

UNIT I

MAIN IDEA QUESTIONS

Setiap bacaan pada tes ProTEFL berisi pertanyaan tentang ide pokok. Jenis pertanyaan ini berkisar 10% dari 50 pertanyaan *Reading Skill*. Pertanyaan tersebut dapat ditampilkan dalam beberapa istilah, misalnya Anda diminta untuk mengidentifikasi **topik, subjek, judul, gagasan utama**, atau **ide pokok**. Pertanyaan-pertanyaan tersebut pada dasarnya menanyakan gagasan/ide yang ingin penulis jabarkan. Letak ide pokok suatu bacaan terdapat di awal, di akhir ataupun menyimpulkan dari bacaan.

Perhatikan contoh berikut ini.

In the philosophy of John Dewey, a sharp distinction is made between intelligence and reasoning. According to Dewey, intelligence is the only absolute way to achieve a balance between realism and idealism, between practicality and wisdom of life. Intelligence involves "interacting with other things and knowing them," while reasoning is merely the act of an observer, "...a mind that beholds or grasps objects outside the world of things...." With reasoning, a level of mental certainty can be achieved, but it is through intelligence that control is taken of events that shape one's life.

Sample question:

What is the topic of this passage?

- (A) The intelligence of John Dewey.
- (B) Distinctions made by John Dewey.
- (C) Dewey's idea on the ability to reason.
- (D) How intelligence differs from reasoning in Dewey's works.

Pertanyaan di atas menanyakan topik bacaan. Karena bacaan tersebut hanya mempunyai satu paragraf, Anda harus memperhatikan kalimat pertama dari bacaan untuk menjawab pertanyaannya. Kalimat pertama dari bacaan ini berisikan perbedaan antara *intelligence* dan *reasoning* menurut filosofi John Dewey.

Perhatikan analisa jawaban berikut ini:

(A) The intelligence of John Dewey	Pilihan jawaban (A) terlalu luas karena hanya menyebutkan <i>intelligence</i> , jadi ini bukan merupakan topik.
(B) Distinctions made by John Dewey	Pilihan jawaban (B) juga terlalu luas karena menyebutkan perbedaan yang dibuat oleh John Dewey, tetapi tidak menyebutkan secara rinci jenis perbedaannya.
(C) Dewey's idea on the ability to reason	Pilihan jawaban (C) terlalu spesifik karena hanya menyebutkan <i>reasoning</i> , oleh karena itu jawabannya tidak lengkap.
(D) How <u>intelligence</u> differs from <u>reasoning</u> in Dewey's works	Pilihan jawaban (D) merupakan jawaban yang benar karena telah disebutkan di kalimat pertama

MAIN IDEA QUESTIONS

Strategi

<p>a. Pahami jenis-jenis pertanyaan</p>	<p>(A) What is the main topic of the main idea of the subject of the main idea expressed in the main purpose of the primary topic of the primary purpose of the author's main point the main theme in the passage?</p> <p>(B) The passage deals mainly with is mainly about</p> <p>(C) With what topic is the passage primarily concerned?</p> <p>(D) Which of the following would be the best title?</p>
<p>b. Temukan letak jawaban</p>	<p>Jawaban untuk pertanyaan jenis ini pada umumnya dapat ditentukan dengan melihat kalimat pertama setiap paragraf.</p>
<p>c. Tentukan langkah dalam menjawab pertanyaan</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Baca kalimat pertama dan terakhir dari setiap paragraf. 2. Carilah tema umum atau tema utama dalam baris tersebut. 3. Bacalah dengan cepat sisa bagian bacaan untuk memeriksa bahwa Anda benar-benar telah menemukan kalimat topik. 4. Eliminasi/hilangkan jawaban yang pasti salah dan pilih jawaban terbaik dari pilihan yang tersisa.

