About the reading test
Changes from V to VI

- Time - You now have 64 minutes. It used to be 58 minutes.
- Number of questions - There are 53 questions. There used to be 48 questions.
- There are still 6 questions that aren’t counted.
General Tips and Suggestions.

- The average silent reading time for a high school senior is roughly about 250 words per minute. If you are a slow reader, daily reading for speed is a skill that you need to continue practicing.
- Read independently for at least 15 minutes a day. Practicing reading materials on a computer screen: this will help you get used to this feature.
- Track your reading! Use your finger or cursor. This is something to practice each time you read.
- Watch the time! You have 64 minutes to answer 58 questions. You need to be practiced with reading passages before you go into the test.
- Read the whole question and the answer all the way to the end. Questions can be tricky. Make sure that you know what the question is asking.

- Your ideas?
What is covered?
There are 3 skills that the test covers.

1. Key Ideas and Details
2. Craft and Structure
3. Integration of Knowledge
Key Ideas and Details
Largest portion of the questions - about 22

- What kinds of information does this cover?
  - Summarize
  - Infer a conclusion
  - Identify topics, main ideas, and supporting details
  - Identify information from a graphic representation
  - Identify information from memos, announcements, or advertisements
  - Following directions
  - Identify events in a sequence
Summarizing

- Basic steps to summarizing
  1. Identify the topic or subject
     Ask yourself: What are you reading about?
     The answer is a noun or noun phrase
  2. Identify what is important about this idea
     Ask yourself: What is important about this topic?
  3. Identify the supporting details.
     Ask yourself: How do these points illustrate the topic sentence?
  4. Reword these ideas.
Inferences

- What is an inference?
  - An inference is a logical conclusion not directly confirmed by the author
  - It is based on clues in the writing and background information that you may have.
  - People sometimes refer to this as “reading between the lines” or “unseen text.”
  - Inferences can be difficult to make.
The Thames River stank, the air was filled with a “disease odor,” as Londoners called it, and soot clung to ladies’ dresses. London grew so polluted that, by royal decree, the use of sea-coal was forbidden. When burned, sea-coal produced masses of sulfurous smoke that hung in the air for days. King Edward I went so far as to empower a council to prosecute those who did not obey the ban. Enormous fines were given out for first offences and people's furnaces destroyed for a second. It is believed that at least one lawbreaker was put to death for “fouling His Majesty’s air.” Clearly, London law officials in the 1800s were concerned about pollution. This is a trend that carries over into today's society.

1. Which phrase best summarizes the topic of the paragraph?
   a. Diseases common in London in the 1800s
   b. The harsh justice of English courts
   c. Poverty and suffering under Edward I in London
   d. The pollution problem under Edward I in London

2. The government banned the burning of sea-coal because it
   a. Spread disease among the people
   b. Was scarce and of poor quality
   c. Caused pollution and bothered people
   d. Was expensive and unsafe for use in homes

3. A major point of the paragraph is that
   a. Concern about pollution is not new.
   b. Every era has its own problem
   c. Some people always disobey the law
   d. Governments should control fuel consumption.
Finding the Main Idea

The main idea is the central idea that tells the reader what the selection will be about.

- The main idea covers the information that is given in the whole passage.
- It does not include information that is beyond what the passage states.
- It is not a summary of the selection. (Too detailed)
- It is not an analysis of the selection. (An opinion)
Main Idea and Supporting Details

When taking a multiple choice test, use process of elimination to narrow down your choices.

What do you eliminate?

- Answer choices that are too general and go beyond what is in the selection
- Answer choices that are too specific and focus on one or two details rather than the entire selection
- Answer choices that are true but miss the point of the text. It wasn’t quite what the author was talking about
- Answer choices that are irrelevant, or do not directly relate to the selection
- Answer choices that make false statements
- Answer choices that don’t fit the ending or final solution
Supporting Details

- Supporting details develop the passage through
  - Explanation
  - Elaboration
  - Clarification

Ask the following of the topic sentence

- Who?
- What?
- When?
- Where
- Why?
- How?
Following directions

- Look for signal words:
  First    Second    Next    Last
  Then     Finally   While   Before
  Second   Now       When    After

What types of writings have directions in them?
Printed Communication

- Printed communication includes any form of interaction that relies on the written word. Printed communication is often popular in business environment.

