THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE FOR PRACTICE PURPOSES ONLY.

Read the directions and select an answer for each item below. When you have completed all 15 items, use the answer key to review your score and selections.

Official placement testing requires completion of 25 similar items for 4 reading passages. The test is pencil and paper form.

To complete placement testing and enrollment please visit a CSN Language Lab.

**Placement Testing Locations and Hours**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West Charleston Campus</th>
<th>Cheyenne Campus</th>
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<tr>
<td>Language Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building C-169</td>
<td>Room 2649</td>
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<tr>
<td>702-651-5736</td>
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**ESL Reading Placement Test Scale**

(out of 25 items)

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Instructions: Read the articles. Then read the questions and choose the correct answer.

Art for the Blind

People often look forward to going to an art museum. They hope to see beautiful pieces of art that they might remember for a lifetime, but what about the blind or those who are visually impaired? Is it possible for them to share such a wonderful experience? Most museums don't allow anyone to touch the exhibits, and there's rarely anything to taste or smell either. So, out of the five senses that humans have, a visually impaired person would probably only be able to rely on one: hearing. Most museums offer some type of audio programs for rental or provide guides who give detailed descriptions on artistic techniques and biographies on the artists' lives, but is this enough? Can the blind really plan on enjoying visual arts as much as those with sight?

Many museums these days are committed to making the visitor's experience a memorable one. Several are experimenting with programs for the blind and people with other disabilities. For example, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City has special verbal imaging tours, large print booklets, Braille labels, and a rather large collection of objects that can be touched.

The Museum of Modern Art in San Francisco has a similar program, but also includes special courses for the blind where they learn about art through hands-on activities or through "touch." According to them, it is the first museum of its kind to offer such a program.

The Blind Museum in Madrid is another example and is beautifully designed for blind and visually impaired people. All of the exhibits there can be touched and the visitors are encouraged to feel every article on display. Audiotapes guide the visitor's hands over the displays and the building is designed in such a way that the blind can move around without any problems.

1. At this museum, people can learn about art through hands-on activities.
   a. The Blind Museum in Madrid
   b. The Museum of Modern Art in San Francisco
   c. The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City

2. This museum is designed to help people move around easily.
   a. The Blind Museum in Madrid
   b. The Museum of Modern Art in San Francisco
   c. The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City

3. The reading is mainly about which of the following:
   a. Special art courses for the blind
   b. Museums that have art that you can touch
   c. The blind enjoying the visual arts
4. In most museums, visually impaired people usually have to rely on which of the following senses?
   a. touch
   b. hearing
   c. taste

5. According to the reading, how could audiotapes help a blind person?
   a. They could guide their hands over the displays.
   b. They could tell them where to walk in the building.
   c. They could tell them what the print material says.
Space Junk

All human activity creates trash. Trash can be found in the middle of the ocean, in deserts, and on top of the world’s highest mountains. It can even be found in outer space, where it’s called “space junk.”

Space junk is material from man-made objects that orbit the Earth. A lot of space junk is made up of satellites that are no longer in use. It also includes astronauts’ equipment: camera lenses, tools, even dirty laundry. There are also tiny pieces of space junk such as particles of paint and dust. The first piece of space junk was created in 1964, when scientists lost connection with the American satellite Vanguard 1. Today, telescopes and radars are monitoring more than 12,000 pieces of junk down to 10 centimeters in size. There are also hundreds of thousands of pieces too small to track. Normally, these would not be a threat, but space junk travels at high speed—up to 25,200 kilometers/hour (14,400 mph). Even paint particles can act like tiny bullets.

Space junk can cause a number of problems. For one thing, an inactive satellite may crash into a useful satellite and destroy it. This happened in 2009, when the U.S. communications satellite Iridium collided with a non-functioning Russian satellite. The collision destroyed both satellites and created even more junk. Space junk might endanger manned spacecraft or space stations as well. And, though most pieces get burnt up when they re-enter the atmosphere, that is not always true. In 1997, a fuel tank from a Delta 2 rocket fell to earth and landed near Georgetown, Texas. It created a hole 10 meters (30 feet) deep.

One idea for solving this problem is to construct a spacecraft to go gather the trash. Swiss scientists are working on a satellite called Clean Space. The junk can either be thrown into remote parts of the Pacific, or put in an orbit where it will burn up during re-entry. A U.S. company is designing a satellite that can collect space junk in a net and move it to an orbit where it does not pose any danger.

Space scientists have realized that this junk is made up of items that can be re-used to build new space stations or satellites—in other words, space junk might be able to be recycled. It is clear that we must take action soon. UK researcher Hugh Lewis recently predicted that the threat from space debris would rise 50 percent in the coming decade.

6. What was the first piece of space junk?
   a. an astronaut’s space suit  
   b. an American satellite  
   c. a camera lens  
   d. a large telescope

7. According to the article, why is it impossible to track many of the particles of space junk?
   a. They are too small.  
   b. They are too far from earth.  
   c. They are moving too fast.  
   d. There are too many of them.
8. How does the author indicate that small particles of space junk can be dangerous?

a. by giving examples of problems caused by small particles
b. by contrasting them with large pieces of space junk
c. by pointing out the large number of small particles found in space
d. by comparing them with something readers are familiar with

9. What happened to the Delta 2 rocket’s fuel tank?

a. It landed back on Earth near a town.
b. It burned up when it entered the atmosphere.
c. It collided with an inactive satellite.
d. It was destroyed by small particles.