Tabel Jenis Pengecoh

Pertanyaan/pernyataan	Pilihan Jawaban	Jenis-Jenis Pengecoh:
1.	A. → Kunci jawaban B. → Pengecoh C. → Pengecoh D. → Pengecoh	<i>S: too specific</i> (terlalu spesifik) <i>G: too general</i> (terlalu umum) <i>X: incorrect</i> (salah) <i>I: irrelevant</i> (tidak relevan) <i>C: correct</i> (betul)

Exercise 1

Study each of the passages and choose the best answers from the following questions.

PASSAGE 1 (Questions 1-2)

Fort Knox, Kentucky, is the site of a U.S. army post, but it is even more renowned for the Fort Knox Bullion Depository, the massive vault that contains the bulk of the U.S. government's gold deposits. Completed in 1936, the vault is housed in a two-story building constructed of granite, steel, and concrete; the vault itself is made of steel and concrete and has a door that weighs more than twenty tons. Naturally, the most up-to-date security devices available are in place at Fort Knox, and the army post nearby provides further protection.

Line (5)

1. Which of the following best describes the topic of the passage?
 - (A) The city of Fort Knox, Kentucky.
 - (B) The federal gold depository.
 - (C) The U.S. army post at Fort Knox.
 - (D) Gold bullion.
2. Which of the following would be the best title for this passage?
 - (A) The Massive Concrete Vault.
 - (B) Fort Knox Security.
 - (C) Where the United States Keeps Its Gold.
 - (D) A Visit to Kentucky.

PASSAGE 2 (Questions 3-4)

One identifying characteristic of minerals is their relative hardness, which can be determined by scratching one mineral with another. In this type of test, a harder mineral can scratch a softer one, but a softer mineral is unable to scratch the harder one. The Moh's hardness scale is used to rank minerals according to hardness. Ten minerals are listed in this scale, ranging from talc with a hardness of 1 to diamond with a hardness of 10. On this scale, quartz (number 7) is harder than feldspar (number 6) and is therefore able to scratch it; however, feldspar is unable to make a mark on quartz.

3. Which of the following best states the subject of this passage?
 - (A) The hardness of diamonds.
 - (B) Identifying minerals by means of a scratch test.
 - (C) Feldspar on the Moh's scale.
 - (D) Recognizing minerals in their natural state.
4. The main idea of this passage is that
 - (A) the hardness of a mineral can be determined by its ability to make a mark on other minerals
 - (B) diamonds, with a hardness of 10 on the Mohs' scale, can scratch all other minerals
 - (C) a softer mineral cannot be scratched by a harder mineral
 - (D) talc is the first mineral listed on the Mohs' scale

PASSAGE 3 (Questions 5-6)

Hurricanes generally occur in the North Atlantic from May through November, with the peak of the hurricane season in September; only rarely will they occur from December through April in that part of the ocean. The main reason for the occurrence of hurricanes during this period is that the temperature on the water's surface is at its warmest and the humidity of the air is at its highest.

Of the tropical storms that occur each year in the North Atlantic, only about five, on the average, are powerful enough to be called hurricanes. To be classified as a hurricane, a tropical storm must have winds reaching speeds of at least 117 kilometers per hour, but the winds are often more stronger than that; the winds of intense hurricanes can easily surpass 240 kilometers per hour.

5. The passage mainly discusses
 - (A) how many hurricanes occur each year
 - (B) the strength of hurricanes
 - (C) the weather in the North Atlantic
 - (D) hurricanes in one part of the world
6. The best title for this passage would be
 - (A) The North Atlantic Ocean
 - (B) Storms of the Northern Atlantic
 - (C) Hurricanes: The Damage and Destruction
 - (D) What Happens from May through November

PASSAGE 4 (Questions 7-9)

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882) was perhaps the best-known American poet of the nineteenth century. His clear writing style and emphasis on the prevalent values of the period made him popular with the general public if not always with the critics. He was particularly recognized for his longer narrative poems *Evangeline*, *The Song of Hiawatha*, and *The Courtship of Miles Standish*, in which he told stories from American history in terms of the values of the time.