- Examples of this type of communication include memos, bulletins, reports, employee manuals and job descriptions. Other printed documents include letters, proposals and contracts. Alternative forms of communication include email and Internet websites.
Graphic Representations

- See handout
Events in a Sequence

- Look for signal words like
  - first, next, last, before, after and finally

  to help you figure out the sequence. You can also use other word clues in the text or your own knowledge.
Craft and Structure
Second largest section - 14 questions

- What kinds of information does this cover?
  - Distinguish between fact, opinion, biases, and stereotypes
  - Recognize the structure of texts in different formats
  - Identify the connotative, denotative, and figurative meaning of words in context
  - Evaluate the author’s purpose
  - Evaluate the author’s point of view
  - Use text features.
Facts vs. Opinions

Facts - Something that can be proven by a reliable authority

What about observations?

Some flowers are larger than others.

The shirt is green.
Facts - Something that can be proven by a reliable authority

What about observations?

Some flowers are larger than others.

The shirt is green.

Observations are facts because they can be proven by the senses!
Types of Opinions

Hypothesis statement -

A Hypothesis is an assumption made in an attempt to explain an observation. Though an Observation is a Fact, a Hypothesis is an Opinion.

For Example, if I were to elaborate on a previous observation and say:

Some flowers are larger than others
because they are in more fertile soil.

This hypothesis would have to be further investigated and scientifically proven to be considered a fact.
Statements of Theory

- A theory is an opinion that is a widely believed explanation for a group of observations.

Here are two well known examples:

- Theory of Relativity
- Theory of Evolution

- Though many scientists believe that these theories are true, we still consider them opinions because they have not been proven.
Statements of Assumption:

- An assumptive statement is an opinion that is a prediction that can’t be proven. Here are three examples:

  - If Donald Trump ran for president again, he would definitely win.
  - The war in Iraq will eventually cost the US all of its allies.
  - Because there are numerous stars in that movie when it opens, it will definitely be a hit!

Though these are stated as though they are true, they are only assumptive opinions.
Statements of Value

A value statement is any claim that is based on someone's beliefs. Here are three examples:

- Colin Powell is an excellent candidate for president.
- The use of animals in lab testing is cruel and must be stopped.
- The Bahamas are the most beautiful place on Earth.

► Value statements are often opinions attempting to sway the reader to a certain belief.
Other words that signal opinions

- Always/Never
- Awful/Wonderful
- Beautiful/Ugly
- Better/Best/Worst
- Delicious/Disgusting
- Definitely
- Enjoyable/Horrible
- Favorite
- For/Against
- Good/Bad
- Inferior/Superior
- Oppose/Support
- Terrible
- Unfair
- Worthwhile
Statements of Exaggerations

An exaggerated statement is one that embellishes the facts, often to sway the reader. Here are two examples:

- There were millions of people rioting on the streets of downtown Cincinnati.
- The president has not made one good decision since he has been in office!

 Writers often use exaggeration to make their point. They are still opinions.
An opinion is not necessarily wrong, it is merely not a provable fact.

For example,

- Bridget is a beautiful woman.

- Even if everyone agreed with this statement, it is still an opinion.
  - Beauty is relative.
Fact or Opinion?

- Last year, *Pharmaceutical Insider* magazine reported that Allergone faced a bumpy approval process. However, Allergone got approval in March and hit the shelves in early May.

- Allergone comes in three different dosages. The pill that is 10 milligrams is yellow and is the lowest available dose. The pill that is 20 milligrams is white and is the prescribed the most. The pill that is 30 milligrams is pale pink and has had the most reported reactions in people according to an independent laboratory.

- Considering all the other excellent allergy medications on the market, Allergone will struggle to find an audience.

