

SKILLS LIST and SAMPLE ITEMS

FOR

PRACTICE TEST FOR READING, GRADE 8 - FORM B
(Test items developed for skills measured in ACTAAP*)

Skills

- 1.0 Constructive Meaning
 - 1.1 Context
 - 2.0 Extend/Evaluate Meaning
 - 2.1 Apply to Other Situations/Evaluate
 - 3.0 Using Reading Strategies
 - 3.1 Summarize/Compare Information/
Use Pictures/Graphs/Text
Information
-

Number of questions: 24

Number of pages: 8

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(OVER)

ACTAAP PRACTICE TEST IN READING - GRADE 8 - FORM B

Read the following article to answer questions 1 through 7.

Brain Damage and Anti-Social Behavior

Magnetic imaging and psychological tests have proven that people who suffered brain injuries while young may not have normal moral or social behaviors.

Two people, as young children, had brain injuries to the part of the brain above the eyes. Their behavior was similar to that of patients who have been diagnosed as "psychopaths" or "sociopaths" by a team of Iowa researchers. The two were raised in stable, middle-class homes by caring, college-educated parents. Their siblings were well-adapted. But, the two subjects mentioned had great disregard for moral and social standards, being irresponsible and lacking remorse over harm they did to others.

In 1848, a railroad worker made history by surviving a dynamite accident which sent an iron rod through his head. The rod was removed, but his personality was radically changed. Before the accident, he was a good worker, but after it, he became a hopeless, uncaring drifter.

Today's research shows that adults injured in the area of the brain known as the orbitofrontal cortex, or OFC, seem to understand right from wrong but can't use that in their everyday decisions. They can't link the knowledge of feelings of the past to what they decide in the present. There are no emotions to guide them, so they just do what seems best at the moment and indulge in risky behavior.

The woman and man used in the studies had lifelong impairment. The woman, age 20, had been run over by a car when she was 15 months old. Even at age three she didn't respond to any kind of punishment. She was intelligent and capable but failed in school and was arrested for shoplifting.

The man, age 23, had a tumor removed at three months of age. By age nine, he had no motivation and had explosive outbursts of anger. He became obese and couldn't hold a job. He lied

for no reason. Neither he nor the woman in the study had any interest in the children they each parented in casual relationships.

MRIs of both people's brains showed damage to the OFC. So, there seems to be a connection between specific brain damage and anti-social behavior. People who suffer the brain injuries as young children never develop a moral compass.

This study raises hope that someday drugs or other methods may be used to change severe anti-social behaviors brought about by brain injuries. The studies were conducted at the University of Iowa College of Medicine. The new challenge to society is to remove the problem from its present location in psychiatry and criminal services and study its neurological and biological causes.

1. The reader may conclude, after reading the article, which of the following?
 - A. Research shows no correlation between brain injuries and personality characteristics.
 - B. People who experience brain trauma rarely become successful adults.
 - C. Very few people survive the ordeal of a brain tumor diagnosis.
 - D. Studies have shown a direct correlation between brain injuries and abnormal social and moral behaviors.

2. The behavior of the two subjects in the article is compared to
 - A. the behavior of very young children
 - B. behavior typical of diagnosed "psychopaths"
 - C. the actions of a man injured in a train accident
 - D. other patients who have undergone MRIs