(10) *Evangeline* was set during the French and Indian War (1754-1763), when the British forced French settlers from Nova Scotia; two lovers, Gabriel and Evangeline, were separated by the British, and Evangeline devoted her lifetime to the search for Gabriel. With its emphasis on sentimental, undying love, *Evangeline* was immensely popular with the public.

(15) In *The Song of Hiawatha*, Longfellow depicted the noble life of the American Indian through the story of the brave Hiawatha and his beloved wife Minehaha. The tear-inspiring poem follows Hiawatha through the tragedies and triumphs of life, ending with the death of Minehaha and Hiawatha's departure into the sunset in his canoe.

(20) *The Courtship of Miles Standish* takes place during the early period of the settlement of New England, a period which was viewed as a time of honor and romance. In this poem centered around a love triangle, Mile Standish asks his friend John Alden to propose to Pricilla Mullins for him; John Alden ends up marrying Priscilla Mullin himself, and it takes time for his friendship with Miles Standish to recover. As with Longfellow's other narrative poems, the emphasis on high ideals and romance made the poem extremely popular.

7. Which of the following best describes the main idea of the passage?
- (A) American history is often depicted in poetry.
 (B) Longfellow described American history even though people really did not enjoy it.
 (C) The popularity of Longfellow's poems results from his stress on the values of the people.
 (D) Longfellow wrote long narrative poems that were not always popular with the critics.
8. The best title of this passage is
- (A) Longfellow's Popular Appeal
 (B) Historical Narrative Poems
 (C) The Lyric, Dramatic, and Narrative Poems of Longfellow
 (D) Longfellow and the Critics
9. The subject of the fourth paragraph is
- (A) nobility and honor in the poems of Longfellow
 (B) the love triangle involving Miles Standish
 (C) the popular appeal of *The Courtship of Miles Standish*
 (D) the period of the early settlement of New England

PASSAGE 5 (Question 10)

(5) *Line* Between the late 1920s and 1950s, the Osborne Calendar Company produced a series of calendars featuring trains of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Up to three hundred thousand of these, featuring large, colorful scenes of trains at work, were published each year to hang in depots and shipper's offices along the lines of the famous railroad company. The scenes, mostly painted by one artist, Grif Teller, are now valuable collectibles.

10. What is the subject of this passage?
- (A) Trains at work.
 (B) Calendars of the Pennsylvania Railroad trains.
 (C) Valuable calendars.
 (D) Grif Teller's paintings of trains.

PASSAGE 6 (Question 11)

(5) *Line* Yuzen dyeing is a Japanese art that produces a lavish, multicolored type of kimono design that dates from the seventeenth century. First, a pattern is sketched on a kimono of plain, undyed silk. The garment is then taken apart and the design carefully painted onto the fabric with a paste that prevents the fabrics from absorbing dye. Next, dyes are brushed over the silk, their colors penetrating only the untreated areas. After the past is rinsed out, the strips of silk are again sewed into the kimono. Elaborate embroidery often completes the decoration.

11. What is the main subject of this passage?
- (A) Kimono design dating from the seventeenth century.
 - (B) A description of Yuzen dyeing.
 - (C) How kimonos are made.
 - (D) The elaborate embroidery done on kimonos.

PASSAGE 7 (Question 12)

The bioluminescent flashlight fish does not actually light up but has a saclike organ under each eye that contains luminous bacteria. Although the bacteria glow constantly, the fish can control the light by eye movements. The flashlight fish uses its lights to search for food in the dark depths. Upon finding the food, the fish blinks rapidly to signal its mates. If an intruder threatens, the fish can startle it by shining its light. Predators can be confused by the flashlight fish's flashing its light and abruptly changing directions.

12. What is the main idea of this passage?
- (A) The flashlight fish uses its bioluminescence for different purposes.
 - (B) Bioluminescence can save the life of the flashlight fish.
 - (C) Bioluminescence in the flashlight fish is due to the luminous bacteria in the eye organs.
 - (D) Different fish use bioluminescence in different ways.

