see it again.

Kenn remained angry and upset for the rest of the day. It was only after school when he spoke to his father that his mood changed. His father reminded him about his audition the next day. Kenn's immediate problem was finding an instrument to borrow for the audition. Kenn's father called one of the trumpet players he knew from the Hepcats and arranged for Kenn to borrow his instrument.

The audition the next day was very difficult for Kenn. He had no time to get used to the "feel" of his borrowed instrument, but he did his best. The band chairman said they would let him know their decision the next day.

Kenn waited nervously during school the next day. He raced home, but his father had no messages. He began to think he had not played well enough.

After dinner, Kenn's grandfather Bix came over to visit. Kenn told him that he had not been called by the band chairman yet and was afraid he had not been chosen.

"Actually," said Bix, "the chairman called me a little while ago and asked me to deliver a message." Bix moved to hand Kenn something. It was a trumpet case. "But before I say anything, I heard what happened to your new trumpet yesterday, and I've decided to give you this. I would be proud if you would play my trumpet in the Davis Hepcats Band. You gave a great audition."

Kenn fingered his grandfather's silver trumpet. It was polished to a gleaming shine. His grandfather had taken good care of it, and it would last just as long for Kenn if he was careful. "Thank you," he said. "I hope one day I can play it as well as you did."

1. Why did Kenn get up early to practice every morning as well as practicing after school each evening?
 - A. because he was trying to learn to play a difficult song for the school band
 - B. because his parents insisted that he practice
 - C. because he had hopes of being accepted into the Davis Hepcats Jazz Band
 - D. because he wanted to impress his friends