

# Sample Questions

## Section 1

The first section of the SLEP test measures ability to understand spoken English and is about 40 minutes long. It is divided into four parts, with four different types of questions.

### Part A

For the first type of question, the student must match one of four recorded sentences with a picture in the test book. The sentences are spoken only once and are not printed in the test book. This part contains items dealing with correct recognition of minimal-pair contrasts, juncture, stress, sound clusters, tense, prepositions, and vocabulary.

#### Sample Questions

**Note:** Pictures are for illustrative purposes only. Actual pictures in the test book are larger than the samples in this manual.

**1. On tape:**

*Look at the picture marked number 1.*

**On tape:**

- (A) *The boy is typing on the keyboard.*
- (B) *No one is looking at the computer.*
- (C) *One of the girls is pointing to the screen.*
- (D) *They're putting a computer into a box.*



**2. On tape:**

*Look at the picture marked number 2.*

**On tape:**

- (A) *They are taking off their sandals.*
- (B) *They are putting hats in a box.*
- (C) *They are dancing in a circle.*
- (D) *They are standing against the wall.*



**3. On tape:**

*Look at the picture marked number 3.*

**On tape:**

- (A) *She's looking out of the car window.*
- (B) *She's driving on the highway.*
- (C) *She's opening the car door.*
- (D) *She's rolling up the window.*



**4. On tape:**

*Look at the picture marked number 4.*

**On tape:**

- (A) *The flowers are growing outside.*
- (B) *The table has been cleared off.*
- (C) *Someone has eaten all the cake.*
- (D) *The table is filled with cakes and pies.*



**Part B**

These questions approximate the type of dictation exercises used frequently in English language classes: the student must match a sentence printed in the test book with a sentence heard on the tape. The questions focus on the relationship between structure and meaning.

**Sample Questions**

**1. On tape:**

*The taller plants keep growing all summer long.*

**In the test book:**

- (A) By the summer those plants will be much taller.
- (B) Those tall plants should be cut back when it's warm.
- (C) Once it's cold the plants won't grow any taller.
- (D) The taller plants keep growing all summer long.

**2. On tape:**

*Is it too warm to wear a coat?*

**In the test book:**

- (A) Aren't you going to bring your coat?
- (B) Why didn't I bring my coat?
- (C) Doesn't that coat look warm?
- (D) Is it too warm to wear a coat?

**3. On tape:**

*Jorge can't come over because he has a piano lesson.*

**In the test book:**

- (A) Jorge can't come over because he has a piano lesson.
- (B) Jorge comes over less often since he started playing the piano.
- (C) Jorge played the piano when he came over.
- (D) Jorge's piano lesson is over, but he's still not coming over.

**5. On tape:**

*Many people had already left the beach before the storm.*

**In the test book:**

- (A) Few people were on the beach during the storm.
- (B) The storm did a lot of damage along the beach.
- (C) Many people had already left the beach before the storm.
- (D) Most people did not think there would be a storm.

**5. On tape:**

*You should have allowed more time to finish that book.*

**In the test book:**

- (A) You will have to read that book soon.
- (B) You ought to finish that book on time.
- (C) You should have allowed more time to finish that book.
- (D) You could ask someone if they saw that book.

## Part C

The questions in this part are based on conversations between students or announcements made by teachers or administrators in a school. The questions are given before the talks begin, allowing students to direct their attention to listening for the correct answer. The questions and answers are printed in the test book. For each question, students must choose one of four answers.

### *Sample Questions*

**1. On tape:**

- (Narrator) *Listen for the answer to the following question. What did the girl think the homework assignment was for math class? Here is the conversation.*
- (Boy) *Did you figure out the answer to problem number ten in the math homework?*
- (Girl) *Number ten? I thought we were only supposed to do the first eight problems.*
- (Boy) *That's what the teacher said at the beginning of class, but right before the bell rang she changed the assignment to the first twelve problems.*
- (Narrator) *What did the girl think the homework assignment was for math class?*

**In the test book:**

What did the girl think the homework assignment was for math class?