- Allergone is produced by a superior, high-quality medication manufacturer in Iceland.
Bias and Stereotypes

A bias is
a particular tendency, trend, inclination, feeling, or opinion, especially one that is preconceived or unreasoned

- A stereotype is a widely held but fixed and oversimplified image or idea of a person or a thing

Some common stereotypes involve:
- Race: White people have no rhythm.
- Gender: Girls are not good at sports.
- Cultures: All Asians are good at math.
- Groups of individuals: All teenagers are rebels.
### Text Types - Why Authors Write

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Persuasive</th>
<th>Expository</th>
<th>Narrative</th>
<th>Technical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Convince others</td>
<td>Facts</td>
<td>Entertains</td>
<td>Information to perform a task</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take an action</td>
<td>Information</td>
<td>Tells a story</td>
<td>Gives information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has strong opinion signal words and phrases</td>
<td>Has Text Features: Headings, bold words, charts, etc.</td>
<td>Setting, characters, problem, resolution</td>
<td>Usually is a list of steps.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Five Text Structures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sequence</th>
<th>Problem and Solution</th>
<th>Compare and Contrast</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cause and Effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steps in a specific order</td>
<td>A problem is presented and a solution given.</td>
<td>Compares how things are the same of different</td>
<td>Uses sensory words Details</td>
<td>Something causes something else to happen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.  
2.  
3.  

![Diagram](image_url)
Determining the meaning of words
Denotation vs. Connotation

- Denotation is the explicitly stated meaning of the word. This would be the dictionary definition. Use guide words to find which page the words would be on.

- Connotation is the implied meaning of the word. This would be the feeling behind the word.

- Let’s talk about the difference between words that have basically the same meaning or dictionary definition
  - House vs. Home
  - Immature vs. Youthful
### Figurative Language

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figurative Device</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Metaphor          | Comparison between unlike things without using like or as | Baby, you’re a firework.  
  - Katy Perry |
| Simile            | Comparison between unlike things using like or as | You, with your words like knives  
  And swords and weapons that you use against me  
  - Taylor Swift |
| Personification   | Giving human attributes to something nonhuman | Don’t believe me? Ask the dishes! They can sing. They can dance.  
  - Lumiere, Beauty and the Beast |
Author’s Tone

- Tone is how the author views the subject.
  - Tone is expressed through word selection.
  - Tone can be objective or subjective.
  - Adjectives like: cynical, depressed, sympathetic, cheerful, outraged, positive, angry, sarcastic, prayerful, ironic, solemn, vindictive, intense, and excited are common descriptors of an author's tone.

My apartment has two bedrooms and one bathroom.

This apartment may not be great, but since it is where we lived when my children were born, it holds a special place in my heart.

This dump needs some serious repair work done to it before anyone else would consider it livable.

The landlord wants me to leave this place in the same condition that I found it in. I don’t know if I can find that many cockroaches before I leave.
Text Features - Terms to Know

- Headings
- Key
- Legend
- Footnote
- Glossary
- Index
- Table of contents
- Query
- Search term
- Style Guide
- Superscript
- Search Engine
Sample Index

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Integration of Knowledge
Smallest section - 11 questions

► What kinds of information does this cover?
  ► Identify primary vs. secondary sources
  ► Use evidence to make predictions, inferences, or draw conclusions
  ► Comparing and contrasting selections
  ► Evaluate and integrate data from multiple sources
Primary Sources - a source of information that was created at the time studied

Examples:
- diaries, journals, speeches, interviews, letters, memos, manuscripts,
- memoirs, autobiographies
- records of, or information collected by government agencies
- published materials such as books, magazines, journals, or newspaper articles during the time frame
- photographs, audio recordings, moving pictures or video recordings
- research data
- artifacts of all kinds - physical objects, buildings, furniture, tools, clothing
Secondary Sources - their content has been gathered from other materials and then combines, reshaped, interpreted, and presented by authors

For example: bibliographies, commentaries, histories, literary criticism, journal articles, magazine and newspaper articles, and textbooks.

Tertiary Sources - Contains both primary and secondary sources

For example: guidebooks, almanacs, and manuals
Evidence based predictions, inferences or conclusions

Some key terms

predictions -
foreshadowing -

The key to these is that they are based on what is in the text. Don’t go too far beyond what is written in the text.
Compare and contrast themes

▸ What is a theme?

▸ What are some common themes in literature?

▸ Some key terms:
  ▸ Genre
  ▸ Social commentary
  ▸ Social structure
Evaluate an Evaluate and integrate data from multiple sources in various