10. How many solutions to the problem of space junk does the author describe in the article?

a. one
b. two
c. three
d. four
Yellowstone’s Smoking Bomb

A. Yellowstone national Park, the oldest and most famous national park in the United States, sits on top of one of the biggest volcanoes on Earth. Yellowstone’s volcano is so big that many scientists call it a supervolcano. As the name suggests, supervolcanoes are much bigger and more powerful than ordinary volcanoes, and their eruptions can be exceptionally violent and destructive. When volcanoes erupt, they can kill plants and animals for miles around. When a supervolcano explodes, it can threaten whole species with extinction by changing the climate across the entire planet.

What Causes a Supervolcano to Erupt?

B. No supervolcano has erupted in recorded human history. However, in the 2.1 million years that Yellowstone has sat over the supervolcano, scientists believe that the park has experienced three super-eruptions. Geologists who study Yellowstone’s supervolcano have pieced together the sequence of events that probably cause a super-eruption. First, an intense plume of heat pushes up from deep within the Earth. The extreme heat melts rock and creates a huge chamber a few miles below the surface.

C. The chamber slowly fills with a pressurized mix of magma (melted rock), water vapor, carbon dioxide, and other gases. As additional magma accumulates in the chamber over thousands of years, the land on the surface above it begins to move up to form a dome, inches at a time. As the dome moves higher, cracks form along its edges. When the pressure in the magma chamber is released through the cracks in the dome, the gases suddenly explode, creating a violent super-eruption and emptying the magma chamber. Once the magma chamber is empty, the dome collapses, leaving a giant caldera, or crater, in the ground. Yellowstone’s caldera, which covers a 25- by 37-mile (or 40- by 60-kilometer) area in the state of Wyoming, was formed after the last super-eruption some 640,000 years ago.

How Violent Is a Super-Eruption?

D. After each super-eruption at Yellowstone, the whole planet felt the effects. Scientists theorize that gases rising high into the atmosphere mixed with water vapor to create a haze that reduced sunlight, causing a period of cooling across the globe. It is estimated that the combined debris from the three eruptions was so vast it could have filled the Grand Canyon.

E. The most recent catastrophic eruption, about 640,000 years ago, poured out 240 cubic miles (1,000 cubic kilometers) of rock, lava, and ash. A column of ash rose some 100,000 feet (30 kilometers) into the atmosphere, and winds carried ash and dust across the western half of the United States and south to the Gulf of Mexico. Closer to the supervolcano, thick clouds of ash, rocks, and gas — superheated to 1,470°F (800°C) — rolled over the land. This volcano’s lava and debris destroyed everything within its devastating range, filling entire valleys and forming layers hundreds of feet thick.

Will the Supervolcano Erupt Again?

F. Predicting when an eruption might occur is extremely difficult, in part because scientists still do not understand all the details of what is happening under the caldera’s surface. Moreover, they have kept continuous records of Yellowstone’s activity only since the 1970s — a tiny slice of geologic time — making it hard to draw conclusions. However, scientists theorize that Yellowstone’s magma chamber expands periodically from a plume of hot rock moving up from deep inside the Earth. As the chamber expands, it pushes the land above it upward. According to this theory, when the plume of rock decreases, the magma cools and becomes solid, allowing the land above to fall back.
Scientists believe that Yellowstone has probably seen a continuous cycle of rising and falling land over the past 15,000 years. Geophysicist and supervolcano expert Bob Smith of the University of Utah believes the rise-and-fall cycle of Yellowstone’s caldera will likely continue. “These calderas tend to go up and down, up and down,” he says. “We call this a caldera at unrest. The net effect over many cycles is to finally get enough magma to erupt. And we don’t know what those cycles are.”

So, is the supervolcano going to explode again? Some kind of eruption is highly likely at some point. The chances of another catastrophic super-eruption are anyone’s guess. It could happen in this century, or 100,000 years from now. No one knows for sure.

11. What is another possible title for the reading?
   a. The Natural Wonders of Yellowstone
   b. Predicting A Super Eruption
   c. The Danger Beneath Yellowstone

12. What is the best replacement for the phrase ‘pieced together’ (underlined) in paragraph B?
   a. analyzed
   b. confirmed
   c. figured out

13. Which of the sentences below is NOT true?
   a. Scientists believe ‘caldera at unrest’ is an indication that the volcano will erupt soon.
   b. Scientists say there could be another super eruption at any time.
   c. Scientists do not have a clear picture about what is happening inside the caldera.

14. What is a caldera?
   a. the crater left in the ground after a super-eruption
   b. the chamber inside the earth that fills with gases and magma
   c. the dome that is formed as magma accumulates inside the volcano

15. Which of the following do scientists think happened after the last super-eruption at Yellowstone?
   a. Global temperatures increased.
   b. Global temperatures decreased.
   c. The Grand Canyon was filled with lava and rocks.
**Answer Key**

1. B  
2. A  
3. C  
4. B  
5. A  
6. B  
7. A  
8. D  
9. A  
10. B  
11. C  
12. C  
13. A  
14. A  
15. B