- (A) Only problem number 10
- (B) Problem numbers 1 through 8
- (C) Problem numbers 1 through 10
- (D) Problem numbers 1 through 12

**6. On tape:**

- (Narrator) *Listen for the answer to the following question. Which bus will not be running this afternoon? Here is the announcement.*
- (Man) *Please excuse this interruption. There has been a change in the school bus routes this afternoon. The number five bus has a flat tire, so all students who normally take the number five bus will take the number two bus today. All those students who are changing to the number five bus must report to the office sometime during periods four, five, or six to sign a change-of-bus-route form so that the bus driver will know how many students will be on the bus.*
- (Narrator) *Which bus will not be running this afternoon?*

**In the test book:**

Which bus will not be running this afternoon?

- (A) Number 2
- (B) Number 3
- (C) Number 5
- (D) Number 6

**3. On tape:**

- (Narrator) *Listen for the answer to the following question. Where is Linda's new job? Here is the conversation.*
- (Boy) *Hey, Linda, I hear you got a job at the music store in the mall. Sounds like fun.*
- (Girl) *Actually, I was offereda job a the music store. I accepteda job as a teller at the bank.*
- (Boy) *Well, that makes sense. You're planning to study finance in college, right?*
- (Girl) *Exactly. I thought it would be better to work at a place now that would prepare me for what I want to do in the future.*
- (Narrator) *Where is Linda's new job?*

**In the test book:**

Where is Linda's new job?

- (A) At a music store
- (B) At a restaurant
- (C) At a college
- (D) At a bank

## Part D

The questions in this part are based on conversations recorded by American high school students that represent typical secondary school situations. The conversations take place in various parts of a school and deal with events that typically occur in each location. For each recorded question, the student must choose one of four answers printed in the test book.

### Sample Questions

#### 1. On tape:

- (Sam) *Hi, Luisa.*  
(Luisa) *Oh, Sam. Hi. I missed you this morning in history class. Where were you?*  
(Sam) *That's what I wanted to talk to you about. You see, my homeroom teacher had to pack up a bunch of science materials from our unit on electricity, so she asked me stick around and help her.*  
(Narrator) *Why did Sam miss history class?*

#### In the test book:

- (A) He was sick.  
(B) He missed the bus.  
(C) He was helping a teacher.  
(D) He was doing a science experiment.

#### 2. On tape:

- (Luisa) *Did Mr. Jackson say it was okay to miss his class?*  
(Sam) *Yeah—my homeroom teacher called him and asked if he minded. He said it was okay with him if it was okay with me.*  
(Luisa) *Well, all we did was take notes about the Industrial Revolution.*  
(Sam) *I know. That's why I was looking for you. I wanted to see if I could look over your notes tonight. I can bring them back tomorrow.*  
(Narrator) *Why was Sam looking for Luisa?*

#### In the test book:

- (A) To give her a note.  
(B) To return her science book.  
(C) To ask to borrow her notes.  
(D) To see if Mr. Jackson was upset.

#### 3. On tape:

- (Luisa) *Oh, sure. That's not a problem. I have my notebook right here in my ... uh oh.*  
(Sam) *What's wrong?*  
(Luisa) *Well, I thought my notebook was in my backpack, but I must have left it in Mr. Jackson's room. I'd better go get it.*  
(Sam) *I'll go with you.*  
(Narrator) *Where are Sam and Luisa going?*