PASSAGE 8 (Question 13)

Cole Porter was never regarded in his lifetime as socially conscious. Society-conscious, yes; he was born rich and married richer, to Linda Lee Thomas, a wealthy divorcee. Songwriting made him a third fortune. He was not just rich and famous, he was famous for being rich. Though not a native New Yorker – he was a backcountry boy from Peru, Indiana – he and his work came to typify smart Manhattan society. His music was a highly personal mixture and had huge appeal. Porter, as an admiring contemporary remarked, made sophistication popular.

13. What is the subject of this passage?
- (A) A socially conscious musician.
 - (B) Becoming rich and famous.
 - (C) The life of a songwriter.
 - (D) Popularizing sophistication.

PASSAGE 9 (Question 14)

The beaver's comical-looking flat tail, which is three-quarters of an inch thick, six or seven inches wide, and perhaps a foot long, is unique in the animal world. In the water, it serves as a rudder for swimming, and on land it props the beaver upright while the animal is cutting trees. It also serves as a radiator through which the heavily insulated beaver passes off excess body heat. The beaver uses its broad tail for an early warning system by slapping it against the water's surface, making a resounding whack that can be heard half a mile away.

14. What is the purpose of this passage?
- (A) To describe what the beaver's tail looks like to the reader.
 - (B) To inform the reader about the many uses of a beaver's tail.
 - (C) To give the reader a lesson in nature studies.
 - (D) To teach the reader how to use a beaver's tail.

PASSAGE 10 (Question 15)

Tree rings have long been used to determine the ages of trees and to gauge past climatic conditions. New evidence adds considerable weight to the theory that tree rings also record earthquakes. The rings reflect the effects of earthquakes, such as tilting, the disruption of root systems, and breakage, as well as shifts in environments. Older trees and petrified tress may give information about earthquakes that took place hundreds and even thousands of years ago.

Line
(5)

15. What is the main theme of this passage?
- (A) How earthquakes affect tree rings.
 (B) How tree rings can be used to warn people of impending earthquakes.
 (C) What information might be gained from studying tree rings.
 (D) Why tree rings are used to determine tree ages, climatic conditions, and earthquakes.

Vocabulary List

abruptly (adv)	: degan kasar	peak (n)	: puncak
absorbing (adj)	: sangat menarik, mengasyikkan	petrified (adj)	: (mem)batu
appeal (kb)	: seruan, permohonan, banding	poet (n)	: penyair, pujangga
beaver (kb)	: berang-berang	prevalent (adj)	: umum, lazim
bulk (kb)	: bagian terbesar	prop (v)	: menopang, menyangga
collectible (kb)	: koleksi	recover (v)	: memulihkan
depict (v)	: melukiskan, menggambarkan	renowned (adj)	: terkenal, termasyhur
depot (n)	: gudang	rudder (n)	: kemudi
devote (v)	: mencurahkan	saclike (adj)	: seperti kantung
dye (n)	: (pen)celup(an)	scratch (v)	: menggaruk, menggoreskan
embroidery (kb)	: sulaman	settler (n)	: penghuni tetap
excess (n)	: kelebihan, kewalahan	sew (v)	: menjahit
fabric (n)	: kain	sketch (v)	: membuat sketsa
gauge (v)	: menaksir/ mengukur	slap (v)	: menampar, membanting
hang (v)	: menggantung(kan)	sophistication (n)	: kesempurnaan
humidity (n)	: kelembaban	startle (v)	: mengejutkan
hurricane (n)	: angin ribut, topan	surpass (v)	: melebihi, melampaui
immensely (adv)	: amat, sangat	talc (n)	: talek
insulated (adj)	: terisolasi	tilt (n)	: kemiringan
intense (adj)	: kuat, hebat	tragedy (n)	: tragedy, cerita sedih
intruder (n)	: pengacau	triumph (n)	: kemenangan
lavish (adj)	: mewah, boros	typify (v)	: melambangkan
luminous (adj)	: bercahaya, berkilauan	vault (n)	: ruang besi
mineral (n)	: barang tambang	whack (n)	: pukulan keras
occur (v)	: terjadi		