#### In the test book:

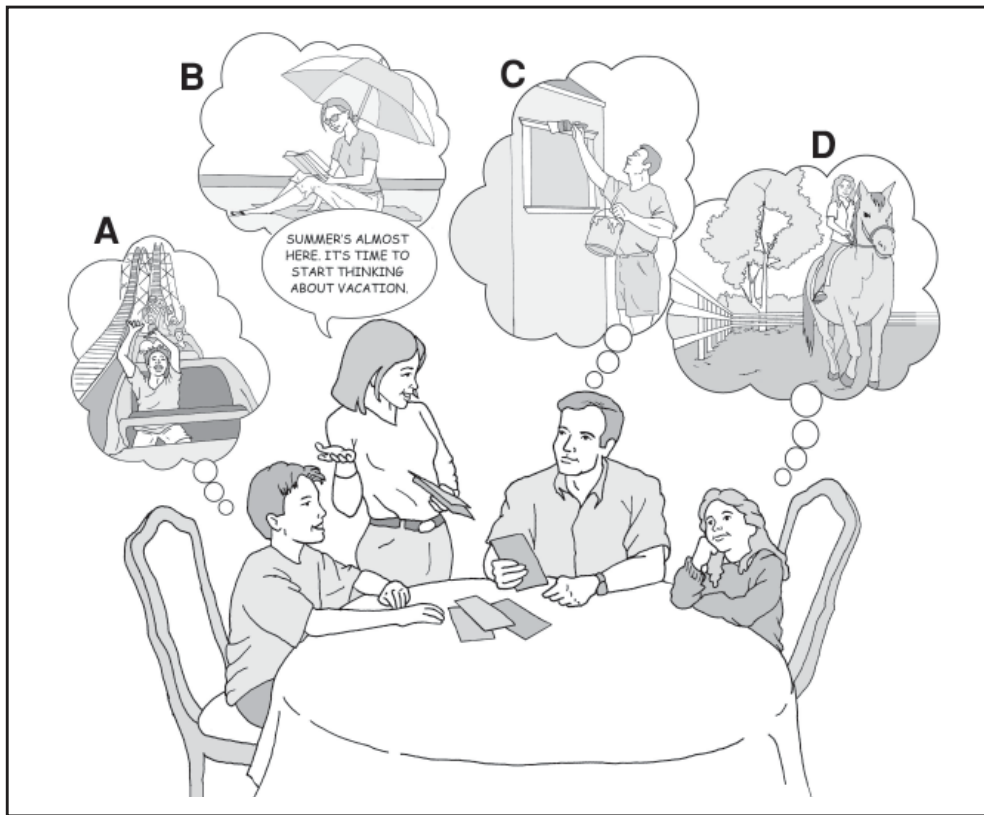
- (A) To the lunchroom.  
(B) To the history teacher's room.  
(C) To the library.  
(D) To Luisa's locker.

## Section 2

The second section of the test measures ability to understand written English and is 40 minutes long. The questions cover grammar, vocabulary, and reading comprehension. There are four parts to Section 2.

### Part A

For each question in this part, the student must match the reaction of one of four characters in a cartoon with a printed sentence.



#### *Sample Questions*

1. The beach is a perfect place for a relaxing vacation.
2. I'll finally have a chance to finish painting the garage.
3. I'm looking forward to catching up on my reading.
4. I hope we stay at a campground where I can go horseback riding.
5. I can't wait to try out that new ride at the amusement park.

## Part B

For the questions in this part, the student must match a printed sentence with one of four drawings. The particular focus of this item type is the use of prepositions, pronouns, adverbs, and numbers.

### Sample Questions

1. One bird is sitting in a tree but two aren't.



A



B

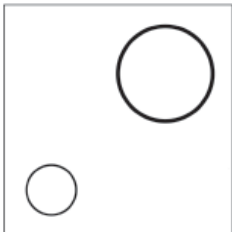


C

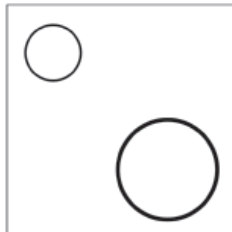


D

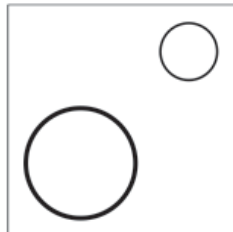
2. The bigger circle is in the lower left corner.



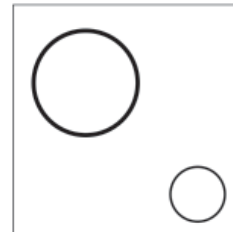
A



B



C



D

3. She is reaching up to get a box off the shelf.



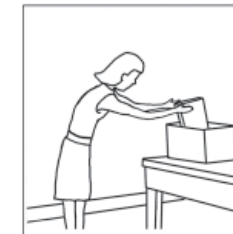
A



B



C



D

4. They headed for shelter when it started to rain.



A



B



C



D

## Part C

This part of Section 2 contains two types of questions. In one, the student must complete passages by selecting the appropriate words or phrases from a set of four choices printed at intervals in the passage.

### Sample Passage and Questions

1. Most animals 

(A) live
(B) they live
(C) are living
(D) that live

 in the desert do not take in water from open sources like lakes or rivers. Some of these animals may never even come upon any type of open

2. water, 

(A) so
(B) despite
(C) which
(D) why

 they have adopted other ways to obtain it. Some desert-dwelling

3. toads, for example, can take in 

(A) sand
(B) water
(C) heat
(D) food

 from dew-soaked soil directly through

4. 

(A) its
(B) their
(C) his
(D) one's

 skin. Another way some desert animals deal with a lack of water is to

5. drink 

(A) as much as
(B) as many as
(C) too much
(D) so much that

 possible when they find water in large quantities. For

6. instance, after drinking all they can hold, some camels can 

(A) to survive
(B) have survived
(C) surviving
(D) survive

 for

more than two weeks in the desert without any more water.

In the second type of question, students must answer questions about the passage above for which they supplied the missing words or phrases.

### Sample Questions

7. What is the main topic of the passage?
- (A) Plants that live in the desert
  - (B) Types of desert camels
  - (C) How to make freshwater
  - (D) Surviving with little water

8. The word “adopted” in line 2 is closest in meaning to
- (A) attracted
  - (B) developed
  - (C) lost
  - (D) asked about
9. What helps camels survive in the desert?
- (A) They drink a lot of water at one time when they find it.
  - (B) They rest for two weeks before trips in the desert.
  - (C) They travel early in the morning, when they can soak up water from dew.
  - (D) The people who travel with camels pack large amounts of water.

## Part D

In this part of Section 2, the student must read a short passage and answer questions about it.

### *Sample Passage and Questions*

We stopped to buy gas and to stretch our legs. We had left home early that morning and driven for what seemed like years. Now it was noon and the sun overhead was oppressive. The baby was crying. I wondered if we would ever reach our grandmother’s house. Father bought us bottles of something cool to drink. As we sat sipping our drinks beneath a shady tree, he began to tell us a story.

1. What time did the family stop?
- (A) In the morning
  - (B) At noon
  - (C) In the afternoon
  - (D) At night
2. Where was the family going?
- (A) To the gas station
  - (B) To visit their grandmother
  - (C) Home from the store
  - (D) Back from the park
3. What was the weather like?
- (A) Cold
  - (B) Rainy
  - (C) Windy
  - (D) Hot
4. Why does the writer mention “years” (line 2)?
- (A) The family has been driving for a long time.
  - (B) The father tells his story slowly.
  - (C) The grandmother is very old.
  - (D) The writer does not remember what happened.
5. When did the father tell the story?
- (A) As he was walking
  - (B) After he bought the drinks
  - (C) Before the family sat down
  - (D) When the family returned to the car

**Answer Key for Sample Questions on Pages 7-15**

<b>Section 1</b>	<b>Part A</b>	<b>Part B</b>	<b>Part C</b>	<b>Part D</b>
	1. C	1. D	1. B	1. C
	2. D	2. D	2. C	2. C
	3. A	3. A	3. D	3. B
	4. D	4. C		
		5. C		
<b>Section 2</b>	<b>Part A</b>	<b>Part B</b>	<b>Part C</b>	<b>Part D</b>
	1. B	1. B	1. D	1. B
	2. C	2. C	2. A	2. B
	3. B	3. A	3. B	3. D
	4. D	4. D	4. B	4. A
	5. A		5. A	5. B
			6. D	
			7. D	
			8. B	
			9. A	